

GENERAL INFORMATION REGARDING MILTON HS BAND PROGRAM

Does it cost to be in the band? What is a “Fair-Share Donation”? – Unfortunately we have some expenses that we have to raise money for in order to provide goods and services to our band members that enhances their experience in the program. Some of these expenses include ordering music, registering for competitions, purchasing music and drill for our halftime, ordering flags, and participating in fun events such as the Band Lock-In, Festival Day Meals, Christmas Party, & Band Banquet. The students are asked to make a “Fair Share Donation” for the year. The “Fair Share” donation for the upcoming school year is **estimated** to be around **\$275-300** (colorguard is different). Understand that the students will have plenty of opportunities to fundraise their fair-share. When our students fundraise, 100% of the profit earned is applied towards their personal account. Parents may choose to make cash or check donations, fundraise all of it, or a combination of both. New students will also need to purchase several parts of their uniform. This is a one-time purchase for their four years in band unless the student loses, damages, or outgrows those uniform parts. Our members are required to purchase their band pants (\$50), gold regimental helmet (\$65), ostrich plume for helmet (\$25), band embroidered shirt (\$30), and black band shoes (\$25). The uniform parts needed for new members totals \$195 per member. There are other expenses that can be incurred but they are optional activities such as the Carnival Cruise to Cozumel in the Spring. If students audition and make the indoor percussion ensemble there are also fees associated with that optional performance ensemble as well. Their \$250-275 Fair Share Fee and \$195 Uniform Fee (for new members) covers them for both marching season & concert season. Whereas this seems like a lot of money, it is really a great investment in your child in providing them with a worthwhile activity that will pay back in many ways during their high school career. More information will be provided concerning Fair-Share Donations during at the PARENT MEETING on MONDAY, JUNE 4 AT 6:30 pm in the MHS Bandroom (*refreshments will be provided*).

What is a “Step-Off” Rehearsal & “Down Beat” Rehearsal? These two rehearsals, on Thursday night, May 17 and Thursday, May 24, are opportunities for us to meet with the 2018-19 Band prior to the end of this school year. During these rehearsals we issue lockers, school-owned instruments if applicable, and begin inside playing rehearsals. We began these events three years ago and they turned out to be very successful and exciting evenings! If members can't attend, please just simply shoot us an e-mail so that we know the members are still plan to participate in the band. E-mail address: weaver@santarosa.k12.fl.us & schultzm@santarosa.k12.fl.us.

What is Rookie Camp? Is it required? Rookie Camp is the required camp for all new members of our band program. The purpose of this camp is to teach our new members how to corps-style march, introduce them to the policies & procedures of our band program, and to work on stand music for football season. If a member is unable to attend, they will likely be placed on the alternate line (*see below*). Rookie Camp will be June 4-7 from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm.

What is Band Camp? Is it required? Band Camp is the required camp for all members of the Mighty Black & Gold Marching Band. During this two week camp, we will be learning the drill formations for our new halftime show. It is rigorous schedule and members must make sure that they are physically prepared for the camp. Members who are unable to attend will likely be place on the alternate line (*see below*).

What do I need for Rookie Camp & Summer Band Camp? These activities will take place outdoors so students need to be prepared. We ask that all students wear comfortable, cool clothes for outside activities. Hats & caps are recommended to keep direct sunlight off of the head. Also, sunblock is recommended. Students should bring some type of thermos, water bottle, or bottles of hydrating type drinks (Gatorade, Powerade, Water) along with them. Camel Water packs are also allowed. A towel may also be convenient as students will definitely sweat during the marching activities.

Does the school provide instruments? The school provides some of the instruments in the band. These instruments include tubas, baritones/euphoniums, mellophones/French horns, percussion, and some low reeds (bassoons, bass clarinets, tenor & bari saxes). We will issue these instruments at our Step-Off Rehearsal on May 23. Students who are issued a school-owned instrument must pay a \$50 maintenance fee used towards cleaning and maintaining these instruments. All other instruments such as flutes, clarinets, alto saxes, trumpets, & trombones should be provided by the student.

Does everybody make the band? What is an “alternate”? If a student has a hard work ethic, demonstrates dedication, and has a strong desire to be a part of the MHS Band, then they can be a member. We only want students who want to be in the band! Now, not every student may have an actual spot in the halftime show. With our band program expected to exceed 200 members again this upcoming year, we may utilize an alternate line. This line will consist of about 10-12 students who will be used to fill empty positions vacated because the member marching that position has not lived up to the expectations of a band student either by having unexcused or excessive absences from rehearsals, not learning their music or drill, or some type of disciplinary action is taken. Students must earn their position on the field. The students on the alternate line will be full members of the band and will be expected to be at all rehearsals & performances. These students will shadow other students around the band during rehearsals and could quickly find themselves being put into the drill prior to a performance at the discretion of the directors. More information will be given during the summer months regarding the alternate line.

What and when are the auditions? The band does have auditions in order to place our members in the appropriate chair order and in the correct concert band class. Audition music will be distributed at our Step-Off Rehearsal on May 17. The percussion will be auditioned at their first rehearsal on June 4 by our percussion staff. The wind players (*all woodwind & brass instruments*) will audition during their designated day on June 5 & 6. Students who fail to audition will be placed at the end of their marching section, automatically placed on the alternate line, and scheduled in the 3rd band class. Wind players will need to prepare the seven required major scales (*scale sheets will be provided on May 17*) for their audition...Concert G-F-C-Bb-Eb-Ab-Db.

Does the band rehearse every day after school? The answer is “no”! The Marching Band rehearses three days per week (*Monday nights, Tuesday nights, & Thursday afternoons*) from the beginning of the school year until the end of October. The concert bands usually have one after school rehearsal per week during January, February, and the first week of March.

How many performances does the band give each year? The Marching Band usually gives 16-20 performances each year. We perform at all varsity football games, three marching festivals in late September through October, school pep rallies, community parades, and various other events. The Concert Bands give 3-5 performances each year including a Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, and participation at the FBA District 1 Concert MPA.

Is there a meeting for New Parents? The answer is “yes”! This meeting will take place on June 4 @ 6:30 pm in the MHS Bandroom. We will be presenting a lot of information regarding the MHS Band Program, what you can expect from us, what we expect from our students, and basic orientation of the program. Please make plans to attend! We also encourage your band student to attend with you. The MHSBPA will be providing refreshments.

How can parents get involved? We are very fortunate to have a very strong Band Parent organization. They meet in the MHS Bandroom the 2nd Tuesday night of each month at 7:00 pm. The MHSBPA seem to have as much fun as the students in working together on money-making projects to help support the Mighty Black & Gold Band Program. I would encourage you to check them out!

Have more questions? Please don't hesitate to contact Gray Weaver (Director of Bands) or Michael Schultz (Asst Director of Bands) at the MHS Band Office (983-5611) if you have questions that need to be answered prior to our meeting on June 7. You can also e-mail us at weaver@santarosa.k12.fl.us & schultzm@santarosa.k12.fl.us .

