



Concord Marching Minutemen

Frequently Asked Questions

I am concerned about my child's academic performance during his/her freshman year of high school. Will participation in the marching band have a negative effect on their classroom performance?

This is a very common concern for incoming freshman and their parents. It has been our experience that most of our student's academic achievement is actually higher during the fall marching season. The primary benefits to your child through involvement in an extracurricular activity at the high school level are his/her development of time management skills. Students participating in the marching band and color guard activity understand the time constraints placed upon them and learn to budget their time more effectively. A large majority of the present marching band students routinely participate in honors courses. Another benefit to your child is their association with high achieving individuals. High school students are strongly influenced by the friends with whom they associate on a daily basis. We are proud that many of our marching band and color guard students are the organizational and academic leaders in Concord High School.

My child is concerned about the amount of practice time associated with the marching band and color guard activity. Can my child have a life outside of this activity?

With any high achieving organization, whether it is marching band, football, soccer, basketball, swimming, gymnastics, or volleyball, a commitment is required of the students. The marching band practice schedule is very similar to a fall sports schedule. We begin our "season" on July 16th and continue throughout the fall. As teachers, we understand the importance of family time and are somewhat flexible with you and your child's schedule. The main key is early communication regarding schedule conflicts. Unlike many sporting activities, all of our students perform (no one sits on the "bench"). Because of the 100% participation, your child's attendance is crucial for the success of the organization. Many students have time to take on a part time job. The students in marching band and color guard have very typical high school lives and are able to participate in most activities that the high school has to offer.

Can my child participate in a sport and do marching band?

Many of our marching band & color guard students are actively involved in athletic programs at Concord High School, including fall sports. This past fall, we had 27 students participating in marching band **and** soccer, cross country, golf, football, tennis, volleyball, and cheerleading. At Concord, directors and coaches work hand in hand to see that conflicts are resolved without the student being put in the middle.

I understand that the band travels frequently. How do the kids earn funds for the trips and who participates.

The marching band may take a major trip once or twice over the course of 4 years. Recent trips have included Hawaii, California, and New York City. This fall, the Concord Marching Minutemen will perform in the **2007 Macy's Thanksgiving Parade** in New York City. Trip participation is optional. Funds for travel may be earned through participation in our annual fall fundraiser. Many of our students are able to offset a majority of their trip fees through this fundraising activity.

My child is very nervous about committing to the marching band activity. Is it normal for the kids to be apprehensive about this decision?

Participating in the marching band and color guard activity is a big decision. Many of our present marching band and color guard students would not have initiated their participation without strong encouragement from their parents. But once the children become involved in the marching band activity, few drop out. We have found that many 8th grade

students are nervous and have the misconception that they cannot function in a state champion caliber organization with their limited musical abilities. This is completely false! Our music education program at CJHS is outstanding, and the students are very well prepared to be highly successful at the high school level. We work meticulously with the students to ensure that they will be successful in the marching band activity. Although marching band is demanding, and complaints can sometimes be heard (practice when it is hot, very demanding staff, time commitment, etc.) most students “love” being a part of a high achieving organization. Parents see the benefits of the physical activity and the maturity and growth of the individuals within the marching band & color guard. Of course, the easiest thing that a child can do is “quit.” (No effort is required.) The better option is to encourage your child to try the activity for one year and then he/she will be able to make a well-educated decision regarding continued participation. Our advice to you, as a parent, is to make contacts with students and parents that are “in” the organization. It is very challenging to be a member of the Concord Marching Band & Color Guard, but the benefits to the development of the “whole” child are unparalleled.

Are there fees associated with participation in the marching band? What do the band fees cover?

The fee for participation in the Concord Marching Band this year will be \$90.00 which will be used towards: the purchase of new black marching band shoes, a summer uniform, marching and concert band uniform upkeep.

Is there a parent organization associated with the music department at Concord?

Our parent organization, The Concord Music Association (CMA), is truly committed to helping every child succeed. One of the major benefits of your child’s participation in marching band is the involvement that you and your family will have with this group. We, the students and staff, deeply appreciate the abundance of gifts and talents our parents provide.

It is the goal of the Concord music staff to give all students the skills and knowledge to appreciate and enjoy music as a lifetime avocation and to instill in them a desire to strive for excellence in all that they pursue.