

Marching Band for Newbie Parents

If you have never marched or had a kid who marched, the first fall season you find yourself a “marching band parent” hits pretty hard. Having been there myself, I have a few notes:

- 1) Marching Band is lots of work, but for many of the kids, it is the best thing about high school. A tremendous amount of valuable learning goes on in participation in a program like this, but it is not the learning tested on standardized tests. It's the stuff you really need to know in life.
- 2) For many of us, when our first child enters high school and marching band, we are a little protective about their time. It is a huge time commitment for 10 weeks, but as your child enters high school, your goals about their time may be changing - a big commitment can be very positive.
- 3) Marching Band is linked to Varsity Football. Pep rally? Band is there. Home game? Band is there. Away games are less predictable, but band will go to three this year, due to budget issues. As soon as the football is over, so is marching band. If the football team is hot, like in 2008, we may be playing into December. If it is like it was last year, we are done before Thanksgiving.
- 4) Marching Band competes in Field Tournaments. Do try to attend at least one of these, they are a whole new world that many of us never knew existed. You will be entertained.
- 5) Marching Band participates in community parades: Opening the Hometown Fair, Manhattan Village Santa Parade, Little League Parade.
- 6) Marching Band members manage themselves. This is hard for freshman, but they do learn a lot by being given the opportunity to achieve self-management. Some, of course, may need more help than others, but give them a chance.
- 7) Information flow may be less that you are used to. Specifics are often determined at the last minute, but the general schedule is known way in advance.
- 8) Look to our website for the latest information: www.miracostaband.com. Great effort goes into keeping it very up to date. Check “Hot Topics” if you don't see what you are looking for on the home page.
- 9) Generally speaking, don't try to schedule tightly around anything marching band does, the particulars change, sometimes at the last minute.
- 10) Field Tournament attendance is MANDATORY. You student's absence creates a hole in the show. LOOK AT THAT **11/19/2011** DATE! Plan Thanksgiving plans accordingly.
- 11) It takes a lot of adults to support the marching band. We do the stuff behind the scenes. And it's fun! Please join us!
- 12) Welcome to the Marching Band family!

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2011-2012 President
MCHS Marching Band