



MHS Instrumental Music & Color Guard FAQs

Why do I need to contribute to the boosters? The booster organization provides many things for the music program that our school district currently cannot. We pay salaries of all instructors except Ms. Blake (\$60K worth a year) and buy items like music and instruments for all the music classes. We also pay for the competition and festival expenses for the marching, jazz, and concert bands as well as the drumline and color guard. Without parent contributions and our highly profitable fundraisers we would not be able to offer the level of music instruction available at MHS. Our requested contributions are a fraction of those at other local schools and are a worthwhile investment in your child's education.

What is a Section? Each instrument is played in sections (groups): drums, trumpets, flutes, etc. Each section has a youth leader (upper-class person). These sections bond as friends and do things together. Some of the older students have their driver's license and have permission to drive other students. This is a big help and reduces some of the driving parents have to do to local events and practices. Experience has shown that the older Band Members are a very responsible group and can be trusted with your youth. Each parent has to give guidance to their own children about this matter.

What is the Marching Band Corps? The Corps is the entire marching band and all the auxiliary units. Auxiliary units include the color guard, ID unit, and drum line. During the fall semester, some of these units meet for class at different times, including during 7th period and during the evenings to practice together for sectionals.

What happens at Marching Band Camp? During the two weeks at the end of August, the entire corps meets for band camp. This is where they begin to learn the charts for the upcoming field show. They work on marching and music for the field show and band reviews. Expect HARD work and HEAT - so they should eat breakfast before arriving and bring plenty of snacks and liquids (water is okay, but electrolyte drinks and better) along with lunch. These students will come home with an appetite and be tired - make sure they get their rest. Comfortable shoes are needed for plenty of walking, sometimes in wet grass (sometimes mud).

Band Camp - BBQ Finals The last day of camp-on Friday at 5:00pm- a BBQ is held at the school for all band students and their families. Attendance is encouraged and loads of fun!

What is a chart? The charts are the diagrams that show the marching band members where to stand on the field during a show. A field show is made up of several charts that show the movement of the corps members throughout the performance.

What is Marching Season? Marching Season for the MHS Band and Color Guard is the Fall Semester from August until November. The corps will attend four to six events usually on Saturdays during this period. Performances are also at many home football games.

Who is Samantha Blake?

Ms. Blake is the Director of the MHS Instrumental Music Program. This year will be her second at Moorpark High. She was previously the director at Mesa Verde Middle School and has been teaching instrumental music for the past 17 years.

Who is Daniel Cook? He is the Assistant Band Director of the MHS Instrumental Music Program and has been for the past 4 years. He is still in his undergraduate studies but serves as the assistant to Samantha Blake and works with almost all ensembles in a teaching roll.

What is CLC? The **C**orps **L**eadership **C**ouncil is a group of elected students responsible to direct activities and maintains general order within the Corps.

What is a field show? A field show is similar to what you see at a football game during half time. It is a performance by the Corps that must fit into a 15-minute time slot, including marching on and off the field. The Corps will receive a score from the judges for the quality of their performance. These judges are specialists in reviewing marching bands. During a Field Show each high school corps is ranked in a "Class" based on the type and size of the competition. In each class the corps is reviewed for the quality of the music played, the marching ability and the overall effect of the performance. High Schools of similar abilities are classed together and several awards are given to each class during a field show. Awards range from 3rd, 2nd, & 1st place. Overall high performance scores result in the Superior award. We host one of the premier field tournaments in November: Battle of the Bands, where **everyone's help is needed!!!**

What is a day at an event like? Expect days to begin real early and end late. Most events are at least an hour away from Moorpark by bus. The day begins with arrival at the band room; breakfast is served by the boosters. Then pack the equipment in the trucks; the students in the bus and off we go. Adult booster volunteers go on the bus, as well as the instructors to provide adult supervision. Other adult boosters drive the equipment trucks, pull trailers, and drive themselves to the events. At the event the students begin to prepare to perform. They exercise, eat lunch (again provided by boosters), get into uniform, and begin warming up musically, usually by sections. Just before the performance, the Corps and the boosters prepare for the arrival on the field to perform. This is a stressful time, but everyone works together to make it happen. Then the performance occurs. After the awards, it's time to pack up and take the bus home. Sometimes a dinner break is required.

www.musketeerband.org

2010 – 2011 Band Booster Board of Directors

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