



From Your Directors...

Welcome to Band Camp 2010! This promises to be a great year with already much enthusiasm and interest. We look forward to sharing memories yet to be made with you and your child. We hope you will become an active member of the "MCEACHERN BAND ORGANIZATION" seeing your child and others excel in the largest organization on the McEachern High School campus. We look forward to creating a production that will be enjoyable and educational to the performer and listener. This letter will outline many of the most commonly asked questions and needed information to insure you and your child a great Band Camp experience.

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Band Directors
McEachern High School

FAQ's:

When are the camps?

Mini Camp –	May 27 th , 28 th	9:00am to 4:00pm
Band Camp Week I	July 12, 13, 14, 15	9:00am-4:00pm
Band Camp Week II	July 19 - July 23	9:00am-8:00pm

Where will the camps be held?

On the campus of McEachern High School

What is the purpose of Band Camp?

Band Camp is the culmination of the creative process for the marching band show. In other words, all of the intangible ideas become realization when students learn music, drill, and performance technique related to the marching band activity. Students will learn how to march, play while marching, play in the outdoor environment, and the importance of team membership to create a musical experience. Students will receive instruction from staff members in marching and playing, in an individual and ensemble setting. Many bonds are formed in the marching band camp. Aside of marching and playing, ideals of trust, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting/achievement, and character are all components of the camp experience.

Are Band Camp fees a part of the marching band fee?

Yes. Band camp is paid for as a portion of the \$520.00 charged for marching band. It will cover camp instruction; show design, music arrangement, drill design, and

meals during the weeks of band camp. Please note it is imperative that marching band dues stay current during the summer months so we can fund band camp.

Is the camp mandatory if I plan on being in the marching band?

Unless previously discussed with a director, yes, the marching band camp is mandatory. We will cover the equivalent of nearly three weeks of regular rehearsal hours in the week of camp. The process of learning marching drill is dependent on the “spots” in the drill being filled. Without the charted marcher in attendance at any given time, it becomes a hardship to those around him/her to successfully march their drill. It may be compared to a “domino effect.” Likewise, promptness to all rehearsals will be an issue, so we may all begin at the same time.

When the rehearsal time is posted, please plan to arrive 15-20 minutes prior to be ready to begin at the given time. We also ask that unless already cleared in writing, all doctor appointments, unless an emergency, not be scheduled during this week. Attendance and promptness will be documented at each rehearsal. Leadership members will notify the directors of tardiness and/or absence.

If your child is ill on any given morning, it is imperative that the school is contacted for a message to be delivered to us. Upon returning, whether it is that particular day or another day, please send a written excuse for your child’s absence.

What should I wear to Band Camp?

T-shirts, shorts, and tennis shoes are the suggested attire for camp. Your feet are very crucial to your success as a marching member, therefore please wear athletic shoes that will be comfortable and allow you flexibility to move easily. *Flip-flops, swimming shoes, and sandals are not allowed for band camp.* As well, you must wear shoes at all times while at camp. Bare midriffs, cut off T-shirts, bathing suit tops, and T-shirts containing suggestive material or advertising/advocating drugs or alcohol will not be allowed. All school dress code rules are in effect, per this matter.

Please bring sunscreen and baseball caps. You will spend approximately 4 hours per day, minimum, in the sun. Be prepared and take care of yourself during these hours.

What do I need to bring to camp each day?

A well maintained instrument. Please have your instrument in good playing condition for band camp. Please have valve oil and extra reeds, as well. If you will be using a school owned instrument (percussion, sousaphone, marching baritone, etc.) we will issue your instrument on the first day of the mini-camp on May 27th. A form will be sent home with you for your parent’s signature outlining the responsibilities of using a school owned instrument.

A three-ringed vinyl/plastic covered notebook with 30 clear page pockets inserted. You will be keeping all drill charts, music, warm-ups, and schedules in this notebook for the entire season. Notebooks will be checked daily throughout the season and will require updating regularly. We suggest a shoestring attached to the ends of each ringed binder so you may carry it over your shoulder while learning drill and playing. Also, attach a zipper pouch to the inside of the notebook. Within this pouch

you will need pencils to mark music, a highlighter to mark your drill charts and chalk. The chalk will be used to help mark coordinates' on the field for setting drill.

Please plan to bring a water bottle full of ice water at the beginning of each rehearsal. Your name should be clearly marked on this bottle so you will not confuse it with one that looks similar. Students will receive breaks when outdoors to hydrate themselves, and will have an opportunity to refill the bottle as necessary with liquids we will supply during the day (water/sports drink). Please do not bring soda or any dairy products in the bottle. Water and sports drinks are recommended.

Medical Forms

All students are required to have a medical/emergency form on file with us by the beginning of Band Camp. These forms are available through MCEACHERN and must be completed, signed, and notarized. We cannot assume responsibility for conditions or allergies your child may have if we have no knowledge of any problem(s). Please contact us if you have not received a form to complete.

Will my child be supervised by adults, other than the staff during camp?

Yes, parents will be on hand during all rehearsals and meals to assist your child in all facets of the day.

Will meals be provided during band camp?

We request that all students bring healthy snacks to consume during band camp . Lunch and Dinner will be provided by MCEACHERN. Please do not send perishable items, as we will have not means of refrigeration.

Dinner will be provided through MCEACHERN each evening. We will be using a "theme dinner" format each night for added fun (i.e. Mexican night, Italian night, etc.). We ask that as a part of the dinner being provided that each family donates 2 two-liter bottles of any soda for use at dinnertime. Please bring them on Monday morning when you drop your child off.

As a side-note to eating, please see that your child eats a good breakfast each morning. They will be using lots of physical energy during the morning rehearsal block, as it mainly centers on marching and movement. Many children who typically do not eat breakfast find this a difficult three hours and can become ill due to the lack of nutrition. Strongly encourage eating breakfast before coming to camp.