



McEachern High School Bands

Jeff Harper, Director
Cecilia Cicco, Assistant Director
Brittany Knight, Assistant Director

Many Thanks!

Parents and Students,

As we head into the remaining weeks of the season, I want to take an opportunity to say THANKS and share in some of the victories of our students and organization! We have had a busy, yet productive season with the band program and I would like to acknowledge the efforts of many.

First, a huge congratulations to the students for their achievements at the Bands of America Regional at Jacksonville State this past weekend, as well as their wonderful performance at the Cobb County Marching Exhibition on the 11th. The students are beginning to bring the show to life and perform at high levels. The judging community and music peers are taking notice in the commitment to excellence in the program and the pride from the students in the organization. With outstanding Visual effect, a Fifth placement in finals and a Class 3-A Championship, the band has achieved great success already. Regardless of the placements or medals, success is truly measured from within, and is evident in the organization and in the students. The philosophy is to create an ensemble of great musicians while the ‘total band’ performances continue to get stronger as the students progress individually. We are celebrating the fact that we have over 80 students auditioning for our District and/or All-State Band in December. This is a testament that our individuals are working hard to be great.

A former principal and dear friend often stated that “the band parents could run a small country if they were given the task.” I really believe this! No job seems too big, and the level of self-sacrifice from so many adults is inspiring. To all of the parents who work tirelessly behind the scenes, I say a huge THANK YOU! Our students are achieving because of how much work is done by YOU! It truly does take the WHOLE village to raise the child, and I appreciate your willingness to help in any way you can serve. The executive board and committee chairs have done a fantastic job in serving our students, but can always use more help!

Another behind-the-scenes component of our program is our staff. We have a talented group of individuals that inspire, push, and expect our students to reach beyond what they think is possible. The collective efforts of the staff have allowed us to achieve and instill life-long lessons in our students. The staff do this because of their passion for the McEachern students. The philosophy in hiring staff is to provide such specific information in all areas for our students to truly understand and communicate at the highest levels. These lessons will carry with them in whatever career path they choose. If you have an opportunity, please extend a ‘thank you’ to our staff members for their efforts, passion, and expertise with our students.

Coming Up:

The schedule for the next two weeks is relatively standard with the addition of Saturday’s McEachern Marching Invitational (Oct. 23rd) and the Bands of America Super Regional (Oct 30th) at the Georgia Dome. Rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Week of Oct. 18th:

Monday (10/18): Rehearsal 4-7PM
Tuesday (10/19): Rehearsal 4-7PM
Wednesday (10/20): Open
Thursday (10/21): Rehearsal 4-7PM
Friday (10/22): Rehearsal 4-5PM
Bring Dinner – Away Game at North Cobb HS
Saturday (10/23): Rehearsal 10AM-2PM –Lunch provided
Work MMI or Dismiss until 7PM
Report in Full Uniform at 7:00PM
Performance approx. 9PM

Week of Oct. 25th:

Monday (10/25): Rehearsal 4-7PM
Tuesday (10/26): Teacher of the Year Pep Rally at RSBC (Report at 6:30AM)
B’fast provided: Rehearsal 4-7PM
Wednesday (10/27): Open
Thursday (10/28): Rehearsal 4-7PM
Friday (10/29): Rehearsal 4-5PM
Bring Dinner – Home vs. Harrison (Senior Night)
Saturday (10/30): Rehearsal 9AM-1PM –Bring Lunch
Bus to Dome (Perform at 4:45PM)
Dinner provided.
Possible Finals Performance or watch Finals
12:15AM – Arrive at MHS



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Reminders:

We're hosting the McEachern Marching Invitational on Saturday October 23rd and need everyone's help in welcoming approximately 1,000 performers to our campus. Please email board@mhsband.org if you can help in any way. Many hands make light work, and we need everyone to pitch in to help us run the event.

If you have not submitted your second payment for the Spring Trip (\$125), please do so ASAP. We must submit our next payment to the tour company by November 1st, and we do not have any flexibility with our payment with them. Any questions can be emailed to Ms. Johnson at Clj50@bellsouth.net. Also, please make sure your dues are current so we can fulfill our financial obligations in finishing out this marching season.

We are really fortunate with our performance time at the Atlanta Bands of America Super Regional Championship. The McEachern Band performs at 4:45PM on Saturday the 30th. Our students will perform for a large audience on Saturday, and we hope you are there also!! We realize that it takes a crew of people to help with equipment and chaperoning, but we also need our community to provide that special cheering section for the students! If you haven't made plans or bought your tickets for Bands of America, please consider being there to support your child. Ticket information can be found here:

<http://www.bands.org/Public/TicketMerchandiseMFA/Detail.asp?ProductID=250>

Thank you for your support, and we'll see you over the next two weeks!

Jeff Harper
Director of Bands
mhsharper@gmail.com

PS – The following text is an email sent out by one of our principals, Paul Gillihan to the McEachern faculty:

On October 9, 2010, the John E. McEachern Marching Band traveled to Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, Alabama to compete in the Bands of America (BOA) Regional Marching Band Championships presented by Music for All. BOA regional marching band shows are open to all high school bands providing a positive atmosphere and evaluation. There were 21 bands from across the South competing with ten bands advancing to the evening finals. By winning their Class AAA division, McEachern became one of the ten bands to compete in the finals at the Paul Snow Stadium. This is the first time in school history that the Marching Indians have received this award at the Bands of America event. Along with winning their division, McEachern also took the award for High Visual Performance during the preliminaries and finished 5th overall in the finals. McEachern Marching Band is under the direction of Mr. Jeff Harper and will be competing in the Bands of America Super Regional at the Georgia Dome on Saturday, October 30th.

Here is a quote from Mr. Eric Martin, President and CEO of Music for All:

"I have watched the McEachern program grow and mature in recent years and marvel at the teaching and performance excellence it represents. The achievements of the McEachern program demonstrate the positively life-changing possibilities of student achievement that result from great teaching, hard work by students, and enthusiastic administrative and community support."