

About the McCullough Junior High Band

The band is one of the largest organizations on the McCullough campus with an enrollment of 300+ students. Band is a full year, 2 semester commitment at McCullough Junior High. Our students have a legacy of success through musical performance, with consistent superior ratings at UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest, Best in Class Awards at Directors Choice festivals, and state recognition in the Texas Music Educators Assn. Honor Band competition.

How is the band program organized?

There are six (6) different band classes at McCullough and two percussion classes for those students with previous playing experience. Students are placed into these band classes based on their ability level. These six ability grouped bands are all performing bands. They play at all of our different activities throughout the year. They are the following: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band 1, Concert Band 2, Concert Band 3, and Concert Band 4. Beginning Band is not offered at McCullough Jr. High.

How is the percussion program organized?

Based on their ability level, all percussionists are in either advanced or level percussion class for the first semester. The McCullough JHS band allows only those students with previous percussion instruction on both keyboard and snare drum in 5th and 6th grade band to be placed in the percussion class.

Experience on drum set only does not fulfill these requirements. In January all percussionists will have a schedule change to move into their band class period. This band placement is based on their audition in 6th grade, or from their performance evaluations in 7th grade. Percussionists move into one of the six concert bands at McCullough.

How are students placed into band classes?

Students are placed into band classes based on their ability level. Auditions are held for all 6th graders in February/March. Current 7th graders are evaluated throughout their year in band. The auditions are scored, and students are ranked. The students are then placed into ability grouped band classes based on their scores and the instrumentation needs of the band classes. Current 6th graders' scores are ranked along with our current 7th grade band students for next year's band placement.

Are the classes separated by grade level?

No. All band classes are ability grouped and have both 7th and 8th graders in them.

What events and activities does the band participate?

The band performs numerous times throughout the school year at many different events. We perform at: all pep rallies during school, selected McCullough football games, a Winter Concert, Pre UIL Concert, Spring Contests, and a Spring Concert. Students also have the opportunity to participate in Conroe ISD Auditions, TMEA All-Region Band, and Solo and Ensemble Competition. We also have our annual Rock-a-Thon in the September and our Winter Band Party in January.

What band classes participate in the band events?

All of the performing bands perform at the band events. Percussion students also have the opportunity to audition for the McC Drumline in September.

Can I be in band and other activities (athletics, drill team, etc.)?

ABSOLUTELY!! The majority of the students in the band also participate in other activities. We work with the coaches and sponsors here on campus to make it possible for students to be a part of multiple activities. We have band students who are also involved in: football, basketball, volleyball, basketball, cross country, drill team, cheerleading, color guard, theater, choir, art, DI, Student Council, Robotics, golf, swimming, private PE, track, lacrosse, tennis, as well as outside of school activities.

How much time is required outside of school?

Students are expected to practice outside of the school day to improve their music skills. Students in the top three bands (Wind Ensemble, Symphonic and Concert Band I) have a one hour rehearsal outside of class once a week called a sectional. Students in Concert Band 2, 3, & 4 will have few additional rehearsals throughout the school year, before performances and competitions.

What about practice records?

All band students complete practice records. They are collected each week and graded. Band students practice record grades are determined by the number of minutes practiced each week. Practicing is a vital part of improving and continuing to develop skills necessary to be successful.

How are students graded in band?

Students receive grades in band for the following: performance/attendance at concerts, performance on playing and chair tests, practice records, attendance at sectionals and other rehearsals outside of class, supplies for class, and any written assignments that may be done in class.

What are the financial responsibilities of participating in the McC band?

General financial responsibilities for each student include all necessary musical accessories such as valve oil, reeds, and a mouthpiece. The percussion students must purchase sticks, mallets, practice pad, and stand. Students will also need to purchase their formal uniform (tuxedo shirt, bowtie, cummerbund, black dress pants, black dress shoes). Every student is required to pay a band fee of \$20, which includes their band t-shirt and binder. Wind Ensemble students pay an addition travel fee as well. Students who play school-owned instruments, (including percussion) are required to pay a yearly, district assess Band students participate in one fundraiser a year, our annual Rock A Thon. Money raised through our fundraiser is used to pay clinicians, to purchase music, to provide transportation to events, and to purchase items for the band such as instruments, supplies, and other equipment.

Please contact the band department if you have questions about the McCullough Band!

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