

NEW MEMBER LETTER

Information for Rising 7th Grade
Families from the McCullough JHS
Band Department

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**MCCULLOUGH HIGHLANDER
BAND**



WELCOME TO THE HIGHLANDER BAND!

We are fast approaching that exciting time of the 6th grade year when you are asked to make important decisions about your child's future in junior high. The McCullough JHS Band program is an organization where approximately 330 students have found tremendous opportunity, identity at school, musical excellence, self-confidence, and pride. We are thrilled to be among your child's options for the 7th grade year.

The McCullough JHS Band was named the 2020 Exemplary Junior High Band Program by the Texas Bandmasters Association. Our Band program is the exclusive feeder to the internationally honored Woodlands High School Band. The TWHS Band is the 2013 National Marching Band Champion! They have also appeared and performed in Carnegie Hall, Indianapolis, Seattle, Chicago, and Los Angeles. The Woodlands HS Band program provides a challenging goal of excellence for our band members to strive to achieve.

As directors of the Band, we look forward to meeting each of you. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.



HOW IS THE BAND PROGRAM ORGANIZED?

There are seven different Band ensembles at McC and two percussion classes for those students with previous percussion experience. **Students are placed into these Band classes based on their ability level.**

The seven ability based grouped bands are all performing ensembles. They play at all of our different activities through the year.

Beginning Band is not offered at McCullough JHS.

ARE CLASSES SEPARATED BY GRADE?

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

HOW IS THE PERCUSSION PROGRAM ORGANIZED?

All percussionists are placed in either an advanced or level percussion class for the Fall semester. **The McC Band allows only those students with previous percussion training on both keyboard and snare drum in 5th and 6th grade to be placed in a percussion class.**

Experience on drum set does not fulfill these requirements.

In January, most percussionists will have a schedule change to move into their Band class period. This Band placement is based on their ability level from their audition in 6th grade. Percussionists move into one of the six concert Bands or our Percussion Ensemble class

HOW ARE STUDENTS PLACED INTO BANDS?

Students are placed into Band classes based on their ability level. Band auditions are held for all current 6th graders. The auditions are scored, and the students are ranked. The students are 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.

CAN YOU BE IN BAND AND OTHER ACTIVITIES?

ABSOLUTELY!! The majority of the students in Band also participate in other activities at McCullough. We work with the coaches and sponsors here on campus to make it possible for students to participate in multiple activities. We have students in all activities, sports, and organizations on the McCullough campus. 94% of our students are in 1 or more Pre-AP classes.

HOW MUCH TIME IS REQUIRED OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?

Students are expected to practice outside of the school day to improve their music skills. Practicing is a vital part of improving and continuing to develop skills necessary to be successful.

Students in the top three Bands have a required one hour rehearsal outside of class once a week called a sectional. Students in the other three Bands have a few additional rehearsals before performances.



WHEN IS THE AUDITION DAY?

On February 24, the Band directors from McCullough JHS will be listening to your child play their McC Band Placement Audition. This performance-based evaluation will serve as the audition for Band placement at McCullough JHS.

This music will be distributed on January 5. The Benchmark is a collection of music and exercises which your child has been working on in their 6th grade Band class throughout the year. We are excited about the opportunity to hear our future junior high Band members “show off” their skills!

Students will come to McCullough JHS to audition for us in person. More information will be coming out to the intermediate school Band directors very soon with details. We can't wait to meet you!

BAND IS.....

Here are some descriptions of Band from some of our very own Band students.

Band is a blast!

Band is an awesome place to be with friends!

Band is a happy place!

Band is a place to belong!

Band is home!

10 REASONS TO JOIN BAND

WE HAVE LOTS OF FUN

WE DO FUN FUNDRAISERS AND FIELD TRIPS

WE PERFORM AT THE SCHOOL AND IN THE COMMUNITY

WE MAKE NEW FRIENDS IN BAND

WE ALL SUPPORT EACH OTHER

WE CAN BE CREATIVE AND EXPRESS OURSELVES

WE DEVELOP LOTS OF SKILLS FOR COLLEGE AND FOR LIFE

IF YOU JOIN BAND YOU GET TO STAY WITH YOUR FRIENDS ALL YEAR LONG

YOU BECOME A PART OF A FAMILY!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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