

Frequently Asked Questions

How much time goes in to being part of the marching band?

During a normal year (2020 was not normal) being a member of the Marching Eagle Regiment does require students to be committed to rehearsals. Marching band is a Zero Period class; which meets Mondays-Wednesdays and Fridays. Students are expected to attend additional after school rehearsals two days a week, typically running from 3:30pm – 6:30pm. From August through November, most Saturdays will consist of either rehearsals or a combination of rehearsal and competition. Students are expected to be committed to attending all rehearsals and competitions.

My student wants to take honors classes. Will there be time for his studies if he does marching band?

Many of our students are enrolled in multiple honors and AP courses. While it is a heavy load, it is doable.

What kind of school credit can my student earn by participating in Band and Color Guard?

Students can earn 10 units of Fine Arts credit, required for graduation, for Marching Band, Percussion, Color Guard, Jazz Bands, and Concert Band. Band classes also fulfill the A-G requirement for college admission. For 9th graders, it is best to complete these requirements their freshmen year.

Can my student participate in sports and band?

Many of our students do find time to participate in athletics and band. There may be conflicts between after school practices and rehearsals and between games and competitions. It would be the responsibility of the student to communicate these conflicts with Mrs. Marin and the coach. The fewest conflicts are with Winter and Spring sports such as Soccer, Wrestling, Basketball, Track, Baseball, Water Sports, and Tennis.

My student has never played an instrument but wants to give band a try. Is this possible?

Etiwanda High School offers music classes outside of band. Piano Lab might be a good option if your student wishes to learn an instrument. We do require students know how to play an instrument prior to joining band.

Students may make up the deficit by taking private lessons with our coaches; this way they can still participate.

Is my student required to participate in marching band in order to be in band?

Absolutely not! Etiwanda High School offers a variety of band ensembles. Students may participate in as many or as few of these ensembles as they wish. Marching Band is the largest and most popular ensemble. Those that participate find it a very rewarding experience.

Is color guard considered part of the band program?

Color guard is one of the ensemble groups offered through the band program at Etiwanda. During first semester color guard is a component of the Marching Eagle Regiment (marching band). For second semester, students wishing to continue performing in the performing art of color guard will transition into Winter Guard. This is an indoor activity; students learn choreography for a show put to music that is performed during competitions.

Color guard and band parents belong to the same booster club – Etiwanda High School Bands and Color Guard Booster Club.

There are so many options. How can we know what class my student should enroll in?

Marching band, concert band, color guard, percussion, and jazz band are all classes offered at Etiwanda High School. There is a chart at etiwandabands.com/join that will explain what period each class is offered to help you plan your student's schedule.

Does it cost money for my student to participate in band?

The school district covers the cost of the band room and Mrs. Marin's salary. Beyond that, we ask each family to contribute a "Fair Share" donation to help cover expenses. This amount has not yet been set for the 2021/2022 year. For the last several years (2020 not included) the Fair Share amount has been just over \$900 for marching band. At the level Etiwanda competes, you will find we have kept this cost lower than most programs out there. This amount covers expenses such as salaries for highly-skilled, specialized staff; entry fees to competitions; transportation; music writing; drill writing (movement on the field); instrument purchases and repairs; uniform maintenance; props; trailer registration and maintenance; and more.

What does my student receive for the amount of the Fair Share?

Putting aside the intangible benefits of participating in marching band (friendships made, life skills learned), your student will participate in the 2021 field show and will receive a band member t-shirt, specialized small-group instruction, the use of uniform/costume, and transportation to and from competitions.

Is there an additional cost to participate in marching band?

While Fair Share covers the use of uniform/costume, there is a small list of required clothing. Items your student will need to purchase depends on the instrument she plays.

Wind Instrument – Warm-ups, black socks, Drill Master shoes, black gloves, black undershirt.

Percussion – Warm-ups, black socks, Drill Master shoes, black undershirt.

Color Guard – Warm-ups, dance shoes, leotard, guard gloves.

Warm-ups, Drill Master shoes, dance shoes, undershirt, black gloves, and guard gloves will be available for purchase through the booster club. The socks can be purchased from any retailer. They must be long enough for skin to not show.

If the band participates in an overnight trip, is this covered with the Fair Share?

Overnight trips are an additional cost. A 3-day, 2-night overnight trip costs about \$270-300 per student.

Does the band program provide an instrument for my student?

Flutes, clarinets, alto saxes (limited supply available), and trumpets, must be purchased by the parents. The band program supplies, mellophones, euphoniums, trombones (limited), tubas, tenor and baritone saxes, and all percussion instruments. We also provide the flags, performance rifles, and sabers for color guard.