

## **Marching Ensemble FAQ's (10/10/18)**

### **What does the Marching Ensemble do and how much time does it take?**

The Marching Band and Color Guard (aka Marching Ensemble or ME) attend marching camp during the week before school starts. This is a one semester class that receives 5 units of "Elective" credit and a letter grade. During the first semester, they perform at home and playoff football games and several non-league basketball games, hold twice (sometimes three) weekly practices, perform at school-wide and community events, attend Cal Band Day (every 2 years) and march at two out-of-town competitions. Time commitment can be between 5 (weekday) and 20+ (game nights plus performances) hours per week during first semester depending on the schedule.

### **Is there a cost to participate in Marching Ensemble?**

The marching program is solely dependent on donations from participants, community groups and local companies (corporate match). The program does not receive any District funding beyond teacher salaries and facilities usage. A suggested donation of \$425 per student (for the 2018/19 school year) covers the cost of marching camp, music purchases, transportation, food, competition fees, uniform and accessory purchases, instrument repair/replacement, and a whole list of other miscellaneous but extremely necessary costs. These costs are comparable to the suggested donations for participating in athletic programs.

### **What is marching camp?**

Marching camp, optional but highly recommended, is held at SRVHS the week before school starts, typically Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 2:30PM. The camp is run by the ME Leadership team with guidance from the Ensemble Directors. Students learn the basics of military-style marching, practice football and competition music, get measured for uniforms, and do a lot of team building activities. This is where the group really 'gels' and students form new friendships. Time is allowed for 9<sup>th</sup> graders to attend freshmen orientation if it occurs during camp time. It is a fun, exhausting and music-filled week.

### **What should I wear and bring to marching camp?**

- Comfortable clothes and shoes as you will be outside for a good portion of each day
- A lyre for your instrument (available at local music stores)
- A flipbook with extra pages (also available at local music stores)
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Refillable water bottle
- Money for lunch or a bagged lunch
- Lock for instrument locker
- Timeliness, focus and ENTHUSIASM!

### **What's the Back to School BBQ and why should my parents/guardians and I attend?**

The annual BTS BBQ is for *all* Instrumental Music Program students and their parents. It is usually held on the SRVHS campus one evening the week before school starts. The Marching Ensemble (and other instrumental groups) performs. The evening also includes a brief Back to School night info session for Marching Ensemble families. Volunteer sign up forms are available for parents to get involved in upcoming events.

### **What are a 'rookie' and a 'veteran'?**

Rookie = A student new to Marching Ensemble.

Veteran = Returning Marching Ensemble students.

### **When are the weekly practices?**

Technically, our "practices" are block class meeting times. The Marching class meets on Mondays (3:20 PM to 5:45 PM), Wednesdays (3:10 PM to 5:35 PM) and game day Fridays during the first semester. This is an additional class period for which the student receives credit and a letter grade. The Friday practices are on home game days (detailed below) and sometimes before a weekend event or competition.

### **What happens on home football game days?**

Here's a typical schedule for game day:

- 2:55 PM Students report to instrumental music room right after school for practice
- 3:30 to 5:45 PM Students are driven to a Marching Ensemble member's home for the pregame dinner and returned back to school.
- 5:45 PM – Roll call in the instrumental music room
- 6:00 to 6:30 PM – Band practice. Parent volunteers set up designated marching section in stadium bleachers
- 6:50 PM – Pregame show
- 7:00 PM to end of game – Marching Ensemble performs in stands and half time show.
- End-of-game – Approx. 9:30 PM– Students change out of uniforms and are dismissed around 9:45 pm after a performance debriefing. Parents must plan to be at school before the dismissal time to pick up their student(s).
- After each game (over the weekend) students need to clean their gloves, spats (shoe covers) and polish their shoes. Clean and press the pants as needed. The uniform jackets and other accessories are maintained by the uniform parent team .

### **What types of school and community events does the Marching Ensemble attend?**

The Marching Ensemble performs at various school rallies, Back to School Night, Homecoming parade, Halloween parades at several elementary schools, charity walks, etc.

### **What competitions does the Marching Ensemble attend?**

The Marching Ensemble currently competes at the Grape Bowl Classic Band Review in Lodi and The Central California Band Review in Merced. The 'comps' are held on Saturdays in early November and are mandatory, full day events (10-12 hours). Transportation is provided along with a light breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages. Any special dietary needs should be shared with the Marching Food Coordinator (see contact info on the Wolf-Tones.org website).

### **What do I need to do to get ready for 'comps'?**

- Memorize your music!
- Polish your instrument
- Clean and polish your marching shoes – make sure you wipe/buff off excess polish so it doesn't ruin your spats. Shoes will be inspected before you're allowed on the bus
- Bring or wear a pair of black socks
- Be prepared to change into uniforms outside so wear appropriate undergarments and your band t-shirt
- Don't wear any makeup or jewelry (except for medical ID bracelets)

- For students with long hair, put it up in a braid, bun, etc. before you arrive at SRVHS
- Hair cannot be touching the uniform collar during competitions so plan ahead if you need a haircut. Be prepared for a Uniform Mom to trim your hair at the competition if it doesn't pass inspection. They are not afraid to do it!
- Stay hydrated
- Get some good quality rest the night before comp
- We like to keep our comp uniforms clean and fresh so PLEASE take a shower before arriving at school (or better yet, the night before)
- Help others with whatever needs doing
- Arrive BEFORE call time at the band room. If you're 'on time', you're late. The buses wait for no one!

### **How do we get our equipment to a comp?**

Wolf-Tones has a large trailer that is outfitted to hold percussion and large instruments, uniform cases, and various other equipment needed for marching. A booster family with a large pickup truck volunteers to haul the trailer to the various activities. Marching Ensemble members are responsible for packing the trailer the afternoon or evening before a comp. Smaller instruments are carried on the buses.

### **What is Cal Band Day?**

This is a once every two year event at UC Berkeley in September or October. Approximately 30-35 northern California high school marching bands practice and perform during halftime at a Cal football game. It is a mandatory, full day event which includes transportation, meals, and a campus tour.

### **Does the Marching Ensemble travel anywhere else?**

The ME and sometimes other Instrumental Music Program students go on 'tour' every other year or so, usually to southern California. This is not a mandatory trip. Activities may include a university master class, high school exchange, stage production, marching or workshop at Disneyland, etc. It varies depending on interest and availability.

### **How can parents get involved?**

It truly takes a village to clothe, feed, and transport the students to the numerous instrumental music program activities. Here's how you can help:

- Attend Wolf-Tones booster group meetings usually on the first Monday of each month
- Get approved for volunteering/chaperoning through the district as soon as possible
- Chaperone at football games and other events (watch for signups at the Back-To-School BBQ and signup genius emails)
- Donate food items, drive students to and from, and help setup/cleanup at events
- Chaperone at a competition
- Drive to a competition and help with setup of equipment, uniforms, food, etc. We love to see parents at the competitions and there is always something to be done
- Help with one of the many events –, See's candy sales, silent auctions, jazz festival, CMEA festival, etc
- Join the Wolf-Tones Board

### **Marching Uniforms**

Each marching band member is fitted head to toe for two uniforms (Football and Competition) by the Uniform Moms.

### **Football Uniforms:**

- Jacket, hat, cummerbund, and plume are provided and assigned to the student for the marching season. They stay in the band room on the designated football uniform rack. Students are responsible for notifying the Uniform Moms of any items needing repair and/or cleaning.
- Spats and glove are also provided and are placed in labeled plastic bags for easy identification and transport home. Students are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their own spats and gloves. See 'Hints for Perfect Gloves, Spats, and Shoes' section below to keep them sparkling clean. Spats and gloves are to be returned the week following a football game or other activity where they have been worn. **NEVER** zip or close the plastic bag – even gloves and spats that appear completely dry can still retain moisture and will mold within a couple days. Spats and gloves will be inspected by the Uniform Moms and returned to the student if not clean or dry. Any lost items must be brought to the attention of the Uniform Moms.
- Tuxedo pants – students will be measured for tuxedo pants during marching camp and information will be sent home for students to purchase them through the school. Students are responsible for keeping their pants clean and pressed. Note that these pants can also be worn at other Instrumental Music performances. The school has a limited supply of used pants for students to borrow but most students like to purchase their own. Borrowed pants must be cleaned (washed or dry cleaned depending on type of fabric) before returning them at the end of the season. Please check the garment label before cleaning as some of the used pants are made of wool.
- Marching Shoes – students are also measured for 'Drill Master' rolled heel marching shoes. These shoes are specially designed for the 'glide step' used in marching. Details on purchasing them through the school will be sent home along with the tuxedo pants information. A limited number of used shoes are available for students to borrow but most like to have their own shoes. Students are responsible for keeping their shoes clean and fresh. See the 'Hints for Perfect Gloves, Spats, and Shoes' section below.
- A Marching Ensemble T-shirt is provided to every Ensemble member. They are to be worn under the uniform jacket (both football and competition) and most students wear them to school on game days.
- A word about hair...it must be up and stay under your hat so students with long hair should bring ponytail holders, bobby pins, etc. for putting their hair up so that it stays up. There is usually very little time to fuss with hair when changing into football uniforms.

#### Competition Uniforms:

- Jacket and bib pants (bibbers) are provided and adjusted/tailored for each band member. The students are responsible for securing the jacket (zipper, snaps and hooks) and pants (on the crease) on the hanger and placing their assigned garment bag in the uniform rolling cases. They are also responsible for notifying a Uniform Mom of any necessary repairs or cleaning. PLEASE make sure your body and clothing are clean when you wear these as the comp uniforms are extremely difficult to launder.
- Beautiful, competition-quality gloves, spats, hat and plume are also provided and stay in assigned bags or hat boxes. Again, any problems need to be brought to a Uniform Mom's attention.
- Students wear their 'Drill Master' marching shoes. Clean and polish your marching shoes – make sure you wipe/buff off excess polish so it doesn't ruin your spats. Shoes will be inspected before you're allowed on the bus and again during warm up at comp.
- Bring or wear a pair of black socks – most students keep these in their shoe box.
- Don't wear any makeup or jewelry (except for medical ID bracelets).
- For students with long hair, put it up in a braid, bun, etc. before you arrive at SRVHS

- Hair cannot be touching the uniform collar during competitions so plan ahead if you need a haircut. Have the barber/stylist shave neck hair. Be prepared for a Uniform Mom to trim your hair at the competition if it doesn't pass inspection. They are not afraid to do it!
- Uniform Moms bring bobby pins, hair nets and hair spray/gel to assist in getting your hair up at competitions.

Color Guard uniform tunics, gloves, and jackets are provided by Wolf-Tones. They are kept in the uniform closet and maintained by the Uniform Moms. Guard shoes and dance pants are also needed and can be purchased through Wolf-Tones. Flags, poles, and letters (shields) are provided for Color Guard use. Typically, the Guard members will coordinate hair styles and make-up for all performances.

### **Where do I change into my uniform?**

Marching band students change into uniforms together. That means that everyone wears undergarments that cover themselves appropriately. Students typically wear shorts or boxers (with button flies). Marching Ensemble t-shirts are worn under both football and comp uniforms. Color Guard typically changes in a separate room, restroom, or marching trailer dressing area as their uniforms require a little more privacy.

### **My student brought home tuxedo pants for hemming...what do I do?**

Please hem the pants (or have them hemmed) as indicated by the pins. Please DO NOT cut any of the extra material from the hem unless it is over 6 inches too long (in case the student grows or the pants are too short). The pants will appear to be short, but have been fitted to hang correctly with the spats and marching shoes. Press the hem to give them a nice clean edge. If you have questions, contact a Uniform Mom.

### **Hints for perfect gloves, spats, and shoes!**

- Gloves: Wash your gloves in detergent and all fabric bleach. DO NOT use chlorine bleach. After taking your gloves out of the washer, put your clean hands in them to reshape them. Air dry them (in the sunshine is best). DO NOT place them in the dryer as they will shrink. Never put wet or damp gloves into the plastic bag – this will cause mold to form and ruin them.
- Spats: Use Soft Scrub cleanser on a moist cloth. The abrasive will generally clean any marks from the surface. Make sure to wipe off any residual cleanser. A slightly damp "Mr. Clean" sponge works well, too. For major scuff marks, see a Uniform Mom. Spats must also be completely dry before placing back in the plastic bag.
- Shoes: Use a toothbrush and water, Windex, or a mild cleaner to clean the ridges above the soles of your shoes and around the laces. Then use black shoe polish to make the shoe look uniform. Buff any extra polish away to prevent marking up your spats. Let the shoes dry before placing back in the shoe box.