



MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANG BAND

SPRING BRANCH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

SUZANNE SCOTT, DIRECTOR OF BANDS
JEFF MUNGER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Dear Incoming Freshmen Class of 2028:

As you begin the process of selecting classes for your Freshman year at Memorial High School, we'd like to give you some information about the award-winning Mustang Band. The Mustang Band has a great tradition of excellence in performance and competition. The bands consistently earn Superior ratings at UIL Marching Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. This Fall, the Mustang Band earned a First Division Superior rating at the UIL Marching Contest and advanced to the Area Marching Contest. The Mustang Band has performed across the state and country, including performances in San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Walt Disney World, and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Next year, you will have the opportunity to travel with the Mustang Band to Orlando, Florida.

In the fall, middle school band students had the opportunity to participate in "Marching with the Mustangs" at a varsity football game. We hope you enjoyed performing with us in the stands during the game and watching the Band's halftime show. This event gave you a chance to see what high school marching band will be like: the run-through rehearsal on the MHS Track Field, the bus ride to the stadium, entering the stadium to a drum cadence, playing in the stands during the game, and the halftime performance.

As you consider your scheduling options for high school, please remember the following. To graduate from high school, you will need 1 credit of P.E. and 1 credit of Fine Arts. Band will help you fulfill **BOTH** of these requirements. For the first two years that you are in Band, you receive ½ credit of P.E. for the fall semester and a ½ credit of Fine Arts for the spring semester. This will fulfill your graduation requirements for 1 Fine Arts credit and 1 P.E. credit. During your junior and senior year, you will earn Fine Arts elective credits for your participation in Band.

Please consider the fact that you have already invested three years of time (and your parents' money) into band. You put in many hours practicing and performing. We realize that there are many things that you might want to do in high school. What we would ask of you is this: come to high school and be a part of the Mustang Band during your freshman year. You will be a part of one of the largest organizations on campus. That means that you instantly will have over a hundred other students who can help you here at Memorial (i.e. help you find your way on campus, help you in difficult classes, help look out for you, etc.). The students in Band are some of the more involved, bright, and successful students on campus. If, after your freshman year, you decide that Band is not for you, we understand. At least by being in Band for one year, you can make an informed decision.

We are very excited about this coming year's freshman class, and we know each of you will have a great impact here at Memorial High School. If you have any questions, please contact one of us using the information below. We look forward to working with you in the future as you finish your middle school band career and become a member of the 2024-2025 Mustang Band at Memorial High School.

Sincerely,

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FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

How many performing bands are there at Memorial High School?

Currently, there are three concert bands at Memorial HS. The top band is the Honors Band, the second band is the Symphonic Band, and the third band is the Concert Band. All three bands combine after school to make the marching band. Students are placed in bands based on ability (there will be an audition in May) and prior years' performance (e.g. grades, attendance at performances, attitude, etc.). There is also a Jazz Band that meets after school (and sometimes during lunch) to prepare for concerts and performances.

What is Summer Band and when does it start?

Summer Band for Percussion, Color Guard, and the Leadership Team will begin on Monday, July 22, 2024. **Summer Band rehearsals for ALL Mustang Band members will start on Monday, July 29, 2024.** During Summer Band, we will review our marching fundamentals and work on music to play on the field and in the stands. Toward the end of Summer Band, we will begin working on the drill for our marching contest show. Summer Band hours will be approximately 8:00am – 4:00pm with a break at midday for lunch. We will practice marching fundamentals outside in the morning for a couple of hours when it is “cooler” and be inside during the afternoon heat. Once Teacher In-service begins, we will meet in the evenings from 5:00-7:30pm. You will receive a final schedule near the end of May when we receive all of our dates for the Fall 2024 calendar. **Note: Students must attend Summer Band rehearsals to earn a drill spot in the marching contest show. Please make every effort to plan your family vacations in June and July before Summer Band rehearsals begin.**

Are there any special events or camps before Summer Band?

There will be a “Fish Camp” Marching Orientation for all new marchers on **Tuesday, May 14 and Tuesday, May 21** from 4:15-5:45pm at Memorial High School. Please make plans to attend both days. Students will receive a basic introduction to marching fundamentals, rehearse some of the Memorial High School songs, and meet the Leadership Team and returning members of the Mustang Band. More information will be available later in the spring semester for this event.

Who is in the marching band?

All students in Band and Color Guard participate in the marching band. Everyone that has the desire to march will get the opportunity to do so. Students earn a position in the UIL Contest drill by passing off (playing by memory) the Fight Song, School Song, and the Marching Show music. Students must also demonstrate an understanding of correct marching fundamentals.

What do I do for marching band if I play a double reed instrument?

We do not march with double reed instruments (oboe or bassoon). We recommend that the double reed players perform in the front ensemble for marching band. The front ensemble is the percussion section that sets up on the front of the field. It includes instruments such as marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, bells, synthesizer, and other auxiliary percussion instruments. Double reed players can also perform in the color guard. Once marching season is over, double reed players will play oboe or bassoon during class as we transition to concert season.

What kind of credit do I get for being in band?

During your first two years of Band, you will earn a ½ credit of P.E. in the Fall semester and a ½ credit of Fine Arts in the Spring semester. After the first two years of Band, you will fulfill the graduation requirement for P.E. and Fine Arts. During your junior and senior years, you will earn one Fine Arts elective credit each year.

What is color guard and who can join?

Color Guard is open to all students at Memorial High School. It is an auxiliary unit which performs with the Band using dance, body movement, flags, rifles, sabers, etc. They meet in a separate class and practice with the marching band after school. They attend and perform at all functions where the marching band performs. The color guard class is a year-long class. In the Spring semester, the color guard teams compete in a series of indoor competitions presented by the Texas Color Guard Circuit and Winter Guard International.

Can I be in Band and athletics?

Yes! Many sports do not conflict with Band. In the past, we have had band students on the track, tennis, swim, soccer, basketball, and football teams. It is harder to make some sports work with Band than others, but the band directors will work with you so that you can do both. If you will be playing Freshman Football or Volleyball, you will go to those sports' practices after school and all of those games. You will come to Band when you can. This may mean that you shadow someone in the contest show or help move props, but you can still attend and perform at the varsity football games with the Band when possible.

Can I be in Band and other extracurricular activities?

Yes! In the past there have been band members that also participated in choir, orchestra, yearbook, Markettes, debate, and theater (to name a few). Communication and planning are essential for your participation in multiple activities. Please contact a Memorial High School band director if you have specific questions.

Do I need a physical to participate in Band?

YES! SBISD requires students participating in athletics or marching band to have an annual physical exam prior to the first practice. For marching band, this includes the first day of Percussion Camp, Color Guard Camp, or Summer Band. SBISD will offer low-cost physical exams at Northbrook HS on Saturday, April 13. Memorial HS will offer a second opportunity for physicals in May. Please try to return the completed UIL Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form at the Marching Orientation on **Tuesday, May 21st**. Note: Students that participate in Band and athletics will need to provide only one copy of the physical form. Please write BAND at the top of the form to indicate you are in the MHS Band. **There is a newly revised form for 2024.** Please make sure you take the new form with you to the doctor's office for your sports physical.



MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL MUSTANG BAND

IMPORTANT DATES for 2024-2025

PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICALS

All students participating in athletics or marching band must receive an annual physical exam. If you are in band and athletics, you will only need to turn in one UIL Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form. SBISD will offer low-cost physicals at Northbrook HS on **Saturday, April 13** for \$10 (no cost for students on free/reduced lunch). **Physical Exams must be completed AFTER April 1st to be good for the following school year.**

PERCUSSION AUDITION CAMP

Who: All students that want to audition for the 2024-25 Mustang Band percussion section

When: Monday, April 29 – Friday, May 3 from 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Where: Memorial High School Band Hall

What to Expect: Bring your practice pad and a pair of marching snare sticks. We will observe each student's progress throughout the camp and end the week with a formal audition to determine placement in the Battery Percussion (snare drum, tenor drums, or bass drum) and the Front Ensemble (mallet/keyboard instruments, synthesizer, and auxiliary instruments).

“Fish Camp” and “Meet the Band” MARCHING BAND ORIENTATIONS

Who: Band Leadership Team and all new marchers in the 2024-25 Memorial H.S. Mustang Band (incoming freshmen, new members, and new transfer students)

When: Tuesday, May 14 and Tuesday, May 21 from 4:15–5:45 p.m.

Where: Memorial High School Band Hall and Gymnasium

What to Expect: Bring your instrument and come ready to rehearse. You should wear shorts, a t-shirt, and tennis shoes. Bring your flip folder to put music in. We will have flip folders for sale for \$5 for those students who wish to purchase one. We will also check-out marching instruments for students that play tenor sax, bari sax, French horn, euphonium, and tuba.

PERCUSSION and COLOR GUARD CAMP

Who: All students performing in the percussion* or color guard sections for marching band
Percussion Camp is **required for all students selected to the Battery Percussion*

When: Summer Band for Percussion and Color Guard will begin on **Monday, July 22, 2024**
Monday, July 22 – Thursday, July 25 from 8:00–11:00 a.m. and 12:30–4:00 p.m.

Where: Memorial High School Performing Arts Center

What to Bring: Percussion bring a practice pad and a pair of marching snare sticks. Color Guard should bring their flag and other equipment (if you take it home over the summer). You should wear shorts, a t-shirt, and tennis shoes. ***Your UIL Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form must be on file prior to the first day of camp.***

Cost: \$150 per student (percussion only) to help cover the cost of additional percussion instructors
Please make checks payable to MHS Mustang Band Booster Club, Inc due on July 24

SUMMER BAND REHEARSALS

Who: All Band and Color Guard students in the 2024-25 Memorial H.S. Mustang Band

When: Summer Band rehearsals for ALL Mustang Band members will begin on **Monday, July 29**
A complete Summer Band rehearsal schedule will be available in May.

Please plan all family vacations before Summer Band rehearsals begin on July 29

Where: MHS Performing Arts Center and the Memorial Church of Christ parking lot

What to Bring: Bring your instrument, Igloo-style water jug filled with ice water, hat, and sunscreen. We will spend part of the morning outside learning marching fundamentals. You should wear light-colored clothing (t-shirt and shorts) and athletic tennis shoes (cross training or running shoes only). Bring your flip folder, music, and come ready to rehearse. Lunch is on your own. ***Your UIL Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation Form must be on file prior to the first day of Summer Band rehearsals.***