

**MCKINNEY NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
BULLDOG BAND
2010-2011**

Welcome to the McKinney North Band! We are very excited to add all students from our middle schools and any others who may have moved into the McKinney North High School zone or would like to join the band!

MARCHING BAND

Marching band is usually the students' favorite part of the year. Starting this **May 17-19**, 4:00-6:00 there will be an introduction to marching skills for eighth graders and new students. You will get to know the MNHS Band section leaders and the other new students. This is a fun way to learn how to march (without playing your instrument.) We have the best band audience in the world! There is nothing like getting pumped up to play for our crowd! You will not want to miss out! Marching band training for the full band begins July 30. In addition to the regular band schedule, the Drumline and Colorguard will set their own schedules (see dates at the bottom.) Like the football team, we begin early to be ready for the first game. We also include many social events before school begins. It is a great way to get to know everyone and where all your classes are before school even starts.

CONCERT BANDS

The MNHS Band has many separate components. We currently have three concert bands: Honors Band, Symphonic Band and Concert Band. In addition we have a jazz band that meets as an extra class throughout the year. The Colorguard is selected by audition as an auxiliary group that adds color, flag/rifle/saber work and choreography to our halftime show. All of the above groups combine to form the MNHS Marching Band to perform in halftime shows, parades, contests, and community events.

*** It is our goal to grow and maintain one of the largest and most spirited marching bands in the country. We are counting on each of you to make our band the best!

SCHEDULING

Band enrollment for each class is determined by student audition and teacher recommendation based on ability and experience. We will hear each player play a brief audition May 10-14. The audition will include major scales and chromatic scale.

A packet will be given to you with all the specific audition instructions in April.

SPORTS AND BAND?

Each year we have questions about involvement in band and other school activities. **YES, you may do athletics**, cheerleading and any other activities in addition to band. Coordination, communication and flexibility are necessary to make this work. We have many students that do 2 or 3 things other than band. FINE ARTS credit is required for all high school students. The most natural thing is for you to continue in band with all your friends. This is why the band is like a close-knit family and why it is so much fun for you and the directors! The added bonus is that **band and marching band count for Fine Arts credit and PE credit**. In effect **you get two credits for taking one course**. This saves you time or allows for other

electives or sports. Marching band rehearses Monday evening and Tues.-Fri. before school. By not having PE during the day, you acquire an additional period to take another elective or academic class of your choice.

TRAVEL

One of the best things about high school band is the opportunity for travel. Traveling to games and invitational festivals with your friends is incredibly fun and educational. This year the band is participating in a trip to Orlando, FL. In the past, the band has traveled to Houston/Galveston, New York, San Antonio, South Padre Island, Beaver Creek, CO. and Los Angeles, CA. Next year we plan to take an in state trip to San Antonio, Corpus Christi or the like.

DIRECTORS

The McKinney North Band Staff: 469-742-4493 (or aharkey@mckinneyisd.net)

Alan Harkey	Head Director	Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band
Josh Kurzweil	Assistant Director	Symphonic Band, Concert Band
Zac Robason		Percussion, Drumline
Chuckie McClean		Colorguard, Winterguard Director

Please feel free to contact the band staff with any questions you might have.

For more info. check out our handbook and other items at: www.mckinneynorthband.org

We are counting on each of you to help build the best and most fun band in the state. If you have questions, ask your middle school director or any of the high school directors. We are really looking forward to getting to know each of you personally. There is a place for everyone in the McKinney North High School Band!

Frequently Asked Questions About Band

Can my student take band and athletics?

Yes. Sometimes we have to get creative in dealing with schedules, but we *can* make it work.

Does my student have to be in the marching band?

Yes. Our curriculum does not include a performing group for non-marchers in the Fall semester. All students will participate in the marching band at some level with the exception of some students who participate with Fall semester sports that directly conflict with the band schedule. We will make it work! Remember, this is how the students earn their PE credit. (The year's PE credit is earned by taking marching band from August through the first part of November.)

How much money does it cost to be in the band?

There is a fee to participate in band. It covers supplies and expenses not covered by the MISD budget. If this is an issue, speak to Mr. Harkey privately. No student will be denied participation because of financial issues.

Will the band take a trip during the year?

Every year the band takes an enrichment trip to either perform at a concert festival or a parade, or to have clinicians work with each group. Recent trip destinations have included: Houston/Galveston, New York, San Antonio, Beaver Creek, CO, South Padre Island and Los Angeles, CA.

How will the high school schedule affect my student?

Band will meet one period every day. After school section rehearsals will take place in the Fall and Spring semester at the discretion of the band director. Honors Band and Symphonic Band often extend 30 minutes per day in preparation for UIL Contest in the Spring Semester.

When does the marching band practice?

The marching band practices Monday 6-8 p.m. and Tues.-Fri. before school at 7 a.m. at the MNHS JV Stadium or parking lot field at McKinney North High School. After marching season, we will no longer have 7 o'clock practice. When football season ends, there will be no more marching band rehearsals.

Are students required to attend all events?

Students are required to attend all events on the band calendar that pertain to them. In some instances academic eligibility will not allow students to attend some events. We make every effort to inform parents about band activities through meetings, weekly bulletins and our website.

Does the band have a web page?

Yes, and I encourage *everyone* to check it out. www.mckinneynorthband.org

Does the band meet early before school starts?

Yes, the entire MNHS Band (band, color guard, and drumline) will meet beginning at the end of July (see schedule below,) at the McKinney North High School band hall. Students should bring sunscreen, water, cool clothes, and a great attitude! Drumline and Colorguard may have additional training time scheduled.

Who should I contact if I have questions regarding the band at McKinney North?

Alan Harkey at aharkey@mckinnevisd.net or call (469) 742-4493.

Will my student have an opportunity to get a head start this semester on marching?

Yes, the MNHS Band will have a learning opportunity called "first steps" held M-F, May 17-19, 2010 at the MNHS parking lot field from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Students need to wear tennis shoes and bring water to these training sessions. This is required for 8th graders and all new students. If there is a conflict, please let us know.

I really look forward to next year when you are a member of the Bulldog Band!

Sincerely,

Alan Harkey
Director
McKinney North HS Band

BULLDOG BANDS

Important Dates:

APRIL

1 Parent meeting for incoming 9th graders. 7:00 MNHS Band Hall

MAY

10-14 Band & Jazz Band Auditions (major scales and chromatic scale)

15 Band Registration for 2010-11 8:00 a.m. Cafeteria (required for all students and at least 1 parent per student.) \$75 deposit due.

17-19 8th Marching Intro (w/Officers) 4:00-6:00 (MNHS Band Hall)

JUNE

14-18 Drumline & Colorguard Camp 9:00-4:00 (required for all drumline and colorguard members.)

JULY

26-30 Drumline Camp II 9:00-4:00 (required for all drumline members)

26-30 Colorguard Camp II 9:00-4:00 (required for all colorguard members)

30 Freshman Marching review 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

AUGUST 2010

Marching Band Training Camp (required for all band members)

2-13 Band Training Camp—daily 8:00-3:00

16-20 Band Training Camp—daily 5:00-9:00 p.m.