

BECOMING AN ALLATOONA BAND MEMBER

The Allatoona Band training policy is based on the theory that improvement and progress are in direct proportion to the effort expended by both band member and instructor. We believe that maximum mental and moral growth is developed from persistent guidance and supervision in a proper environment. We recognize that all members are not alike, that they do not all have the same abilities. They are individuals with different pasts, presents and futures. The success of their training lies in substituting pride of accomplishment and a positive outlook on life for negative characteristics that may lead to failure. In the band, each member associates with other students in an atmosphere of courage and optimum achievement. Politeness and courtesy become habits leading to an appreciation of community and seeing the good in others.

WHY MARCHING BAND?

The answer, of course, varies among individuals, but for most, it can be summarized by saying that marching band offers students a combination of benefits and fulfillment that they have been unable to find in other activities.

Some find acceptance for the first time. In marching band, nobody cares about your status, how you look, what you wear, whether you are a gifted musician, as long as you give your best. Some thrill to the style of music and marching and to the constant physical and mental exertion to reach perfection, both as an individual and as a team.

Some thrive on the challenge and pressure of competition. Still others enjoy the opportunity to entertain. For them, the ultimate goal is to bring pleasure to others and the ultimate reward is the thunderous applause that acknowledges their success.

For all, the Buccaneer Band will mean deep and lasting friendship, not only with other Allatoona Band members, but with all marching band members everywhere. Band members form a closely-knit fraternity. All have undergone similar experiences and emotions; all know the intense effort and sacrifices, the discipline, and the bursting pride that comes from doing even better than you thought you could. Many people participate in worthwhile activities devoted to music, social development, competitive sports or companionship, but few are fortunate enough to find the best aspects of all combined in one. Allatoona band members are among these few.

Why the Allatoona Band? Because it's more than a way to spend time, it's a way of growing up. It's a way that requires absolute dedication, self sacrifice, subordination of individual desires, physical and mental endurance under adverse conditions. But if a band member gives his or her best, the reward is the chance to set a goal, then to strive to exceed it, the opportunity to develop leadership potential while functioning as a part of a team, the pride that comes from achievement and the warmth that comes from friendships..

*Precision, pride, respect, endurance,
work ethic, learning, fun, traveling,
friends, leadership, confidence
...this is what it is to be a
BUCCANEER BAND MEMBER!*

Most frequently asked questions about joining the BAND

1. I hear high school is hard. Will I be able to do band and maintain good grades?

Yes. There certainly are challenges and academic demands in high school. Band students have consistently ranked amongst the highest achieving students academically for decades! It is common for the class valedictorian to be in the band. So, you can see, it is possible to maintain good grades and participate in the band program. You may have to work for it, but anything worth having is worth working for, right??!! IT CAN BE DONE!

2. Do I have to be in marching band to be in the band?

The simple answer to this question is "no." However, most students will choose to participate in the marching band as well as the concert band program. The marching band activity is a terrific opportunity to learn a great deal about music and about you. Students often build great friendships through their participation in the marching band. It's a great way to have a place to belong and to get to know a lot of people in a short amount of time. What's more, besides being hard work, marching band is a lot of fun!!

3. Can I be in other activities and be in the band?

Of course! We encourage all of our students to explore their options in high school. Several band students participate in various school athletic organizations as well as clubs, and even other musical organizations. Band students participate in soccer, cross-country, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, track, chorus, orchestra, Model UN, and many other non-band activities. The only conflicting activities with marching band are football and varsity cheerleading.

4. Do I have to take private lessons to be in the band?

Private lessons are the most efficient way of improving on your instrument. Through private study, a professional on your instrument works with you on a one-to-one basis to hear you play and give you tips for improvement. Unlike getting help from a teacher when your math or English grade is low, private lessons enhance and enable the musical progress of every level student. You can improve as an individual much faster through private study and band rather than just band alone. However, it is not a requirement to take private lessons. It is only highly recommended!

5. What if I don't play that well?

The Allatoona Band has a place for anyone who commits to being a part of an excellent organization. Because we are able to have various classes based on playing ability, there *IS* a class for everyone who plays an instrument. We teach to whatever level you are currently, and we help you to achieve the next level. That's exactly why we're here! The Allatoona Band will be made up of people just like you-people who enjoy playing an instrument and are willing to work hard at improving each day.

6. How can I be in marching band if I play the oboe or bassoon?

There are several instruments that we do not use on the marching field for various reasons. However, we CAN find a place for you in the marching band. Because the fingering systems are so similar, we often have oboists who march flute or saxophone, and our bassoonists usually march tenor saxophone or baritone saxophone. You may rent those instruments for the marching season from your local music store or borrow a school-owned instrument. There is also the possibility of playing in the pit percussion and participating in the color guard. We would like to keep our double reed players involved in the marching band!

7. I hear that the marching band rehearses all of the time. How much time does band actually take?

We rehearse 3 days a week after school. During the fall, you will also have football games on Friday evenings. The marching season ends in mid-November. The after school rehearsals enable us to spend time developing our ensemble skills, which is what allows us have a strong program.

8. If I don't sign up for band now, can I next year?

Most students sign up for band their freshmen year and they love it so much that they stay in it for all four years! If a student does not participate their freshmen year, they will miss a year of musical ensemble development. It would make it extremely difficult to redevelop your musical skills after taking a year off. Rather, we encourage you to sign up for your freshmen year, give it a shot, and see how it goes. As mentioned earlier, when most students do this, they're very glad that they did!

9. What if I don't go to the summer band camps?

All students are expected to attend all summer rehearsals and camp. There are times when conflicts cannot be avoided and these will be handled on an individual basis. Students are required to attend the summer Band Camp. This band performs music and marching formations of intricate design and with high individual demand, and it would be impossible to make up for the hours of rehearsal at Band Camp.

10. What do I do if I currently play a school owned instrument?

Students who play bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, bari saxophone, French horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion will have school owned instruments available to them the first day of school. However, if students currently rent or own their instrument, they will use those instruments for band. The school-owned marching band instruments available for students to use are bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, bari saxophone, mellophone, marching baritone, sousaphone, and percussion.

11. Will student leadership opportunities be available?

YES!! The Allatoona band student leadership positions may include, but not limited to Drum Majors, Section Leaders, Student Band President, Vice-President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Social Chair, and Librarians.

12. What kind of fun events will marching band offer?

- Performing at football games
- Playing stand tunes during game and 5th quarter concert
- Band dance during band camp
- Skit Night during band camp
- Movie Night during band camp
- A band formal in the fall
- Traveling

Just to name a few.

13. Can I receive a school letter for band?

YES! Most students who participate in the concert band, marching band, and in the GMEA sponsored events will not have a problem lettering in band. There will be an established letter point system for all students. There will be a required amount of points to be earned to receive a letter in band.