

Cape Fear High School Band: Frequently Asked Questions

BAND CLASS

How do band classes work at the high school level?

The high school is on the block schedule, meaning that students take 4 classes each semester, for a total of 8 each year. It is possible for students to take all four years of band and fit in other rigorous courses needed to be competitive for college.

Please see sample schedule below:

9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
1. English	1. English	1. English	1. English
2. Math	2. Math	2. Math	2. Math
3. Band	3. Band	3. Band	3. Band
4. PE	4. Foreign Language	4. Foreign Language	4. Foreign Language
5. Science	5. Science	5. Science	5. Science
6. History	6. History	6. History	6. History
7. Band	7. Band	7. Band	7. Band
8. Foreign Language	8. <i>Elective</i>	8. <i>Elective</i>	8. <i>Elective</i>

This schedule allows the student 4 foreign language credits & 3 electives. If a student did not want 4 foreign language credits but instead wanted two, they could fill the other slots with other electives, AP classes, etc.

What do I need for concert attire?

For all of our concerts, we wear **formal concert black**. Below are the options for students:

1. Males-Black dress pants (not jeans or sweatpants), long sleeved black dress shirt (not a polo), black dress socks, and black dress shoes. A sports jacket and tie are optional as long as they are solid black.
2. Females-You have three different options.
 - a. Option 1-Same as the males.
 - b. Option 2-A stage appropriate black dress with close toed black shoes. No sandals, crocs, open toed shoes, etc.
 - c. Option 3-A black blouse with a black stage appropriate skirt. You must wear pantyhose underneath. Please check the shoe requirements in option two.

Is there an admission fee for concerts?

No, there is no admission fee. While there is no cost, we do ask for donation at the event site. All monies donated to our program go straight back to the purchase of music for our students.

Extracurricular Activities

What extracurricular activities are available?

1. Marching Band (June-December)
2. Indoor Percussion (November-March)
3. Winter Guard (November-March)
4. Winter Winds (November-March)

Do all students participate in the marching band?

All students are encouraged, but not required, to join the Cape Fear Marching Band. Marching Band is a co-curricular activity at CFHS. This vital part of the high school band program is the most visible component of the band, both at the community level and across the state. Students get to travel to different places to represent the school and community in competitions. In addition, participation in the marching band enhances musical growth and success in the concert bands. Marching band also provides leadership opportunities that other classes or activities in high school simply cannot.

Marching band rehearsals are all outside of school. Rehearsals start in June and July with band camps, and conclude with the final competition in late October or early November. The marching band also participates in 2-3 Christmas parades. Rehearsals are after school two times per week, with performances at all football games and four to five competitions during the fall semester. You get a chance to perform and see other marching bands from around the country!

Scroll down for more information about Marching Band.

Are there financial dues associated with marching band?

If you choose to participate in marching band, indoor percussion, winter guard, or winter winds, financial dues are the way we evenly distribute the cost of the program amongst the members. It covers expenditures for the show design, band camp, truck rentals for competitions, bus transportation for competitions, show music, uniforms, instructors, food for football games and competitions, props, and a myriad of other items that go into a single band season. Financial dues can be paid in one lump sum, or spread out over multiple payments. Scholarships are also available if the cost is prohibitive. Please note that it does NOT include the cost of additional uniform accessories (eg, marching shoes, compression shirts/short, duffle bag, guard accessories, etc).

Will I be expected to fundraise for the band?

Fundraising is not required as part of the band, but is always appreciated. We have many expenses that all of our students benefit from. Any help you give us in raising these expenses ultimately makes the program a better program for our students.

MARCHING BAND

Why should my student participate in marching band?

Marching band is an incredible experience for our students. As a freshman student coming into a large high school, marching band will give them a group of students that they already know and are connected with before the first day of high school ever comes. They will know the school building before there are over 1300 students walking the halls. They will have a community of students to turn to for help if they struggle in other classes or just have questions about high school in general. On top of all these amazing benefits, marching band will teach your student to be a part of a team like very few things can. It will provide leadership opportunities and a plethora of things that are good for college applications. It will grow them musically and will challenge them physically, emotionally, personally and in ways you have never dreamed. Our freshman typically enter nervous and unsure, but end up with an overwhelming love for the band and incredibly excited for the next season to roll around.

Is Band Class required to participate in marching band?

For wind (including brass), percussion, and guard, yes students are required to be enrolled in band class. Guard students need to select "Music Special" as their course. Two years of guard in the program will get you placed into an honors section of the course.

How much of a time commitment is marching band?

Weekly, there are two required rehearsals that last 3 hours each. Football games will take the majority of Friday afternoons and nights whether we have a home or away game. Competitions are a full day event on the five Saturdays they take place. There are also the three mandatory weeks of band camp (one in June, two in July), a couple of Saturday practices as the season starts, and parades at the end of the season. Outside of this, there will be occasional sectionals and of course all students will be practicing their music at home.

What does the band do at football games?

The band supports the athletics department with performances during events. The marching band performs the pre-game National Anthem during varsity football home games (usually Friday nights). Afterwards, they perform pep tunes from the stands, as well as the half-time show, which is usually a preview of the marching band show. Unless there is inclement weather, the band will stay for the entire game.

What happens during a competition?

The exact schedule for competition days will not be known until 1-2 weeks prior, so it is advised to block off the whole day on the family calendar. For local competitions, a typical competition day includes:

- Rehearsal in the morning
- Travel to competition (via bus)
- Upon arrival, dress into uniforms, stretch, warm-up
- Perform the show (some competitions have a preliminary and final round)

- Change into stands uniform and watch other performances
- Awards (usually around 9-10pm)
- Travel home (via bus or parent-provided)

Students will be given meals/snacks as needed. Family and friends are highly encouraged to attend the competitions and cheer on the bands! Please note that there is an admission fee to each event, usually \$12-15.

What is BOA?

Bands of America (BOA) is a program of Music for All. More than 1 million people are alumni of Bands of America marching band events, the first of which were held in 1976. Bands of America was created in 1976 as "Marching Bands of America" (MBA), renamed Bands of America (BOA) in 1984 and merged with the Music for All Foundation in 2006 to create Music for All. MFA's marching band events continue to carry the name of "Bands of America."

Bands of America events include:

1. Bands of America Grand National Championships, the nation's premier high school marching band championship.
2. Bands of America Regional and Super Regional Championships which are one day (Regional) and two day (Super Regional) marching band championships held at major stadiums across the country.

What about health and safety?

Chaperone volunteers are present at every rehearsal, competition, football game, and travel with students on the buses. A first aid bag is always available and chaperones can provide limited assistance. A medical form for each student is required during registration. Please note, though, that volunteers and school staff are not permitted to administer any kind of medication without parent/guardian permission. If an issue arises, medics will be called and the parents will be notified. Students should bring all required medications to events.

What is the marching band uniform?

Each student will be fitted for a marching band uniform that is worn during football games, competitions, and parades. For winds and percussion, the uniform consists of:

- Navy bibber (long jumpsuit/pants)
- "Friday Night" band shirt worn under their bibbers.
- Navy band jacket
- Shako (hat) with plume
- Shako wrap
- Gauntlet, worn over the sleeves

For guard, the uniform and flags change every year to reflect the show theme.

When the band is not performing during competitions, they wear their stands uniform:

- Show shirt - this is a t-shirt included as part of the fair share. The design represents the show theme.
- Navy blue shorts
- For cooler weather: navy athletic pants, pullovers, sweatshirts, jackets, preferably with the CF band logo, but not required

What uniform accessories do I need to purchase?

Each student will be provided with a “show” shirt and marching uniform as part of their financial dues. In addition, there are required uniform accessories listed below that must be purchased separately. We will provide you information at the beginning of the season with the website where these items must be ordered. Other items indicated with an * below can be purchased on your own.

Uniform accessories for winds and percussion

- Black marching shoes (Drillmasters)
- Long black socks*
- Dark colored compression shirt and shorts*
- Black gloves (for brass, fingerless for woodwinds)
- Ear plugs (for percussion)*
- Navy shorts for stands uniform*

Uniform accessories for guard

- Duffle bag
- Shoes
- Bodysuit (skintone)
- Gloves
- Practice flag (includes silk and pole)
- Flag case
- Rifle (optional)
- Half-sole footies (optional)

MARCHING BAND CAMP

What is band camp?

Band camp is three weeks of intensive rehearsal time over the summer. It is mandatory for students to attend, so please plan your vacations around it. Students will spend this time marching, rehearsing music and bonding as a band. Yes, it will be hot and tiring, but the end result is that students come away with a large portion of the show learned in a short period of time. The improvement from day one to the Informance is amazing!

While they will not spend the entire day outside, we do require students to bring a water bottle that holds a minimum of 64 ounces of water. Hydration is key during marching season!

What is an informance?

The Informance is the finale of Band Camp with a program for marching band family and friends. It gives the students an opportunity to showcase the skills they have learned during the two weeks of camp and usually includes a preview of the marching band show music.

VOLUNTEERING

How can parents be involved? What is the Green Level Band Boosters?

So glad you asked! Parents can be involved in MANY, MANY ways! Our Cape Fear Band Boosters exists to support the Band Director in achieving his vision and goals for the band program at CFHS. This includes the concert band classes, as well as the extra-curricular activities: marching band, indoor percussion, winter guard, winter winds, and chamber groups. The Boosters have an elected Executive Board consisting of the President; Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, there are chairs who organize uniforms, band camp, first-aid, transportation, pit/prop, construction, football and competition meals, corporate sponsorships, fundraising events, social events, historian, indoor percussion, winter guard, among other things.

As you can see, there are plenty of areas where we need help, depending on your interest. If you don't know where to start, chaperoning is a good place to get your feet wet. There are many chaperone opportunities during band camp, rehearsals, football games, and competitions. It gives you a chance to meet other band parents and learn the ropes while you also get to watch your child and the show develop throughout the season. Feeling the excitement of the kids during a competition is a wonderful way to share the band experience with them!

You can also support the band program with many opportunities for donations collected through the season: summer camp supplies and dinner, bottled water, snacks, first-aid supplies, to name a few.

Our program can not exist without the help of our parents. It is our hope and desire that every parent takes part in the program. It is a wonderful way to understand what your student is working hard for and allows you to connect with them in some amazing ways. If you have any questions about volunteering, please reach out to Mr. Jorgensen at matthewjorgensen@ccs.k12.nc.us.