



**CABRILLO HIGH SCHOOL**  
**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

**CONQUISTADOR MARCHING BAND**

**HANDBOOK**  
**&**  
**APPLICATION**

**2024**



## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the Cabrillo Band Family! We're excited to have you at band camp and in our music department. This packet contains all the information you need to sign up for band camp and earn a spot in the Conquistador Marching Band.

Please read this packet IN FULL and with your parents. Marching Band is an activity that requires performers AND their families to be on board with our standards. It is critical that everyone involved, students and parents, know what to expect and what we expect of you in order for all of us to be successful.

## **WHAT IS THE CONQUISTADOR MARCHING BAND?**

The Conquistador Marching Band is the public face of the Cabrillo Instrumental Music Department. They are also one of the most accomplished, most awarded, and most artistic marching bands in the state of California. We see marching band as musical theater on a football field. Each year we design and perform an original field show for exactly the students we currently have, and that show will never be performed again. We have placed in the top twelve bands in our division of SCSBOA every year since 2015, earning 5 Gold, Bronze, or Silver medals in that time.

At football games we pump up the crowd with pep music in the stands and perform our show at half time. We perform in at least five competitions per year as well as the Lompoc Holiday Season Parade. While the focus of our show is competition, our primary purpose is to provide for students a high level musical, intellectual, educational, artistic, fulfilling experience that is full of life lessons applicable to any other activity or profession they choose to pursue.

## **HOW TO APPLY FOR AND EARN A ROLE IN MARCHING BAND**

Step 1 is to read this packet in full, with your parents, in order to understand the process and the expectations. Once that is done, if this is a challenge you want to undertake fill out the application at the end of this packet and **submit it by May 3** to Mrs. Hascall at VMS or Mr. Olivieri at Cabrillo. This will reserve your spot in Band Camp and will give us a rough estimate of who we are designing our show for.

Step 2 is to attend **Band Camp at Cabrillo, July 29-August 2**. Students must attend Band Camp to be considered for a spot in the show as it is both the training and audition for marching band. **Students who earn a roll in the show will also need to attend Formation Day** the following **Monday, August 5**. This is when we will set our Parade, Football, and Pep Band blocks. It is the first rehearsal of the 2024 Conquistador Marching Band and we must have everyone.

A cast list will be posted and contracts will be awarded on the Friday of Band Camp. Contracts are due Monday August 5 at Formation Day.

## **WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR AND HOW WILL ROLES BE AWARDED?**

At Band Camp, we will ensure that prospective members have the requisite musical skills, physical/visual skills, dedication, and positive teachable attitude contribute positively in Marching Band so that the group can be successful.

We will teach, practice, and repeat all of the following skills in band camp. Don't be afraid you can't do it. That's what teaching and learning is for.

### **Musical Skills**

Students will need to be able to play their Concert F, Bb, and Eb scales from memory by the end of band camp, as well as to be able to identify their corresponding key signatures in music. (Except Color Guard students)

Students will need to be able to maintain steady pulse and play notes, rhythms, and articulations in up to grade 2.5 music accurately without help by the end of band camp.

Color Guard students will need to be able to maintain a steady pulse and count their choreography confidently.

### **Physical/Visual Skills**

Students will need to be able to maintain a steady pulse and move their feet and body to it by the end of band camp.

All students, musicians and color guard, will need to be able to move their bodies artistically and with intention. It's OK if you've never danced before. We will help you.

Color Guard students must be able and willing to perform confidently and strongly on their own in front of an audience. Again, we will help you. We're looking for willingness to try.

### **Being Teachable**

This is the most important one by far. What I mean by "Being teachable" is generally being receptive to and willing to try new things sincerely. Being teachable is taking feedback positively and striving to incorporate it into your practice and performance. Being teachable is displaying a sincere desire for improvement and excellence in all aspects of marching band. Being teachable is having a can-do attitude, and is a measure of grit, that is being able to stick to it when the tasks get difficult or when results do not come instantly.

The opposite of teachable are things like lack of enthusiasm, eye rolling, lack of intensity in performance, making excuses, being lazy or lax in expectations, etc. It's being given the same feedback multiple times and showing little or no effort toward improvement.

Nobody can really MAKE anyone else do something they don't want to do. We need people who WANT to make their experience in marching band successful. We need people who WANT to be better, who WANT to strive for excellence. We cannot have anyone hold us back in this endeavor.

## WHAT TO BRING TO BAND CAMP

1. Clothing appropriate for outdoor exercise, appropriate for the weather. **No jeans.**
2. Athletic Shoes. You will be on your feet ALL DAY. **No boots or sandals.**
  - **Students without appropriate attire or footwear will be sent home to change.**
3. Sunscreen.
4. A large, insulated water bottle. We will not provide bottled water.
5. A small towel, rag or handkerchief to wet and wear around the neck. It helps keep you cool outside. This is more important than you may think.
6. A healthy lunch or lunch money. Students will have 90 minutes for lunch. Lunch is not provided. The closest food is the Village Market and Subway and the 90 minute lunch allows for students to walk there and back.
7. A three ring binder with sheet protectors.
8. Pencils in the binder.
9. Percussionists: Bring earplugs. High fidelity earplugs or anything made for musicians is ideal and inexpensive. The cheap foam kind work too, but aren't as ideal. Earbuds or headphones are not acceptable as they are not designed to protect from noise.

## **REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES FOR PERFORMERS**

### **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

All performers must maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 with no F's to be in Marching Band.

Students with a GPA below 2.0 or with F's in the spring semester of 2024 may or may not be considered for participation at the discretion of the director.

Students with GPSs below 3.0 will be required to submit grade checks weekly.

### **BEHAVIOR REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS**

1. Cabrillo band members are responsible and respectable citizens. All performers must conduct themselves in a manner that upholds this standard at all times, on or off the field, and ESPECIALLY while in uniform or otherwise representing your band and your school. Specific examples of this include but is not limited to using classroom appropriate language and refraining from horseplay while at school and at all school functions. In short, be a respectable, responsible individual, displaying class at all times.
2. All members of the marching band must understand that they are an integral part of the whole group. There are no minor parts. You are important to our success, and your actions and efforts both on and off the field affect all of us. Consider this when choosing how to conduct yourself at all times.
3. All students must attend **all** rehearsals and performances. Schedule your other activities, commitments, and appointments around marching band.
4. Be teachable. Display a desire to be better.
5. Be punctual. Show up early so that we can begin on time.
6. Know your part. Know your work. Know your drill. Know your role.
7. Be responsible for your schedule. Find potential conflicts now and solve problems in advance.
8. If you have a job, have a talk with your supervisor about marching band now and communicate to them the commitment you're undertaking and that school comes first. Give them the marching band calendar and schedule and ensure that work does not conflict with your school commitments.

All of this can be distilled down to two rules, which are a sort of catch-all and guiding principal:

**Rule 1: Begin with and keep the goal in mind.**

**Rule 2: The goal is always beauty.**

If we keep the goal of beauty always in mind, that does not leave room or time for actions that inhibit that goal. There is no time to waste, and no detail too small in our quest.

## **POLICY FOR PARTICIPATION IN OTHER SPORTS OR ACTIVITIES**

Students of the Cabrillo Marching Band must attend ALL rehearsals and performances. There are some sports and activities that our schedule works with and some that it does not.

Cross Country, Football, and Water Polo practices all directly conflict with Marching Band rehearsal. Students will not be able to do both Marching Band and one of these sports simply because they cannot be in two places at once.

Many of our students participate in the fall play, Madrigal Singers, and ASB. These generally work but some planning and schedule awareness is necessary by both the directors and students.

Some winter sports like girls' basketball and boys' soccer work OK with marching band but require some time compromise. This must be planned and agreed to in advance with Mr. Olivieri.

If a student wants to participate in ANY sport or activity during marching band season, it is the student's responsibility to get a full schedule of the other sport or activity immediately and check meet with Mr. Olivieri to figure out if the times work.

Interested in a sport or activity not specifically listed? Let's talk it through and see if it could work. There are some sports and activities that we have not tried yet, but we're willing to look into anything.

## **POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH JOBS**

Students MUST schedule their work hours around marching band, including all weekday and Saturday rehearsals and ALL performances. We do not compromise with students' work schedules. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this.

It is the responsibility of the student to inform their employer in advance of this policy. Getting called in during marching band time is not acceptable. Missing anything marching band related for work is not acceptable. Violating this policy is grounds for permanent removal from the Marching Band and will have a negative effect on the student's grade in their core music class.

## How We Will Communicate with Parents and Students

Our primary method of communication is an app called BAND. Yes, the band uses an an app called BAND, and the groups within the app are called BANDS, just to make it as confusing as possible... You know, for fun.

BAND is similar to Remind, but everything is in the app rather than over text messages and communication can be two way, whole group and private. This allows vital information to be sent to everyone at the same time, questions to be asked and answered by parents and students, and everyone can communicate directly with the director when necessary.

It is critical that all parents and students install The BAND app on their devices. BAND can also be accessed as a desktop site for anyone without a compatible device.

### How to get and join the BAND app.

#### 1. Download BAND and create an account here:

<https://band.us/en> - Or get it on the Apple or Google App Stores

#### 2. Join the 2024 Conquistador Marching Band BAND group

Scan the QR code to join:



Or if you're joining on a computer and can't scan, use this web address to join:

<https://band.us/n/afad02A5U4ufx>

Neither works for you? Email Mr. O at [olivieri.garson@lusd.org](mailto:olivieri.garson@lusd.org) and I'll send you an invite code.



## CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE

### Band Camp schedule

July 29 - August 2	9am-5pm	Band Camp. All Students.
For those awarded roles: August 2	5:30pm	All parent and performer meeting in the theater. There will not be a performance at the meeting.
August 5	9am-5pm	Formation Day. All performers who earned roles.

### After School Rehearsals

First week of school until Thanksgiving break  
Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 4:00 – 6:30pm

### Saturday Rehearsals

August 24	9am-5pm	This is an SAT date. Do not sign up for the SAT today.
September 7	9am-5pm	
September 21	9am-5pm	

### Competitions

All are all-day with itineraries available ~1 week before. Transportation provided by LUSD.

October 12	Royal High School	
October 19	Moorpark High School	
October 26	Simi Valley High School	
November 2	Grover Cleveland High School	
November 9	Oxnard High School	
November 16	SCSBOA Prelims	* <i>Corrected Date</i> *
November 23	SCSBOA Championships	* <i>Corrected Date</i> *

### Football Games

August 30  
September 13  
September 27 (Staff Appreciation)  
October 4 (Homecoming)  
October 11 (Military Appreciation)  
October 25 (Senior Night & VMS Night)

### Lompoc Holiday Season Parade

TBA, likely first Saturday in December

## ABSENCE POLICY

Students must attend all rehearsals and performances and must schedule their other activities and commitments around our schedule and calendar. Joining marching band is making a commitment to marching band. If you are not prepared to commit to our schedule and our expectations, do not commit to marching band.

In case of emergency, severe illness, death in the family, etc, you must contact Mr. O via the Band App immediately, and in advance in order to excuse an absence.

Unexcused absences will affect the students grade in their band class. Repeated absences may result in permanent removal from the group.

## **CLASS ENROLLMENT AND GRADING POLICY**

Marching Band is co-curricular. All performers must be enrolled in the proper class during the school day.

Wind instrument performers must be enrolled in Symphonic Winds both semesters. Marching Band is not mandatory for participation in Symphonic Winds, but Symphonic Winds is mandatory for participation in Marching Band.

Percussionists and Color Guard must be enrolled in Conquistadors Auxiliary first semester and Percussion Ensemble second semester. Only marching band performers may take this class. Any percussionists not in marching band may take Band Techniques / Concert Band instead.

Being a co-curricular activity, grading for Marching Band can be thought of as signing up for an extra set of expectations in a student's class during the school day.

## **FUNDRAISING**

The Conquistador Marching Band is funded by the fundraising efforts of its members and their parents, donations, and support from the school district.

Marching band is a VERY expensive endeavor. Even with support from the school district we as a group need to fundraise in order to put on the professionally designed shows that we do. Our group fundraising efforts will pay for props, equipment, costumes, uniforms, flags, sets, food, and many other necessities for our show and season.

We ask for your help in funding this experience through participation in fundraisers and we do accept donations. We will set group fundraiser goals throughout the season and as a group, we will meet them.

Please keep in mind that all participation in fundraisers and donations are purely voluntary and no student will ever be denied participation in this group for lack of a donation or participation in fundraisers.

## **QUESTIONS AND HOW TO CONTACT MR. OLIVIERI**

Questions, comments, or concerns? Please contact me any time by private message on the BAND app or by email at [olivieri.garson@lUSD.org](mailto:olivieri.garson@lUSD.org).

Please do not under any circumstances attempt to call me at the school. I will not get the message in a timely manner and will probably not be able to respond.

If we need to talk I will happily give you my cell phone number.