Cabrillo High School

Instrumental Music

Conquistador Marching Band Handbook

2026

Introduction

Welcome to the Cabrillo Band Family! We're excited to have you involved. This packet will help you get started in the Cabrillo Band.

Please read this packet with your parents **IN FULL.** Marching Band is an activity that requires every performer and parent to be on board with our standards and the commitment required.

What is the Conquistador Marching Band?

The Conquistador Marching Band is the public face of the Cabrillo Band and we take our success very seriously. This group is one of the most accomplished, most awarded, and most artistic marching bands in the state of California. We have placed in the top twelve bands in our division of SCSBOA every year since 2015, earning 5 medals in that time, and it's in part because every member and every family makes a commitment to excellence from the beginning.

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.

New this year: June Training and Audition Camp

We are adding a June Training and Audition Camp to our schedule this year.

June Camp will take place June 8 - 10 at Cabrillo from 1pm-5pm and is mandatory for all members interested in being in marching band.

Returning members may be excused from June Camp if planned in advance with Mr. O. This will be the case this year only to accommodate vacations already planned.

At the June Training and Audition Camp we will teach all the fundamentals, evaluate prospective performers, and award roles in the show. A cast list will be posted on Wednesday, June 10, the last day of camp.

There will be a mandatory Parent and Performer Meeting for those cast in the show June 10 at 6:30pm, at which we'll go over the expectations, the calendar, and sign contracts.

Setting the numbers and getting commitments from all performers in June will allow us to have a large portion of the drill written and ready for Band Camp in July and will put us weeks ahead of our former schedule in the fall.

Military Families

We love our military families, and we understand that sometimes the moving schedule is not ideal for things like early summer audition camps. If you and your child are interested in being a part of our band family we can make arrangements to get you involved that will work with your schedule.

Please email the band director, Garson Olivieri, as soon as you know you want to be involved in the Cabrillo Band and we can handle your special circumstances on a case by case basis. Video playing auditions and phone meetings are both things we can do to accommodate your unique circumstances. We'll do whatever we can to help you get involved.

olivieri.garson@lusd.org

olivieri.garson@lompocschools.org

How do I Join the Marching Band?

Step 1: Sign up for the June Training and Audition Camp online by clicking the link if you're reading this as a PDF, or by scanning the QR code if you're reading a print copy:

https://forms.gle/f44URDwZQzrNmwdq5

Step 2: Attend the June camp at Cabrillo and put forth your best efforts all three days.
We will cast the show at camp.
Bring the grade check form at the end of this packet.

Step 3: Check the calendar on the next page to make sure you can commit to our entire season schedule before you sign your contract.

Step 4: Attend the June Camp Parent and Performer Meeting June 10 at 6:30.
Understand the commitment and the requirements of marching band, and sign your contract with your parents.

Once you've signed your contract, Yay! You're in the band! What to do now:

Step 5: Make sure you are enrolled in the correct class.
If you're not currently enrolled in the correct class or you're not sure, email Mr. O today and he'll connect you with your counselor to get it resolved. olivieri.garson@Lusd.org.

Symphonic Winds for wind instrument performers.
Color Guard Auxiliary for color guard performers.
Percussion Ensemble for percussionists.

Step 6: Attend Band Camp at Cabrillo July 27 - 31, 9am - 6pm.

Cabrillo Marching Band 2026 Calendar of events

June Camp schedule

June 8-10	1pm-5pm	All first year students All leadership and returning students unless excused in advance.
June 10	6:30pm	All parent and performer meeting and performance.

July Band Camp schedule

July 27-31	9am-6pm	Band Camp. All members.
July 31	6:30pm	All parent and performer meeting and performance.

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

Weekend Rehearsals

August 22	9am-5pm
September 12	9am-5pm
September 26	9am-5pm

Football Games (As of spring '26. Subject to change)
For all Games Meet at 4:30 in the Band Room. We take a bus to the LHS Stadium and back.

August 28	
September 4	The Big Game (Lompoc vs Cabrillo)
September 17	Thursday Game - Military / Staff Appreciation
October 2	Homecoming Game
October 9	Senior Night / VMS Night

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

October 10	Simi Valley HS
October 17	Moorpark HS
October 24	Pierce College (Hosted by Grover Cleveland Charter HS)
October 31	Camarillo HS
November 7	Oxnard HS
November 14	West Ranch HS OR Royal HS
November 21	SCSBOA Championships

Lompoc Holiday Season Parade
TBA, likely evening of first Friday 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.

Let's get prepared for Marching Band.

This section of the packet will help you prepare for what's to come and will spell out all of the requirements of participation. Let's start with the June and July camps.

What to Bring to the June and July Camp

1. Clothing appropriate for outdoor exercise and appropriate for the current weather. **No jeans.**
2. Athletic Shoes. Treat marching band like the athletic activity it is. **No boots, sandals, slippers.**
   - **Students without appropriate attire or footwear will be sent home to change.**
3. Sunscreen.
4. WATER. Fill and bring a large, insulated water bottle.
5. A small towel, rag or handkerchief to wet and wear around your neck. It helps keep you cool outside. This is more important than you may think.
6. Snacks for June Camp. There will be breaks in which students can snack, but not a lunch break.
7. For July Band Camp, a healthy lunch or lunch money. Snacks are a good idea too. 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.
8. All musicians: A three ring binder with sheet protectors.
9. Pencils in the binder.
10. Percussionists: Bring earplugs. High fidelity earplugs or anything made for musicians is ideal and inexpensive. The inexpensive foam kind you can get at a pharmacy work too, but are less convenient. Earbuds or headphones are not acceptable as they are not designed to protect from loud volumes.

What Are We Looking For and How Will Roles Be Awarded?

At June Camp, we will ensure that prospective members have the requisite musical skills, physical/visual skills, dedication, and positive, teachable attitude necessary to contribute positively in Marching Band.

Being Teachable

The most important thing we're looking for by far is students who show a desire to succeed. Being teachable is generally being receptive to and willing to try new things while showing an outward drive to do well. Being teachable is taking feedback positively and striving to incorporate it into your practice and performance. Being teachable is having a positive can-do attitude and the ability to stick to it when the tasks get difficult or when results do not come instantly.

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.

Being Team Players

We're looking for people understand what it is to be a part of a team working toward shared goals. We want people with a positive attitude who understand that an individual's success is the success of the group and vice versa. We need members who know how to be a part of a community and treat each other with compassion and care. We're going to spend a lot of time together. We should treat each other, ourselves, and the group how we want to be treated.

Musical Skills

And then of course we want to make sure that our musicians have or are able to build the fundamental musical skills necessary to hang in there with the group. We are of course an educational organization first, but part of that education is making sure that musicians are in an ensemble or have a role that presents a demand that is developmentally appropriate for the individual. June Camp is not a competitive audition. It's an educational one.

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.

Class Enrollment and Grading Policy

Marching Band is co-curricular. All performers must be enrolled in the proper class during the school day, as listed below. Marching Band is a graded after-school component of each class.

Wind instrument performers must be enrolled in Symphonic Winds.
Color Guard performers must be enrolled in Color Guard Auxiliary.
Percussion performers must be enrolled in Percussion Ensemble.

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. As much as I would like everyone to be able to do everything, the reality of life is that choices must be made. If coaches are willing to allow students to miss practice to attend marching band rehearsal then it can work, but students would have to work that out individually with their coach.

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 for and agreed to in advance with Mr. Olivieri. We want no surprises.

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

School comes first. 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.

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. We are all in this together, with the same goal, with the same commitment.

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.

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.

Communication Policy

Our primary method of communicating with the group and individual parents and students 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, apparently.

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 2026 Conquistador Marching Band BAND group

To join, click the link if you're viewing this as a PDF, or scan the QR code if you have a physical copy.

https://band.us/n/a7a7bc68K3raY

Neither works for you? Email Mr. O at olivieri.garson@lusd.org and I'll send you an invite code.

Conquistador Marching Band Audition
Grade Check Form

Get this form filled out at the end of the school year and bring it with you to June Camp.

Student Name _____

Teachers, the above student is applying for a role in the 2026 Cabrillo High School Conquistador Marching Band. Please fill out and sign for your class.

Period	Class	Current Grade	# of Missing Assignments or Comments	Teacher Signature