



AMADOR VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Now is the time when many of you are asking yourself if you should continue on with band in high school. I believe the answer is a resounding "Yes!" I have answered some typical questions incoming freshmen ask about joining band in high school.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Band phone number 461.6196 or email jgrantham@pleasantonusd.net

Visit the band web page for calendar information at www.amadormusic.org

DATES TO KNOW NOW

- Band camp starts Saturday August 1 and goes through August 8
- Please do not start family vacations until the Monday November 23. Our state marching contest is the weekend before Thanksgiving (11/21-22)

What class do I sign up for?

- "I am taking 6 classes next year."
Sign up for 4 academic classes, PE and Concert Band (704650)
- "I am taking 7 classes next year."
Sign up for 5 academic classes and Concert Band (704650). PE will be added by AVHS Counseling as your 7th class
- Please note you do not sign up for a separate marching band class. Marching band participation is required and is concurrent with your Concert Band enrollment. You are only signing up for 1 band class

Reasons to join band in high school

- Be a part of the largest single activity on campus (band is 13% of the population)
- Being a part of the band gives you a place to belong. The band family is a diverse one with a place for everyone
- Belong to an award winning and highly competitive program where the emphasis is on excellence and hard work and the result is success for the team and yourself
- Belonging to band is positive for the college admissions process.

Typical questions regarding band at Amador

- "Do I have to be in marching band to be in the band at Amador?"
Yes. It is expected that each 9th grade wind and percussion player will be a part of the marching band in the fall. Marching Band is optional 10-12 grade.
- "I don't have room in my schedule."
This is likely not true. Next year 9th graders who take band will be able to take 7 periods, so this should not be a problem. Also, you have to complete 1 year of a fine arts course to graduate and band fulfills that requirement.
- "I heard band takes up all of your time."
It is a busy schedule, but one that I believe is worth it for what you get out of it. The biggest myth is that after school practices go all year long. The marching season is finished right before Thanksgiving. December through June there are virtually NO after school obligations outside of 2 concerts and CMEA festival.
- "What is the marching band practice schedule?"
All band and color guard members meet each Monday and Wednesday from 6-9 pm and Saturday from 9-4 pm. This is August-November. There are 5 Saturday evening competitions (in October and November) and 4 home football games on Friday nights.
- "Can I play a sport and be in band?"
Absolutely. Generally, if you are able to handle the time commitment and uphold your academics, then yes. I am very flexible with coaches in working on practice schedules for virtually all sports in the fall. Winter and spring sports have few to no conflicts with band.
- "Are there auditions to be in the band?"
No. If you want to be in band you have a spot in band.
- "What about grades? I'm worried about my grades, getting the right classes."
Many of the top students in the school are in the band. Each year top 10%, National Merit Scholars and students with up to 5 A.P. classes a year are a part of the band program. Last year's senior class includes students accepted at top universities in and out of the state. Band helps you to manage your time better, not hurt your academic success.
- "I heard you get P.E. credit for marching band. Is this true?"
Yes. You receive a waiver for your 10th grade PE class after completing 2 semesters of marching band. You do not have to take PE as a 10th grader if you are in marching band.
- "What about jazz band-do I have to be in marching band and how do I get in?"
You do have to be enrolled in Concert Band (more on this in a moment!) to be in jazz band. Auditions are in April. Information will be sent to your middle school a month before hand.

Thank you! The Amador band can be a gateway to an amazing high school experience and we are excited to welcome you to the Amador Band Family.

To you, Future Dons!
Mr. Grantham & Mr. Dandrea