

Dragon Band Frequently Asked Questions

“What are the marching band requirements for Dragon Band members?”

All students participating in the Dragon Band are expected to participate in fall marching band activities. However, due to a number of students wishing to be in band as well as other school-related activities, the band staff has created a level system, which allows those students who have conflicts with the marching band schedule to still be a part of the program in some capacity.

Level 1 students – A **Level 1** marcher is a student who is able to attend all rehearsals, football games, and marching competitions. ***Only Level 1 marchers who have fulfilled these responsibilities will be eligible to receive their Physical Education Waiver. Additionally, only Level 1 students will be able to earn enough points to become eligible for the Dragon Band Letter jacket.***

Level 2 students – A **Level 2** marcher is a student who is involved with another school activity – athletics, drill team, or other – that prohibits them from attending all rehearsals. **These students will participate at all football games by playing stand tune music and serving in a support role during the halftime show and at all marching band competitions.** They may help with props, ladders, sound equipment, color guard equipment, or other things as needed by the directors. These students will attend some after-school rehearsals to learn their assignments as arranged with the band staff.

***Level 2 students have other priorities that keep them from competitive marching band. It is through this other activity that they can earn their letter jacket.**

“What is a marching band Alternate?”

An alternate is a Level 1 marcher who is required to attend all rehearsals, games, and competitions. Alternates will be assigned positions in the alternate block which will march at non-contest performances.

An alternate is simply a student who does not currently have a place on the field in a competitive numbered position. Students are not designated as "permanent alternates". Therefore, alternates may be worked into the competition drill as places open up or as necessary to replace other members who are having a difficult time with marching, failing, or have an injury prohibiting them from marching. In this way, it is hoped that everyone will have ample opportunity to gain marching experience. Younger students, new students, and those with little experience can expect to be alternates more often than upper classmen. Selection of alternates will be ongoing and can change at any time. Alternates are an integral part of the Dragon Band program and are expected to attend every rehearsal and performance.

“What if my child is unable to attend all or a portion of Summer Band Camp?”

Attendance at summer band camp is *vital* for the training of students in marching fundamentals as well as the learning of the marching competition show. Therefore, it is requested that students make plans to take family vacations prior to this camp.

If a student must miss a portion of summer camp, it can be expected that they will be placed in Alternate Status.

“What if my child must miss a rehearsal or performance?”

Students will receive an excused absence from a rehearsal or performance if:

- **they are suffering from illness or injury**
- **there is a sudden family emergency**
- **they have prior approval from a director**

Anyone missing a rehearsal or performance is expected to do the following:

- **fill out an Absence Request Form found outside the band hall office door**
- **place a phone call or send an e-mail to a director (phone numbers and e-mail addresses can be found at the Carroll Dragon Band website home page.)**

* Students should **NOT** notify their Section Leader of an absence and then expect the Section Leader to notify a director. This is not the responsibility of a Section Leader and this places them in an unfair position.

* Anyone expecting to miss a game or performance is expected to fill out an Absence Request Form at least one month in advance. Directors must know that all jobs and positions are filled and that everyone is accounted for when traveling.