



# MVHS Marching Band Competition Information

October 2017

## Hey Marching Band Parents It's Competition Time

It's a busy time of year! We survived Homecoming and the Community Thank You. The kids did an amazing job! Everyone did an amazing job. Awesome efforts by all!

Saturday the Marching Band participates in their first formal competition at the Cupertino Tournament of Bands at Cupertino High. You should have received an email from Jason with schedules and additional information for marchers for this event. **PRINT IT OUT, READ IT AND KEEP IT NEAR BY. IT INCLUDES MAPS AND ALL SORTS OF OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION.**

Jason and Dana take very good care of the kids. So, what about us parents? What do we need to know, and what do we need to do? Here's a few things to keep in mind – the following Survival Tips for Marching Band Parents is a compilation from many well seasoned and knowledgeable parents who have shared their wisdom.

It means a lot to the kids to watch the band competition as a spectator, to help out behind the scenes, and to donate items and to mingle with the other Marching Band parents. Do what you can to help. [Link to volunteer.](#)

## Coffee and Treats at the Parent Welcome Table Prior to the Competition

There will be a Parent's Welcome Table (coffee and treats) at each competition. It's always set up at our band's "zone" (where the kids eat dinner, change into uniforms, and generally hang out). This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, and to get a sense of what it takes to keeping Marching Band going. You also get to see the kids work together as an amazing team, but give the kids space and let them focus on what they need to be doing. Look for our 48-foot semi-trailer with the black and gold Spartan logo on the side. (This Saturday we are in the Pool Lot; see the map in Jason's email; join us after 5:00 pm). We don't have a hospitality chair, but if you are interested in hosting the welcome table, this is a great opportunity for new parents to help at competitions, and is an easy way to get involved in a small but meaningful and fun way. Coffee and sweet treat donations are also needed.

## Band Competition Survival Tips for Marching Band Parents

- **Encourage your marcher to get their stuff ready early.** Jason sends the schedule and checklist several days before the competition. Have your marcher make sure their travel clothes and other gear are washed and ready several days early (see the checklist). There is usually a rehearsal the morning of competitions and they will need to bring a lunch - try to get them to make their lunch and pack everything up the night before. A backpack or small duffle bag dedicated to Marching Band competitions is a big help. Don't forget that Marching Band has a really nice one for sale.
- **Print and bring a copy of Jason's email.** Before each competition, Jason sends the schedule and a map of the campus that shows the stadium, parking, and our assigned zone. It's very handy to have your own copy with you, and a good idea to have your student pack a copy of the day's schedule too. Just get in the habit of flagging or printing them when they come.
- **Only for Cupertino** you need to arrange for your marcher to get to Cupertino High on Saturday at "call time." Refer to Jason's schedule and email map. At Cupertino High there is a designated drop-off area shown on the map. There will be traffic, so allow plenty of time. If you can't drop your marcher, have them talk to their section leaders about carpooling. They will be bussed to the other competitions. Students should check out with Jason or Dana before leaving.
- **Plan to arrive very early for competitions.** There will be a lot of traffic around competition sites and parking will be some distance from the stadium. (There are usually drop-off areas for people that can't walk long distances.) There may be a parking fee. The largest bands, including MVHS, take the field later in the evening, and by that time, nearby parking may be hard to find.
- **Get your tickets and check the schedule as soon as you arrive.** There is a chance tickets may sell out. There is a chance the schedule has changed (sometimes bands drop-out, don't show up, or switch slots). You can get your tickets early, and go in and out of the stadium whenever you want (get your hand stamped when leaving for re-entry).



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- **Stop by the Parents Table** in the MVHS MB zone for the latest news, a cup of coffee, water, and a snack. If you don't know where we are, look for the semi with the big black and gold Spartan logo on the side.
- **Wear comfortable shoes** (you will be walking a lot). Prepare for cold and rain. It may be warm in the late afternoon, but when the sun goes down, it can get quite cool in the stadiums. Bring gloves, scarves, hats, and blankets - no kidding!
- **It's nice to have something cushy to sit on** in the stadiums, but remember the benches are narrow and close together. A blanket or small cushion works better than the clamp-on style stadium seats (there isn't enough room for these). Look for other MVHS parents wearing the black Divinity shirts or other black and gold attire and join them! The spirit wear blankets and arm bands are perfect for competitions!
- **Feel free to bring a small folding chair** with you to use at the Parent Welcome Table and our zone. You can leave it in our zone during the competition and pick it up on your way out. If you are volunteering to help with dinner, uniforms, hair, or pit, or just arrive early, it's nice to have something to sit on while waiting for the kids to get ready. Feel free to bring your dinner and eat with us (dinner is provided for the marchers and volunteers).
- **Often at Band Competitions, you can purchase a "shout out"** for a dollar or two. The announcer reads these while the bands set up. They are a great way to add a little fun spirit to the competitions, especially for the different sections.
- **Bring your camera!** We have a tradition of taking and sharing photos - [click to share on SmugMug](#). Try to take photos of the whole band or candid of other marchers and not just your kid, when possible. The candid come in very handy for a wide range of uses, and everyone loves to see them. All shared photos are for private use only.

Don't hesitate to email me or text me with any questions.

Go Spartans! Go Band!

Cheers,

Marilyn

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