

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE

Ryle Marching Band Program



WHAT GOOD CAN COME OF MY MIDDLE SCHOOL-AGED CHILD PARTICIPATING IN A HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY?

Marching as a middle schooler can help ease the transition into high school. Students will already be familiar with Ryle and have a peer group established before entering high school. It also gives students a sense of belonging, teamwork, and creates a family of peers.

IS THERE ADULT SUPERVISION?

The directors and staff accompany students to all functions, along with a host of adult chaperones.

WHAT IS THE WEEKEND TIME COMMITMENT LIKE?

From the weekend after Labor Day through the early November, most of our weekends involve football games, competitions, or both.

DO YOU MARCH IN PARADES?

We typically march in the Homecoming parade and participate in the Memorial Day parade as part of the Boone County Super Band.

WHAT IF YOU ATTEND A COMPETITION THAT IS FAR AWAY?

We do have overnight trips, with a lot of adult supervision and parent participation, which are great experiences and create wonderful memories for all.

AM I ALLOWED TO WATCH THE BAND COMPETE?

Absolutely! Competitions are lots of fun! Bond with other parents while supporting the kids.

MY KIDS IS BUSY WITH SCHOOL; WILL THIS COMMITMENT BE TOO MUCH?

Marching band is a commitment, no doubt. The hard work and commitment produces a great feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment as the show comes together throughout the season.

WHAT DOES IT COST TO BE IN MARCHING BAND?

There is a Fair share fee of \$600 which goes toward marching band expenses. The costs of additional teaching staff, putting together a show, performing, meals and traveling far outweigh that amount.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL COSTS THROUGHOUT THE SEASON?

Additional expenses include the purchase of instrument rental, shoes, gloves, uniform undershirt and hotel costs for overnight trips. Additional optional expenses include: spirit wear, banquet tickets, parent tickets to watch competitions.

IF MY FAIR SHARE COST DOESN'T MEET THE FULL NEED OF THE ORGANIZATION, WHERE DOES THAT MONEY COME FROM?

We have fundraisers throughout the year to help support the music program which minimizes the cost to parents. These help pay for items like busing, uniforms, instrument purchase and instrument repair.



MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TESTIMONIAL:

"My daughter went from having 58 missing assignment notifications (in one single email) and struggling to maintain Bs and Cs in sixth grade to taking on an enormous amount of accountability, and the only thing that changed was her being in marching band. She asked me to join marching band in April of 6th grade and I was extremely hesitant, questioning whether or not she could handle the responsibility. Eventually, we said yes. She went from a B and C student in 6th grade to straight As in 7th and 8th grade, she grew in emotional maturity, stopped making excuses for herself - and just made it all happen.

Going into 9th grade next fall, she is taking all of the AP class offerings available, she has taken two high school credit classes already, and has found an incredible support system/network of high school upperclassmen already helping her with the upcoming transition from Gray to Ryle. The motivation to not let her team down has propelled her to push herself in all aspects of her life and strive for top performance rather than the bare minimum.

Thank you for instilling a drive, sense of urgency, accountability, and community in our children. Seeing our children in these unique circumstances, spending some of their most influential years isolated during a global pandemic, then turn that anxiety, fear, and self-doubt into power has been beautiful. New parents allowing their children to take this step have no idea the positivity they have in store for them. It was more than we could have imagined. We appreciate you!"