

## MAC Band Guide to Game Day (2023)

If you have any questions, please reach out to a band director, veteran parent, or your grade-level rep, or ask on the [McCallum Band Booster Facebook group](#). The Boosters are here to help all of the first year parents transition to the MAC Band family.

### Week before the game

We highly recommend ordering your student's game-day meal each week, otherwise send a meal with your kid in the morning. There is little time for them to go out and purchase food off campus before the game. Game-day meals this year are organized by Jenny Carman, and you will order ahead at the [McCallum Band Cheddar Up website](#). Note that there is nothing there to order yet. Meals are added a few weeks at a time with deadlines to order the Monday before game day. There will be vegetarian options to order. Email [mccallumbandmeals@gmail.com](mailto:mccallumbandmeals@gmail.com) to inform us of any other dietary requirements that we will try to accommodate.

6:00 a.m. For the Taco Shack Bowl ONLY: the drumline plays at Taco Shack (across from Central Market on North Lamar) at 6:00 a.m. Lucky for the non-drumline parents, drumline students are the only ones who do this super early morning pep rally at Taco Shack. On the other hand, I hear it's pretty fun. Local news channels cover the event.

6:40 a.m. The students must be at school just as early on game day as on normal practice days, even though they will be up late playing music at the football game. If it's any consolation, they will not have early morning practice on a Friday morning after a Thursday night game. In our experience, the students enjoy the games, despite the long day. They should bring their marching clothes, ½ gallon water jug, flip folder, and instrument with them in the morning, because they will not have time to go home after school on game days. The **MAC Band Weekly email/announcement** sent by Ms. Nelson spells out everything they need to know, wear, and bring for the weekly activities, including the game. Always check it. Typically, for the first few games they wear their summer uniform (khaki shorts, black belt, white shoes/socks, and show shirt). After that, they will usually wear their black bibbers and uniform jacket with either their dry fit blue membership shirt or their show shirt underneath, or competition tops with sleeveless black compression shirt underneath, black socks, and black Drill Master shoes.

**Note:** They will be provided with the show shirt, dry fit membership shirt, black bibbers, and uniform jacket. You paid on Everything day for the Drill Master shoes. We suggest you purchase a spare show shirt because they wear it very frequently once competition starts. You need to supply a ½ gallon water jug, flip folder, khaki shorts, black belt, white shoes/ankle socks, calf-length black socks.

3:15 p.m. The whole band (except for percussion front ensemble) participates in pep rallies at school. **There isn't a pep rally before every game, check the [McCallum HS calendar](#) for dates/updates.** The band will be dismissed from class early for the Hall

March and Pep Rally. Students first come to the band hall to change into their summer uniforms, but if that's not enough time, they can change during lunch.

**Note:** When students leave early or miss class for band events, they will be reported as absent by their teacher and you will probably receive an email from the attendance clerk about the missed class. Ms Nelson will submit a list of names of students who need their absences excused, but it is done after the event. The absence emails are stressful, especially for new parents, but ignore them after confirming with your student that it was a band event, and be patient. They will be removed from the record.

- 3:45 p.m. Hall March starts in the English hallway.
- 4:00 p.m. Pep Rally in the gym. Parents may attend the Pep Rally after checking in at the school's front desk.
- 4:30 pm After the Pep Rally, or after school if there is no Pep Rally, students will eat the meal they ordered or brought from home in the band hall area or outside. See Page 1 for information on how to order their meal. They might have a little time to work on homework or run out to buy food locally, but not a lot of time. Students leave their school backpacks, lunch boxes, and other non-essential possessions in the band hall in their band lockers (or, as is often the case, in piles on the floor).
- 4:30 p.m. If you are chaperoning, this is when you should show up at the school to get the materials for the bus together and get instructions from the coordinator, Ruth Shear. (Chaperoning is a fun gig, by the way. It's the best way to know what is going on with MAC Band, get into football games/contests for free, and not have to worry about parking. Read the Caregiver's Guide to find out how to sign up.)
- 5:30 p.m. Inspection at buses. The chaperones inspect the band students to make sure they have their uniform, water-filled ½ gallon jug, flip folder, instrument, shoes, etc. Students should also have their hair up, no fingernail polish, no jewelry except for watches. Color Guard leadership inspects the guard for uniform, flag bags with equipment, gloves, dance shoes, makeup and hair supplies. Students are assigned to a specific bus and ride to the game in four school buses with their chaperones (2 parents per bus).

Parents who are not chaperoning and want to attend the game – and you are highly encouraged to do so, because it is a lot of fun – need to buy football game tickets in advance through the [GoFan website](#). Always check Charms to see where the game is. It's usually at House Park, but not always. Drive yourself to the stadium. For House Park, you can usually park in the big ACC garage on 12<sup>th</sup> Street, if you get there early enough. Don't forget to wear your MAC Band merch!

Pit/props crew typically do not need to buy tickets. You'll need to sign up on Charms for each game, wear your pit crew, Mac Band logo shirt or show shirt, and arrive early (time will vary -- watch for communications from pit/props leadership) to meet to unload the trucks/trailer in the parking lot before the game starts. If you don't have

one already, you'll receive a free Pit Crew shirt on your first visit (pending availability).

7:00 p.m. Kick-off is at 7:30 p.m. but the fun starts before the game. Depending on location and game popularity, it can take 15 minutes to find a parking spot and another 15 minutes to walk to the stadium so plan accordingly. We usually try to get there by 7:00 p.m. or a little earlier – at least for the always-crowded Taco Shack Bowl – to get through the gate, stake out good seats near the band, buy popcorn, hear the national anthem, etc. FYI, stadium seats make the hard, cold metal bleachers a lot more comfortable. For the colder games, bring a cozy blanket, too. Remember you can only bring clear bags into the stadium (see the Parent Guide to MacBand).

**Note:** Band/Guard students are not allowed food while at the game, so please don't purchase things for them. This is why they eat before we leave, and we feed them before the bus ride home. There are exceptions for any kid who has a medical condition.

7 mins. before Half-time

If you are on the Pit/Props Crew, this is the time for you to report again for duty to help move pit/prop materials from the MAC band trucks in the parking area to the end of the oval for warm up. Your coordinators Lucy Brotherton and Mike Sammon will give you further instructions from there.

Half Time The Band & Color Guard will perform their marching show. In the earlier games, this will not be the whole show because they have not mastered everything yet, but they will gradually add sections until it is complete just as competition season starts. They also play the fight song, and often play for the Blue Brigade's (dance squad) performance. They face the home team side for the marching show, but always the MAC side for the fight song. So, if MAC is not the home team, sometimes folks will amble over to the other side so they can see the kids from the front and cheer for them. If you want the possibility of watching the action up close from the field sideline, volunteer for Pit or Props Crew!

10 p.m. The game usually ends at around 10 p.m. and the students report to the buses to be checked in by their chaperones. You may occasionally take your kid home from the game (but see note below). At the buses, they receive water and snacks. The buses cannot leave until every student is accounted for.

**Note:** The directors prefer that the students ride back to the school on the buses after the game, so they can help unload the buses and properly store everything. This builds camaraderie within the sections. If a student has an emergency or exceptional reason for leaving a particular game with his or her parent, the parent should submit a permission slip in writing ahead of time to let the band directors and chaperones know. On those occasions, the student should bring his or her school stuff to the game. Even though the parent has signed a note, the parent or guardian still needs to check the student out with his or her chaperone before leaving the stadium. All of this

is to make sure that the chaperones can keep the students safe and to avoid the delays and anxiety that occur when chaperones have to search for students.

10:30 p.m. Buses get back to McCallum around this time when we play at House Park, later for games further away. Parents should pick up their students at the school in the Fine Arts parking lot. **Please don't park by the kerb outside the MAC (McCallum Arts Center)** as that is where the buses park. **Do not block access through the Fine Arts parking lot. Do not try to go behind the band hall** where the trailers are unloading. Be warned, it may take them some time to put their things away and fulfill their responsibilities before they can make it out to you, **ESPECIALLY** if they are in percussion (percussion is always the first to arrive and the last to leave).

**GO MAC BAND!**