



INSTEP

WE'RE ON THE VERGE OF SOMETHING BIG!

Spring 2021



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Upcoming Event

Mark your calendar for this **monthly FUN-raising** event.



Bottle Drive
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
4th Saturday of every month

Incahoots Parking Lot
905 NE Baker St,
McMinnville, OR



Friends of Mac Band,

Maybe you heard them, the four band students who, on their own initiative, drove down to Third Street during Winter Break and treated shoppers there to a few holiday melodies.

This is the passion for music that a strong band program creates in students.

Yes, it is a different kind of year with the limitations of COVID-19, but the band plays on in small cohorts and practices remotely, via Zoom, abiding by guidelines as outlined by the state and school in hopes that they will be able to perform fall 2021.

These last five years, the McMinnville High School Band Program has grown in both size and presence. Running a program that includes pep band, jazz band, marching/parade band, color guard, winter percussion, concert band and wind ensemble requires many hours of practice on the part of students—and money, to succeed. While the school district provides some funds, McMinnville Band Parent Organization provides the rest.

You've probably heard the marching band at MHS football games but may not know that in addition the band enters competitions and performs in local parades and grand openings for local businesses around our community.

Band students pay a participation fee, just like athletes do. However, that amount falls far short of covering the expenses involved in running a successful band program.

Costs include competition entry fees, sheet music and compositions for marching band, supplies and costumes for winter percussion and winter guard, material for building props, and a stipend for experienced musicians to teach small group sectionals, so students have an expert on their own instrument keeping them challenged.

The next major expense is band camp for 100 musicians and color guard students this summer to ready them for competition season.

And lastly, but perhaps most important, **we provide scholarships to cover participation fees for many students, who could not otherwise participate.** We have seen many such students blossom and do things that they never would have imagined possible by having the opportunity to participate in Mac Band.

These expenses are a vital part of a thriving band program. Without the needed funds, we cannot be competitive with other schools' music programs and our students will miss a wonderful opportunity.

Why are we fundraising while the band is not performing? That is a great question. The answer is that we need to raise money so the band can compete in the fall. Due to Covid-19, a major source of our revenue, the Annual Jazz Night in January, was cancelled. This is a great loss, as it is by far the greatest opportunity for the community to support our local musicians and contribute to the performing arts and music programs at McMinnville High School.

However, we are pressing on to find other ways to get a head start on what we hope will be a "normal" band season in the fall. So, we must look now to the needs and future of our musicians.

That is where you come in. There are a variety of ways you can help:

- Participate in the monthly bottle drive the fourth Saturday of each month at Incahoots.
- Make a financial donation at macband.net/donate
- Donate hot beverage dispensers, a food prep tent/trailer, 10 x 10 tents where students can change in and out of their uniforms, a quiet generator, a two-burner camp stove or a 20-foot shipping container that can be used to store band items, such as props, on the practice field.

We realize that some in the community may not be able to give as generously as they might like during this season. But there are still ways to support the band, such as allowing us to hang posters in your windows about fundraisers or asking a small, socially distant group of musicians to perform outside of your business. Or simply talk about the band and put information about our program on your website with a link so visitors to your site can easily donate.

It is our goal for the band to become an integral part of the music culture in our community. And with your help we can continue to press on toward that goal.

Jamie Akers

BPO Fundraising Coordinator
(541)910-2814

Email

mbpo40@gmail.com

To donate by check

McMinnville Music Boosters with "Mac Band" on the memo line.
1271 NE Hwy. 99W, #161 McMinnville, Oregon 97128

Online Donations

macband.net/donate

MEET THE BAND

On Beat: Percussionist Meghan Hilton



Senior Meghan Hilton is in her fourth year of marching band and loves it. “It just gets better and better every year,” she said. The versatile percussionist plays drums, symbols, mallets, marimba, “anything you hit with sticks,” she said.

Though she is a committed band member now, she didn’t start out that way. As a freshman, she signed up to take a guitar class. But when fall schedules came out, she found herself enrolled in band. “She was really unhappy about it,” her mother Steph Hilton said. “I was very hesitant; it was so different—and I didn’t know anyone at all,” Meghan said. But she chose to rise to the challenge.

“She literally produced at the high school with no musical background and became this amazing musician,” band

director David Barton said.

“Once she puts her mind to something it’s all or nothing,” her mother said. Meghan is involved in the Model UN Club and volunteers with the Rotary Club while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. In her spare time, she plays guitar and goes four wheeling. “She’s got a jeep she likes to take out on the family’s 94-acre farm in Amity,” her mother said.

Meghan describes being in band as “being part of something greater than yourself. You are one piece of the puzzle,” she said. It has helped her conquer her shyness and hesitancy to try new things. “I was always like, I never wanted to join new things. But because of band, I want to try new things all the time now. And I just do it,” she said. “I think it is because band went so well.”

Band has had a positive impact on her life. “I didn’t really have anything I wanted to pursue, no special talent or anything before joining band, so it gave me that,” she said.

While Meghan never planned to join band, she’s glad she did. Last year she completed MHS’s Performing Arts Music Career Pathway. After graduation this spring, she plans to attend Chemeketa for two years, and while she hasn’t settled on a major, she hopes to do something with music in college. “Anything that has to do with music,” she said. “Whatever they’ve got.” 🎸

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

\$1,000

Director Level

Business logo on trailer
Logo and name on MacBand website
Business sized card ad in concert programs

\$500

Drum Major

Business or individual name on trailer
Listed on MacBand website
Name on concert program

\$100

Musician Level

Name on concert programs

MEET THE BAND

Keeping it Real with Devan Grimes

Tenor sax player Devan Grimes describes himself as “a big nerd.” He enjoys fun, goofy things and making other people laugh, he said. “He loves being in band and the band loves him,” band director David Barton said. “He takes band seriously—but has fun with it at the same time,” his mother Terra Grimes said.

“He is real,” Barton said. “He can be himself and doesn’t worry about what other people think of him.” He brings authenticity to the band, Barton said.

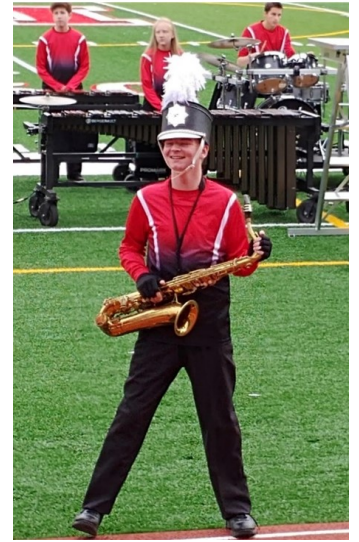
Devan’s love of music began when his fourth-grade class learned to play chimes. “The first song we learned was Carole of the Bells,” he said. “I really enjoyed the chimes—and I still like that song.” In fifth grade, he took up clarinet, in middle school he tried the bassoon and then settled on tenor saxophone, which his dad used to play.

The qualities Barton has seen develop in the sax player are ones he hopes for in his own children. “I want them to be courageous, confident and able to stand up for something, to be willing to take risks, willing to make mistakes and get better,” he said. “Band helps students build confidence in themselves.”

“You learn a lot in band—not just about music—about life.”

In addition to band and taking German at school, he is teaching himself Mandarin and bass guitar. He also enjoys working as a peer helper in a life skills class. Though the junior is undecided about his college and career plans, teaching life skills classes at a high school has crossed his mind, he said.

For Devan, being in band means “being part of a community and doing your own little part in each thing, helping others as much as you can,” he said. “It takes teamwork, working together,” he said. “You learn a lot in band—not just about music—about life.” 🎵



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