



# Hopewell Valley Marching Black & Gold

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the MBG?** *The Hopewell Valley Marching Black & Gold is one of the largest and most successful student organizations at Hopewell Valley Central High School. The marching band performs at community events, football games, and marching band competitions throughout the fall. The marching band is made up of **winds** (woodwind and brass instruments), **percussion**, and **color guard** students working together towards excellence!*



**Who can join?** *All students in grades 8-12 are eligible for membership in the MBG. No experience is necessary to join.*

**Are there auditions/tryouts?** *No! Anyone eligible student who wants to be in the marching band and can make the commitment will have a spot. Students will have to perform for instructors in order to be placed on the right instrument, piece of equipment, or part assignment.*

**Do I have to be in Symphonic Band or 8th Grade Band to be in the Marching Band?** *While it is strongly recommended that you do both, it is not required. You can be in the MBG and not be in Symphonic Band or 8th Grade Band. Participating in a curricular band helps improve individual musicianship and also benefits the entire band program.*



**I am planning on taking honors/AP classes and I'm afraid of the workload along with marching band, what should I do?** *Many of the students in the band program are enrolled in honors/AP courses and have been since they began their academic careers. While moving on to the high school can be a scary thing due to increased academic pressure, the overwhelming majority of band students develop advanced organizational skills, a strong work ethic, and a drastic increase in academic discipline due to their time spent with the MBG. Our band members are high achieving students who support each other both emotionally and academically!*

**I am interested in taking part in other activities where there may be conflicts; can I still be in the band?** *Most of the time, the answer is yes! The two areas where the answer is no are fall athletics and the fall play at the high school. These experiences provide too many direct conflicts to work around. However, students in the MBG actively participate in a wide variety of school and independent activities and organizations. Have more specific questions? Just ask!*

**Can I be in marching band and orchestra or choir?** *ABSOLUTELY! Many of our best performers in Marching Band are choir students who learn a secondary instrument for marching band or join the color guard because it is such an awesome experience! It takes hard work to learn a second instrument, but if you are a string player or singer who is interested in joining the marching band, email or visit Mr. Schwartz!*

**Do I have to be at all of band camp?** *Yes. Band camp is where we learn a significant amount of our field show. Absences from members, even if only for one day, creates a huge deficit in material covered and also slows down the rest of the ensemble from moving forward as well.*

