

2025-2026 McCarthy Mustangs Band Calendar and Requirements

8 B	8th Grade Band Night (South HS)	Fri	October 10	4-9:30p
All B	Veterans Day Parade (Holman Stadium)	Tue	November 11	10:15-12
Opt	NHBDA Honors Band Auditions Due	Thu	November 20	noon
All BC	Holiday Concert (McCarthy MS)	Wed	December 10 (11)	6-7:30p
8 BC	Push-up Day/NExT (South HS)	Tue	February 3 (4)	11a-2p
Opt	NHBDA Honors Band Festival (Pinkerton)	Mon	March 9	all day
All B	Music in our Schools Concert (South HS)	Wed	March 11 (12)	6-7:30p
78 BC	Boston Symphony (Symphony Hall)	Fri	March 13 (TBD)	8:30a-2p
Jazz	South Jazz Night (South HS)	Tue	April 21	6-7:30p
All B	Memorial Day Parade (Holman Stadium)	Mon	May 25	9:30-11a
All B	Spring Concert (South HS *TBD)	Wed	June 3	6-7:30p
8 B	South Band First Rehearsal (South HS)	Thu	June 4	6-8p

Required Materials

Instrument Band Instrument in good working condition. Be wary of the “too good to be true” \$99 special! David French Music offers a rent to own program, and offers a “Rental Day” in September. McCarthy Band also owns several instruments in varying degrees of condition.

Uniform Marching Band - *Mustang Band jackets (provided), black pants, black shoes (sneakers).*
 Concert Band - All black (dress shirt with dress pants/skirt or dress, black socks/shoes).
 Jazz Band - *Same as concert, red tie (provided).*

Method Book (purchased online for about \$12)

6th Grade - **Accent on Achievement, Book 1** - Select the book for YOUR instrument.

7th/8th Grade - **Accent on Achievement, Book 2**

***Percussion** - be sure to purchase the Combined Percussion book, NOT Snare/Bass.

½” Black 3-Ring Binder, Sheet Protectors (6th grade - 10+. 7th/8th graders and jazz band, 20)

PENCIL. Just for band. It lives in your binder. It does not go to other classes, meals, baths, or bed.

Flutes: Cleaning rod and cloth used daily. (Or...how many of you like growing mold in your instrument?)

Clarinets/Saxes: Cleaning swab (see flutes regarding mold, but looks different), reeds (box of 10 minimum).

Please, please, please! Do not cheap out on reeds. Spend the extra \$10 on quality reeds.

Reed Sizes: 6th grade or new player: size 2½. All returning players, typically size 3.

Brands: Rico, Rico Royal, Vandoren, Mitchell Lurie, La Voz, Hemke all great. **If not sure, please ask!**

Trumpets/horns/trombones/euphoniums/tubas: Valve/slide oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush.

Percussion: 1 pair 7A drumsticks (5A is okay if it's what you had) and practice pad.

Percussionists do not need to own a drum, but may practice on one if they do. They WILL need to own or borrow a bell kit for regular band. A drum set is recommended if they are in jazz band.

In general, most should expect annual supply costs to run about \$20-30 in addition to the instrument. Reed players often end up paying a bit more due to reeds, and replacing broken mouthpieces from drops. Additionally, all students should reserve at least 20 minutes each day for independent practice. This can be at home or at school. Before school or during advisory often works great and prepares them for the day too. Please stay tuned for updates and announcements, posted on our Google Classroom page.

Questions or Concerns? Please reach out to me at: cardinj@nashua.edu / cardinj@nsd42.net

--Please read over and return second page to Mr. Cardin by 8/28/2025--

I, _____, commit to the McCarthy Mustangs Band for the 2025-2026 school year, and understand that I am responsible for obtaining all materials for my instrument, and attending all required rehearsals and performances. In the event of an unforeseen conflict with a practice or performance, I will communicate with Mr. Cardin **as soon as possible** to work out a solution.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

_____ I have ordered or already have the appropriate method book.

_____ I have ordered or already have the required supplies for my instrument.
(cleaning cloth/swab, box of reeds, oil/grease, sticks/pad, as described on Page 1)

Parents/guardians, please indicate all that apply by placing a check next to each selection of interest:

___ I am interested in volunteering in some capacity this year and my Volunteer Assurance Form is attached. (I will post a link to this in our Google Classroom.)

___ I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to the McCarthy Middle School Band program. Checks should be made out to "McCarthy Middle School" with "Band" written in the memo line, and are accepted at any time throughout the year. Donations will be used to supplement equipment, materials, supplies, instruments, music, accessories, etc. Thank you!

___ I would like to *Adopt a Band Student* with a donation of \$_____ for the year. Checks should be made out to "McCarthy Middle School" with "Adopt a Band Student" written in the memo line.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

***Adopt a Band Student Sponsorship* - (This is optional. There is no fee for band at McCarthy!)**
The average annual cost for a member of the band tends to run about \$100-150, depending on their instrument. This includes the cost of required materials, reeds, concert attire, and annual instrument maintenance. If you would like to help make participation in Band a possibility for a student in need, please consider sending a check in any amount to "McCarthy Middle School" with "Adopt a Band Student" in the memo line. Funds will be used anonymously.