

Alternates

An alternate is a member of the marching band who shares a marching spot with another member. These two students march side by side in rehearsals and take turns marching in a performance. For example, one student might march a competition one Saturday, and the other student would march the next Saturday. The decision as to who marches in performance will be made by the Directors, based on the following factors: attendance, attitude, work ethic, improvement, etc.

The reasons a student might become an alternate are as follows:

- Joining the band too late to have been written into the show (move ins)
- Having difficulty with marching and/or playing the show
- Missing rehearsal or performances
- Not pulling his/her weight in rehearsals
- Special situations

The number of alternates varies from year to year. Once year, there may be ten, another year, two. It should be noted that most alternates usually go on to become some of the best marchers and players. In a band this size, the alternate system assure us of performances without any missing spots in the “drill”. This is extremely important if the band is to be successful.

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