

Gulf Coast Marching Band Championship
At McNeese State University
Time TBD – Saturday, October 20, 2018
Gates Open at TBA

General Information

There are several new procedures for our 2018 festival. Please read through everything carefully

Our primary objective is to provide your band with as many helpful comments and suggestions as possible. We want you to be able to use our judges' comments as a guide in planning your band rehearsals and future programs. With a very diverse judging pannel, we strive to provide bands with the most thorough critique and most comprehensive comments of any contest in our region.

Our goal is to help you in building and maintaining a strong band program. We want our ratings and comments to serve as a source of motivation for the students. We want our festival to be a positive, educational experience for each student and director.

BAND CLASSIFICATION

There are four levels of band classification based on the total number of **marching winds and marching (battery) percussion**. (Color Guard and Pit/sideline percussion/front ensemble do not count in these numbers.) The classes are:

Class A	1-40
Class 2A	41-80
Class 3A	81-120
Class 4A	121+

ADJUDICATION SYSTEM

<u>Judging Captions</u>	<u>Caption Points</u>	<u>Ratings Breakdown</u>
Ensemble Music	25	I 18.7-25.00 / II 12.5-18.6 / III 0-12.4
Ensemble Visual	25	I 18.7-25.00 / II 12.5-18.6 / III 0-12.4
General Effect	25	I 18.7-25.00 / II 12.5-18.6 / III 0-12.4
Percussion	15	I 11.2-15.00 / II 7.5-11.1 / III 0-7.4
Color Guard	10	I 7.5-10.00 / II 5-7.4 / III 0-4.9

(Drum Majors will not be judged at this festival.)

*In order to maintain a fair scoring system, bands without a color guard or auxiliary unit will receive 0 points in that caption.

Ratings (I, II, or III) in:

Music, Visual, GE, Percussion, Color Guard (trophies for "I" ratings)

All bands will receive a festival plaque. Plaques will be labeled "Superior" for those with an overall "I" rating.

Best-in-class caption awards for:

Music, Visual, GE, Percussion, Color Guard

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place within each class will be awarded

Best overall caption awards for:

Music, Visual, GE, Percussion, Color Guard

Overall Awards (score-based) for:

5th Place

4th Place

2nd Runner Up

1st Runner Up

Grand Champion

All judges will be located directly in front of the camera deck. (The lettering “McNeese Cowboys” will be directly behind them.)

ARRIVAL (Map is included in the email.)

Buses and trucks/trailers for the first 4 bands will be parked in Lot D & should enter down Touchdown Ave.

ALL subsequent band buses must enter LOT A, through the first east-bound entrance on McNeese Street. This entrance is just past the alumni center driveway. A guide will meet you at that entrance, and direct you to your parking area in Lot A.

Options for equipment trucks/trailers:

1. Enter at Touchdown Ave. (just past the traffic light at Kirkman Street) and park in Lot C or D. This option gets your props/front ensemble equipment closer to the field entrance ramp, but will require a little extra walking for you students, if uniforms are also stored on your truck/trailer. A festival representative will meet your equipment vehicle as you arrive.
2. Enter Lot A with your buses. This will keep your truck/trailer close to your students, but will require a hike for props/front ensemble equipment.

* **NEW FOR 2018:** McNeese will **NOT** be able to provide transport of any equipment. All front ensemble equipment and/or props must be transported by each band. Bands may use “gator” tractors or small yard-type tractors to pull equipment trailers to the field.

Note: The entrance ramp to the field is steep. Students should not/will not be permitted to walk along side of trailers as they descend the ramp.

Your band guide will remain with you until your band has been seated in the stands following your performance or following the group photo (if available). Your guide will review your timeline with you and direct you to the warm-up area, into the stadium and back to your buses following your performance. Please do not be late entering or exiting the warmup area.

Each band will have a designated seating area for watching other performing bands. Seating areas will be labeled with school names.

Restrooms will be available at the west end of Lot A and near Lot D for your students upon arrival. Please do not enter through the band entrance ramp for restroom usage.

HOSPITALITY AREA

A hospitality area for participating directors and spouses will be located in the Blue & Gold Room of the pressbox. Unfortunately we cannot provide for bus drivers, chaperones, staff, etc.

CONCESSIONS

Concession areas will be available on the west side (press box side) of the stadium. Beverages, hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, and snacks will be available to spectators, students, etc. at the main concession stand on the west side of the stadium. (Pricing list is attached.)

ADMISSION

Admission to the stadium is free to all participating directors and students.

Wristbands for directors and 4 chaperones from each bus will be provided. We estimate 2 chaperones per bus, so please the additional wrist bands for staff and truck/trailer drivers.

All spectators must enter the stadium through the northwest entrance. Spectator tickets will be \$10 per person; \$5 for children under 12. Seating will be on the west side of the stadium only.

WARM-UP AREA

The warm-up areas are a safe distance from the stadium. You are requested, however, to have all horns face WEST, away from the stadium. You are scheduled in warm-up for 25-30 minutes.

PIT/FRONT ENSEMBLE PERCUSSION

- We will be able to provide ONE 4-wheeler/trailer for transport of your equipment. You are welcome to bring additional small tractors/4-wheelers/trailers with you to accommodate additional loads.
- McNeese students will not be permitted to load or unload your equipment.
- Students will not be permitted to ride on the trailer during transport of equipment. They may walk beside it.
- **Electronics & Amplification:** Please note that electrical outlets could be a significant distance away from the 50 yard line (20 yards or more), and we are not able to provide extension cords. Please be sure to bring your own. You may also want to bring power strips to ensure you have enough outlets.

GATE AREA, ENTRANCE AND EXIT

The “gate area” will be on the SOUTH end of the stadium, behind the scoreboard. You will enter the field from the SOUTHEAST corner, and you will exit from the same location.

Upon entering the field, the band may proceed to the back sideline OR come down through the endzone to the front sideline, OR both.

When exiting the field following your performance, the band should exit to the FRONT sideline and to the SCOREBOARD (south) endzone. The band will then proceed around the outside of the endzone and back out the SOUTHEAST corner. Should you desire to use a cadence as you exit, please keep it under 60 seconds.

TIMING

A total of 15 minutes is allotted for each band. The 15-minute clock will start at the moment the band starts down the ramp to the field. The clock stops when the last prop and front ensemble equipment have cleared the ramp. Following the introduction of your band, the announcer will ask, “Drum Major, is your band ready?” At this point, a short salute should be given. The announcer will then state, “ _____ High School, you may take the field for festival performance.”

Note: Any on-field warm up must be calculated into your 15-minute time slot.

Note: Bands exceeding the 15-minute window will incur a **2-point penalty and overall rating reduction** of one level. It is critical to running a festival fair to all bands that the festival run on time.

Note: The ramp entrance to the field is very steep and can cause problems for bands with large props. All props must exit the ramp prior to the introduction of the next band. A **2-point penalty and overall rating reduction** of one level will result from props not clearing the ramp prior to the announcement of the next band. This may require students to miss the full band photo, if one is being taken for your group.

Note: Front ensemble equipment and all battery percussion not held in group photographs must also clear the top of the ramp prior the introduction of the next band. Front ensemble students may then enter the photo bleachers from the back for a group photo. The same penalties apply as with props.

Note: The final performing band of the festival will be held to the same timing standards, except that front ensemble equipment and battery percussion can be left at field level, near the photo area at the conclusion of the performance. Props and guard equipment can be parked off the back sideline of the field and taken up the ramp following the group photo.

FULL BAND PHOTOS (We are still negotiating with a photographer. We hope to have this available)

Bands wishing to take a full-band photo: As you exit the field, you will be directed into the band bleachers (next to the entrance ramp). Props and front ensemble equipment (and battery percussion, if you wish) will be taken to the top of the ramp, and those students will then join the band for the photo. If time permits before the next band performs, the photographed band will exit immediately following the photo. If the next band is ready to begin, the photographed band will be asked to remain seated until the conclusion of the performance.

PRIOR TO AWARDS

There will be a seating area reserved for each participating band. We would like to request all bands to be seated for the McNeese performance. The last performing band will be able to meet and leave their equipment at field level, just outside the scoreboard endzone and enter the stands from the field stairwell. They may then reenter field level following the awards presentation to retrieve equipment.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Drum Majors and additional band representatives (no more than eight students, please) will be called to the field following the last high school and prior to the MSU exhibition performance. They will be placed off the front sideline, then moved onto the field following the MSU performance.

The awards will be announced in the following order:

Overall ratings for each band in each of the primary judging captions:

“_____ high school: Ensemble Music I, Ensemble Visual I, General Effect I, Percussion I, Color Guard I, Overall Band I”

Best In-Class Caption Awards

Top 3 Scoring Bands in Each Class

Overall Caption Awards

Overall Top-5 Band Placements: “In 5th place, with a score of _____, High School”

FIELD MARKINGS - **Important**

The hash marks on our field are college hash marks (Texas high school hashes). We will also mark the Louisiana high school football hash marks with tape of a color other than white.

ADJUDICATORS

Ensemble Music	TBA
Ensemble Visual	TBA
General Effect	TBA
Color Guard/Auxiliary	TBA
Percussion	TBA

Each band will receive an mp4 video of their performance, and all judges' commentary

McNeese State University Marching Festival 2018
Chartwell's Concession Stand Items/Pricing

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>
12 oz. Hot Drink	\$2.50
16 oz. Cold Drink	\$2.50
32oz. Cold Drink	\$4.50
Bottle Water	\$2.50
Popcorn	\$2.00
Dill Pickles	\$2.00
Sunflower Seeds	\$3.00
Roasted Peanuts	\$3.50
Cajun Peanuts	\$4.50
Cotton Candy	\$3.00
Assorted Candy	\$3.50
Hamburger	\$4.50
Sausage	\$4.50
Hot Dog	\$3.50
Nachos	\$3.50
Nachos Grande	\$4.50
Chili/Cheese Cup	\$1.00