

KeizerCommunity

KEIZERTIMES.COM

Marching band preps for halftime show

By DEREK WILEY
Of the Keizertimes

McNary High School marching band spent all of August working on its halftime show—*Phantom of the Opera*.

Percussion reported first on Aug. 1 for a week-long camp. The entire band, plus color guard, then spent 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 15–26 learning how to march, work as a team and play the music, which includes the main theme from *Phantom of the Opera* as well as *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again*.

The band also played the *Star Spangled Banner*, *Go Big Blue*, *McNary Fight Song*, and other tunes they'll play during time-outs and stops in action.

"They learn a lot during those two weeks," band director Jennifer Bells said.

McNary plans to add at least two more songs from *Phantom of the Opera* throughout the season.

The Celtics first home football game is Sept. 9 at 7 p.m. against South Salem.

"There's no way we'll get it all ready by the first game so we try to add as we go," Bell said.

"Hopefully by the beginning of October it will all be there. The kids will be wear-

ing masks. We have 10 flag members this year and they've got costumes. It should be a pretty fun show."

The idea for *Phantom of the Opera* came after a group of McNary students went to Europe last year and saw the musical in London.

"When I found this show, it was perfect," Bell said. "It keeps them excited and brings back great memories."

The marching band has 86 members and 140 students in the entire band program.

"A lot of them are in sports and it's not full required for the youngest band so a lot of the freshman don't always chose to do the marching band," Bell said. "They come in the second year because they realize how fun it is. It does take a little convincing to give it a shot."

But Bell noted this year's marching band is on the younger side.

"Most of our marching band is freshmen and sophomores this year," she said.

"These last two weeks have been a challenge to get them to learn everything but they are doing phenomenal. They are really stepping up and figuring it out and learning it all so it's been really exciting."



KEIZERTIMES/Derek Wiley

McNary High School marching band plays *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again* from the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Phantom of the Opera* during camp on Thursday, Aug. 25.



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