

Mattawan High School Band
Frequently Asked Questions and Basic Information

Which grades are included in the marching band?

All 9th-12th grade band students are part of the marching band and hold a position in either the woodwind, brass, drumline, front ensemble, guard, or drum major roles.

Do I have to be in marching band as part of high school band?

Yes, marching band is part of the full year curriculum. It only takes place during the first six weeks of the school year as well as one parade performance in May.

Can I play fall sports and be in band?

Yes. We currently have a number of students who do participate in fall sports and marching band. We work with coaches and parents to iron out details when there are overlapping events.

Do I already have to know how to march and play prior to starting band camp in the summer?

No prior experience is necessary, but it is helpful if new students attend as many of the summer Tuesday evening rehearsals as possible to give them a good start on those skills.

What costs are involved for marching season:

Families are asked to pay the \$125 band donation which is used toward the cost of additional instructors, uniform purchases and repairs, the band show shirt, feeding the band dinner at each competition and game, and other items as needed. Students are also asked to pay for their own shoes at a cost of approximately \$35 and color guard students are asked to pay for personal-wear items (leotards, etc) at a cost of approximately \$35. All students have the option of purchasing a band jacket that they will wear for the four years they are in HS band and beyond, at a cost of approximately \$80.

Do I have to attend every summer rehearsal and every day of band camp?

We strongly recommend that you set aside the dates for evening rehearsals in the summer as well as the main focused weeks during August, but we also support the idea of all of you having time for summer travel with your families! These rehearsals are where we literally learn the music, drill routines, choreography, and how to assemble it together as a group of almost 200 performers. Additionally, we have a lot of additional instructors on hand for this part of the experience to give our students a lot of resources for their learning and to build their confidence for the entire season.

Summer Rehearsals for all 9th-12th grade students in July

Tuesday 10th - HS Band Rehearsal 6-9pm
Tuesday 17th - HS Band Rehearsal 6-9pm
Tuesday 24th - HS Band Rehearsal 6-9pm
Tuesday 31st - HS Band Rehearsal 6-9pm
Tuesday 7th - No Rehearsal

Band Camp for ALL 9th-12th grade students is held in August

Monday 13th - Friday 17th - Week 1 8am - 5pm
Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd - Week 2 8am - 5pm
Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th Rehearsal 6pm - 9pm
Wednesday 29th - HS Band Rehearsal 6pm Performance for Parents 7pm
Thursday 30th - Possible Home Game Performance

Concert Season:

Main Performances :

Holiday Concert: Late November/Early December
Winter Concert: Late February
MSBOA Festival: Early March
Spring Concert: Late April
Spring Parade: Mid-May

Booster Information:

Every BAND PARENT/GUARDIAN is a Band Booster! The Mattawan Band Boosters provide volunteer support to the student band members and directors and financial assistance to the instrumental program and all of its activities.

VOLUNTEER: Becoming involved in the band parent team is a WONDERFUL way to support your own student and every student. IT TAKES A VILLAGE to build the show and move them down the road to competitions. It is also very rewarding as an adult to get a look at some of what is happening behind the scenes!

Ways to volunteer as a HS parent

- Home Game Concession Stand (Fall Sports...Freshman, JV and Varsity Football, Boys JV and Varsity Soccer, Girls Freshman, JV and Varsity Volleyball)
- Feed the band at competitions and home games
- Secure bottles of water for the band at each competition and game
- Repairs and upgrades on various equipment
- Fittings and alterations for uniforms
- Apparel Sales
- Drive school vehicles that pull the large band trailers to competitions
- Chaperone at events such as the band camp dance and band banquet dance
- Serve on the band banquet food or decorations committee

Fundraising Opportunities: Each student has a band trip account where they can raise money toward their future Florida trip or other band-related expenses! A portion of funds from certain fundraisers gets deposited when your band student participates! Some of the next fundraisers are Little Caesar's Pizza which begins on Monday, March 19th, our new concert program ad campaign, and our ongoing SCRIP order campaign. Keep an eye on your email for more information! We are currently seeking volunteers to serve on a committee to explore and implement new fundraisers (both for individual accounts and general funds) for the 6th-12th grade band students and program. Please see Amy Lin if you would be interested in serving in this capacity.

Booster Meetings: Are held the second Wednesday every other month. The next one is on Wednesday, March 7th at 7:30 pm in the Middle School Band Room.

Florida Trip Overview:

Florida October 2019: Every four years we provide a performance travel opportunity for the 9th-12th grade band students. For the next trip, we have elected to travel in the month of October as it is a natural transition from marching season, and will be a less-expensive and less-crowded time to be in the Florida area. Although the trip was moved to the fall, the same grade levels that would have gone had we traveled during Spring Break of 2020 will still be invited to be part of the trip. For this experience, the students typically fly to Orlando and perform at two locations, primarily the Magic Kingdom and Epcot. Mr. Boswell and Mrs. Jonker have led several of these trips and can offer a great deal of insight on what to plan for and how to best navigate the many options. Keep an eye out for the Florida trip packet of information that will be presented at our meeting. This information will also be available on our band website and available at our upcoming concerts.

Safety Perspective: One concern that many parents have when their students are young is how we will best oversee their students during travel. We follow every school district travel policy as well as working closely with our student group travel agency **Educational Tours**. We have a statement to share below from one of the chaperones from the 2016 trip:

During my experience with the Mattawan Band staff along with the travel company I was never concerned with any of the students I was in charge of or my safety. There was impeccable organization along with redundant accountability that just made the whole trip easy for me. I was in charge of 14 students and I would do it all over again in a second.

-Brian Brusach
Mattawan Band Parent
Kalamazoo Public Safety
Officer Assigned to the
Officer Training Division

Please contact us if you have questions:

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