

Northern Lights Home School Marching Band

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What is Marching Band? Marching Band is an exciting opportunity for WMHFA students to let their “light” shine before thousands of people in parades in various cities in the summer. The unit consists of three groups: **Band** (students playing wind and percussion instruments); **Colorguard** (girls swinging flags, sabres, or rifles in choreographed routine with the marching band music); **Banner/Flag Carriers** (younger students ages 7 and up, who are siblings to enrolled band/colorguard students). New carriers each year must pass a small audition to participate, and only fourteen positions are available for banner/flag carriers on a first come basis.

Who may participate? Students currently enrolled in a homeschool band age 11 (by 8/7/21)* and up are eligible for Marching Band. (* The age limit does not apply to Jr. Colorguard and Banner/flag carriers).

What is required? Marching Band music must be memorized. All students are required to have “*Main Street America*” and “*The Ultimate Warm-up*” memorized **by June 7**, all students must attend Marching Band Camp, must be able to perform the marching routine by the end of Band camp, attend weekly Wednesday rehearsals and parades.

When are Memorization Tests? Memorization Tests will begin in April and continue until Band Camp. Many students must return multiple times to be re-tested. **Do not wait until the last minute to do your first memorization test!**

When can WMHFA Marching instruments be picked up? Mellophones may be picked up on a first come basis. Baritones will only be issued to students when they pass the memorization tests.

How long is the Marching Band season? The 2021 marching season begins June 7th with Band Camp and our last summer parade is on August 7th, 2021.

What costs are involved?

- Tuition – 2021 Marching Band is \$300 per student (maximum of \$900 per family)
- Uniform – WMHFA provides uniforms. Families will be responsible for purchasing MB Shoes (\$45)
Uniform Fittings are Wednesdays from 1-4PM at the Special Olympics Building.

When is Band Camp?

June 7-11 (Monday through Friday) At the Special Olympics Building - 9:00AM to 3:00PM

When will we meet for rehearsals? Marching Band Practice will be every Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Starting June 16th and continue through August 4th at the Special Olympics Building.

When are the Parades?

June 12 - Rockford Start of Summer Parade

June 17 - Three Rivers Water Festival Parade

July 3 - Dorr Fourth of July Parade

July 17 - Ionia Free Fair Parade

July 24 - Byron Days Parade

August 7 - Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival Parade

How do we sign up? Enroll Online by June 6! Go to www.wmhfa.org to enroll. Marching Band information is found under the “Bands” link in the menu at the top of the page.

MARCHING BAND INFORMATION

Band Camp at the Special Olympics Building June 7-11, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Auditions to check memorized music will be held until Camp

Parents

For Band Camp to be successful, we need your help in the following areas: serving water during breaks, serving Pizza on Friday of Band Camp, cleaning the building, traffic duty, water during parades, loading equipment, etc. We have an opportunity for every family to help during the marching season. Watch the newsletter for the announcement to sign up.

What to Bring:

Bring your instrument, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a large water bottle.

Lunch will be NOT be provided for Monday through Thursday during Band Camp. Pizza will be provided on Friday.

General Rules

As Christians, our goal should be to obey Scripture and, whether in word or deed, to do all to the glory of God. Since the ultimate end of all Bible-centered education is to grow in wisdom and virtue, we require all our students to exhibit the following minimal personal virtues: *Kindness, Truthfulness, Courtesy toward others and respect for their property rights, Punctuality in attendance and work, Respect for and obedience to those in authority, Diligence in effort and attention*

Attendance:

As a committed member, please plan to attend **EVERY** day of Band Camp, all rehearsals and all parades.

- ⇒ Students **must** attend the rehearsal prior to a performance in order to perform unless absence is excused.
- ⇒ Excessive tardiness or absences will result in dismissal.
- ⇒ Indicate on Enrollment Form if you must miss a rehearsal or parade due to family vacation, missions trip, summer camp, etc.

Conduct:

This code of conduct will be enforced before, during, and after band any where on the property in which the band practices or performs. The following behavior will result in immediate disciplinary action:

- ⇒ Foul language or unwholesome talk (Eph. 4:29)
- ⇒ Roughhousing, or disrespect for property
- ⇒ Disruptive or uncooperative behavior during rehearsals
- ⇒ Physical displays of affection
- ⇒ All other inappropriate behavior as deemed by the director

Dress Code:

Students must come properly dressed for rehearsals and performances. Your children will be dismissed from a practice or a performance if not dressed properly.

- ⇒ No earrings, nail polish, or dyed hair on boys
- ⇒ No crop tops, sleeveless tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps (i.e. visible midriff when arms are lifted over head)
- ⇒ No low neck lines, sheer clothing, skin tight tops or exposed underwear (bras or under shorts)
- ⇒ Shorts must be no more than 3 inches above the knee when in a kneeling position.
- ⇒ No T-shirts with inappropriate language or pictures
- ⇒ Faddish or unkempt clothing and hair styles are to be avoided
- ⇒ Tennis shoes are required for marching practice. **No Sandals!!!**

Instrument Code:

- ⇒ Students must never play another student's instrument.
- ⇒ Students other than the drummers may **never** touch the percussion equipment.
- ⇒ Students other than Colorguard members may **never** touch the Colorguard equipment.
- ⇒ Parents are financially responsible for maintenance, repairs or theft of instruments loaned to their child by the band.

Disciplinary Action:

The band directors are free to discipline as deemed fit for each offense, but in most cases will use the following guidelines.

- ⇒ First offense - Written warning
- ⇒ Second offense - Dismissal from current and next rehearsal or performance
- ⇒ Third offense - Dismissal from band for the remainder of the season.

Students may be immediately dismissed without notice for gross infractions such as fighting, using illegal substances, or immoral behavior.

Uniforms

Uniform fittings will take place in May (See attached Uniform Information sheet for full details). Students must follow all instructions in caring for their uniforms.

IMPORTANT!

- ***Please drop off your Marching Band & Colorguard students ONLY.*** There will be no nursery or facilities available for us to accommodate any other children. When you arrive to pick up your Marching Band student, please do not allow your younger children to run loose, please keep them with you at all times.
- ***Please watch the rehearsals from a distance.*** To prevent your child from being distracted or confused, we are asking parents to please watch the rehearsals from a distance. If an instructor needs your assistance you will be called upon.
- ***Upon arrival, students are to go directly to their designated areas.*** Except for using the restroom, we are insisting that all students stay in their designated areas. There is to be absolutely no wandering around!
- ***We are here for Band purposes only.*** Therefore, do not bring skateboards, roller-blades, or roller-skates.

Performance Information

Please plan to attend **ALL** performances. Because we are a performing band, every member is expected to be at all performances (sickness and emergencies excluded). This is a team effort in which every member is essential to the quality of the band's performance. By signing up for Marching Band you made a commitment to be at every parade possible. Please notify us if you will be missing a performance.

- Parents (or adult in charge) are responsible for accompanying their children to the performance designated check-in area at least 1 hour before a parade. **PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE!**
 - **Students must arrive in FULL DRESS with all necessary equipment. Any student not prepared will not be allowed to march. (Extra gloves may be available at a cost of \$5 each!)**
 - **STUDENTS ARE TO ARRIVE IN FULL UNIFORM & ALWAYS STAY IN FULL DRESS WHILE IN PUBLIC!**
 - **Brightly colored nail polish and jewelry will not be allowed.**
 - **Uniforms must be clean and unwrinkled or you will not march!**
 - **No substitute clothing or you will not march!**
 - **Shoes must be clean and polished or you will not march!**
 - **Students may not eat or drink anything other than water while wearing their uniforms before performances.**
- * ***During parades, we ask that parents do not follow the parade processions in the street or in front of spectators. Parents may wish to view the parade at the end of the route. Also, we ask parents not to talk to performers during a performance. We encourage you to applaud and cheer the band as they perform. When students are done performing, they need to be picked up by parents immediately.***