

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); **Rifle Team/Banner/Flag Carriers** (younger students who are siblings to enrolled band/colorguard students). New carriers each year must pass a small audition to participate. Positions are limited and available for banner/flag carriers on a first come basis.

Who may participate? Students currently enrolled in a homeschool band age 11 (by 8/3/24) and up are eligible for Marching Band. Banner Carriers and Colorguard students must be 9 by September 1.

What is required? Marching Band music must be memorized. All students are required to have “America on Parade”, and “The Ultimate Warm-up” memorized **by April 24**, returning students must have “The Star-Spangled Banner” memorized by April 24, 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 videos may be submitted online until April 24. Fees may apply if you submit a video that is not prepared. **Do not wait until April 24 to do your first memorization test!**

When can WMHFA Marching instruments be picked up? Mellophones may be picked up on a first come basis by CB & AB. After that they will be available to IB & BB students 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 2024 marching season begins in May with Pre-camp, uniform fittings, and colorguard and drumline rehearsals. Marching Band Camp (required for all students) is June 3-7, and there are weekly practices Wednesdays until our last summer parade on August 3rd, 2024.

What costs are involved?

- Tuition – 2024 Marching Band is \$360 per student (maximum of \$1080 per family)
- Uniform – WMHFA provides uniforms. Families will be responsible for purchasing MB Shoes (\$45)
Uniform Fittings will be held in May.

When is Band Camp?

June 3-7 (Monday through Friday) At Corinth Reformed Church - 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 12th and continuing through July 31st at Corinth Reformed Church.

When are the Parades?

June 16	Mackinac Island Lilac Festival Parade
June 22	Grand Ledge Yankee Doodle Day Parade
July 4	Richland Fourth of July Parade
July 13	Ionia Free Fair Parade
July 27	Byron Days Parade
August 3	Coast Guard Festival Grand Parade – Grand Haven

How do we sign up? Go to your parent portal to enroll

Band Camp at Corinth Reformed Church

June 3-7, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Pre-Camp Pre-Camp is required for all new marchers to NLMB, regardless of potential experience at another school. Students will meet their Section Leaders and learn the basic commands in a more relaxed atmosphere. Pre-Camp is held in the same location as Band Camp on two Wednesdays prior to Band Camp. In 2024 those dates are May (TBD) & May (TBD) from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. You must attend at least one of these. The same material will be presented at each session. Students are welcome to attend both. Experienced marchers are not required to attend Pre-Camp, but are welcome to attend as a refresher course. We will not play music at these sessions, but you should bring your instrument to learn how to hold it during various command positions.

Parents

For Band Camp to be successful, we need your help in the following areas: monitoring students during lunch and break times, serving lunch on Friday, cleaning the building, 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, music, pencil, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a large water bottle labeled with your name. Students must bring their own lunches for band camp on Monday through Thursday. 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.
- ⇒ Work schedules and Doctor/Dentist appointments are not excused absences for Band Camp.
- ⇒ Summer auditions for fall classes must not be scheduled during practice times.
- ⇒ Indicate on the absence 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.

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) unless you have informed us ahead of time. 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.***

Marching Band Drumline Information

All percussion members currently enrolled in a homeschool band are welcome to join the Northern Lights Homeschool Marching Band Drumline.

Drumline members will be required to attend rehearsals prior to band camp on all Wednesdays in May from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. (Times and dates subject to change.)

Instrumentation will be determined by the drumline instructor by audition at the rehearsals prior to band camp. Students may audition for cymbals, snare, tenors or tonal bass drum. Snare and tenor players must provide their own drumsticks.

IMPORTANT! – The Drumline Captain and tonal bass drum players **MUST** commit to attending every parade. Do not audition for these positions if you cannot be at all parades.

Marching Band Colorguard Information

All current members of the Junior, Middle and Senior guards are welcome to march this summer. You will automatically be grouped in your current guard level **UNLESS** you are on the cusp of the next age group that will allow you to be moved to the next group, to be determined by the colorguard instructor.

Band Camp Schedule: All guards will meet from 9am-3pm (with a one-hour lunch) each day of band camp.

Uniforms:

- * WMHFA will provide the tunic. Students need to provide shoes, undershirt, and leggings.
- * Girls need to provide solid black athletic shoes. They need to be comfortable and sturdy enough to march in.

Band Camp:

- Wear comfortable and supportive athletic shoes always! No flip flops allowed.
- Hair must be pulled back off face and secured.
- **BRING WATER.** The band supplies water breaks, but you will need more water more frequently.

Go guard!