

Northern Lights Home School Marching Band

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 typically siblings to enrolled band/colorguard students).

Who may participate? Students currently enrolled in a homeschool band age 11 (by 8/1/26) 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 the parade piece and “The Ultimate Warm-up” memorized by April 23, returning students must have “The Star-Spangled Banner” memorized by April 23, 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 23. Fees may apply if you submit a video that is not prepared. **Do not wait until April 23 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 marching season begins in May with Pre-camp, uniform fittings, and colorguard and drumline rehearsals. Marching Band Camp (required for all students) is June 1-5, and there are weekly practices Wednesdays until our last summer parade in August.

What costs are involved?

- Tuition – 2026 Marching Band is \$380 per student (maximum of \$1140 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 1-5 (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 the week after Band Camp and continuing through the Wednesday before our final parade. We meet at Corinth Reformed Church.

When are the Parades?

June 18 - Three Rivers Water Festival Parade - 7pm

July 3 - Philadelphia Independence Day Parade

July 4 - Glenside, PA 4th of July Parade

July 18 - Ionia Free Fair Parade - 11am

TBD (Byron Days Parade)

August 1 - Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival Parade - 11:45am

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

Band Camp at Corinth Reformed Church

June 1-5, 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. 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.
- * Submit absences through the Parent Portal if you must miss a rehearsal or parade for vacation, missions trip, camp, etc.

Conduct:

This code of conduct will be enforced before, during, and after band anywhere 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 crop tops, sleeveless tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps (i.e. visible midriff when arms are lifted overhead)
- * No low necklines, sheer clothing, skin tight tops or exposed underwear (bras or under shorts)
- * Shorts must be obviously longer than mid-thigh. In other words, the length needs to fall closer to the knee than to the crotch.
- * No T-shirts with inappropriate language or pictures
- * Faddish or unkempt clothing and hair styles are to be avoided. No dyed hair.
- * Boys' hair may be no longer than the eyes, the bottom of the ears, and the collar.
- * No earrings or nail polish on boys.
- * Tennis shoes are required for marching practice. **No Sandals or Crocs!!!**

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 April/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 with your child, 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!**
- **No brightly colored nail polish or visible jewelry. Stud earrings must be small, in gold, silver, or muted colors.**
- **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 Wednesdays in April/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.

Rehearsals start in May. See details online.

Uniforms:

- * WMHFA will provide the tunic and leggings. Students need to provide shoes and undershirt.
- * 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 or Crocs 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!