

Incoming High School Band Parent FAQ...

As the parent of an incoming high school band student, you probably have a lot of questions. Many of your questions can be answered on our website at www.erbands.org or, hopefully, as part of this FAQ. If you have a more specific question that is not addressed here, please feel free to contact either the High School Band Director or the Band Boosters President.

1. I've heard a lot about scheduling classes at the high school —what's the deal with graduation requirements, LCC, testing out, etc.?

This is a big topic. Please see the scheduling help handout on our website: www.erbands.org

2. What kinds of bands are offered as part of the HS band experience?

There are currently 4 bands offered in the high school. There are no grade level requirements for any bands, just auditions when noted. Also, students enrolled in jazz band must also be enrolled in marching/concert band—the jazz band is an EXTENSION of the traditional band program—not a replacement.

Marching Band—all band students participate in marching band **for the 1st** term only.
Wind Symphony—a non-audition based concert band that runs 2nd and 3rd term.
Wind Ensemble—an advanced concert band that runs 2nd and 3rd term. Audition only.
Jazz Band—an advanced performance ensemble that runs all year. Audition only.

3. What is the performance schedule like?

While the exact calendar is different every year, you can get a good guess of what things will be like by looking at THIS YEARS calendar on the website. Please note that there are some weekend commitments.

4. I've heard a lot about marching band and band camp—what's the real story?

The Greyhound Marching Band performs at all home varsity football games, local parades, and a few other marching band festivals. The marching band is definitely the most recognized representatives of ERHS!

The band attends band camp during the summer before the school year begins and there are some pre-camp rehearsals held at the school. At camp, students learn the half time show, pregame show, and parade dance. More importantly, however, students get a chance to get to know each other and make some really good friends!

The full band camp/pre-camp rehearsal schedule is given to all students before the school year ends and can be found on the website in May.

Camp is not required—but is *very highly encouraged*. Any student who does not attend camp will not perform publicly with the band until they have reached the level of everyone else as decided by the band director.

Please contact the High School Band Director or Band Boosters President if you have more specific questions!

5. Can I participate in both band and athletics?

Absolutely!!! It is very possible to participate in athletics and band. Each sport is unique but, in general, so long as the band director is alerted to any possible conflicts within a reasonable amount of time, conflicts can be easily avoided.

That being said—there will be times where students will have to miss one event for another. In general:

Athletic practice vs. Band practice = could go either way. Since there are far fewer extra curricular band practices than athletic practices, we usually ask that you make time for at least part of—if not all of—band practice.

Athletic game vs. Band practice = Go to the game. Good luck!

Athletic game vs. Band performance = Come to the band performance BUT the band can be flexible about your arrival and departure time so long as there is sufficient notice.

If you'd like more information on this, we can direct you towards band parents who have handled this situation in the past and they can tell you about their experiences.

6. What about costs?

We all know this next part can be a little frightening, that's why fund raising (further below) is so important to participate in year round rather than just when you think it's needed.

In addition to regular instrument upkeep, there will be several other costs throughout the year. Most of them will involve marching and concert uniforms.

Prices for this school year are as follows:

Marching Band Fee (includes band camp) = \$300

Marching shoes = \$30

Uniform shorts = \$21.00

Ladies concert dresses = \$75.00

Men's tuxes = \$54.00

Maroon Polo shirt (if needed) = \$12

Solo and Ensemble (optional) = \$8 per event

Marching gloves = \$2 (first pair is free, not needed for percussionists)

Marching lyre = optional, available through Marshall Music

Marching flip folder = optional but encouraged, available through Marshall Music

Tuner/Metronome = optional but encouraged, available through Marshall Music

Marching band drumline members will be expected to purchase their own sticks as decided by Mr. Gumbrecht or the percussion instructor. All percussionists will need their snare drum sticks for concert season (all other sticks/mallets) will be provided.

Students will be expected to provide their own plain white crew socks (marching band), plain white undershirt (marching band, no V neck please), black dress socks (concert tux, men), and dress shoes (concert season—everyone). The marching uniform (jacket, pants, hat, and plume) and men's tuxedo jacket will be provided by the school.

Financial aid is available from Band Boosters to help families with marching band fees where costs may be a detriment to their student's participation. Applications for this are made available in the spring before camp.

7. What about fund raising?

Just like in middle school, Band Boosters offer several fund raisers throughout the year that give you an opportunity to put money in your family band account. This money can be used to pay for anything band related from reeds to solo and ensemble to uniforms to marching band fees. Information on specific fund raisers will come home with students.

The easiest way to raise money for your band account is through the scrip program. Please check the band website for whom to contact about this wonderful program!

8. Does the band ever take any bigger trips?

The band schedules one big trip every four years. The location and cost of this trip is different every time and is paid for in several installments with the first payment due either towards the end of the previous school year or very early in the school year the trip is happening. Most trips are around \$500 but this is a very general estimate as the final cost depends on location and number of people attending.