

Hastings Raiders Marching Band

Frequently Asked Questions

For more information, visit www.hastingsbands.org/marching

Q. What is the Marching Schedule? How will it impact my family's summer?

A. The schedule is available at www.hastingsbands.org/marching. Practices begin the middle of May and run every Tuesday/Thursday night through October. Band camp at Gustavus is July 22-26.

Q. Can you be in sports and marching band at the same time?

A. YES! Many marching band and color guard members are also athletes. Scheduling can be arranged if you talk with your coach and director.

Q. Can we take a family vacation in the summer if our teen is in Marching Band?

A. YES! Every band member needs to submit the dates they will miss marching band activities. Band camp July 22-26 is required. First year band students should attend as many rehearsals as possible because there is SO MUCH to learn. The more you are there, the easier it is.

Q. What does Marching Band Cost?

A. Fees for the 2016 season are approximately \$330, depending on the instrument. Exact breakdown of costs are found on our website, and given out at the parent meeting. **This is the one of the cheapest co-curricular music activities at the high school.** There is scholarship assistance through the band boosters, payment options, as well as many fundraising opportunities.

Q. My teen is not a great student and good organizer of time. How will they balance homework & marching band in the fall?

A. Many students become more disciplined after joining marching band. Also, your teen will have great role models in marching band. Older students really work hard to help rookies understand how to stay on track with school and band. If your student is interested in help, there are many possibilities within the school to meet his/her needs. As a parent, you may need to help your teen prioritize homework ahead of the weekends that will be spent away at band shows. Many students bring their study materials along on field show weekends.

Q. Can my teen be in orchestra and marching band?

A. Yes. Some orchestra students pick up completely different instruments for marching band. Other orchestra students join the color guard.

Q. Does my child have to be in band to be in marching band?

A. They need to be enrolled in an instrumental program, either band or orchestra, during the day, if they play a band instrument or percussion. Color guard and honor guard do not need to be enrolled in an instrumental class.

Q. My child has a friend who isn't in band. Can they be in marching band?

A. YES! They can join color guard! This group dances, throws flags, rifles and puts the music to a visual art. Check out the color guard section on the website for more information. They can also join honor guard and carry our banner and the ROTC colors.

Q. My teen is shy & doesn't know anyone who's joining the band. Will he/she fit in with the group?

A. YES! Each instrument group has section leaders who work hard to integrate all students in section activities. Many students develop lasting relationships, weird wardrobes, strange nicknames, and really take pride in their section.

Q. Are there auditions for marching band?

A. NO! Everyone is welcome in marching band. All the extra practice will really improve your student's playing ability. There are so many other dimensions to marching band that playing skill is really only one small part of the whole experience.

Q. My teen is not very coordinated. How will he/she be able to march and play at the same time?

A. It's a miracle! You won't believe this is the same teen you sent to the first practice when you see them in their final show. An amazing transformation occurs. It's from hard work and a lot of encouragement (and fun!).

Q. Can my teen have a job and be in marching band?

A. We sure hope so. Our teens need money for all the gloves and socks they lose and have to replace for marching band! Many students juggle jobs and band. Schedules should be arranged with their boss, so that their work schedule does not overlap their marching schedule. The marching schedules are posted many months in advance, giving students enough time to notify their bosses.

Q. Do I need to provide transportation to any events?

A. No. Your child needs a ride to the high school before a show. Every child will ride the bus to and from a performance.

Q. Can I earn a varsity letter in marching band?

A. A child will letter in band, and being in marching band will earn them about 80% of the required points towards the letter. Attendance guidelines are set up for marching band in order to earn the points. Color guard will earn a guard letter.

Q. As a parent, how can I help?

A. There are many volunteer opportunities for parents, and we are able to succeed because of our strong parent support. Please check which area you are interested in on the registration form and we will get you more information.

Parent/Student Meeting for First Year Marchers:

Monday, February 13, 2017 5:30pm-High School Band Room.

(This is right before the 9th grade activities fair.)

If you are not able to attend or would like more information, please contact Emily Chandler, Director at echandler@seas-school.org.

The first practice for marching band is Tuesday, May 30th.