



TROY ATHENS BANDS

2019-2020



Dear Eighth Grade Band Parent:

Welcome to the Troy Athens band program! Our band program is filled with incredible students who continue to reach new heights as each school year passes. Students in our band program are athletes, AP students, eagle scouts, club participants, members of NHS, and gifted musicians. The best and brightest students in our building are usually members of our band, which creates a great environment for your student to develop many life skills. There are many electives that your student has an opportunity to choose from at Athens. I am a firm believer that the experience they have in high school band goes beyond what any class can teach, and will leave them with lessons and memories to last a lifetime.

When entering high school, students are often fearful about social and academic stress. Luckily this stress can be alleviated when a student becomes a member of the band. We offer three concert bands and one jazz band that meet daily, in addition to an extracurricular marching band. By making connections with 100+ students prior to the start of the school year through marching band, your student will have a very pleasant transition to high school. The marching band takes great pride in being the largest extra-curricular activity for students at Athens, which sets your student up for a large network of many friends. Instead of walking through the 9th grade hallway looking for friends from middle school, band students walk through all hallways and know students from all grades on a deeper level. Our upperclassmen bond with underclassmen immediately through band camp and rehearsals, which leads to a very positive high school transition.

In this packet you will find a FAQ sheet about marching band, information about class offerings, and audition requirements. To simplify the scheduling process, all eighth graders should sign up for Campus Band. After auditions have been completed, schedules will automatically be changed to accommodate placements. If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at acable@troy.k12.mi.us.

All the best,

Adam W. Cable
Director of Bands
Athens High School

TROY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Graduation Requirements

SAMPLE Band, Choir, and Orchestra Schedule – Revised January 2017

English	4
Science	3
Math	4
Social Studies	3
PE	1 *(.5)
**Note: 2 seasons of marching band OR 2 seasons in ANY sport reduces this requirement to .5. Students are required each season to submit the official "waiver form" from the AP office in order to have the .5 credit waived.	
Health	.5
World Languages, Applied Arts, Fine Arts (1), Career & Technical Education	3
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Total	18.5
Electives	4.0

Total needed to graduate 22.5

Total available credits 24.0

(4 years x 6 credits per year)

This document shows a sample schedule for students at Athens High School and Troy High School.

Note: 3 credits are required for the "Fine Arts, Applied Arts, World Languages, and Career and Technical Education" block. Of those, ONE credit must be in Visual and Performing Arts. Band, Choir, or Orchestra fulfills that requirement.

Using this schedule, the student would have:

1. Four years of band, choir, or orchestra.
2. All classes that are required by the State of Michigan Graduation Requirements
3. Three years (six semesters) of foreign language classes. *(Not a graduation requirement – but is often recommended)*
4. Space to take additional fine arts courses as desired (theater, visual arts)

	Grade 9		Grade 10		Grade 11		Grade 12	
	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2
Course No. 1	English 9	English 9	English 10	English 10	English 11 (one semester)	English Elective	English 12	English 12
Course No. 2	Algebra 1	Algebra 1	Geometry	Geometry	Algebra 2	Algebra 2	PreCalc	Calculus
Course No. 3	Biology	Biology	Chem/Phys	Chem/Phys	Science	Science	(Additional Elective)	(Additional Elective)
Course No. 4	World History 1	Health	US History	US History	Economics	Government	World History 2	(Additional Elective)
Course No. 5	PE ** (add'l elective)	PE	World Language	World Language	World Language	World Language	World Language or add'l elective	World Language or add'l elective
Course No. 6	Band/Orchestra/Choir	Band/Orchestra/Choir	Band/Orchestra/Choir	Band/Orchestra/Choir	Band/Orchestra/Choir	Band/Orchestra/Choir	Band/Orchestra/Choir	Band/Orchestra/Choir

**** Students participating in Marching Band or ANY SPORT for 2 seasons may request a waiver of .5 PE credit requirements, thus allowing for an additional .5 electives in their schedule.**

Graduation Requirements

Understanding graduation requirements is essential for students to map out their four year plan at Athens. The document above shows you exactly how to plan ahead and fit band into your schedule for all four years. Many students at Athens take at least one summer school class to free up more space for extra classes of interest. Further, a majority of band students take very challenging AP classes and see band as a great way to provide an “academic break” from their day, and a fun class with their friends.

Any parents or students are welcome to email Mr. Cable at acable@troy.k12.mi.us with any questions you may have about scheduling and fitting band into a student’s schedule.

Dear Eighth Grade Band Student,



Thank you for taking an interest in the Troy Athens Band Program! There is a lot of excitement towards the 2019-2020 school year, and our band students are looking forward to welcoming you into our family. Marching band performance plans include festival, parades, competitions, and home football games. Our campus, concert, and symphonic bands will perform in 2-4 concerts, while our jazz ensemble will perform 6-7 times. The bands will perform at MSBOA Band Festival in March, and we will have our annual band trip in 2020. Past locations have included New Orleans, Chicago, Indianapolis, New York City, and Orlando.

Enclosed in this packet is information regarding auditions for placement into our bands. Please remember, you are capable of completing AP classes, and a foreign language, all while taking four years of band. I find a majority of band students take at least one summer school class, such as gym or health, to free up another elective opportunity. Please see the attached sample schedule for details. If you have further questions about scheduling, please contact Mr. Cable.

Please note that all 8th grade students will audition for Mr. Cable and he will place them in the appropriate class. Auditions will take place during your regularly scheduled middle school band class: March 25 (Larson & Baker), March 26 (Larson & Baker), and March 27 (Larson & Smith). I highly recommend taking private lessons to help prepare students for auditions, as a majority of AHS band students have or currently take private lessons.

I encourage you to reach out with questions you may have, and I look forward to creating a relationship with you and your family. Please send me an email at acable@troy.k12.mi.us or via Schoology with any questions or comments you may have.

Best,

Mr. Cable
Director of Bands
Athens High School

TROY ATHENS BANDS

Audition Process

Campus band, concert band, symphonic band, and jazz ensemble are year-long classes open to all students. All incoming freshmen will register for campus band when scheduling. After a brief audition, March 25-27, students will be placed in their respective band. Mr. Cable will pull students from their band class to hear them play. There will be limited opportunities in the evening of those dates for students that are absent during the day. You may use music for your chromatic scale, and your selected music can be from Solo & Ensemble, lessons, band class, or an etude book. When scheduling, all students should register for campus band and Mr. Cable will notify the counseling department which band you will be placed in.

Auditions will take place during your regularly scheduled band class.

Smith Middle School: 3/27

Baker Middle School: 3/25 & 3/26

Larson Middle School: 3/25, 3/26, 3/27

All students will be notified of placement by Friday, April 12th

Campus Band:

Performances include winter and spring concert. Participating in festival varies year to year, pending instrumentation for campus band.

Perform a concert Bflat scale and a portion of music in your band folder or from Solo and Ensemble (30 seconds of music).

Concert Band:

Performances include winter concert, band festival, and spring concert. Literature is more advanced, and many students participate in Solo & Ensemble.

Perform a one-octave chromatic scale and a portion of music in your band folder or from Solo and Ensemble (1 minute of music).

Symphonic Band:

Performances include winter concert, band festival, All City concerts, and the spring concert. Private lessons are strongly encouraged before admittance into this ensemble. This is an advanced-placement style class performing collegiate-level music with a majority of students participating in Solo & Ensemble and advancing to the state level.

Perform a two-octave chromatic scale and music from solo and ensemble or an etude. (roughly 2 minutes of music).

Jazz Ensemble:

Students will perform in the community when opportunities present itself, including winter/spring concerts, a dinner dance, jazz festival(s), and at Cliff Bells. Class size is limited due to instrumentation.

Perform a two-octave chromatic scale and music from jazz band. (roughly 2 minutes of jazz music)

Marching Band:

All incoming students are encouraged to join the Red Hawk Marching Band! Marching band is an extracurricular activity, not a class you register for. It is the best way to begin your high school experience because it prepares you to become an incredible musician, helps you make lifelong memories, and provides you with a group of friends who push you to be the best version of yourself. Rehearsals are Monday and Wednesday evenings, and performances occur 1-2x per week on Friday/Saturday.

(Same audition as concert band)

Frequently Asked Questions about Marching Band

Auditions: March 25-28 during your regularly scheduled band class

Mini-Band Camp: July 25-27, 2018

Band Camp: July 29 - August 3, 2018

Summer Rehearsals: See attached

Who can join?

The Athens Marching band is open to all Athens students that play a marching band instrument, or those that would like to be in the color guard. All students that play a concert band instrument are required to be enrolled in a band class during the day. Students that attend the International Academy are also able to participate if enrolled in a band class.

Is marching band required?

Marching band is not required, but we encourage you to reach out to members of our marching band to hear how positive their experience is. We recommend all incoming freshmen join marching band since it is the best way to transition to Athens, improve your performing skills exponentially, and gain many life skills that can only be learned through marching! When band students look back on their 4 years at Athens, they are extremely thankful they decided to join marching band and couldn't picture their high school experience without it.

Can I do marching band and participate in a fall sport?

You certainly can! There may be a few rehearsals/performances that you will need to arrive late to, but our schedule will accommodate involved students. Above all, communication and diligence to both calendars is expected!

Do we practice a lot in the Summer?

Our Summer schedule is set up to give you plenty of time to vacation, play sports, and take time away from Athens. When you are in town, we expect to see you at rehearsal, as our season is very short. We ask you to make sure you can attend pre-camp and band camp, and participate in as much as possible during the month of August. Once the school year starts, we only get a few rehearsals hours per week to get our show looking great, therefore the month of August is an important one!

How much does it cost?

The cost for marching band changes year-to-year depending on the performance opportunities throughout the season. The band boosters do their best to offset the cost per student tremendously by fundraising and hosting events throughout the year. Thanks to the boosters, we anticipate our 2019 season to cost under \$550, which includes a week away at band camp, a custom marching band show, a full-time marching band staff, uniform expenses, all competition expenses, and a trip to Grand Rapids for our last competition. The exact cost of marching band is determined in mid-April after our annual budget meeting.

Are there instruments that are not part of the marching band? Bassoon and oboe are not marching band instruments. Students who play these instruments must play an alternate instrument during the marching season. We have limited opportunities for bari sax and bass clarinet, therefore we recommend playing alto/tenor/clarinet during marching season instead. French horn players play mellophones when marching.

What is the difference between mini-camp and band camp? Mini-camp takes place at Athens, and band camp takes place at Echo Grove in Leonard, MI. Mini-camp allows students to be very successful at band camp, since members learn and refine basic skills while beginning to learn drill for our show. Marching Band students are required to attend band camp since it is a vital part of the season. Students are in a fun, distraction-free environment with their friends making music and learning drill with highly qualified staff members. As a result, students leave camp with a sense of unity, team spirit, and self-confidence. Please visit echogrove.org to see where we attend camp.

How often does the marching band rehearse? During marching season, the band has rehearsals on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-8:30pm.

How often does the band perform? This year, the band will perform at 5 home football games, 4 competitions, MSBOA Marching Band Festival, and 2 parades. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances.

Can we take summer school? We encourage all of our marching band students to take summer school during session 1. If students need to take session 2, they are to take in online and complete their exams prior to leaving for band camp. If there is a conflict, please notify Mr. Cable as soon as possible.

All students interested in Marching Band should join our Remind 101 text messaging service by texting: @19MBS to the phone number 81010 and join the Schoology Group with the code 2VVX4-KJ222



*****2019 Marching Band Anticipated Schedule (as of 3/1/19)****

Spring Rehearsal Schedule

3/25	6-8	Spring Rehearsal
4/17	6-8	Spring Rehearsal
4/24	6-8	Spring Rehearsal
4/24	Registration Form is Due	
5/15	6-8	Spring Rehearsal
5/30	6-8	Kick off Meeting
6/4	6-8	Spring Rehearsal

August Rehearsal Schedule (8/3 - 8/26)

Mon. and Wed. 5:30-8:30

Fall Rehearsal Schedule

Monday and Wednesday: 5:30-8:30 until last comp.

9/7 9am-3pm Rehearsal

Summer Rehearsal Schedule

6/10	6-8	Rehearsal
6/17	6-8	Band Fun Night
6/20	4-9	DCI show @ Ford Field
6/24	5:30-8:30	Rehearsal
6/26	5:30-8:30	Rehearsal
7/8	5:30-8:30	Rehearsal
7/10	5:30-8:30	Rehearsal
7/15	5:30-8:30	Rehearsal
7/17	5:30-8:30	Rehearsal
7/22	5:30-8:30	Sectionals
7/25	1-8	Mini-Camp
7/26	1-8	Mini-Camp
7/27	1-8	Mini-Camp
7/29- 8/3 Band Camp: at Echo Grove		

Performance Schedule

8/3	11:30	Band Camp performance @ Echo Grove
8/20	7 am	TSD Kickoff Performance
8/30	5-10	Home Game
9/6	5-10	Home Game vs Troy (Drum Off)
9/13	5-10	Optional Pep Band @ Stony Creek
9/20	4-10	Homecoming Game and Parade
9/28	TBA	Home Competition
10/5	TBA	Chippewa Valley Competition
10/11	5-10	Home Game
10/12	TBA	Lapeer Competition
10/16	4-9	MSBOA Band Festival @ Troy High
10/18-19		Grand Rapids Competition
10/25	5-10	Home Game (Senior Night)
10/27	1-4	Halloween Parades

Here is what band parents are saying about our experience!

Marching band has been a great experience for our whole family this year. It was a great way for us to be involved in the high school journey even before school started. The summer activities, the organized structure of the band boosters, and the welcoming and inclusive attitude of the Band (students, leaders, and parents) made it easy to transition into the organization without feeling alone or like the new kid/parent. We look forward to several more years as active members of Athens Bands!

-Lisa Kort, parent of a 10th grade student

My son has made so many new friends while learning how to work in a group setting like marching band. Marching band has taught him commitment and shown him that every part matters and is important to the entire program.

-Armida Johnson, parent of a 10th grade student

Coming into the band program as a freshman parent, I wasn't sure what to expect. My daughter was joining marching band and I knew it was a big commitment, but she jumped right in and enjoyed it from the start. Marching band is a lot of hard work and dedication but I feel that the kids get back what they put in, since every single member gives their best and it reflects in the quality of the show. Being a band parent also makes you part of a great group of kind, and welcoming parents. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer with band, which allows you to see the kids hard at work and having fun.

-Dawn Bittner, parent of a 10th grade student

As a four year extremely involved Band Mom, I can honestly say Troy Athens Band Program has enriched my life. My son has participated in Marching Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Ensemble, as well as Pep Band & Woodwind Choir. I would not have met many of my close friends if it were not for this experience. Marching Band in particular is truly like a family. Not only do you get a chance to form close bonds with other parents, you really get to know the kids as well. My husband & I really enjoy volunteering as much as we do because you get to spend time working and hanging out with some really cool parents and really awesome band kids. Who wouldn't want that?

-Karen Lighthouse, alumni parent of a recent graduate

Troy Athens Band Registration Form

Student Name: _____ 2019-2020 Grade: 9 10 11 12
(Circle one)

Student ID: _____

Instrument: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Non-TSD Email: _____ Cell: _____

Parent #1 Name: _____

Parent #1 Cell: _____ Parent #1 Email: _____

Parent #2 Name: _____

Parent #2 Cell: _____ Parent #2 Email: _____

Any additional emails to which you would like the band newsletter sent:

Please select the band(s) you are auditioning for:

____ **Marching Band**

____ **Campus / Concert / Symphonic Band**

____ **Jazz Ensemble**

Bring this form with you to your audition with Mr. Cable in March.