



**MARCHING BAND 101**

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# **BAND OVERVIEW**

The Red Hawk Marching Band provides entertainment at all home football games, local parades, and various competitions/festivals throughout Michigan. This extra-curricular ensemble rehearses on Monday and Wednesday evenings, with performances on select Friday and Saturdays in August, September, and October. The marching band is truly a melting pot of diverse students with a wide variety of interests and hobbies. While all members love music, a majority of our members take AP classes, play sports, participate in scouts, have a job, and maintain very impressive grade point averages. While marching band students are busy during the season, they tend to have their best academic semester in the Fall because of the high demand for time management during the season. In fact, 97% of students in the 2019 marching band were members of the Athens Honor Roll! The band provides its members with lifelong memories that surpasses any other experience they will have musically while being in high school. The best way to have an incredible experience in our band program is by joining the marching band.

Over the decades, marching band shows have changed drastically into an athletic art form. Competitive marching band shows are musical productions comprised of a central or connecting theme, elements of modern movement or dance, elaborate props, and often incredibly demanding music and drill (drill = march routines). The top marching band shows use the three main elements of the band (Brass/Woodwinds, Percussion, and Color Guard) equally to portray a main theme or idea. The Color Guard has taken an increasingly more extensive role, often making multiple flag changes during a production and helping connect the audience to the story/theme. In addition to flags spun throughout the production, "weapons" are often utilized, a link to the past military traditions. Rifles, sabers, or other modern "props" have been used to help convey the central theme.

Athens participates in 3-4 Scholastic Marching Band competitions each season and 1 MSBOA Marching Band Festival. We are categorized as a Class A school based on student enrollment.

## **Membership Requirements**

Those that play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument must be enrolled in an Athens or International Academy band class to participate. In order to be in the color guard, you just need to be a student at Athens or International Academy. We also have an auxiliary color guard (aux guard) which is open to any middle school student who's home school is Athens.

## **Marching Band Philosophy**

The band's top goal is to feel good after leaving the field, and to get better every day. We do not compete for a specific score or have a goal to reach a certain score at each show because scores can go up and down based on many factors such as when we perform, how many bands are performing, the weather, and the judging panel. It is not uncommon for a score to go down even as the season goes on due to these factors. As a result, we simply aim to feel good after leaving the field and hope to get better every day.

Above all, the adjudication process is the main reason why the band competes. By performing at competitions, we get to learn from marching band adjudicators on what we are doing well, and what we need to spend more time on. After each show, we receive audio files from each judge who shares their insight in real time during the show. We share the audio files and judge's score sheets with the students and encourage them to listen and reflect before getting back to work on Monday. The feedback they gain from competing helps them to grow both as individual performers as well as a complete ensemble.

# **BAND FEES & DONATIONS**

The cost to participate in Marching Band is \$475. This fee covers all marching band-related expenses including camp, instructional staff throughout the season, props, music, instrument maintenance, and visual design. Payment forms can be found on the Band website by clicking [here](#).

***Please note the actual cost of this program is roughly \$1250 per student. The cost is heavily subsidized by the Band Boosters through fundraising.***

***Second child policy: TABB discounts \$100 from your second student fees when both are enrolled in the marching band.***

***Payment Dates:***

May 31	\$125
June 24	\$125
July 26	\$125
August 28	\$100
September 29	Last payment TBD based on cost of last competition

***\*\*Final payment is an estimate and may be reduced by the amount of fundraising monies collected or reduction of cost of the last competition trip.***

***Final payments received after September 29th will be assessed a \$50 late fee unless other payment arrangements are made, contact [dawnbittner16@gmail.com](mailto:dawnbittner16@gmail.com).***

***Marching Band cost (including Band Camp) is \$475.00 plus a final payment to be determined at a later time.***

**AUX GUARD NOTE (middle school students):**

If the Aux guard student goes to camp (which is optional for Aux guard only), student fees are \$350.

If the Aux guard student does NOT go to camp, student fees are \$160.

Any great experience comes at a price. We do not sacrifice quality for the sake of money, nor do we get "extravagant" with our endeavors. Below you will find an approximate breakdown of the cost per student for our Marching Band:

Approximate per marcher/ guard cost \$1,250

Band Booster Subsidy                    \$ -775

Outstanding Balance per Marcher     \$ 475

***The following is included with your marching band fees:***

\*5 Months of music/guard/marching instruction

\*1.5 weeks of band camp at Athens/Echo Grove- room, board and travel

\*Marching show including music and drill design

\*Music royalties and legal usage fees

\*Competition entry fees

\*Competition Show shirt

*Payment vouchers can be found in the Forms Section of the band website  
<https://www.troyathensbands.com/forms.html>. Please use them to ensure your payment is applied appropriately. Payment can also be made through PayPal.*

Please keep all payments up to date. Checks or money orders should be made payable to the Troy Athens Band Boosters (TABB). Do not send cash via US Mail or place in TABB box. The option to pay by credit card, or PayPal is available with a 4% processing fee. Place payments with the accompanying forms in TABB mailbox in the band room, or mail as indicated on the payment coupon. *Please do not give payments to the director or instructors.*

*Please note the refund policy:*

*After dates stated below, the amount paid to date will be refunded minus the stated non-refundable fee:*

*After May 31 The non-refundable amount is \$150*

*After June 25 The total non-refundable amount is \$200*

*NO refunds will be given after July 27th*

# **FUNDRAISING**

The Troy Athens Band Boosters is a 501c3 non-profit organization that supports our band program in many ways. Fundraisers will be made available for students to raise all or part of their fees. Students (and parents) will be expected to participate in fundraisers that will go to the Band Boosters general fund, e.g. SMB, WGI, MCGC and Craft show events.

The majority of the Band Booster subsidy of the Marching Band is derived from the following fundraising events:

## **WGI Show**

The [Winterguard International](#) show hosts competitive percussion and wind ensembles in February inside the Athens gym. While we don't have our own WGI percussion/wind ensemble competing at this event, it is a great opportunity to see many outstanding performing groups from the Midwest.

## **MCGC Show**

The [Michigan Color Guard Circuit](#) hosts a competition in February/March for winter guard, percussion, and wind ensembles inside the Athens gym. Members from our three winterguard groups perform at this show.

## **SMB Show**

Local bands attend a marching band competition hosted by TABB in our stadium. The [Scholastic Marching Band](#) website provides information on previous competitions. This competition is usually held in September or early October.

## **Craft Show**

TABB hosts a craft show at Athens every December that features over 200 crafters housed in both gyms. Throughout the day, students volunteer as musicians while playing holiday music. This is the largest fundraiser for the band program!

## **Car Wash**

The band car wash is held in August. While there is no cost to get your car wash by the students, donations are highly encouraged. Students have lots of fun with their bandmates washing the cars.

# **Fundraising Opportunities**

## **Cheesecake**

Once a year, we hold a cheesecake sale around November just in time for the holidays. Students earn money toward their student account with this fundraiser.

## **Bed Sheets**

We sell bed sheets/pillow cases in September. There are many repeat customers because these sheets are so luxurious. Students earn money toward their student account with this fundraiser.

## **SMB Program AD**

Students solicit ads for the Scholastic Marching Band Show and earn a portion of the sale toward their student account.

### **Mattress Sale**

We organize a one day mattress sale in May. Students earn money toward their student account with this fundraiser.

### **Donations**

Marching Band Families are asked, but not required, to make a tax-deductible \$100 donation per marcher to TABB each year. We also accept public and corporate donations.

As an organization, we do not like selling things every month. We are always looking for new fundraising options instead of selling items. At this point, we only do four “selling” fundraisers, and focus much of our time and effort on big events. These events do require many volunteers to be successful, but we make A LOT of money in relatively short timeframes. We need your help!

TABB also sells [graduation yard signs](#) to seniors to celebrate their special day. By selecting Troy Athens Bands as the recipient for [Kroger Rewards or Amazon Smile](#), the band will earn funds. [Scrips](#) is also a good way to purchase gift cards in advance while earning money for your student account and TABB.

# COMMUNICATION

## Newsletter - The Keynote

Each month we send out an email through a service called Charms. This newsletter provides an abundance of important information. Please make sure you let us know if you aren't receiving an email, or if you want it to go to another email account instead.

## Remind 101

We utilize a text message system called Remind 101 that sends a message to your phone when we need to send out a short announcement. For students, we use this before every rehearsal to share the schedule. It is vital that all students with cell phones join the student Remind 101 group. If a student does not have a cell phone, the parent may join the group on behalf of the student. Students can also download the Remind 101 app for free and elect to receive notifications instead of texts. For parents, we will use the Remind 101 to let you know what time the bus will come home from competitions, and any other quick reminders.

**Students:** Text the phone number 81010, and in the body of the text type @20MBS

**Parents:** Text the phone number 81010, and in the body of the text type @20MBP

## Social Media

We have public Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts to share highlights from the band program. The more that you engage with our posts (liking/sharing/retweeting), the more of your social network gets exposed to our posts! These accounts are very helpful for recruiting and sharing all of the positive news about our program.

Twitter/Instagram: @Athens\_Bands Facebook: Troy Athens Bands.

## Private Facebook Groups

We have two private facebook groups for families to ask questions, posting announcements, and sharing any other band business. One is for all marching band families and alumni, and the other is more color guard/ winterguard specific. Feel free to use these groups as a way for a quick response from another parent. Search "Athens High School Marching Band" and "Troy Athens Color Guard" to join a respective group.

## Band Website

The [band website](#) has a lot of information including schedules, calendar, SmugMug access to pictures from every event and much more. The [band calendar](#) is a very important feature that you can sync to your personal calendar to keep up-to-date with rehearsals, performances and competitions.

## Directors

Band Director	Adam Cable	acable@troy.k12.mi.us
Assistant Band Director	Jeff Krum	jkrum@troy.k12.mi.us
Color Guard Director	Sarah Curran	securran93@gmail.com

## 2019-2020 TABB Executive Board

President	Armida Johnson	ajohnson@troy.k12.mi.us
Vice President	Amy Koontz	koontz.amy@gmail.com
Secretary	Laura McDonnell	laura@djanddance.com
Treasurer	Dawn Bittner	dawnbittner16@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer	Joe Folk	threepedals@hotmail.com
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## Committee Chairs

Fundraising Chair	Amy Koontz
Bedsheets	Aileen Dickson
Car Wash	Lisa Kort / Amy Koontz
Cheesecake Sale	Joanne Turnbach
Mattress Sale	Amy Koontz
Great Lakes Script	Julie Simancik
Graduation Yard Signs	Dawn Bittner

## Fundraising Events

SMB (September)	Armida Johnson
Craft Show (December)	Marcia Marshall & Michelle Hachigian
WGI (February)	Armida Johnson & Analiza Baikie & Gina Miller
MCGC (February or March)	Joan VanKampen

## Band Events

Afterglow Chair	Joanne Turnbach
Band Banquet	Drum Major Families
Band Camp Chair	Eric Hopp
Buttons	Lisa Kort
Concessions	Suzanne & Christopher Martinez
Financial Audit Committee	Amy Koontz
Friday Night Lights	Armida Johnson
Historian	Brian Ferencz
Hospitality	Joanne Turnbach
Jazz Band Dinner Dance	Michelle Fermin & Jackie Ferencz
Lead Chaperones	Becky Rourk & Jill Rezanka
MB Pit Equipment Leader / Pit Boss	Sean McDonnell
MB Poster	Brian Ferencz
MB Rookie Mentors	Laura McDonnell

Popcorn Nights	Eric Hopp
Publicity Chair	Erika Resh
Scholarship Committee	Armida Johnson
Showcases & Bulletin Board	Brian Ferencz
Spirit Wear	OPEN
Trunk or Treat	Armida Johnson
Uniforms Chair	Cathy Stockdale & Kristen Black
Webmaster	Eric Hopp & Armida Johnson

#### **Parent Rep Positions**

Instrument Inventory Librarian	OPEN
Marching Band Parent Rep	Armida Johnson
Music Librarian	OPEN
Pit/Battery Parent Rep	OPEN
Recruiting Parent Rep	OPEN
Social Media Rep	OPEN
Videographer	Jessica Folk
Guard Inventory	Tracey McKee & Lisa Kort
Guard Rep	Joan VanKampen

# REHEARSALS

## **Summer**

Our Summer schedule is set up to give you plenty of time to vacation, play sports, and take time away from Athens. It is vital that new marchers attend all summer rehearsals to ensure you are prepared for band camp. We spend the end of June and early July teaching basics and memorizing music, while the end of July and all of August is spent learning our show's drill and music.

## **Sectionals**

Section leaders will lead sectionals throughout the summer on various Mondays at a location of their choosing. Sometimes section leaders like practicing at someone's house, while other times they will be at Athens. Sectionals are a great way for students to bond and for individual leaders to gain valuable experience teaching without a staff member's assistance. The sectional schedule will be provided at the kickoff meeting, and not posted on our website.

## **Band Camp**

Band Camp is held at [Echo Grove](#) in Leonard, MI. All Marching Band students must attend Band Camp because this is where the bulk of the instruction occurs. They learn as much of their show as possible, and have a lot of time to have fun with their friends at a fantastic camp. More information is on the [Troy Athens Band](#) website. This is our most important (and fun) week of the season!

## **During the School Year**

The full rehearsal schedule is posted on our Google Calendar. All weekday rehearsals are on **Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-8:30** unless otherwise noted on the calendar or in the eBlast.

Every member of the marching band has homework and tests to prepare for and we take academics seriously since marching band is an extracurricular activity. As a result, all students are encouraged to finish school work before rehearsal, or press pause and finish after rehearsal.

## **Rehearsal Attendance Policy**

With only two rehearsals per week, we consistently learn new parts of our show at each rehearsal . During a performance week, students that miss a rehearsal risk the opportunity to perform. By choosing not to attend a rehearsal, the staff will decide the level of your involvement for the upcoming performance.

If you are not feeling well, we encourage you to show up to rehearsal and watch from the sideline with your dot book and music. If you are extremely ill, please stay home and rest up. Attendance and 100% given effort is expected of every individual who participates. Performers have a responsibility to themselves and the other members of their ensemble. As members of a team, we rely on each other, and only if ALL members are present at ALL rehearsals and performances can we achieve our highest potential. It is your responsibility to manage your time wisely so you are not missing rehearsal to work on homework.

# **COMPETITIONS & PERFORMANCES**

## **Competitions**

To help the band continue to strive for excellence, the band participates in Saturday competitions throughout the season. These Saturdays are busy and consist of the following: 2 hour rehearsal at Athens, a 1 hour break for lunch/loading trailers/putting on uniforms, a pep talk from Mr. Cable and the drum majors, a school bus ride to the venue, warming up, performing, and an awards ceremony. Students are transported via school busses to local competitions, and have the option to go home with a parent via car after we finish performing/loading trailers once they have checked out with a chaperone. This is a long day and students should prepare accordingly. On the Google Calendar, click the event to find information for ticket pricing, times for other groups, and other helpful information. We usually get competition performance times 2 weeks prior to the competition.

## **SMB Scoring**

Scholastic Marching Band contests use a 4 judge scoring system, 2 music totaling 60 points (30 music performance / 30 music effect) and 2 visual totaling 40 points (20 performance / 20 effect). There are captions for Auxiliary (Color Guard) and Percussion (Pit and Drumline), 20 points each. Their score is not counted in the overall scoring but used for best in class and for Achievement of Excellence awards. All sections contribute to our music and visual scores, even though 20 points for auxiliary and 20 points for percussion aren't included in the grand total announced at the end of each show. Achievement of Excellence awards may be offered at any contest. Any band can score an "Achievement of Excellence" which is based on scoring percentile. For Class A, an 85% is required to earn this award for each category.

## **MSBOA Band Festival**

We attend the MSBOA District XVI marching band festival at Troy High (THS) in mid-October in hopes of earning a 1st division rating. This event occurs on a Wednesday and replaces our traditional rehearsal. It follows a similar schedule as a typical competition, just with a shorter rehearsal before we depart for THS. While this is not a competition, we prepare and perform the same as if it was.

## **MSBOA Ratings**

In order to earn a 1st division rating, the band must receive a majority of A's on the respective categories: Music, Marching & Visual Effect. This festival runs very similarly to band festival, as there are no placements, just ratings.

## **Band Camp Performance**

At the conclusion of band camp, family, friends, and alumni are welcome to gather at our band camp practice field at Echo Grove in Leonard, MI to watch what the students have learned from their week away at camp. Families are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and watch from the sidelines before the students are dismissed to go home. This is an important performance to attend because there is no transportation provided to the students after band camp.

## **Football Games**

The band performs at pregame and halftime of all home football games. The pregame show takes place starting at 6:50pm and is performed to provide positive energy and excitement for kickoff, and the halftime show takes place usually after 8:00pm. During quarters 1,2 and 4, students play short "stand tunes" to help provide a great game day atmosphere for the bleachers. During the 3rd quarter, students have time to mingle the stadium and visit the concession stand. After the game concludes, win or lose, we play the fight song before marching back to the band room for announcements. Typically, football games end around 9:30 and students are asked to be picked up right away.

## **Popcorn Nights**

We schedule 3 popcorn nights during the season for families to join us in the stadium to watch the last 30 minutes of rehearsal which includes cleaning finishing touches on the show and our full runthrough. Free popcorn is provided and it is a good chance for you to meet other band families. The students get popcorn on their way out of the stadium for their hard work.

## **Friday Night Lights**

FNL is our annual recruiting event where the symphonic band students from Baker, Larson, and select Smith students perform with the marching band at a home football game. This is our biggest recruiting night of the year!

## **Parades**

Each year, the band will perform in the Athens homecoming parade and two halloween parades. On even numbered years (2020, 2022, etc), the band will apply to perform in America's Thanksgiving Day parade in Detroit. The homecoming parade goes from Costello to Athens via Hammond and John R and occurs at 5:30pm on homecoming Friday. For halloween, one parade goes through the Troy Union subdivision, while the other goes through the Wass subdivision. This parade usually takes place on the last Sunday in October from 1-3PM.

# UNIFORMS

## **Marching Band Uniform**

The marching band uniform is included in the band cost of the program. The uniform consists of a shako, shako box, jacket with tail, bibs, gauntlets, and gloves for a marching band student. Marchers wear the competition t-shirt and shorts under the uniform. We recommend black, form fitting thermal underwear (like Under Armour, North Face, etc.) as weather gets colder. Please no pajama pants, jeans, etc. that may "peek" out of the bottom of the uniform.

For guard students, the uniforms will be custom ordered. Guard students will receive a football uniform and a competition uniform along with flags, rifles and/or sabres. Shoes will be purchased separately by the student.

Your student will be fitted with a uniform in July or August. Uniform Responsibility Agreement ([Form #9](#)) must be completed. You will be receiving a free competition shirt, but if you want an extra, or family members would like one, please complete The Athens T-shirt Competition Order ([Form #8](#)) and pay TABB the appropriate cost based on the number of extra shirts ordered.

### **Uniform Costs**

- If gloves get really dirty/worn/lost, you may purchase a new pair for \$5.
- Marching shoes need to be purchased through TABB for usually \$35. First time marchers and returning marchers who want replacement shoes will be sized during Mini-Camp at Athens. Shoes will be available online and shipped to Athens.
- Guard members also purchase shoes.
- Students who play sousaphone purchase a black beret (or inherit one from graduating senior)
- LONG black socks (if forgotten, will be charged \$5 a pair)

### **Uniform Adjustments**

Uniforms cannot be permanently altered, but if the sleeves or bib pants are too long they can be adjusted using the factory installed snaps. DO NOT CUT ANYTHING.

### **Uniform Cleaning**

Keeping the marching band uniform clean is very important. Crystal Dry Cleaners, located at the NE corner of Rochester Rd. and Square Lake is used by many, but any dry cleaner may be used. Guard uniforms will have labels on how to care for it.

## **Uniform Replacement for Lost & Damaged Uniform Parts**

If there are any lost or damaged parts, the replacement costs are listed below.

Marching Jacket	\$200
Jacket Tails	\$65
Black Pant (Bibs)	\$65
Raincoat	\$80
Hat Box	\$15
Hat (Shako)	\$55
Plume	\$30
Gauntlets (Pair)	\$50

Flags	\$80 or more
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### Correct Length



### Too Long



### Spirit Wear

Spirit wear is offered throughout the season. Students will all receive a competition t-shirt at no cost, and will need to purchase a section shirt for band camp. In addition, they have the option to purchase a "Drum Major Hoodie". DM Hoodies are designed by the drum majors and feature the theme of the show and the names of everyone in the band. In addition, we send out an online order form every summer to purchase spirit wear for the marching band that has our logo.

# **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

There are many volunteer opportunities for everyone from small tasks to chairing events. Every single task and job is very important; and we need everyone to participate in any way they can. There will be SignUp Genius links sent throughout the year. ***In order to qualify for the TABB scholarship every year, volunteering is required.*** Our biggest need for volunteers are for our four fundraising shows SMB, Craft Show, WGI and MCGC.

## **Chaperones for Competitions**

Adult chaperones are needed for all competitions to travel on the buses and supervise the students. For out of town competitions, chaperones will share hotel rooms and expenses with another chaperone. All chaperones are required to fill out the [volunteer background form](#). Being a chaperone gives you the opportunity to get to know the students and other band families.

## **Pit Crew**

The pit crew is very essential to the marching band. Pit crew parents help the marching band set up/tear down and transport instruments/props that the marching band uses. This group of parents gets to watch the shows front and center, and builds many close friendships with other band parents! We also need parents in the pit crew to help drive one of our three trailers to/from competitions.

## **Prop Crew**

The marching band will have a different theme every year and props will be required. Volunteers on this committee help build and design the props for the season. Volunteers can be in both pit and prop crews.

# **CELEBRATIONS**

## **After Competitions**

When the students return from a competition, family and friends line the sidewalk leading back to the band room to cheer for the band! While the students don't always like being in the spotlight, it's a great opportunity to show them your appreciation for their hard work.

## **Banquet**

We host a band banquet the first Friday in November to celebrate the end of the season at the Macedonian Cultural Center. The cost is usually \$22 per person. Seniors get recognized and give speeches, and it finishes with a dance.

## **Social Events**

There are many social events that the students have the opportunity to participate in. Keep an eye out on the schedule or through section leader communication for fun bonding opportunities!