

2026 ACHS Marching Titans Handbook



Doug Rogers, Director of Bands

All ACHS Marching Titans members and their parents are expected to read, understand, and abide by the policies contained in this handbook at all times. If you have any questions about any of the policies contained in this handbook, please contact Doug Rogers, Director of Bands douglas.rogers@acps.k12.va.us.

Hello! The Marching Band Staff at Alexandria City High School extends a warm welcome as we eagerly anticipate embarking on our work together for the 2026 Marching Titans. We're looking forward to an exciting fall season!

To our returning marchers, your experience, knowledge, and leadership will be invaluable assets throughout the season. For those new to marching band, you're about to begin a rewarding and engaging journey that will challenge you creatively and provide opportunities for significant personal growth.

Our goal is for every student to reach their full potential through their participation in the marching band, developing skills that will benefit them in all areas of their lives. With August fast approaching, we are committed to making this upcoming season the best yet for the ACHS Marching Titans. Your effort and dedication will be crucial to our collective success, and we are counting on each of you!

Important: Forms and Fees for 2026 Marching Titans

To ensure your participation in the Alexandria City High School Marching Titans for the 2025 season, please note the following required forms and fees:

Required Forms:

- Online Registration Form: Due Wednesday, May 27
- Field Trip Authorization Form: Due Thursday, May 27
- Emergency Care Form: Due Thursday, May 27

Marching Band Fee: **Due June 1**

- A participation fee of \$170 is required for all members of the ACHS Marching Titans. These funds are essential for covering the costs of equipment, additional instruction, music, copyright agreements, competitions, and other vital resources.
- Payments can be made by check (ACHS, cash, or myschoolbucks.com)

New Member Shoe Purchase (Excluding Color Guard):

- All new marching band members (excluding color guard) must purchase "Dinkles" marching band shoes at a cost of \$35 (new price) These shoes ensure a uniform appearance and are durable for your entire time in the band program.

Deadline for Forms and Fees:

- All forms are due by Wednesday May 27. Fees and Shoes June 1

Important Reminder:

- Failure to submit all required forms and fees by the deadline may result in the student losing their position on the field or being placed in a different band class.

Financial Assistance:

- If you anticipate *any* financial difficulties in meeting the fee deadline, please contact Mr. Rogers as soon as possible to discuss potential arrangements.

Marching Band Membership & Policies

Marching Band Participation

Welcome to the marching band family! We are so excited for an amazing season. Here is a quick and easy guide to who marches with us in the fall:

- *Who is required to participate? If you are a 9th–12th grade student enrolled in Symphonic Band (including Percussion Ensemble) or Wind Ensemble (Advanced Percussion), you are officially a member of the marching band! This is a core, required part of your band class curriculum, and we can't wait to see you on the field.*
- *Who is encouraged to join? Are you in Concert Band or an 8th-grade student? We would absolutely love to have you! You are strongly encouraged to participate. Joining the marching band is an incredible way to make friends, improve your musical skills, and be a part of the Friday night excitement.*
- *Are there any exemptions? We know that some students have other big athletic commitments. The only exemption from marching band is for student-athletes participating in a VHSL ACHS fall sport. To be officially excused, please make sure to get an ACHS fall sports waiver signed and submit it directly to Mr. Rogers.*

We are looking forward to making great music and memories together this year!

Attendance & Grading

- *Marching band is a graded component of your band class.*
- *Attendance and participation are significant factors in your individual band grade.*
- *Be technically and mentally prepared for all performances.*
- *Unexcused absence from a performance will result in a significant penalty.*
- *Your absence impacts the entire ensemble's performance.*
- *The rehearsal and performance schedule is published in advance; address conflicts proactively.*
- *New this year: [ABSENCE REQUEST FORM](#) This form **MUST** be submitted **PRIOR** to any missed rehearsal, practice or performance. In addition to marching band, this form must be used for All Band rehearsals and performances: Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and All Jazz Bands. When you are going to miss, just tell me. Not using this form will severely affect your class grade.*

Excused Absences

- *Submit the [ABSENCE REQUEST FORM](#) to the Director **prior** to the event for approval.*
- *In case of unavoidable emergencies, email, text or call the Director promptly.*
- *Timely notification allows for necessary adjustments.*
- *Work schedules, non-school activities, etc. are **not** acceptable excuses.*

- *Only unavoidable emergencies and illness will be considered excused absences.*
- *Please do not tell your friend to tell me you will be late/absent, etc. This is YOUR responsibility.*

Discipline

- *Each student is responsible for their actions as a band member.*
- *Alexandria City High School and Alexandria City Public Schools policies apply to all band activities.*
- *Violation of school rules may lead to school disciplinary actions and/or dismissal from the band.*

Rehearsals

- *Rehearsals begin promptly at the stated time. Arrive early to prepare.*
- *“To be on-time is to be late”*
- *Rehearsals end promptly at the stated time.*

Performances

- *Marching Titans members are ambassadors for ACHS Bands, Alexandria City High School, and the community.*
- *Your behavior reflects on the entire organization.*
- *During football games, the band supports the team and engages the crowd throughout the entire game.*
- *Remain with the band during games; ask a staff member for permission to leave the stands.*

Uniforms

- *Wear the uniform/costume with pride, responsibility, and respect.*
- *You represent yourself, your family, your band, and your school while in uniform.*
- *Each member is responsible for the proper care of their assigned uniform/costume; financial responsibility applies to damage or loss.*
- *Follow the "all or nothing" uniform policy in public unless directed otherwise.*
- *Jackets must be fully zipped; hats worn facing forward with the brim in front.*
- *The 2026 ACHS marching band t-shirt is part of the uniform.*
- *No gum, food, or drinks (except water with permission) are allowed in uniform.*
- *No visible jewelry, earrings, or excessive makeup (except for color guard face makeup).*
- *Long hair must be pulled back and out of sight.*
- ***Required Uniform Items (excluding color guard):***
 - *Clean, all-black socks (above the ankle, no patterns).*
 - *Black "Dinkles" marching shoes (purchased for \$30).*

Summer Music Rehearsals

- *Thursdays, July 23 and 30 6-8 pm.*

- *Purpose: Familiarize members with music, warm-ups, procedures, and build camaraderie before band camp.*

August Rehearsals/Band Camp

- ***TBD:*** *Begins for color guard, percussion, and section leaders.*
- *Required for all Marching Titans members:*
 - ***August 3-7 8-4:30***
 - ***August 10 - 14 8-4:30***
 - ***August 17 - 20 3-6pm***
- *These rehearsals are crucial for the season's foundation.*

Attire (August Rehearsals)

- *Wear athletic shoes with socks (no sandals, flip-flops, crocs, etc.).*
- *Dress for hot, humid weather (light-colored, loose-fitting shorts recommended).*
- *Hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen are advised.*
- *Rehearsals move indoors during inclement weather.*

Meals (Band Camp)

- *Students must bring their own lunch daily.*
- *ACHS is a closed campus; we do not leave for lunch.*

Water (Band Camp)

- *Bring a large personal water bottle daily.*
- *Limit intake of carbonated beverages.*

Equipment

- *All students need their instruments/flags in good working order.*
- ***Woodwinds:*** *Reeds. Small screwdriver*
- ***Brass:*** *Valve/slide oil (slide lubricant for trombones).*
- ***Drumline:*** *Two pairs of matching, taped marching sticks in good condition.*
- ***Color Guard:*** *All practice flags, gloves, poles, and auxiliary equipment.*
- *Bring music (even if memorized) and UDB to every rehearsal.*
- *Report damage to school instruments immediately; students are financially responsible for damage due to negligence. Most damage is negligence.*

Music Memorization

- *Fight song, National Anthem, Chorale and show music **must** be memorized.*
- *Titles must be memorized by the first day of band camp (August 3)*
- *Seek help from section leaders, drum majors, or director if needed*

Fundraisers

- ***Tag Day: Saturday, September 12, 2025, 8 am - ~2 pm. All band members are required to participate.***
- ***There are others throughout the year***

Band Boosters Organization

- *Meets the second Wednesday of each month online*
- *All parents are automatically members.*

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed; Here is the contact information when you want to get involved

- *Bill Pastewait, Booster President bpastewait@yahoo.com*
- *Mr. Rogers, douglas.rogers@acps.k12.va.us*

Communications

- ***Band Website: alexandriacityhsband.org***
- ***Band Facebook Group: Alexandria City High School Band***
- ***Band Instagram: achstitanband***
- ***Parent Square: News and information***
- ***Canvas: Band class official information***
- ***Band App: mostly for marching band and trips***
 - *This App has a place to store photos of band activities. Post all pictures here.*
- *Ensure correct contact emails are provided on the registration form.*
- *Students and parents are responsible for all information distributed (Canvas and ParentSquare)*

2026 Marching Titans Calendar (Tentative)

TBD	Leadership, Percussion and Color Guard Camp
July 23 & 30	Music Rehearsals 6-8pm
July 30 & 31	New Marchers camp 8-noon
August 3 - 7	Band Camp Week #1 (8am-4:30pm)
August 10 - 14	Band Camp Week #2 (8am-4:30pm)
August 14	Parent preview and picnic 6:00pm
August 17 - 20	Band Camp Week #3 (3:00-6pm)

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday rehearsals 4-6pm from August 18 - October 24 When we have the stadium (usually on Fridays) we will not rehearse either Wednesday or Thursday of that week

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS

August 28	First Football Game	August 29	OFF
September 4	OFF	September 13	OFF
September 10 (Thurs)	Football Game	September 12	TAG DAY MANDATORY
September 18	OFF	September 19	Colgan Competition
September 25	Homecoming	September 26	Herndon Showcase of bands
October 2	OFF	October 3	OFF
October 9	OFF	October 10	OFF
October 16	Football 8th grade night	October 17	Oakton Classic
October 23	OFF	October 24	VBODA Marching Assessment
November 6	Football Senior night		