



Marriotts Ridge High School Band



12100 WOODFORD RD.
MARRIOTTSVILLE, MD 21104
410- 313-5573 FAX 410-313-5574

This letter and associated documents will provide you with important information about the 2026 marching season.

For the most up to date information please visit the [MRHS Band Website](#) and the [MRHS Marching Band Home Page](#)

FALL 2025 SHOW: The theme and music for our 2026 competitive marching show will be announced on May 18th at our first rehearsal. What I can tell you now is it's going to be fabriculous!

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM - ACTION ITEM DUE BY MAY 26

Only new marchers and students not registered in the Wind Ensemble/Marching class need to complete the [online registration form](#)

MARCHING BAND AT MARRIOTT'S RIDGE

Marching Band is a requirement for all students in the Wind Ensemble/Marching Band GT class. Marching band is a fun, competitive, team-building activity that requires a lot of energy and concentration. For many MRHS students, marching band is their favorite activity of the year. Don't be nervous about learning to march. We have an outstanding staff and student leadership team that will teach you everything you need to know. They are patient, kind, and really the best at what they do.

MUSIC ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

<https://www.mrhsbands.com/vmusic-calendar/>

COMMITMENT

Enrollment in a music course is required to participate in marching band. (Except for Color Guard). You will sign a contract stating that you are committing to the fall season and accepting marching band participation as part of your music course and grade. If you drop marching band after committing, your grade will be severely impacted. School counselors will not allow you to drop classes if you are committed to marching band and will contact me before honoring your course change request. Marching band is a very expensive endeavor for the music program. Plans start in February for next marching season, and the show is custom written for every member. Everyone will be required to complete and turn in a signed agreement. This agreement will be distributed at the first rehearsal on May 20. The Percussion and Color Guard staff may require additional agreements due to the unique aspects of being in those groups.

BAND CAMP

Please see the [Music Activities calendar](#) for the Band Camp schedule. Band camp is mandatory for all marchers. We meet two weeks before the school year starts to learn the fall marching band show. This is called "band camp." Always arrive at least 15 minutes before official start time. Attendance is taken at the listed start time. Be prepared to be outside all day. Please see the attendance policy for details.

ADDITIONAL REHEARSALS

There may be additional rehearsals due to inclement weather and other factors out of our control. Attendance is mandatory. Added rehearsals will communicated as soon as possible. Flexibility will be allowed with the school athletic schedule.

MEALS AND BREAKS

Students will need to bring a reusable water bottle to camp. When we're on the field, we often have "gush-n-go" breaks where you'll have 30 seconds to run and drink some water from your bottle on the side of the field. Water fountains will not be nearby. We will have coolers for you to be able to refill your water. You will also have multiple 10 minute breaks to rest and 30-60 minute breaks for meals. If you plan on having your meal delivered by a parent or sibling, please plan for the meal to arrive on time. Students may not leave campus during meals or breaks. This is HCPSS policy!

MUSIC

Music will be shared as soon as it is available. This will depend on your section as the music is custom written for each section, and in some cases for each student individually. Posting music online is a violation of our copyright license. All music will be printed and distributed.

MUSIC MEMORIZATION



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All marching band participants will be required to memorize their show music BEFORE band camp begins. Students will be tested on their memorization the first day of camp. Your section leader will be responsible for part assignments.

PEP BAND

When the marching band isn't playing on the field during halftime, we sit in the stands and plays music to bring energy to the stadium. This is a required part of marching band. **Pep band music will NOT need to be memorized.** You will receive a folio with pep band music for each home game. Please read the [Home Game Procedures](#) document for details.

UNIFORMS

Students will be fitted for uniforms during band camp in August. Please be patient with us in the fall as we fit students for uniforms. Some uniforms may not be the perfect fit, but will allow the student to participate in the band. Thank you in advance for understanding.

Drumline and Pit Percussion students may perform in costume for both our pregame and halftime show in accordance with the show theme. These costumes also allow us to expand the size of the marching as the costuming frees up some of our traditional uniforms. Due to a limited number of traditional uniforms, students in costume will not be fitted for a traditional uniform this season.

GAME ENTRY

Parents who wish to attend the halftime performance will need to pay for entry into the event. Tickets to games can be purchased through [GoFan](#) by accessing the website or mobile app. Pit crew parents do not need tickets.

DRESS CODE

We will be outside most of the day, so wear weather appropriate attire in compliance with the MRHS dress code. You **MUST** wear **athletic shoes** and a **baseball style hat** to all rehearsals. [Flip-flops, sandals, skater shoes, bare feet are not safe for marching and will not be allowed in rehearsal.](#) The hat helps prevent heat stroke by keepin the sun off of your head. It also helps with staff's ability to see accuracy of drill forms and body position. If you come to rehearsal without appropriate footwear or headwear, you will not be allowed to participate. For the fashion conscious, we will be marching during 6th period band class so you should have a pair of athletic shoes to change into before heading outside. Hats will not be required for 6th period rehearsals.

MARCHING FEES

We make every effort to keep participation in marching band affordable. There are neighboring schools outside of Howard County that charge \$500-\$1000 a season for students to participate. Thanks to the generous support of the Marriotts Ridge Music Foundation and Marriotts Ridge Booster Club, we are able to provide an excellent marching experience at a minimal cost to students and families relative to many other high school marching programs. As always, if you have a financial concern, please do not hesitate to contact us.

ATHLETICS

HCPSS policy states that students should have the ability to participate in both music and school athletics They should split overlapping practice time equally. HCPSS also says that if a performance and athletic event conflict, the curricular requirement takes priority. However, we allow students to choose as long as they split their time evenly and are not consistently missing one activity for the other. Students should talk to their coaches and marching band director/advisor to make arrangements for late arrivals and early dismissals.

ATTENDANCE POLICY – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

If you're not sick, tending to a family emergency, or participating in a school athletic event pre-approved by the staff, you're required to be at all band camp days and performances. An unexcused absence from band camp will severely impact your grade. Multiple absences from marching band camp will result in you failing the course and/or being removed from the ensemble. An unexcused absence from a football game is the same as missing a concert. Please see the [Band Syllabus](#) for grading details. If you're new, this may seem strict, but marching band is an activity that requires everyone there at all times. Here's some more information regarding unexcused and excused absences:

Unexcused Absences include, but are not limited to:

- Work
- Non-school athletics
- Internships
- Homework (this requires time management on your part)



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- Family vacation
- Private Lessons

ATTENDANCE POLICY - continued

Excused Absences:

- Illness (parent note required)
- School athletics (see athletic policy). This is managed between you, the band director, and your coach.
- Family emergency

Tardiness

- You get one free tardy
- Each subsequent tardy will result in deduction from your quarterly grade and/or service hours if you are not in the graded classes.

TIMELINESS IS IMPORTANT

In order for band camp and rehearsals to run efficiently and smoothly you must be ON TIME. The start time of the rehearsal is when you need to be on the field ready to begin. You should arrive early enough, depending on your circumstances, equipment needs, and chore assignments to be on the field ready to go promptly at the start time. Attendance will be taken on the field at the start time. Please see above regarding tardiness.

DISCIPLINE – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

One of the most important aspects of marching band is discipline. Marching band stems out of the military tradition and as result, the expectations for conduct on the field are extremely high. Students who are not giving 100% on the field at all times will be issued service hours in 30 minutes increments for lack of attention or urgency in rehearsal. Students are required to serve their hours before the next performance or they will be asked to sit in the stands and will not receive credit for the missed performance.

MARCHING BAND IS A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

If you are not physically active or outdoors much over the summer months, you're going to want to make a point of getting some exercise and spending some time outside prior to band camp. We spend a lot of time outside in the heat. While we give plenty of breaks and opportunities to hydrate, it's not enough if you've been inside and inactive for three months. Trust me...It'll make your marching band experience more positive if you are prepared to work in the heat.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Student leaders, such as drum majors and section leaders, will be emailing students throughout the summer to check-in and offer assistance. Student leaders are not permitted to email parents or respond to parent questions. Some leadership team members may host "captain's practices" over the summer. These are optional and participation is not required.

SERVICE HOURS

If a student is issued service hours, it means they will need to complete a period of service (usually 30 minutes) to the marching band to be allowed to march in the next performance. Service hours are a consequence for tardiness, lack of participation, and/or other behavioral concerns. Typical service hour activities are assigned by the director like sorting music, cleaning the band room, organizing equipment, and completing the daily chores for rehearsals.

SAFE DRIVING PRESENTATION AND DRIVERS ED

Student drivers are required to take driver's education classes in order to get their permits, and to attend a Safe Driving presentation at an HCPSS High School in order to receive a school parking permit. Do not schedule driver's ed classes during any marching band rehearsals. You may not attend a Safe Driving session during marching band camp hours. You can attend Safe Driving presentation sessions at any HCPSS high school. Please make alternative arrangements or visit the HCPSS website for dates at other schools.