

HOMEcoming FAQs 2026

UPDATED 10/9/26 *Check back frequently for updated information*

Friday, October 9

- 4:00 - 6:00 pm Observe NUMB rehearsal at Long Field
- 8:00-11:00 pm - Join your fellow NUMBALUMS at Comida Cantina on Central (1928 Central St. Evanston) for an evening of fun and reverie. \$40 fee for food/drink. \$45 at the door. Registration is still open. Register [here](#).

Saturday, Oct.10 –

NUMBALUM Tailgate 7:30 am West Lot, New Ryan Field

Not marching? Join fellow NUMBALUMS at the tailgate cohosted with the West Lot Pirates. The tailgate is located in the **far North end** of the West Lot. Look for the red pirate flag! Donations welcome. BYOB.

GAME DAY!!

PLEASE BE PREPARED TO BE OUTSIDE ALL DAY.

MUSIC: Get a head start and download your music [here](#). A Dolly Parton medley will be the NUMB/NUMBALUMS halftime tune. Hard copies of the music will be distributed on Saturday. Please provide your own reeds, flip folders and lyres.

GUARD: Access choreography video [here](#).

DRUMLINE: Access parts for halftime [here](#).

GAME DAY SCHEDULE:

NUMBALUM/Homecoming 2026

Saturday, October 10, 2026

5:45 am	NUMB Call time to Long Field
6:00 am	NUMB Shuttles depart for Ryan Field <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First NUMBALUM shuttle will also depart from Long Field at this time
6:00 am	NUMBALUM Registration begins <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outside of Gate 2 (NW corner of stadium)• Borrowed instruments/flags located on field
6:15 am	Arrive @ Ryan Field <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter through Gate 2 (NW corner of stadium)
6:30 am	NUMB Rehearsal begins on Ryan Field
7:00 am	NUMBALUM Registration closes
7:30 am	NUMBALUMs join NUMB in sectionals
8:00 am	Joint Rehearsal
8:30 am	Rehearsal ends
8:45 am	Breakfast in Welsh Ryan Arena <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3rd floor lobby

- Enter through East doors of WRA, next to Anderson Hall

9:25 am	President's Band call time
9:30 am	Wilson Club performance
9:45 am	Pregame Parade begins
10:30 am	Pregame Parade concludes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NUMB: exit through Gate 2 & down loading dock • NUMBALUMS: to seats in Wildcat Wall/other locations
11:00 am	Stage for Pregame
11:13 am	NUMB Pregame Performance
11:30 am	Kick-off! Beat the Cardinals!

Sunday, October 11

10:00 am NUMBALUMS Annual Membership Meeting and Board Meeting

Wendy Nelson Conference Room/4th Floor
Walter Athletics Center
2255 N Campus Dr. Evanston

All NU Marching and Band Alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend the Sunday meeting. You do not have to be a board member or an active (dues-paying) NUMBALUMS member to attend. This is a general meeting for all to attend. The annual board meeting will follow. During the meeting we will:

- Vote on the board slate
- Hear from Director of Athletic Bands Michael Parker and Director of Bands Robert Taylor
- Hear updates from Board Directors (membership, programming, endowment, shop, history, finance, recruitment, and communications)

6:00AM. Are you serious?

Yes. In order to be able to get onto the brand new turf, NUMB has been given an early time for on-field practice. We, along with NUMB, have been given a great opportunity to set the precedent with game day prep in the stadium. Whether or not this time was a gauntlet thrown down, we will gladly pick it up and run with it. Please be there on time so that we can take full advantage of our time on the turf.

How do I get to the stadium? Where can I park?

Parking at Ryan Stadium is restricted to season pass holders. Please refer [here](#) to find information about getting to the stadium.

The Central Street Metra Stop has abundant parking, which should be available early Saturday morning.

<https://metra.com/train-lines/stations/evanston-central-street>

SpotHero has many available day-of-game parking options:

https://spothero.com/search?kind=event&id=1467251&destination_id=51261&starts=2026-10-10T10%3A30&ends=2026-10-10T17%3A00&view=dl&hide_event_modal=true

The best options include public transportation and Uber/Lyft.

There is one Shuttle Stop at 6:00 am at Long Field. If using this option, PLEASE be there early so that we can quickly get everyone up north.

What should I wear on Saturday?

We ask that all performers wear a purple top, black or dark bottoms (please avoid blue jeans), and a black NUMBALUMS cap.

I'm planning to leave early, what do I need to do with my borrowed instrument? Let band staff know when you are picking up your instrument in the morning, so that they can arrange for the return.

What's the bag policy?

Guests are encouraged to limit the number of items they bring with them to Ryan Field. If possible, leave large cases in your car as there is limited space at the stadium.

- One (1) bag per person no larger than 12" x 6" x 12" is permitted.
- Backpacks (including clear backpacks), bags larger than 12" x 6" x 12", hard cases such as coolers (regardless of size), briefcases, suitcases, and instrument cases are not permitted at Ryan Field.
- Other bags (such as wallets, purses, drawstring bags, fanny packs, lunch bags, and soft-sided coolers) smaller than 12" x 6" x 12" are permitted.
- Exceptions will be made for medical bags and diaper bags that accompany guests with young children.
- All bags are subject to inspection.

This policy is not intended to interfere with guests attending with specific medical needs or guests caring for young children.

Do I need to come to rehearsal if I'm only performing at halftime?

Yes. Failure to attend rehearsal = you will not perform at the Homecoming game.

Can my guests sit with me in the stands?

No. Our space in the stands is extremely tight. Due to these space restrictions, which are out of our control, all guests must purchase their own game tickets and sit in their assigned seats.

I'm a NUMBALUM, but I don't want to play in the stands. Can I still sit with NUMB?

No. Because of the space restrictions, we request that all able-bodied NUMBALUMS who do not wish to play in the stands buy their own tickets to the game and sit in their assigned seats.

HEY NUMBALUM DRUMLINE

NUMBALUM Drumline members will obviously be part of Halftime/Post-game activities.

Due to limited space, NUMBALUM drumline members will not be able to play in the stands.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT THE BAND?

KEEP THE MUSIC GOING. PUSH ON. Now more than ever we need to support the next generation of NUMB members. The goal of Northwestern Bands **PUSH ON FUND** is to bring us in line with other major programs—specifically, to provide members with a stipend each year. A stipend will help mitigate the various hardships NUMB members bear for arriving up to a month before their fellow students each fall. Make it easier for a marcher to say yes to NUMB every August. And now your donation goes even further! Through the generosity of Cosmic Ray and Lisa Schwarzkopf your donation will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$5000. Donate today!

https://give.northwestern.edu/campaigns/51081/donations/new?a=9614048&designation_id=N4011449&utm_campaign=OCST&utm_content=WAYMA&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=external

Email events@numbalums.org with any unanswered questions.