

“Pride of the Pack”

BAND HANDBOOK

HOW TO REGISTER FOR MARCHING BAND:

The Marching Wolfpack is a group of Park’s finest musicians who perform music and movement to entertain the crowds at football games and parades supporting the Cottage Grove-Area communities. Our success is due to the high standard of musicianship, showmanship, and personal efforts of every individual member. We represent the school and community in performances at parades, halftime field shows, and school ceremonial functions with great pride!

Step 1: You're about to become part of the "Pride of the Pack" at Park HS

Carefully look over the information in this packet with your parent(s). Know what you're committing to! Make sure you get all of your questions answered before moving on to Step 2.

Step 2: Commit

Make a firm commitment to be a part of the Marching Wolfpack. Participation is expected in all scheduled practices and performances. Review the most current [band calendar](#) on [the website](#). Check your family calendar and compare dates! Should conflicts arise, contact Mr. Storm well in advance. Please communicate, communicate, communicate!

Step 3: Athletes and Other Activities

It is most certainly possible to do both band *and* a fall sport or activity! It's important to communicate your intentions to do both with your coach and band director upon registration to make the appropriate adjustments.

Step 4: Drivers Ed, other community programs, etc.

When registering for summer drivers ed, be sure to enroll in the course that will present the fewest conflicts, preferably none, with band rehearsals and performances. Communicate with Mr. Storm well in advance.

Step 5: Register

[Complete the online Google Form](#) by Friday, May 5, 2023.

ABOUT THE SEASON

Our season runs from Late May through Mid June, then Aug - October.

Rehearsals will generally be on MONDAY and THURSDAY nights with a few exceptions as noted on the [band google calendar](#). Please note the required dates and make the necessary adjustments to your home calendar. Should a conflict arise, please contact Mr. Storm ASAP to make arrangements. In the event of extreme weather (rain, cold, snow, etc...) the directors may cancel rehearsal.

BAND DUES & OTHER EXPENSES

- **District Fee**: The marching band operates much like most other sports and activities. District 833 charges a \$140 participation fee. Due to the season straddling the fiscal calendar, \$70 is to be [paid via the district website](#) in May (PHS Summer Marching Band), the other \$70 is payable after July 1st (PHS Fall Marching Band).
- **Band Boosters**: In order to cover general operating expenses of a marching band, participation in group fundraisers are a required part of being a band member. Additional costs to individual band members are toward the purchase of personally owned equipment like marching shoes (\$40), gloves(\$5), a hat (\$15) are available for purchase and/or rent via the registration form.
- **Lyres**: Wind players are required to own an instrument lyre. Please take your instrument to a local music store (Eckroth, Schmidt, Groth, etc) in order to get the correct fit.

MEMBERSHIP PREREQUISITE

Wind and Percussion players must be enrolled in a Park High School music course terms 1-3 this coming school year. There are a few rare exceptions that must be cleared with Mr. Storm prior to the season. Our marching band is a small part of the comprehensive music education offered at Park High School. In order to maintain the highest quality of performance and provide band members the highest quality experience, our program requires members to continue their musical education through participation in band, choir or orchestra.

MSHSL POLICIES / DISTRICT 833

MSHSL and District 833 rules and policies regarding substance abuse, personal safety, and care for others apply. Rule violations will not be tolerated and may result in

suspension or removal from the marching band at the director and school administration's discretion.

ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

You are the vital link to the success of this program. You should approach marching band with the same attitude and commitment level you would any other high school varsity sport or activity. **EVERY MEMBER IS A STARTER.** Everyone performs in the show. Everyone in the marching band attends every performance. A missing student means a hole in the formations, a missing solo/harmony part, missed changes or revisions in the drill, music, tempo, alignment....

The single greatest obstacle standing between us and the goal of excellence is attendance.

- **REHEARSALS**: **Please Do Not** schedule doctor, dentist or other appointments and activities during rehearsal times. Not only does the missing student fall behind, but everyone else in the band needs them to be in their spot and play their part for us all to progress. In the event that an appointment unavoidably conflicts with a rehearsal, it is the student's responsibility to communicate clearly and honestly with the band director well in advance.
- **PERFORMANCES**: Short of death, students **MUST** be at performances. And even then, we can probably figure out some sort of "Weekend At Bernie's" solution. *Every* member is a starter. *Every* member is necessary so that the whole band can be successful
- **REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE**: Students who are absent from a rehearsal just prior to a performance will not be permitted to perform. Please do not jeopardize the performance for everyone.
- **WORK**: Students **are not** excused from marching band rehearsals/performance for work. You have all of the dates already. Please submit them to your work ASAP.

PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Individual practice is a required part of being a performer in the marching band. Individual growth as a musician comes from the time spent in both rehearsal *and* the practice room. You will need to schedule time outside of rehearsal to finish memorizing and polish up your music. Directors and section leaders are willing to help, so please ask! At the end of the day, it is your responsibility.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

High school students handle the rigors of their coursework differently. Eventually, every student will feel the weight of homework along with extracurricular commitments. Your personal academic progress is important to the success of the entire marching band. You must make sure that your school assignments are up to date. Poor time management is not an excuse to miss marching band practice. Plan ahead and get it done.

SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT

Park High School provides the following instruments for use during the marching band season (District #833 rental fees apply): Tubas, Baritones, Mellophones, Valve Trombones, Percussion Equipment and Guard Equipment. See Mr. Storm for more information.

PARENT HELP

We have some fantastically supportive parents at Park! Parents help the band in many ways: cheering in the stands, fundraising, first-aid, photography, equipment moving, uniform specialists, etc.... Most of the parent volunteer coordination throughout the season is taken care of by our booster group (The Park Band Boosters, Inc.). Some are official members of the boosters and some are simply willing to answer the call when the proverbial "Band Signal" goes up. Every little bit is gratefully noticed and extremely helpful. If each parent contributes a small amount of time and talent to the band, it will assist in keeping costs reasonable for students, provide necessary logistical support, and give parents a chance to get to know each other.

THE Park HS BAND BOOSTERS

The Park HS Band Boosters are a non-profit organization committed to supporting the entire Park Band program. They support our band program in many ways. During the marching season the boosters coordinate all of the help a marching band requires. Many of the time and resource-consuming aspects of running a marching band remain in the background thanks to the many parents that donate their time. Without their help and generous support, our marching band simply could not function as it does today. The boosters need your help! Whether you are willing to chair a position, or take on even the smallest project, we need your help to support the band!