

# Freshman Parent 101 Meeting

## Parent Tips

### Band Activities

- Required:
  - Marching Band (July-October): As parents and as a booster club, marching band season takes up the majority of our time and resources. For this reason, the bulk of the document below covers Marching Band season.
  - Marching Band Requirements August - October
    - Daily Morning Rehearsals: 7am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 8 am Wednesday.
    - Weekly Evening Rehearsals: Tuesdays 6-10 (in previous years, stay tuned for current year information).
    - Band Competitions: September 20, 27, October 4, 11, 18, 25
    - Football Games: Friday home football games.
    - Percussion and Colorguard will have at least 1 additional rehearsal time each week.
  - Concert Band (October-May): Once Marching season ends, the kids switch to concert band during band class and will spend their time learning music for various concerts throughout the year.
  - Pep Band: (October-March): The band is split into 2 smaller bands and each band will play at a few home basketball games throughout the year. Each student plays at about 2-4 basketball games throughout the season and they are allowed to find a sub from the other band to accommodate scheduling issues. They will also play at any state level volleyball, football (home games) and basketball games.
- Optional:
  - Jazz Bands (November-May): ENHS has a JV jazz band called "The Alphatones" and a Varsity jazz band called the "Big Band Wolves". Auditions are held in the fall after marching season. These generally practice 1 morning and 1 evening a week.
  - Pit Orchestra (October-November): A band composed of professional and student musicians that play for the school musical which is generally held in November. Rehearsals start weekly moving to daily as we get closer to the musical.
  - Show Band (August -March): This is the band that accompanies our Show Choirs. Auditions happen in April for the next school year. They rehearse a few times a week and attend competitions on 6 Saturdays during January, February and March.
  - EBO or Elkhorn Band Olympics (February): Freshman and Sophomore students have the opportunity to prepare solos/small groups and perform them in front of a judge for a score. The event is held at Elkhorn South High school. Kids prepare and rehearse these on their own, but they will get to do a recital for the entire

band the Friday before EBO. This is the Freshman/Sophomore equivalent to District Music Contest.

- DMC or District Music Contest (April): District Music Contest offers Juniors and Seniors the chance to perform small groups and solos in front of a judge for a score. The entire band will also perform, so all kids will get the opportunity to perform together.

## Uniforms

**Marching Band:** Uniforms will be provided by the school except for a few small items. Each student will be assigned a specific uniform number and that will be their uniform for the entire season. The uniforms will be kept at the school but students will be responsible for making sure they are hung up and stored properly (we give lessons). They will also need to take their uniforms with them to our marching band events. White Gloves and Black Marching shoes will be required for most instruments. See below for discussion under costs. Occasionally due to weather, there will be an alternate uniform which is generally either the Pep Band Polo or the show shirt (discussed below) and shorts.

**Concert Band, Jazz Bands, Pit Orchestra, Show Band:** Uniform is generally “Concert Black” which is all black pants, shirt, shoes and socks OR all black dresses with covered shoulders at a length appropriate for the instrument they are playing. Specifics will be provided later in the year.

**Pep Band:** Pep Band polos are required. Pep Band Polos will be available on the apparel stores that we will send out this summer. They are black polos with the Elkhorn North Band logo. They can wear any appropriate pants/shorts and shoes depending on the event and weather - if there are specific requirements for the bottom half, they will be communicated by Mr. Petrmichl.

## Summer Band

- Incoming Freshmen/New Members Camp
  - Learn how to march our marching style.
- Sectionals/Woodwind/Brass Players:
  - Learning the music for the show and pregame.
  - Section bonding, etc
- CLAW: This is the student leadership team - Freshmen do not need to attend these sessions. Each section will have 1 or 2 section leaders who are generally upper classmen that play their same instrument. This is the student that your student can talk to with any questions or issues. They are a great place to start and can direct you to the correct person if more help is needed.
- Uniform Night:
  - Students will try on uniforms and get them tailored to them.

## **Band Camp**

- Items they will need for band camp:
  - Large Refillable WATER BOTTLE/JUG!
  - Electrolytes! Hydration is super important for all Summer/Fall band activities!
  - Nail Bag? Do we still do these?
  - Poker Chips with their initials for marking drill spots (?)
  - Cell Phone and possibly a charger for UDB: Ultimate Drill Book
  - Anything they need to keep cool while outside in the summer... cold towels, hats, etc
  - SUNSCREEN!
- What will they be doing during band camp?
  - Camp will take place at Elkhorn North and will have both indoor and outdoor sessions.
  - They will spend a lot of time learning drill for pregame and our competition show.
  - What is Drill? Your student will be assigned a “dot” for the year and drill is basically where that “dot” will be on the field during the show. The dot will move as the students move through the show. Kids will use the Ultimate Drill Book App (provided by boosters) to show them how their dot moves through the show.
  - Rehearsing and learning music - they will also be some of this during summer band sectionals.
  - Section Bonding including Theme days, games, and who knows what else. Parents don't know all the inner workings of Band Camp, but it appears to be a lot of fun mixed in with a some blood, sweat, tears and stories that last through the years!
  - In the past, some days have had a different “Theme” for some sections. So don't be surprised if they come home asking for costumes or specific shirts. This will generally be communicated through the section leaders.
  - Section Showcase: You may hear your kid talk about the “Section Showcase” and their section may decide to spend some extra time during band camp week preparing for this “Showcase”. It generally includes filming a kind of “skit” that they will present at the end of band camp.
- How will they eat when they are there from 2-10?
  - Band Boosters contracts with Sodexo to provide a meal and a snack every day of band camp as well as Gatorade and water. This is covered by the band camp fee.

## **Band Competitions**

What is a band competition?

Band competitions are events where different marching bands throughout the area compete against each other and are judged on factors like musicality, visual impact and overall performance. Color Guard and Percussion are judged as part of the whole group, but can win “Caption” awards individually as well.

Competitions occur in 2 rounds (we perform the same show for both rounds). In the preliminary round we are judged against other schools in our same class. All schools will perform and then

there will be “preliminary awards”. These awards will announce the winners of each class and then assign each school a Finals performance time. Every school who wishes to participate will get a finals performance time, there are no “cuts”. In the finals performance, every school at the competition competes against each other regardless of class. At the end of these finals performances, there will be “finals awards”. Every school gets awarded a place, caption awards are presented, and an overall winner is announced.

How long will this take?

Band competitions generally take all day with the preliminary performance being mid morning to mid-afternoon and finals performances taking place in the evening. Kids will be bussed to and from the competitions and are expected to stay at the competition the entire day, with their time leaving from and returning to the school determined by their preliminary performance time and finals awards time. Itineraries will be sent out by Mr. P throughout the season. Keep in mind that these competitions can run late depending on various factors out of our control.

What will they be doing the entire day?

When we arrive at the competition site, students will get dressed in their uniforms. Woodwinds and brass will generally have a meeting with MR. P and work on “block” marching fundamentals to get focused for the performance. Then they will go to their official “warm-up” area and do their breathing exercises, stretching and instrumental warm-ups. Next is the walk to the marching field for their preliminary performance. They may be assigned a prop or instrument to push/carry to and from the marching field before and after the performance.

Percussion and Color Guard have their own schedules. Percussion generally includes meeting with their instructors, unloading all the percussion instruments from the trailer and beginning their individual warm-up rituals as well. Battery students will join the band on the warm-up field while the Front line begins pushing their instruments toward the marching field. Color Guard does their own warm-ups, stretching and show run throughs meeting the band at the field for the performances.

After the preliminary performance, students return to the busses, put away instruments, change out of uniforms (hanging them up) and have free time to watch other bands or get a snack and hang out with their friends (supervised by the Bus Parents). They will all meet back in the stadium for preliminary awards and learn their finals performance time. Repeat the above for the finals performance... block marching drills, instrumental warmups, walk to field, finals performance. When students are not performing, they should be in the stands area to watch other bands.

There are a few competitions where band boosters will provide a meal between preliminary and finals performances - this will be clearly communicated throughout the season. There are also a few competitions where we will not stay for the finals performance (generally Homecoming) and this will be clearly communicated.

What will they need to bring to competitions?

- Refillable WATER BOTTLES! Band boosters and the bus moms do everything we can to keep water on hand for the kids by providing coolers of water and gatorade on the

busses and on the trailer. That being said, it is super helpful for the kids to keep their own refillable water bottles to keep with them and fill up as needed.

- Electrolytes! Anything to help keep the kids hydrated... You know what the weather can be like in Nebraska in the summer/early fall.
- Uniforms (stored at school)
- Uniform shoes and gloves
- Instrument
- Show Shirt
- Athletic Shorts (they are most comfortable under the uniform)
- Water bottle
- LONG BLACK SOCKS!
- Hair ties, hair spray, deodorant, etc.
- Any snacks, water, entertainment devices or games to keep themselves occupied during our waiting period.
- Blankets, sweatshirts, coats, gloves, sunglasses... anything they will need for the various weather we will get this year during the season.
- Money for concessions (Some competitions are cash only, so send cash if possible!)

## **Football Games**

Marching band kids are required to perform at all home football games during the season. They will be bussed from Elkhorn North High School to the Elkhorn Football Field at Elkhorn High and home. They will perform their pre-game show and national anthem prior to the game, pep band and fight songs through 1st, 2nd and 4th quarters (3rd quarter is a break for the kids to get snacks and hydration from the concession stand) and perform their competition show at half-time. This is a kind of “dress rehearsal” for our competitions on Saturdays.

## **Costs**

We believe strongly that there should be no financial barrier for kids to participate in Marching Band in high school. If any of these costs below prove to be a financial burden to your family (especially if you qualify for free and reduced lunches), please speak with Mr. P. We have ways to get kids what they need so that they are able to fully participate in band regardless of their economic status. That being said, we do want to make you aware of some costs.

- Band Camp Fees (\$80): These are required fees payable on the first day of band camp via check, cash, Venmo or Paypal. We charge this to cover the meal and a snack every day throughout band camp.
- Pep Band Polos (approx \$30): These are required shirts that the kids will wear throughout the year at various pep band events. We order them during the summer because they can be worn on certain Football game days when it is too warm to wear a uniform. These will be available on the apparel store that comes out in the summer.
- Merch:
  - REQUIRED - Show Shirts (FREE): Show shirts are t-shirts that our students will design that represents our specific show this year - these are required as they sometimes serve as “alternate” uniforms when it is too hot to wear the full Band Uniform during competition or at football games. Kids can either wear these or

their section show shirts (below) on competition days. Historically the kids are the only ones who have gotten show shirts, but we are working on getting a parent show shirt this year (OPTIONAL). Many other other schools do this so stay tuned.

- OPTIONAL: We will do 2 apparel stores during the summer, one in June and one closer to band camp/beginning of school. These apparel stores will have band and band parent apparel as well as generic Elkhorn North merchandise. The required Pep Band polo and the Parents Crew Shirts (if you plan to volunteer throughout the year) will also be available on these stores. Most parents will wear band merch (or show shirts if we get them for parents!) to the competitions to show our Wolf pride!
- OPTIONAL - Section Show Shirts (\$15-20): These are shirts designed by each individual section specific to the marching show this year. Not every section will have these shirts and you are not required to purchase them. This is facilitated by the section leaders for each section and band boosters is not involved at all.
- **Uniform Pieces for Band (Color Guard - talk to us after):**
  - Shoes (Approx \$40-50):
    - We wear a specific Black uniform shoe and these will be ordered through Mr. P. This has historically been done through a Google form from Mr. P and paid for through Schoolpay on the district website.
    - We do have a “shoe exchange” where if you kid outgrows a uniform shoe throughout their time in Band, they can go to the uniform closet and exchange their shoes for a different shoe size. We can’t guarantee that we will always have your student’s shoe size, but it’s a good starting place so you aren’t buying new shoes every time they grow.
  - White Gloves:
    - for Brass (except Tubas) and woodwinds (\$10 per pair, generally order 2 pairs) This has historically been done through a Google form from Mr. P and paid for through Schoolpay on the district website.
    - Tubas - do not order gloves through MR. P. They will order “Receiver” style gloves (to help them grip and lift the tuba without leaving smudges) through their section leader.
    - Percussion will not wear gloves at all.
- **Competition Entrance Fees:**
  - Students always get into the competitions for free
  - Parents and anyone who wants to attend the competition to watch will need to pay an entrance fee and get a wrist band for about \$7-15 per person.

## **SOE**

SOE stands for “Sounds of Excellence” and is the marching competition hosted by all 3 Elkhorn Schools together on October 11. It is also one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. Students and parents will all be asked to take a volunteer shift. You will be hearing more about this throughout the fall.

## **Letter Points**

In order to letter in band, students must get a certain number of letter points. Students can earn these points by volunteering at our various fundraising events, performing in marching band, taking outside lessons, performing in outside groups, and other ways that will be communicated by Mr. P to the students at the beginning of the year.

## **How can parents get involved?**

Parents will be asked to sign up for one of the following “Crews” - this will be done through a google form that the boosters will send out over the summer. Just because you sign up for a crew, you aren’t required to be at EVERYTHING that that crew is responsible for. All this means is that you are allowing us to send you emails every time your crew needs help. For example, if you sign up for Equipment Crew, you will get the signup genius email for the equipment crew and you will have the opportunity to look at the dates and times and see if it works for you.

- **Booster Club Meetings:** Booster club meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month starting July-November. After November we move to every other month as our work load slows drastically after marching band season.
- **Prop Build Crew:** This crew meets during the summer and is responsible for designing, building and painting the various props for our marching show.
- **Equipment Crew:** The equipment crew will be responsible for moving the props to and from the marching competitions. This crew will help pack up the equipment trailers at the school, drive trailers to the marching competitions, unpack equipment and props at the competition, push equipment and front line instruments on and off the field before and after we compete and make sure everything gets packed up and safely home. The kids will help with all of these things, but parents are integral to this effort!
- **Bus Crew:** These parents ride the bus to and from the competitions and football games, provide supervision during the competitions and help with many other tasks during the day. We help with uniform issues, taping gloves (if needed)
- **Uniform Crew:** The uniform crew takes care of the uniforms throughout the year. It mainly entails sorting and fitting uniforms in July and preparing them for dry cleaning in November. There may also be times where we will iron the uniforms so that they fit nicer or wash the under shirts so they aren’t stinky.
- **Food Crew:** This group will help feed the kids throughout the competition season. They will help pickup pre-ordered food, setup food service tables and serve food at the competitions.

## **Fundraising**

In order to keep costs as low as possible, we run various fundraising opportunities throughout the year. These require a few hours of volunteer work by the students and parents. We do very little “selling” or door to door sales, instead we partner with a few organizations who basically “hire” us to run their events for them. Everyone will get emails for these. Our main fundraising opportunities are:

- **Fireworks Stand:** We run the Wild Willy’s fireworks stand at 204th and Pacific with the Elkhorn High School Band Boosters. This runs from the end of June to July 4.

- SOE Competition: Band Competition hosted by Elkhorn High, Elkhorn North and Elkhorn South Band Boosters. This entire event is run by the parents and students from all 3 high schools.
- Food drives for our competitions: When we provide food to our kids on competition days, parents will receive an email requesting monetary donations for food that we will be providing.
- Eagles Breakfast: We partner with the Eagles Club to run a pancake breakfast in February. We provide the volunteers and we get a portion of the profits
- Plant Sale: This is our only “Sale” fundraiser. We partner with Janet’s Jungle to sell flower planters in different sizes to our families and friends. Plants are ordered online and there is a specific pickup date designated in April for people to come pickup their flowers.
- Night of Jazz: This event is an Jazz event where all of the jazz ensembles from all of the schools on the north side of the district get together and perform for each other. We provide an ice cream bar every other year and keep the proceeds for our organization.
- Family Food Nights: We partner with local restaurants to get a portion of the proceeds for a designated date and time given back to our booster club. Chipotle, Scooters, DJ’s dugout, etc.