

KENT CITY HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

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WWW.KENTCITYBANDS.COM



Dear 2023 Band Members and Families,

We are in the final stages of completing the exciting plans for the **2023 Kent City Marching Eagles Band Camp** at Kent City Middle School/High School Football Stadium (our first one on the new stadium). We hope you are looking forward to this week of work, study, and fun.

The purpose of this camp is to give our Marching Eagles a head start on learning and memorizing our 2023 competitive marching show. Band Camp is a vital part of the fall competitive preparation. It is a phenomenal way to build relationships as well as learn music and drill for the show. Students that don't attend camp are allowed to be in the band, but they are not guaranteed a performing spot on the field.

WHAT IS MARCHING BAND?

Marching band is an extension of our classroom. It marries the audio qualities of music-making with the visual artistry of creating drill on the football field. This is accentuated by the usage of color guard and dance elements for the entire ensemble. Come to band camp with an open mind and ready to stretch yourself to do things you never dreamed possible. Remember - you will achieve what you put into the product. Go full in - you won't be sorry.

WHAT IS BAND CAMP?

An intensive week of musical, visual, and social preparations for the upcoming marching season. During the week, we will have our staff in place to help with delivering information in a focused environment.

CAMP DATES:

Band Camp - Monday July 31 - Saturday August 5 (Monday - Friday 9am-9pm, Saturday 9am-5pm -arrive at 8:30am each day) at Kent City High School/HS Football Stadium

ATTENDANCE EACH DAY:

It is very important that students attend EVERY day of band camp. We can only grow if the students that we are counting on attending each day. On day 2 or 3, you might start feeling sore and might find it difficult to be motivated to attend camp. Attend anyways. Persevere. Push Through. Once you get over the "hump" you will make it happen and it will be a very successful camp.

PERFORMANCE:

We will be doing a parent performance on Saturday at 4pm. All families and friends are invited to attend.

DROP OFF & PICK UP:

Drop Off: Please drop off students in the back parking lot of the High School. DO NOT pull into the small parking lot by the band room. Students will park on the outside of the parking lot field.

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Pick Up: Pick up will be at the same location. Students will be dismissed from the field around 9 pm. Please plan on being in the parking lot by 9 pm waiting for them.

PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO DROP OFF AND PICK UP DAILY, EVEN IF IT MEANS SHARING RIDES.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS:

For band camp and all rehearsals, if you are sick stay home. If you are tired and feeling sore or a little uncomfortable, it's probably because you are working hard. In these situations, push yourself to come. As always, we respect the decisions of parents in regards to the health of you (the students). Please communicate with Mr. Schnicke via the Band App if there are health concerns on a day at camp.

REHEARSAL CONSIDERATIONS:

For Band Camp - will be rehearsing on turf.

Shoes - Students MUST always wear athletic shoes at camp. It is VERY important that your student has a good quality athletic shoe that offers a lot of support. Per Dr. Cleveland and Marching Health, this is a critical investment. He suggests shoes that are light-colored and supportive. [2021 list of recommended footwear for marching musicians \(dci.org\)](https://www.dci.org/2021-list-of-recommended-footwear-for-marching-musicians)

Field Markers - To mark your spots on the field. Something that is the size of a poker chip and is identifiable by you.

Turf "Turds" - The little black rubber filler used in turf fields. These will get in your shoes every rehearsal. Please try to empty them out on the field, but not in the band room.

Knee Pads - We do a LOT of body-work and will be up and down on the pavement. You may find it helpful to acquire a set of knee pads for when we work on these visuals.

Long Socks - I saw some schools this summer wearing long socks to help with the heat backing up onto your legs.

Towel - When setting your instrument down, to prevent damage, you may want to have a small towel to set your instrument down on the pavement (tubas and trombones and tenor/bari sax will need a larger towel). Also, we will be utilizing towels every day for marching health.

Pop Up Tent - Sections may wish to bring a tent to line the sideline underneath the stadium tower for shelter from the sun throughout the rehearsal. This isn't mandatory but could be very useful. Larger sections may need 2-3. Use these at your own risk. Keep in mind that wind can damage a tent. We are not responsible for damaged tents.

Water Jug - Igloo-style water jugs work best. They are insulated and keep water cool. Please come to camp with your jugs filled.



PARKING:

North Student Parking lot in front of the High School, Football field lot on the outside.

BAND CAMP REHEARSALS:

Kent City Band Camp is a closed sideline rehearsal for band camp. This means that we don't want guests at rehearsals distracting throughout the day. If you arrive early and wish to watch a rehearsal, please watch from the patio area in the stadium or on the far end of the bleachers. Please do not come to the middle section. The last hour of practice can be the most productive of the day.

VOLUNTEERING AT CAMP:

We will need some volunteers for the camp. Chaperone opportunities will be posted on the Band App once established. Also, feel free to reach out to any Music Booster. (Tara Oberg, Dave Kieft, Katie Michell, Scot/Christine Koetje)

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STAFF:

Band Camp is staffed by the Kent City Bands. Camp staff is hired by the school and are considered Kent City Schools employees and include Erin Rich, Jonathan Schnicke, Brittany Darling, Stephen Alia, Bobby Hazelton, and others to be determined.

ZONES:

We will be assigning "zones" for students to have a home base throughout camp. At the end of camp, these areas will need to be vacuumed and put back in order. We will determine these on day one of camp.

MEALS:

All meals beginning with lunch on July 31 and ending with lunch on August 5 are included in each student's band camp payment. **ALL meals are REQUIRED.** *Students MUST have breakfast each day.* If you have a food allergy, please email Mr. Schnicke/Katie Michell and let them know ASAP. We will be serving lunch and dinner. You will be burning a LOT of calories each day. We want to replenish them.

MEDICAL AND PERMISSION FORMS:

All permission forms & emergency medical forms are due **by day one of Camp**. Forms have been given to students during the school year. Please provide the most complete and up-to-date information possible. Please inform us if there is anything about your child's medical history we should know. Make sure that all forms are completed and signed with both parent and student signatures. **ALL FORMS ARE REQUIRED!**

One of our chaperones will also be serving as "camp nurse" to make sure students are tending to their own specific needs.

PAYMENT:

Payment is due by July 31st unless other arrangements have been made. Marching Band Fee is \$325. This fee involves 3 categories Band Camp Expenses (food/activities/facilities, etc); Marching Expenses (Equipment, Music, copyright, etc) and Incidentals (UDP, dog tags, season food, shirts, etc). If a student is a 8th, 9th, 10th or color guard - or one who hasn't marched before, they will need to purchase marching shoes (approx \$50). These shoes will be ordered by the music boosters and you will be billed. We are working on getting the best price possible. Volunteering is another factor (\$50).

ATHLETIC TRAINER:

We are working with Kent City to have our trainer on campus a couple of times.

SEASON APPAREL:

I am working on apparel orders and will be distributing this information soon.

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PICTURES:

We will be once again taking professional photos in uniform this fall. Information will be sent home once available.

SCHEDULE:

Attendance to rehearsals/sectionals/performances are part of your child's grade. It is important that students attend these. August is a VERY important rehearsal month. Plan accordingly.

COMMUNICATION:

Email is the preferred method of communication. If you wish to message me on the band app, please do a private message and don't "spam" the group message in the band app.

Main communication and updates happen on the BAND APP.

WHAT TO BRING TO BAND CAMP 2023

- Instrument, in good working order (Have your instrument inspected before band camp). West Michigan Band will take care of it.
- Cell phone and charger
- Fanny Pack or Phone Holder for Cell Phone
- Sling/reg. backpack and/or fanny pack for belongings to the field (cellphone, chalk, reeds, field markers, etc)
- **3 Ring Binder with 8-10 sheet protectors. These are a requirement. Also, a rope to hang it from the shoulder. This will fit nicely in a sling backpack to and from the field.**
- 4-5 Field Markers. Also a lanyard/shoestring for them or in your fanny pack.
- Instrument extras: valve oil, slide oil, cork grease, extra reeds, extra drumsticks & tape, pencils, rubber bands, etc.
- Prescription Medications, including allergy medication, inhaler, and epi-pens (**Note:** we cannot administer any medications without signed forms. In the band camp packet, you will find a form for the administration of OTC medications. There is also space for you to add specific items your student is used to using regularly.)
- Lip balm (Carmex is great for Brass), Gold Bond Powder (if needed during the day)
- Knee and/or ankle braces if needed
- Bug spray, **sun-block**, sunglasses, **sun visor/hat**
- Athletic/tennis shoes (athletic shoes with solid sides, toes and back, they should be made of leather or canvas, no vinyl or plastic, new shoes not recommended)
- Extra socks (higher than ankle to avoid blisters)
- Cotton t-shirts and athletic shorts (you will get dirty, hot, and sweaty, so bring plenty)
- Raincoat/gear, sweatshirt, and/or light jacket if needed.
- Water jug (Igloo Cooler style)
- Compression shorts to protect legs from being chapped. They can be purchased at Target, Walmart, or sporting goods stores. They are worn under mesh or nylon-type athletic shorts.
- Attire - This is an outdoor camp. Dress accordingly. Clothing needs to be cool and appropriate for outdoor athletic exercise. Remember, band camp rehearsals will be warm and outside. You will be doing a lot of athletic activities.

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Please be aware and prepared (it might be colder when we start and then heat up throughout the day). Dress in layers. We treat band camp the same as any athletic sports practice in the summer that practices outside. Appropriate Athletic wear is acceptable: Tank Tops, Sports Bras, Spandex, Shorts, etc. We do ask that during meals, shirts must be worn.

- **Hats** - We wear hats at band camp to keep the top of our heads cool and protected from the sun.

COME PREPARED FOR HOT WEATHER... ANY WEATHER! (we will rehearse - rain or shine)

You will need khaki pants/shorts/skirts for non-uniform performances during the season. This includes some early-season performances and parades.

Important Health Reminder:

To the parents of children with asthma/reactive airway conditions: Please do not forget to pack your child's inhaler, even if he/she hasn't used it in a while. The conditions may include dust, pollens, and other environmental allergens to which your child is sensitive.

RULES/EXPECTATIONS

All meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) are REQUIRED. Even if a student doesn't normally eat 3 meals, they are required to get nutrition in them at each mealtime as they are doing physical activity all day.

No drug, smoking materials, tobacco products, non-prescription drugs, or alcoholic beverages are permitted at band camp (or any Kent City Band function). If any student is found in violation, parents will need to come to camp to pick up the student (also school administration will be notified). Students will/may be dropped from the course for this violation.

ABSOLUTELY no hazing permitted.

The chaperones and camp staff MUST be obeyed and treated with respect. They have the same authority as the director.

No band member will leave the campus during the week for any reason until after dismissal. No quick run home or quick runs to Speedway, etc.- You need to schedule around band camp as if we were going to a camp far away. We need students to be focused and at camp.

Students are to only be in areas of the school designated for band camp. No students are allowed to venture off with in pairs during camp. This doesn't look good for you or for our program.

No non-band guests should be invited to our rehearsals at camp.

No excuses for tardiness will be accepted. Plan accordingly to be there on time.

ALL PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS should have a form signed by the physician for self-administration.

Cellphones at Band Camp - For the FIRST TIME - we encourage your cellphone at camp. You will be using this for music and drill cards.

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In addition, all rules of Kent City High School, and the Kent City Board of Education rules will be in force during the entire duration of the camp. ANY VIOLATION OF THESE RULES WILL RESULT IN DISCIPLINARY ACTION BY THE DIRECTOR/SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION. Remember, we are attached to Central Office :)

CENTRAL OFFICE: Do NOT enter camp or through Central Office, also DO NOT park in the parking lot by Central Office or behind the band room.

Don't bring anything expensive to camp, if you do, you are bringing it at your own risk.

Let's have a GREAT week!

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Band Camp Typical Daily Schedule - Varies day by day

MONDAY – FRIDAY

8am - Breakfast

8:45am - Huddle on the 50 at the stadium

9am - At the Field

- Marching Health with Drum Major's
- Morning Rehearsal Block - Basics/Drill/Music

12pm - Lunch

12:30pm - Mandatory Individual Downtime/Practice time

1pm - Daily Activity

1:45pm - Sectionals

4:30pm - Concert Rehearsal

5pm - Dinner

5:40-9pm - Evening Rehearsal

Theme Days/Activities -

These will be posted by the Drum Major on the Band App.



Scan this QR code to join the KC High School Band.

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