

A Marching Band Parent Guide



Welcome to Wasatch Marching Band! As a new band parent, you may have many questions. What follows is a guide for new band parents, a “what I wish I would have known when my kid joined marching band,” that will hopefully answer many of those questions.

Who is in the band?

9th-12th graders. Students can join the marching band beginning with Mini Band Camp in May right after they finish 8th Grade. As well as the color guard.

What is Band Camp?

Band Camp is a week at the end of the school year (after school is out) where the students start learning the parade and show music as well as how to march. It is held the week after school gets out.

What is Show Camp?

Show Camp is when the students learn the marching show. It is generally the first week of August.

What events does the marching band participate in?

Band Camp: June, 8am-5pm

Pioneer Days Parade: 2 to 3 parades throughout the day

Show Camp: August, 8am-8pm

Fair Days Parade: August

Swiss Days Parade: September

Homecoming Parade: September

Home Football Games

Wasatch Back Marching Showcase (Wasatch HS): September

Oquirrh Mountain Band Invitational (Herriman HS): September

Nebo Tournament of Bands (Payson HS): September

Wasatch Front Invitational (Riverton HS): October

Bridgerland Band Invitational (Utah State University): October

Davis Cup Invitational (Davis HS): October

Mt. Timpanogos Invitational (American Fork HS): October

Red Rocks State Marching Band Championships (Dixie State): Nov

So, what are those events and how do they work?

Marching Competitions:

Call time will typically be in the morning and the students will meet at the school, rehearse, load the trailers, perhaps be served a snack, and ride buses to wherever the competition is. At some point during the day, they will be served one meal, lunch or dinner.

To watch the performance, parents drive to the competition on their own. Tickets (wristbands) are usually sold online and at the gate.

If parents volunteer with Movers and Shakers (moving props on/off the field) they receive a wristband that allows them to watch our show from the sidelines free of charge, though there is a limit to how many are available.

Information, schedules and tickets can be found at:

www.umea.us/marching-band

Halftime Performances:

We perform at home football games, both during halftime and as a pep band in the stands. During the second quarter the band will leave the stands to prepare, then perform during halftime. After halftime students will have a chance to purchase snacks and/or dinner from the concession stand if they wish. Movers and Shakers are integral to the show, moving props and the pit on and off the field.

Parades:

We march in several parades during the year. There are two to three parades on Pioneer Day.

Fair Days parade usually starts near the train depot and goes down around RMMS and ends near the rec center.

The Swiss Days parade goes through Midway.

The Homecoming Parade begins at the high school and usually circles around to TMS then back to the HS.

What does my student need for rehearsals?

- Water jug (many band members use a ½ or 1 Gallon beverage cooler/jug). Since there are many similar water jugs, you may want to write your student's name on theirs with a sharpie.)
- Black binder with sleeve protectors for music.
- Binder clips (to hold music open)
- Sunscreen
- Snacks (Rehearsals can be long and dinner can be late.)
- Brimmed hat
- Pencil



What does my student need for competitions?

At the beginning of the season, there will be a uniform fitting. Each student will be provided with a uniform, which consists of:

- Bibbers (the black overall- type marching pants)
- Uniform jacket/top
- Shako (hat) and Plume
- Show shirt (worn in parades w/black shorts and socks and under bibbers)

Color Guard will have a different uniform that will be determined.

Items that may need to be purchased:

- Speedsters (a pair of black marching shoes)
- Black athletic shorts to wear in parades and under bibbers
- Black socks

If your student has long hair, they will need to bring bobby pins, hair ties, and a hairbrush to keep their hair pinned up underneath the shako. Hairspray is also recommended.

Other items useful to have at competitions:

- Water bottles
- Spending money (concessions, t-shirts, buttons, stickers, etc. are sold at competitions)
- Blanket (it can get cold when watching other bands perform)
- Long pants if it gets cold during a break when students have changed out of their uniforms

- Warm outerwear: Jacket, hoodie, coat, gloves, hats, depending on how cold it is (later competitions get quite cold)

When do they rehearse?

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm (starts after show camp)

Saturday rehearsals from 8am to 12pm (after show camp)

Sectionals will be scheduled by each section leader. Section leaders will contact your child with that information.

Any other events?

Yes! In addition to the performance events, there are several other events for band members throughout marching season (which runs from Mini Band Camp in May to State at the end of October or beginning of November) and at the end of the year.

- Parent Meetings
- Band Picnics
- Band Potlucks
- Sectional Events (Sections often plan events such as picnics, getting together for lunch or a movie night)

What is our role as parents?

This is a parent-driven organization. Parental involvement is expected. The show cannot be performed without parent volunteers. There are several areas where your help would be greatly appreciated. The most important thing you can do is to attend Band Boosters Meetings. Monthly schedule is still to be determined.

We have established several Essential Parent positions that are the basic needs for the marching band. They are Financial, Fundraising, Food, Uniforms, Trailer Drivers and Parent Coordinator (one each for MB & CG.)

The Essential Parents that need the most help are Fundraising, Food and Uniforms.

If you have a skill or see a specific need and would like to help with anything at all, we would love any and all help that you feel you can provide.

How is all of this paid for?

The Band Camp fee and fundraising. If all goes as usual, the fee for the 2021 Marching Band season will be \$550. There are opportunities to off-set the cost by participating in fundraisers. Our major fundraisers are:

Fireworks Stand

End of June through July 4th - All-Day and during Pioneer Day. (Shifts typically run 4 hours.)

This is our largest fundraising opportunity so we need both student and parents volunteers to make sure it runs smoothly! Students are expected to participate. Each shift worked is typically worth \$25 towards band fees.

Mattress Fundraiser

June 12, 2021

Volunteers post signs, dress up as mattresses, and advertise the mattress sale.

Need a mattress? Shop the sale and the band receives some of the proceeds!

Smith's Food & Drug Inspiring Donations

Anytime you shop at Smith's the band will receive a donation.

Login to your Smith's account, select Inspiring Donations on the left. Change or add Wasatch High School Bands (VK215) as your organization.

All of these fundraisers help raise money for things like food for the kids at competitions, section coaches/staff salaries, new music for all of the ensembles to play, new instruments, instrument repairs, etc. Every student benefits from the monies raised, so please help us out!

What else would be useful to know?

Call time is when your student is supposed to be on the field, ready to rehearse. So, you'll want to arrive earlier than call time so there's time to get out instruments, music, etc.

It's good for parents to have a Wasatch Band shirt to wear at competitions, football games and while volunteering.

There are often copyright issues about sharing videos of the marching performance, so please be aware of a possible issue.

Competition Etiquette

One of the most important parts of a band show is the audience. There are many types of spectators at a band show and they have many different reasons for coming to the show. Each band performing at a competition event has their own story to tell. Some come from large schools, others come from small schools. Some have overcome odds just to have a marching band in which to participate. Some may have experienced difficult setbacks, while others are experiencing their most positive marching season ever.

Regardless of each band's particular circumstances, every student who takes the field has made the choice to use music, color, and motion as art. As parents, boosters and spectators, we each have a responsibility to recognize those efforts by simply being a good audience.

It is also important to realize that although it is fun to visit with family and friends during a contest, it is unfair to distract other spectators from enjoying the show. This is true at any performance, including a marching band performance. Be respectful of all other spectators and hopefully they will extend you the same courtesy.

During a competition:

- Support ALL Bands! Regardless of which band is on the field, you should applaud or even cheer when they do a good job. Reaction from the crowd will encourage the band to perform better and will result in a more enjoyable show for the audience.

Every marching band member in every band is participating in an activity that is teaching them teamwork, respect and pride in what they do. There are no losers in this activity.

- Show up early. This is especially true for supporters of larger class bands. Many smaller class bands have great shows. Arrive early at the next show and see what you have been missing.
- Turn off (or at least put on vibrate) your cell phone. If you receive a call during a performance, wait until that performance is over before returning the call.
- No matter what your personal opinion of a particular performance, never say it out loud unless it is complimentary. Every band on the field is “somebody’s band”, and it may be the folks sitting next to or behind you. Give to the other participating bands the same respect and attention you hope they will give to our band.
- Refrain from conversation during the performances. Show respect for the bands and the spectators around you by not talking during a performance.
- Do not allow children to play in the stands and distract other spectators. Obviously, children are the future of this activity. It is good for them to see why big brother and big sister are always at practice and are not at home. However for their safety and as a courtesy to others they should not be allowed to run up and down steps and play in the aisles so others may enjoy the show.
- Do not leave or return to your seat during a band’s performance. Wait until a performance has ended before moving about. You will only need to wait 15 minutes, at the most, before the next break. There is sufficient time between bands to move in and out of your seating area.
- Do not obstruct the view of others. Please avoid standing in front of people trying to watch the show. If you have a banner to display, try to do so from the top of the stands or in some way so that others can still see the bands.
- Listen more than you talk, especially with boosters from other bands.
- Buy a program and familiarize yourself with how the event is being judged and scored. Be an “informed” spectator.

- Buy something from the concession stand. In many cases a band competition may be the major source of a band program's yearly budget. They have made a large investment and would appreciate your support. In most cases you will find that the prices are much less than what you will pay at your local movie theater.
- Attend as many performances as possible to support our students and enjoy the show.

Communication

Communication among parents is essential, please sign-up for InstaTeam to get the latest updates and information from our Essential Parents and leaders.

Sign up for the InstaTeam app (instateam.net). This is where most updates are posted as well as volunteer opportunities.

Scan the QR code to download the InstaTeam app,
Our team code is BARDYD.



<https://wasatchbands.weebly.com>
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Instagram: wasatch.bands