

# hey, band!

Can I Play Sports, be a Cheerleader or on the Pom Pon Squad in the Fall and be in Band?

YES! Many band students play sports in the fall. Being a football player, cheerleader, or a pom does not conflict with marching band until the varsity level. Even at the varsity level, the student can still be in marching band. The band director and athletic director work closely together to minimize conflicts. Band students participate in basketball, football, soccer, water polo, tennis, cheer, pom, and swimming each fall while a member of the band.

What Instrument Do I Play in Marching Band?

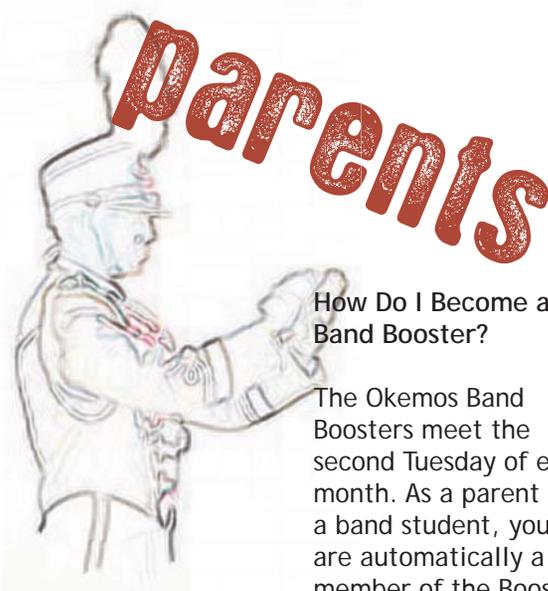
Most students play their normal instrument for marching band. Oboe and Bassoon players cannot march their double reed instrument in marching band. These students transfer to a different instrument. Most find that the saxophone is the easiest transition followed by the flute. These students are obviously given some leeway in how they are expected to perform musically. The high school has some instruments available that double reed players can borrow.

What Do I Play in Marching Band if I Play Percussion?

At the end of 8th grade, all percussion students will audition for placement in the marching band: snare, tenor drums, bass drum, or cymbals/auxiliary percussion. The Chieftain Marching Band is well known for the strength of the drum line. To be a part of the group is quite an honor and calls for the most serious percussionists. Those who have been a part of the OHS Drum Line have found it to be an incredible and lifelong memory-making opportunity.

Do I Need to Audition for High School Band?

There is no audition as all Okemos middle school band students are automatically eligible for High School Band. Percussionists auditioning in the spring are only auditioning to be placed on an instrument in the drum line.



How Do I Become a Band Booster?

The Okemos Band Boosters meet the second Tuesday of each month. As a parent of a band student, you are automatically a member of the Boosters and have a voting voice at meetings. The Band Boosters do much of the behind-the-scenes work and is always in need of volunteers to keep the band operating.

## Contact Information

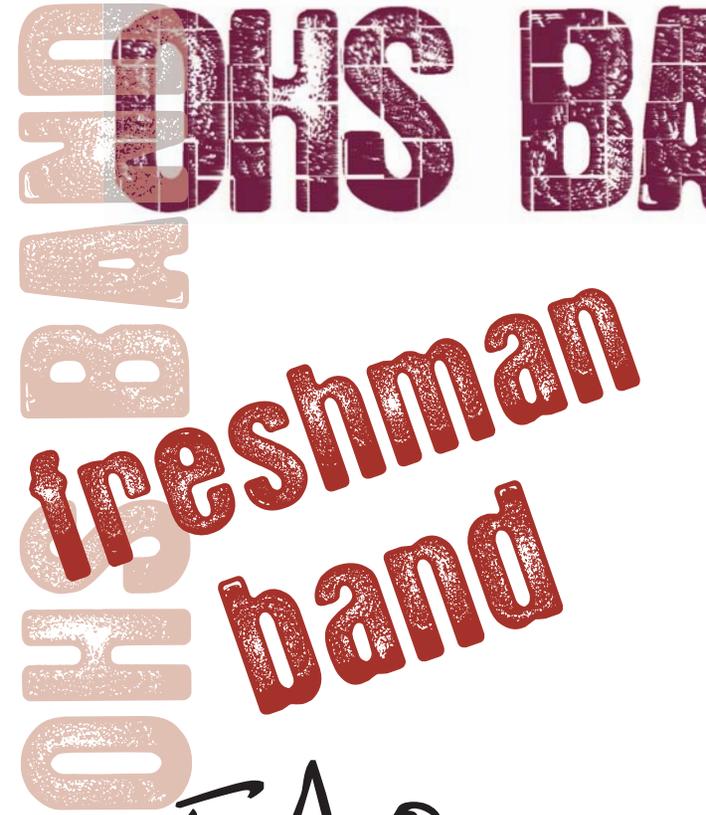
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Web Sites  
OHS Band

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# FAQs

about the  
OHS BAND PROGRAM  
for students & parents



# OHS BAND FAQs

## What is Freshman Band at the High School?

There is one freshman band class at the high school. It is a year-long course that includes marching band during the first 6 weeks of the school year and then concert band for the remainder of the year.

## What is Marching Band?

Marching Band consists of all band students in grades 9 - 12. They perform at the home varsity football games, a marching invitational, and the MSU Homecoming Parade when our performance schedule permits. Having the Freshman Band a part of the Marching Band is a vital part of the band.

## How Long is the Marching Season?

Marching Band is only the first 6 weeks of the school year. In the middle of October, all students transition to concert band for the remainder of the year.

## How Time Consuming is Marching Band?

The majority of preparation for the marching band performance takes place during the student's band hour. There are full band rehearsals in the evenings for a week prior to the start of school. Once school starts, there is one evening rehearsal once a week for a couple of hours throughout the 6 weeks of marching band. These Wednesday evening rehearsals are the only time the band rehearses as a full ensemble.

The performances for marching band occur at home varsity football games on various Friday evenings through the season. The Chieftain Marching Band also performs at the Grand Ledge Marching Invitational and a couple of afternoon parades. Students who play percussion or participate in the color guard (open to 10th-12th graders) will have more rehearsals than other band members and will find it more time consuming during the marching season.

## Do I Have to Take Zero Hour My Freshman Year?

Students in band are not required to take zero hour. Most students want to take 2 elective courses (for instance: band and foreign language, or band and choir) decide to take zero hour. But there are lots of different options for students. It is best to talk with your high school counselor about what you would like to do and they can help you make it work.

## Is Marching Band Fun?

YES!!! Freshman enjoy meeting students in all grades at the high school before school even begins. They have found a high school group to be a part of before they even step through the doors the first day of school. We have found that this makes the transition to high school easier for most students. Most students love marching band and find it to be one of the most enjoyable parts of band.

Activities such as the Car Wash-A-Thon, fall banquet, lock-in, and trips (optional) are just a few of the incredible opportunities for students to bond together. Band members become friends for life!

## What is Concert Band?

Concert Band is very similar to 8th grade band. There are about the same amount of required performances and festivals, with many of the same optional performance opportunities as in middle school (such as all-state band and solo & ensemble). All 9th grad students are in the Freshman Band. Students in grades 10-12 are either in Concert Band or Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Along with the Marching Band schedule, the three concert ensembles perform at the Winter Concert, the Okemos Fine Arts Festival, District Band Festival, and the Spring Concert.

## Do I Have to Buy the Uniform?

Okemos Public Schools provides both the concert and marching band uniform for each student. Students are

responsible to obtain marching shoes, gloves, and tuxedo shirt (gentlemen). All information to order these items are available to the students in June. Students also have the opportunity to purchase a t-shirt displaying the theme of the marching band field show and a section t-shirt or sweatshirt.

## Did You Mention Something About A Trip?

Each year the Band Boosters provide a "getaway weekend" for band students and band chaperones. These getaway trips range from ski trips to city visits to see a Broadway show or tour museums. Every three years, the band takes a performance trip. The performance trips are on a much larger scale, involve more than just a weekend, and are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! Most recently, the band traveled to Italy to perform. The OHS Bands have traveled to Hawaii, England, and Germany - just to name a few. All trips are optional.

## Are These Trips Expensive?

The cost of each trip depends on the trip, itself. The band director and the boosters plan far enough in advance to allow families to plan for such an event if their student chooses to go. Also, the boosters provide fundraising opportunities for each student to help defray the costs of a trip. Fundraisers, such as the Car Wash-A-Thon and Key Cards, are easy ways to earn these funds. Each student is asked (but not required) to raise \$80 through fundraising each year. After \$80 has been raised, any amount beyond that is earmarked for that student to use for trips. With the Car Wash-A-Thon alone, a student can easily raise over \$200.



Many families take advantage of the Meijer Community Rewards Program. Meijer Community Rewards are a significant source of fundraising for our band students. Sign up online at [www.meijer.com/rewards/](http://www.meijer.com/rewards/) and list #869376 - Okemos High School Band Boosters as your designated charity. Your

rewards will go into your student's Personal Fund for trip expenses. When you sign up for Meijer Rewards, please let the Booster treasurer know so he/she can credit your student's account.