

MT. SPOKANE HIGH SCHOOL WILDCAT MARCHING BAND AND COLOR GUARD



A Guide to Mt. Spokane's Marching program

Welcome to the MSHS marching band! Thank you for making the commitment to be part of one of the best marching programs in the state. As always, we have high expectations for this season, and we need your help to achieve our goals.

Here's what you can do to help us be successful:

- **Be on time** - We may be one of the highest-ranked bands in the state, but we also have the least amount of rehearsal time. To ensure we get the most out of practice, please arrive a few minutes early with a ready-to-work attitude.
- **Take care of yourself** - Marching band is an outdoor, athletic activity. Needless to say, it's easy to overheat in the summer sun. Please bring sunscreen, a hat, and a large jug of water with you to every practice. Also, do your best to stay well-rested and eat well.
- **Come prepared** - Procrastination doesn't pay - make sure you arrive with your music and instrument every rehearsal day, and work hard to memorize your music. In order to be successful, we need everyone to do his/her part. The sooner we get our music memorized, the sooner we can start learning drill!

Communication

We use many different forms of communication to keep everyone in the know! Email, the Band App, and Google Classroom are great places to look for information. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mr. Hovik and/or Mr. Savage via one of those forms of communication or call our office phone at (509) 465-7389.

Uniform etiquette

While wearing your uniform, you are representing our program, school, and community. There is no swearing, running, or eating in uniform (you can eat in half uniform). Take good care of your uniform as it needs to last!

Volunteer

Interested in volunteering? Please reach out to our **Bandstand President** to find out more! We are always in need of chaperones, uniform tailors, cooks, prop builders, drivers, and more!

FinalForms

Double-check and make sure you are registered on FinalForms prior to participating in band camp! This must be done every year. If you are registered for a sport, you will need to log on again and register for band. Students can't be at camp without registering on FinalForms.

Wildfire Smoke

At this time students and staff will adhere to Mead School District Policy regarding Wildfire Smoke guidelines for extracurricular activities/camps. **Mt. Spokane follows the Colbert-Greenbluff substation for this number.** Students will rehearse indoors if the AQI reaches over 150.

Marching band FAQ

Q. Is marching band a class during the day? Will I have to give up another elective to participate?

A. No, marching band isn't a class. Though we do occasionally work on music during concert band (a music class during the school day), marching band practices are after school.

Q. I'm already enrolled in many difficult academic classes. I don't think I'll have time for band AND homework.

A. Although balancing classes and extracurricular activities can be tough, studies show that students who participate in music often do better academically than their peers. And, because marching band generally only meets two times during the school week (about 6 hours total), it can be easier to find time for homework than you think.

Q. What do I do if I need to miss a practice?

A. If you know you will be absent from a practice or need to leave early, please let Mr. Hovik/Mr. Savage know in advance. Please try to make an effort to show to all rehearsals. Only you can march your show!

Q. How much school will I miss? Do I need to provide my own transportation for trips/practices?

A. We typically miss 1.5 days of school. As a general rule, you'll need to provide your own transportation to and from practices, as well as home football games for pep band/marching the halftime show. Transportation to and from trips will be provided. Information about away practices and competitions will be posted regularly via the Band App.

Q. What will I need for band camp and practices? What do I need to bring to football games?

A. To band camp and practices, please come prepared with:

- Your instrument and supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc)
- Your music (preferably in a binder) with a pencil
- Athletic shoes/socks and comfortable weather appropriate clothing
- WATER!!!
- Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat to shade your face
- Your Dot-Sheet and Lanyard provided on the first day of learning drill.
- A ready-to-work attitude :)

To football games, please come prepared with:

- Your instrument and supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc)
- Weather-appropriate clothing - your marching uniform is kept at the school, but please come prepared with black socks and form-fitting pants/shirt (you will be wearing these clothes under your uniform)
- A jacket, blanket, hat, gloves, etc - Joe Albi Stadium can be very cold, especially in the evening. In order to stay warm, it's crucial to come prepared with extra layers
- A ready-to-perform attitude :)

Q. How do I know if we are still having after school rehearsal?

A. Please come prepared to school every Tuesday and Thursday as if we are having practice. Even if it is raining, still expect to be going outside to rehearse! Occasionally, other weather factors can prevent us from being outside such as lightning and poor air quality. Always check the Band app marching group for last minute updates!