



Erie High School Marching Band

Handbook

2023-2024



Any questions regarding attendance should be directed to the band director(s):

(814) 580-6680 [voice/text] or emailing info@eacmb.org

Any questions regarding fundraising, parental support, etc.:

boosters@eacmb.org

Dear Erie High School Marching Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Erie High School Marching Band! This great organization hails over a decade of excellence in performance and competition.

We are very happy you have made the choice to become a member of the Erie High School Marching Band family!

This handbook is intended to give all readers an idea of what it is like to be part of the Erie High School Marching Band (EHSMB). In this handbook, you will find information about what to expect, what to look forward to and what you **must** do to be a successful and contributing member. **By joining the band you are agreeing to everything written in this handbook.*

As a member of the band, you can look forward to a positive, rewarding, exciting and hard-working experience of a lifetime. Nothing can compare to the rewards of a successful high school career.

Did You Know?

Children raised in cultures rich in music tend to develop learning and communication skills more quickly than other children.

There is a high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, self-esteem, and interest and involvement in school music programs.

Music experiences instill positive attitudes, a positive self-image, a desire to achieve excellence, an ability to set goals, cooperation, and group cohesiveness.

Recent testing revealed students with music performance experience scored an average of 22 points above the mean on verbal and 18 points above the mean on math sections of the Standardized Achievement Test (SAT), and had an overall

Music can be seen as one of the solutions to many of our cultural problems. It is a common language of communication for our shrinking global society, crossing all ethnic and social boundaries. We cannot take for granted what "being in band" means to our students: it is a shared musical experience among people; it creates a unique bond that cannot be duplicated by any other experience in the high school setting; and learning music is preparing for a successful life.

Once again, welcome to the Erie High School Marching Band. Please take time to read this handbook carefully and return the appropriate forms by the assigned date so we can start a wonderful year!

Musically Yours,

Erick Nicklas, Director

Staff, Erie High School Marching Band

Attendance Policy

Continuous rehearsal attendance is **vital** to your child's education and to the well-being of our program. As we put drill on the field and work to develop our competitive production, it is essential that all band members are present for the **entirety** of all rehearsals. Equally important is instilling in your son or daughter the essential life skill of being accountable for your obligations and personal time management.

Regular attendance at rehearsals is essential to the success and education of your son or daughter as well as that of the entire ensemble. With this in mind, all marching members must keep good attendance. Any more than 5 unexcused absences will lead to the student being stripped of their title or sidelined as seen fit by staff.

****Regular winter/spring rehearsal attendance is required to gain membership to the band, however, for those students who wish to pursue a winter sport or activity special arrangements can be made on a case by case basis. Please see a director to make such arrangements.****

****If you need to leave at any time, you must bring a note from your guardian ahead of time. A note/email works well or for last minute notices or emergencies, call/text. See contact info on cover page. Also, students are to remain on campus unless accompanied by a staff approved chaperone (i.e. staff, registered volunteer, one's own parent). The note should include when, where, and with who. For everyone's safety, please notify us ahead of time. Thank you in advance.**

Here are some guidelines to help you clearly understand our attendance policy. If you have questions, please contact the director or assistant director of the band.

If you are going on vacation, read line #3 & 6.

1. Rehearsal attendance is **mandatory**.
2. Excused absences include illness (must be absent from school) and religious events (weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs, confirmations). An outside job does not suffice as an excused absence. Transportation conflicts are also non-excusable. If you need a ride, consult with a fellow band member or staff. Social gatherings including hanging out with friends, are unexcused absences.
3. Students should fill out an ABSENCE FORM a minimum of **2 weeks prior** to a known absence. Please let us know via email or phone (contact information on cover) of any and all absences
4. A student who misses any two rehearsals in a given week during the performance season prohibits his/her/their participation with the ensemble during a Friday night or Saturday performance. This will be left to the discretion of the director/staff. Attendance, however, is still mandatory for these performances. Students will be required to stand during the duration of the performance.
5. Punctuality is factored in as well: if a student arrives to rehearsal more than thirty (30) minutes past the beginning of rehearsal, he/she/they are considered tardy. Three (3) tardies constitutes an (1) absence. *30 minutes allows for travel between different schools and home.
6. There is, of course, always extenuating circumstances that may prohibit a member from being at multiple rehearsals. These rare occurrences should be discussed with staff as soon as the member is aware of the situation.

Here is an example of an appropriate excuse:

“Please excuse Billy from rehearsal on 1/1/2000 due to an appointment.

Thank you,
Billy’s mom”

“Madison has permission to leave during lunch on Tuesday 8/8/2000 with Joe’s mother Diane to get food and then return.

Thank you.
Madison’s father”

Contact Information

Throughout the marching band season, you will likely find the need to get in contact with the various staff members of the band. The Erie High School Marching Band staff has an open-door policy. Please, never hesitate to contact the staff with any questions or comments that you might have. We will respond as soon as we are able. The following are the best ways to reach the staff:

Band app: parent-staff communication & more. Please see band staff for more information.
Hey, join our 'Erie High School Marching Band' group on BAND - The app for groups and communities!
<https://band.us/n/a8ab92l8h602r>

Any questions regarding attendance should be directed to the band director(s):
(814) 580-6680 [voice/text] or emailing info@eacmb.org

Any questions regarding fundraising, parental support, etc.: boosters@eacmb.org

We are online 24 hours per day at www.erieroyalsmb.org

EHS Marching Band is also available on all Social media platforms!

Academic Accountability

As stated in the Erie High School Marching Band mission statement, academic achievement is paramount to any marching band activity. The staff of EHSMB work closely with faculty from the various schools that make up the Band to be sure each member is in good academic standing.

As a student of Erie’s Schools and a member and representative of the Erie High School Marching Band, members are expected to maintain a passing average in all classes.

Students will be required to submit proof of passing average in the middle of each quarter. This will be submitted via the “Proof of Passing” paperwork, or a screenshot of all passing grades. If the student does not display passing average, the student will be asked to complete one of the following:

1. Complete special help time with teachers, with signed proof that all missing assignments are submitted and passing grade is acquired.
2. Students will come to practice, as usual, and will be asked to bring the assignments for the failing classes. Students will then spend an assigned amount of time completing assignments.

Until the student submits proof of passing average, students may lose the ability to perform or travel.

Use of School-Owned Instruments and Property

Erie’s Public Schools has provided high quality instruments for each member to use for the marching band. Members will be assigned instruments for usage with the marching band. Repairs will be financially backed by the EHSMB, however, any abuse or theft of school issued property will be the responsibility of the member and the members’ family.

Members of the marching band should be cognizant of the importance of instrument care! We are fortunate to have such high-quality instruments.

Being A Good Citizen (Student Conduct Guidelines)

1. POSITIVITY
2. Students are expected to exhibit behaviors that are conducive to optimum TEAM achievement. These behaviors can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. performing to the best of your ability at all times,
 - b. supporting other members and their efforts,
 - c. showing respect for the goals of the organization.
3. Students will be expected to exhibit behaviors of self-discipline during rehearsals. These behaviors can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. not talking during rehearsals,
 - b. not disturbing instruction in any fashion,
 - c. respecting students, self, faculty, staff or parent volunteers,
 - d. maintaining the interest and focus toward the goals of the organization.
4. Students will be expected to exhibit courteous behavior at all times. Please refrain from being loud, boisterous, and rude in your communication with or around others.
5. Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are inappropriate in the band facilities, on buses, or official band/school functions at any time.
6. If you can't say it in a G-rated movie, you shouldn't say it while representing the band in ANY manner (i.e. rehearsal, performance, in uniform, in band shirts, social media, etc.) Please be mature enough and respectful enough to consider your surroundings and your audience when you are alone or with others. It has taken years to build a good reputation, but it can be torn down in just minutes!
7. Due to the physical performance nature of marching band, students should make HEALTHY food and beverage choices while participating in and between rehearsal and performance activities. For example, WATER, sports drinks (Gatorade, Propel) are permitted; *pop, soft drinks, energy drinks, etc. are prohibited!* If you learn of a new drink that you think may qualify for use at rehearsal, please ask a staff member.
8. Dress Code: No 3 B's (no belly's, no bottoms, no busts), i.e. no spaghetti straps, etc. You will be asked to either cover up or go home to change.
9. Harassment, hazing, bullying, or abuse of students, staff, or parents will not be tolerated. An infraction of this nature may subject that student to dismissal from the band.
10. Keep all areas used or accessed by band members/staff clean (Leave it better than you found it)
 - a. EVERYONE (Unless medical note on file) must help clean at the end of each day.
11. **All rules and guidelines of the Student Code of Conduct in Erie's Public Schools policy manual apply. Please find online or you can request a copy from staff.**

Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility may result in one or more of the following consequences:

- Laps, push-ups, etc.
- conference with student
- conference with parent
- loss of performance status
- conference with appropriate administrator
- dismissal from the band program
- any consequences per district policy
- Sidelined or strip of leadership title

Band Relations

- **Internet:** There are many social networking resources on the internet where marching band is discussed. As a member of the Erie High School Marching Band, it is your duty to uphold our good name in your communication online. Any unfair or poor representation of the Erie High School Marching Band on any internet website will be removed, and the author of that content will be reprimanded via disciplinary action via Erie's Public Schools or by law enforcement. This includes poor treatment of staff, parents, volunteers, students; poor displays in band attire whether at a band function or not.
- **Band Functions:** At competitions, district festivals, and other band functions, the good name of Erie High is in your hands. As a member of the band, you are expected to be respectful of other organizations and their respective members, regardless of any comments made to you. Remember the phrase, "You have a very nice marching band."

Uniform Care and Policy:

The School District provides a marching band uniform for each member of the band. All band equipment is expensive and difficult to replace. They need to last for many years to come. We must care for all of our equipment as though it has to last for another fifteen years.

- A. All uniform pieces will be assigned to a student (Number code), student is responsible for their uniform pieces
- B. NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING EXCEPT WATER WHILE WEARING THE UNIFORM. You will usually have time to change out of uniform at band shows so that you may enjoy the concession stand.
- C. Students are responsible for keeping their uniform in presentable condition at all times. This includes hanging the uniform properly after each performance; this will maintain its form and will reduce the need for ironing.
- D. Visible jewelry is not permitted to be worn while in uniform unless it is a part of the uniform. i.e. piercings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.
- E. Students are required to have marching shoes. Shoes are ordered annually by our booster organization. *Each student is responsible for this purchase.*
- F. The band will supply your child with one pair of gloves. Additional pairs will be at the cost of the student.
- G. Under the uniforms, students will be required to wear the official EHSMB show shirt, or a black shirt w/sleeves (no tank tops), shorts and clean black socks.
- H. Uniforms will be collected and inspected each year. Students are financially responsible for all uniform pieces that are lost or damaged. Uniforms will be passed out clean and returned clean each year.
- I. Specific instructions on how the uniform is to be worn will be given prior to the first performance. All uniforms must be carried, folded and worn the same way. If we are in "halves", then everyone must be in halves, et al.
- J. Band boosters will provide dry cleaning at the end of the season for uniforms. (only then)
- K. T-Shirts (Summer uniform): t-shirts and shorts will be provided once by the band, if you need a replacement at any point there will be a financial charge. All shirts and shorts will be treated like

pieces of the uniform, turned in after each performance to be washed by the band, returned during preparation of performance.

MEDICAL

We understand the need for medical attention.

- Over the counter medications such as ibuprofen and advil are prohibited being brought to events by students, we have them.
- Prescription medications need to be checked in by a staff member every event! including inhalers. District policy applies. All containers need to be from the pharmacy and prescribed to the student, not a family member. A note must be written once per season with directions and permission from guardians for medication to be in band.
- During a performance, emergency medication such as inhalers, need to be given to a staff member (not booster, volunteer or student)
- Accidents happen. If a student gets injured they will be allowed to rest and it is their responsibility to contact their guardians. Any necessary emergency room trips, the contacts will be notified ASAP, and a staff member will go along (If a staff member can not leave the band, a booster with clearances on file will go)
- A student will need a written doctor's note to document any issues that require them to sit out at any point during rehearsal. If one has not been provided before the 3rd request to sit out, the student will be looked at as skipping rehearsal, attendance policy then applies.
- If at any point a student needs medical or mental health attention, the closest adult with clearances will assist, as other adults become available the rankings go like this: Direct staff (Section staff first), paid boosters, volunteers. NO Parents should take over care for a student unless they are paid booster or the guardian of said student. If a staff member or booster becomes available, the lower ranks need to step back and hand over care.

Roles Defined

Any direct involvement with students, you require documented clearances

Staff

- oversee instruction, goals, and supervision of their assigned section/speciality
- develop and implement website, social, and clerical media
- responsibilities are delegated according to individual strengths, availability, and access
- collaborate with director, staff, and members to meet instructional and program goals

Boosters (Band Mommas)

- Paid membership
- assigned to a specific task such as chaperoning, uniform fitting, equipment needs, booster needs (Including clerical), and instructional as seen fit by directors
- individuals attend events as needed fundraising and 'behind the scene' specialist to insure goals and needs are met

Volunteer

- assigned to a specific task such as chaperoning, uniform fitting, equipment needs, booster needs (Including clerical), and instructional as seen fit by directors
- individuals attend events as needed as seen fit by all staff and paid booster members
- Collaborate with directors, staff, and members to meet instructional and program goals

Student Leaders

- Held to a much higher standard. Must be role models for all.
- Do not abuse/ overstep your position, may be removed. Staff need time to give appropriate instruction on the bands level
- Drum Majors, sections leaders, and leaders-in-training (LITs) serves as liaisons between staff and students
- responsibilities are set by the directors and specific section instructors based on needs and strengths of individual students

- collaborate with directors, staff, and members to meet instructional and program goals

Drum Majors/Section Leaders

RESPONSIBILITIES

- (DM only) Requirement to spend one day at EUP Spirit of the Scots Marching Band rehearsal to shadow the drum major. *Goals would be improving leadership skills, conducting, and communicating with all members in the band and adults.*
- Students in any leadership position who plan to regularly miss practices due to conflicts in other organizations/workplaces must have a written formal request that is approved by staff.
- Any more than 5 unexcused absences will lead to the student being stripped of their title.
- Students in leadership positions must meet with their staff-mentor once a month for a 20 minute meeting. In this meeting, any improvements, recommendations, or resolutions to conflicts that need to be made shall be brought up.

AUDITIONS

- Paperwork must be turned in on the time decided by staff.
- Students will complete 30-60 seconds of conducting at 60, 120, and one other BPM.
- Students will complete an interview with staff.
- Students will write a formal essay answering the questions chosen by staff.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Essay, in your own written words:
Who makes a good Leader/Drum Major?
&
Answer Interview questions
(typed, double spaced - minimum of 1 page in length, but not more than 2 pages)
- Leadership Exhibition (Conducting/Lead Section/Etc.): perform as a Leader/DM.
- Perform Commands: Attention, Parade Rest, Horns-up/down, Mark Time, etc.

Students wishing to hold a leadership position must show behaviors that meet the standards of a leadership position, including:

Responsible	Organized	Knowledgeable
Timely	Participative	Positive
Communication	Inclusive	Effective

Expected Etiquette

Be on time!

- a) We have a limited amount of rehearsal time please do NOT waste it by starting late.
- b) Being on time means having all equipment ready and in your designated rehearsal area BEFORE start time.

Be respectful of others at ALL times

- c) Be respectful of other members, they are part of YOUR team!
- d) Be respectful of YOUR Boosters, they have volunteered to help YOUR team have everything WE need!
- e) Be respectful of YOUR instructors, they are YOUR biggest critics and YOUR biggest fans BOTH at the same time!
- f) Be respectful of everyone else, just because EVERYONE deserves respect!

Come prepared!

- g) Have your pencil
- h) Have your music (binder and sheets)
- i) Have your dot book
- j) Have your water bottle (insulated and labeled with your name)
- k) Have your sneakers/shoes that you can march in
- l) Have your hat.

Put down your phone or other electronic devices.

- m) There will be time on breaks for cell phone use.
- n) Please make sure your ride knows when to pick you up before you get to rehearsal. See schedule.
- o) Please let friends and family know you will not be available to talk/text during rehearsal time.
- p) EHSMB policy on cell phone/electronic device confiscation and return will be forthcoming if necessary.

Know when to bring questions and concerns to staff

- q) Don't try to interpret rules or instructions for each other. If you need clarification go to your instructor.

Be mindful of your attitude and your language. Never say CAN'T.

- r) The one who says they can't and the one who says they can, are BOTH right.
- s) Instead, say I haven't been able to do that yet, but today I'm going to try again.

If you can't or wouldn't do it in the classroom then you shouldn't do it in or at marching band rehearsal.

If any problems arise, or any conduct is broken, please refer to consequences on page 5

“Watch your thoughts, for they become words.
Watch your words, for they become actions.
Watch your actions, for they become habits.
Watch your habits, for they become character.
Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”
- Margaret Thatcher

Friends and family are welcome to come for the last half hour ONLY of rehearsal to view our progress.