

Marching Band FAQ

What is different at Glenbard West than at my junior high school?

We have many things in common with junior high school. We each give sit down concerts, solo, jazz, and ensemble festival opportunities. Two main differences include Marching Band and Pep Band.

What is Marching Band?

We are a concert band that moves around a football field and performs music. We play at halftime of Glenbard West Home Football games and parades throughout the Glen Ellyn area. We have woodwind, brass and percussion members in the marching band. The woodwinds, brass, and percussion meet as a class during the school day – though not at the same time.

What is the Marching Band calendar?

- You will receive a calendar in April for the dates through October
- Drummers will rehearse/audition over 3 nights in April/May
- Full Band will rehearse in late May or early June (usually 2 or 3 nights – right after Middle School Graduation)
- We perform in the 4th July parade in Glen Ellyn
- New Member sessions (you are all in these), usually in late July, are led by existing marching band members and occur during afternoons of the Full Band evening rehearsals
- We have band camp at UW-Whitewater (**it is mandatory**)
- We have 3 other evening rehearsals before school starts
- We rehearse four to five evenings once school begins
from 6:30pm to 8:30pm
- Nearly all performances occur on Saturdays at a football game

Does it cost to be in Marching Band?

Yes, usually \$300. The major cost is band camp at UW-Whitewater. All bus, lodging, and meals are covered by this cost. Also included will be the show shirt that everyone in the band receives. New members also need to purchase a polo shirt and garment bag, though these are onetime costs.

I am a drummer and I'm in a percussion class, can I be a part of the Marching Band?

Absolutely, we split some percussionists out of the rest of the marching band so we can work on skills and fundamentals that are particular to percussion. As you can see in the calendar below – we will spend plenty of time working together outside of class time to put things together.

What is Pep Band?

We are a concert band that sits in the gym and performs music during a basketball game. We play before, at halftime, and after a Glenbard West Home girls or boys basketball game. The games usually occur on Friday or Saturday nights. Everyone in the band program is in one of our two pep bands. Each student will perform at 3 or 4 games...though if you really enjoy it, you could play in all of them.

Other Band Questions

Do I have to purchase a uniform?

If you perform in marching band – a uniform is provided

If you perform in sit down band – white blouse/shirt, black skirt/pants/slacks, black socks/nude hose, black shoes.

If you perform in symphonic band – gentleman will need to purchase a tux (\$110) and ladies need to purchase a black dress (\$65). Both of these items are ordered through the school so we can match the orchestra and choir.

Do we travel?

Sometimes we may also go to a local college or university for their band day. The music department takes large trips every other year. We travel Spring of 2021, 2023, etc..

Where can I get more information?

Our website is a good source for more information.

The music web address is: <http://www.glenbardwestmusic.org>

Another option is to call or email Mr. Walsh:

(630) 942-7451 or jonathan_walsh@glenbard.org