



The Bands Of
ALPHARETTA

Marching Band 101



Above: 2022 Marching Band students celebrating their grand championship at the Allatoona Contest of Bands

About the Alpharetta Marching Raider Band

The AHS Marching Band is Alpharetta High School's largest co-curricular activity, with roughly 115 members. Wind and Percussion students who join the Alpharetta High School (AHS) Band program are eligible to participate in the Alpharetta Marching Band.

*Color guard members do not have to be in our band classes in order to participate in the color guard section of our marching band.

All Marching Band activities occur after school – *THERE IS NO MARCHING BAND CLASS.* Additionally, if a student is in a music class (Chorus or Orchestra) and wants to participate, they can be a part of our front ensemble (we are always in need of fantastic piano players) or color guard members.

To join, all prospective members are required to attend two spring training “camps” on April 27th & May 11th. there are no formal “auditions”, and the goal is not to make “cuts.” The spring training camps are used to place each student on the appropriate instrument (percussion or non-marching instruments like oboe, French horn, & bassoon), and give the students an opportunity to make music with the new high school band.

Marching Band Performances

The AHS Marching Band performs at all home and away football games, as well as several marching band competitions during the fall semester. AHS has a long history of competitive success at GMEA sanctioned band competitions as well as National Bands of America Competitions. *Since this is a commitment to the band program and each other, please make sure prior to signing up for marching band that these dates are clear of all conflicts.* Please visit the band website for a calendar through next December.

Marching Band Competition Philosophy

While marching band competitions may appear to be about "winning trophies," we believe that learning a competitive style marching show and participating in these events provides our students a great learning experience and a solid **MUSIC** education. By participating in competitions, our students challenge themselves at the highest levels, practice teamwork and leadership skills, and develop musicianship and performance experience.

It is no secret that we live in a competitive world. Competitions have the ability to motivate each individual band to perform at their highest level. It is important to remember that unlike an athletic competition, our performance has no direct effect on that of the other bands, and our focus should be on our performance. Our goal is continually to have our best show of the year and raise our standards for ourselves one performance at a time. Regardless of the competitive outcome, we will receive feedback on our program from some of the most respected band adjudicators in the state, which we will be able to share with the students. Students also get to see performances by many other bands at these events, which allows them to learn from what they do and to simply enjoy their shows. Competition allows us to celebrate our accomplishments, and to learn from our mistakes. Please remember that judges do not take points off our score for mistakes; they award us points for what we achieve in our performance, and our recovery from error.



Above: Members of the 2020 Marching Raiders performing their production at a home football game

What is band camp?

Band camp is a series of rehearsals throughout the month of July where students learn the basics of marching band and how to march, set drill and coordinates, learn show music, and develop a strong rapport with fellow band members. Our band camp occurs on the campus of Alpharetta High School and will take place three weeks prior to school starting. Students who plan to be in the marching band will need to attend these three weeks of camp. Our marching band will learn an extensive amount of material that is crucial to the success of our season.

Band Calendar and 2024 Band Camp Dates

Our band calendar is located on our band website at: www.alpharettaband.org

This website is the lifeline of our organization and is home to all pertinent information including the band calendar, performance dates, contact information, etc. Please take time to familiarize yourself with our website and the band calendar. Our 2024 band camp runs from July 15th – August 2nd; please see the band calendar for specific days and times.

Once school starts, how often does the band rehearse?

The Marching Raiders rehearses on average three times per week (Monday 4:00-6:00 p.m., Tuesday 6:30-9:00 p.m., and Thursday 4:00- 6:30 p.m.). There will be a few additional minicamp rehearsals throughout the fall to help our members complete and perfect their marching band production. Becoming a part of the marching band is a strong commitment that must be fulfilled until the last game or competition. **Attendance at every rehearsal is expected.** Becoming a part of this organization means becoming a part of a **TEAM**. No one can sit on the bench in the marching band, and when we are missing people, the entire team suffers due to that absence. This is a significant time commitment, but in the end, the rewards and benefits that are bestowed upon our students will stay with them for a lifetime.

Is it possible to take Honors and AP classes and still be in marching band?

Yes! We are proud that former Valedictorians, Salutatorians, and Honor Graduates have come from the Alpharetta Marching Band! Marching Band is an activity where students will learn how to manage their time and take responsibility for their learning; also, they learn that hard work pays dividends in the end. Students must be pro-active in budgeting appropriate time for their academic classes while also being dedicated members of the Marching Band. It is unacceptable for students to withdraw from marching band or miss rehearsals due to poor academic standing.

Marching Band Registration Information

We will hold a kick-off band parent meeting on Thursday, March 21st at AHS in our Auditorium. During this time, we will explain the process and cost of marching band for the 2024 season, distribute registration forms and information, and communicate clear deadlines for payment and paperwork to be completed to ensure we can operate in the proper manner. If you have any questions or concerns regarding registration for AHS Marching Band, please reach out to our directors at:

Kaufmanj@fultonschools.org & Mansont1@fultonschools.org



Above: AHS Marching Band Leadership Team celebrating their class championship at White Columns in 2022.

Will there be costs associated with Marching Band?

We do not receive any money to operate our marching band. Every opportunity we want to provide for our students will be funded by membership dues and through our fundraising efforts. Yes, there will be a financial commitment as well as a volunteer commitment required for parents for their child to participate in our marching band program.

Transportation, uniforms, instructional staff, costume designers, props, equipment, instruments, color guard flags, color guard uniforms, and meals, are just some of the costs that are covered by student membership dues.

More information regarding membership dues and required volunteer hours will be distributed in future meetings and communications.

MARCHING BAND WOODWIND AND BRASS SECTIONS

Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, Trumpet, French Horn (Mellophone), Trombone, Baritone, Tuba (Sousaphone). Mr. Manson & Mr. Kaufman will speak individually to oboe, bassoon, and bass clarinet players about other instruments they can play so they can be involved in marching band.



Potential marching band students should attend the **Spring Experience Camps April 27th & May 11th**. At this time, all returning and new prospective members will get to experience the first music for our 2024 show and get a sense of what marching band is like!



MARCHING BAND PERCUSSION SECTION

Snare Drum, Quads, Bass Drum, Cymbals, Front Ensemble

To be a part of the marching band percussion section (drumline and front ensemble), all interested students must attend the spring camp dates on April 27th & May 11th. During spring camp, all returning and new members will receive music and other materials and work to be placed on the instrument to which they are best suited.

Percussionists will be assigned a spot in the front ensemble (mallet percussion, drum set, auxiliary percussion) or the marching battery (snare drum, bass drums, & tenors).

Students who participate in the fall marching band percussion section can also participate in the Indoor Percussion group, which begins rehearsals at the conclusion of the marching band season in November.



MARCHING BAND COLOR GUARD SECTION

Dance, Flags, Rifle, & Saber



All AHS students, band or otherwise, are eligible to participate in the Alpharetta High School Color Guard.

No experience is required!

The color guard performs with the marching band as an auxiliary unit utilizing dance, flags, rifles, and sabers. Members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. To become a member of this group, students must attend both spring camp dates on April 27th & May 11th.

Students who participate in the fall marching band color guard can also participate in the winter guard, which begins rehearsals at the conclusion of the marching band season in November.



WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN OUR NATIONALLY COMPETITIVE MARCHING BAND PROGRAM?

- 120+ instant friends - before school even begins!
- Gaining an identity by being a member of the largest team on campus in a school population of 2,300 students
- Being surrounded by the brightest, friendliest, and best group of students at Alpharetta
- Gaining confidence in yourself and your abilities
- Learning the value of teamwork and discipline
- Establishing and developing effective time management skills
- Opportunities for developing leadership skills (*Great* on a college application!)
- Being a part of a successful competitive team (the only nationally competitive team on campus!)
- Eligibility for participating in other ensembles including Alpharetta Indoor Percussion & Winter Guard.
- Enjoying great seats at all AHS football games
- **Earning your PE credit by doing one season of marching band instead of having to take the class!**
- **Fun, Fun, Fun!**



The Marching Band performs at all home and away football games, the Fulton County Marching Band exhibition, and three competitions a year.

PARENT VOLUNTEER & FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

With a program as large and vibrant as ours, there are many volunteer and fundraising opportunities for all parents regardless of your specific talents. All parents are expected to contribute so that the program runs smoothly. Examples below:

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Chaperone for rehearsals, games, and/or competitions, including those who administer first aid.
- Equipment Crew – from building props to moving equipment
- Feeding the students on Friday nights and before competitions
- Band Banquet in May – organize and decorate
- Hospitality – providing refreshments and serving after concerts and other special events
- Photographers at events
- Uniforms – both marching and concert ensembles

Fundraising:

- Working concessions at the Ameris Bank Amphitheater – our largest fundraiser
- Hosting Alpharetta's winter indoor drumline competition
- Organizing and planning other fundraisers, e.g., Taste of Alpharetta and Poinsettia sales
- Working the parking for Home Football Games

Additional information on volunteer and fundraising will be provided
