

Elkins High School Band FAQ

The following are some of the most commonly asked questions about the band program these questions and answers are in no particular order and are question commonly asked each year.

How long is Marching Band season?

- The competitive Marching Band season ends in early-mid November. The schedule is provided by Mr. Caplinger.

Can you do band and sports?

- Yes, but you must be extremely well organized and responsible. The EHS Band promotes dual participation and schedules around almost all athletic conflicts! The band and athletics programs coaches and directors work together to help all students with conflicts. There is always room for Academics, Athletics, and Music.

What are the benefits of high school band?

- Your child will become part of an outstanding music group. The students have many opportunities to perform and travel. Band is an activity that your child can participate in for four years – everyone is varsity! No one who tries sits on the bench! Additionally, band offers opportunities for individuals to compete as instrumentalists at Solo and Ensemble festival as well as opportunities to gain acceptance into honor groups. Band offers students opportunities for leadership: upperclassmen who are section leaders have important leadership, teaching, and planning responsibilities, all of which are invaluable to successful college and career experiences. Finally, band can potentially become the core of your child's high school experience. Your child will find a supportive, friendly group with many role models and high achievers. Many of your children's friends are already band members, and high school band can continue to provide a solid social and support network as the students mature and grow.

Will being in band have a NEGATIVE effect on my grades or Scholarships and will I have time to study?

- NO! As a matter of fact, most of the students in band are in the top of their classes. Research has shown that the extra time you spend in band not only helps you build your musical skills, but also helps you in Math, Science, and English! When you dedicate your time to your studies and also to your band activities, your grades are usually higher

When does my child have time for homework?

- Believe it or not, most parents will state that their children have the best grades during marching season! They learn to work on a schedule and prioritize their needs and studies. Mr. Caplinger oversees how students are doing in their class work, reviewing each of their interim & report cards. Many band students tutor each other if needed. A majority of the band receives honors & high honors and are part of the National Honor Society.

Why band rehearse so much?

- The Music Department strives for excellence in all activities. To do our best takes hard work, practice, and time. Actually, in comparison to the sports teams the band spends less time rehearsing. Performing is fun. You will be provided with the performance schedule for the all year so you will be able to keep the performance dates open. We do expect your attendance at all functions.

What is Band Camp?

- Band Camp usually is scheduled at the end of July. Everyone needs Band Camp and participation is expected. This year's camp will be held at EHS July 23-27, 2007. The field-show must be learned prior to the start of school so we can perform at the early Football games. Band Camp is not all work. We do have fun. Students should arrive early in order to be prepared to begin on time.

What is Pre-Camp?

- Pre-Camp is held for the week prior to Band Camp. Its purpose is to teach marching skills to the students, and to learn and prepare the field show for the fall marching season. It is also a time that band members get to know one another and become a 'team' of musicians. Rehearsals are 9am-4pm. Students should arrive early in order to be prepared to begin on time.

I turned in my registration form at the end of school and didn't register for band. I changed my mind, can I still be in band?

- YES—there will be time each Monday when the Guidance office will be open to help with schedule changes. Mrs. Kittle or Mr. Horne will be happy to add band to your schedule.

Do I have to audition for the EHS Band Program?

- NO. Everyone is welcome to participate in the marching band REGARDLESS OF YOUR PLAYING ABILITY. Part assignments will be determined during summer band rehearsals.

I'm not sure whether I will like band or not. What should I do?

- All students are encouraged to try band for the first year. If you feel that it is not for you, there is no obligation to stay in the following year.

Does the EHS Band take any trips?

- Yes! Trips are one of the most fun parts of being in band. The band travels extensively in the Fall. Every other year, the band takes a major overnight trip. We are planning a trip for later this year!!

Do I have to be in Marching Band, or can I just do Concert Band or vice versa?

- Band is BAND!! There is no longer a “marching band” and a “concert band”. When you are in the band, you participate in all band activities regardless of time of year!

I don't want people to think I'm a dork.

- At Elkins High School, the “Spirit of the Mountains” will again be the pride of the school. The student body, athletic department and community have a great deal of respect and appreciation for the contribution we make at the football games and the overall school spirit at EHS. It is definitely one of the cool things to do at EHS

What should my child bring to Band Camp?

- Instrument, Music, Pencil, Socks & Sneakers, Hat, Sunscreen, Water, Valve oil (for horns), Drumsticks (for drummers), Reeds (for woodwind instruments), Lunch!!

When are rehearsals?

- During marching season (September – November), rehearsals are usually held from one evening a week. The day varies from week to week as we work around the athletic calendar.

What is a Field Show?

- Field Shows are musical performances that take place on a football field/stadium in which a marching band plays a variety of musical pieces while moving in a variety of formations, to creatively tell a story. In addition to musicians, the Guard (Tigerettes) interprets the music through dance, colorful flag work and the tossing, catching and twirling of specialized ‘sabers’ and ‘rifles’ (and sometimes other pieces of equipment).

What is a competition?

- Bands host other bands at their home stadium/football fields to perform their musical programs. They are judged for music, artistic ability, precision, and marching techniques, with each band receiving a score and various awards given at the end of the evening. Most competitions begin between 5-6 pm. It is usually a major fundraiser for the host band and allows students to see and learn from one another. Parents are encouraged to attend competitions – to support all the bands and cheer on their own children.

What do I need to wear on the first marching band practice

- First of all, come PREPARED to be marching outside, on the parking lot surface or football field! With this in mind, you will definitely need a good pair of socks and good tennis shoes (often those advertised as walking shoes or jogging shoes are the best) that have been worn before. You do NOT want to start marching with a new pair of shoes and have to deal with tired feet from marching and blisters from new shoes! Also, you do NOT want a worn-out pair of shoes as they will not provide enough support. Your clothing needs are dependent on the weather. You will always want to wear comfortable clothing, most wear a t-shirt and shorts during the summer. A hat is required for outdoor rehearsal times. AND, speaking of blocking out the sun, do NOT forget sunscreen!

What else should I bring to the first marching band practice?

- Your instrument! This would include your musical instrument, your flag(s), drumsticks, mallets, etc. In other words, whatever will you be using on the marching field as part of the Marching Band needs to come to each practice, beginning with the first practice.
- Water--- Water--- Water--- Staying hydrated during practices is important. MHS Bands will supply water, but many students choose to bring large water containers, camel humps, etc., to have quicker access to large quantities of water.
- YOUR POSITIVE, HARD WORKING ENERGY!!! A positive spirit is needed by all members of the marching band. Please come prepared to work, have fun, and be proud of your efforts.

Will I be expected to know to have music memorized? When?

- Indeed, you will need to be able to play and memorize the music performed by the band. This, however, will generally take care of itself based on how we rehearse in the summer. More details will be given during band camp.

Will I have to march and play the music at the same time?

- Simply put, YES!! That is what it's all about. It's also one of the easiest things to learn when taught properly. Trust us on this, do not sweat a minute on marching and playing at the same time.

Who is a VETERAN?

- Why, anyone who has completed one season of performing with the Marching Band.

There are a lot of rehearsal times, will I need to practice at home too?

- YES! The old words of "practice makes permanent" are indeed true. You will need (and will be expected to) practice on your own to learn the music and other skills. The band rehearses at school (puts things together) and you should practice at home. Band rehearsals are not your practice time!

Do I have to attend every practice?

- Yes. For additional details on this question, please refer directly to the Band Handbook Attendance Policy. Bottom Line: ANY excuse must be approved by the Mr. Caplinger prior to an absence.

If I am in band, can I also belong to other student clubs?

- YES! In fact, most of the EHS Band students belong to a second and sometimes third student club! We encourage involvement!

After marching season, what happens?

- Concert season begins with Christmas Concert preparations, then we begin working on Band Festival (assessment) literature. We will also be working on music for our spring trip. Following all of this, the band will work on Spring Concert literature while also readying themselves for the Strawberry Festival.

What is the best way to stay current on EHS Band News and Activities?

- The Band Website is updated regularly. www.elkinsbands.org. This site has a link to the new EHS Band website that includes everything you would like to know and/or need to know! Also **READ** the weekly "Tiger Tags"!!!

Are private lessons available?

- Yes and no. Elkins High and Mr. Caplinger do not provide private instruction, however many local musicians do at a nominal cost. All members of the band are encouraged to take private lessons!! Contact Mr. Caplinger for more info.

How does weather affect the rehearsal / performance schedule?

- Rehearsals continue regardless of weather. For marching band rehearsals, students should be prepared with "weather-appropriate clothing". In cases of severe weather, rehearsal will either be moved indoors or cancelled.

When do I know to pick my child up from a rehearsal / performance?

- Weekly Tiger Tags (newsletters) include rehearsal information. "Tags" are passed out the week of performances and trips, detailing times, places, directions (when needed), and other pertinent information. The EHS Band makes a point to return from travel and end rehearsals on time. After rehearsals end, students have to put their equipment away and get their stuff to go home. To make it easy on yourself, allow approximately 10 - 15 minutes after the listed rehearsal ending time for students to be ready to leave. When significant changes occur to our monthly schedule, new info. will be passed out as well as posted on the board and on the band web page.

What fees are involved in the band program? Are there ways my child can fundraise to pay their band expenses?

- All of the fees associated with the EHS Band are listed in detail in the EHS Band Handbook. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to fundraise and earn money for their “band dollar” accounts. The money in these accounts can be used for payment of fees, trip costs etc. Refer to the handbook for more info.

What if my child or I have more questions?

- Call or e-mail Jeff Caplinger, Band Director, 636-9170, or at home, 635-0007. You may email Mr. Caplinger at jeffcaplinger@yahoo.com