

Home Camp FAQs

What are the times?

The band room will be open at about 11:00 AM each day. "Social time" will begin then, with the formal start of organized activities beginning promptly at 12:00 PM. Call time is 11:45 AM – if you arrive after then, you will not have enough time to prepare yourself and are considered late! (Helpful hint – be 100% ready, in your seat, instrument & music out, etc no later than 11:55 AM). Dismissal Monday – Thursday is planned to be about 7:45 PM, depending on how the day goes weather-wise. Students will typically be asked to leave the building by 8 PM to get some rest for the next day.

Friday, the day will end around 4:30 PM after we all work together to get loaded for away camp. Dismissal will be determined by how well / fast we get loaded.

This is crazy! Will I ever adjust to Marching Band?

Rest assured, this is Mr. Sekich's 31st year leading the Stevenson Marching Band. There is a method to what appears to be madness, especially for those of you in your first go-round. There are many details that he, his staff, and his parent volunteers are constantly working on between now and Marching Festival in October. Things are always adjusting to help ensure student safety, success, and preparation. Be patient. While you may be caught off guard at times with changes/more information still to come, you will adjust and see that there is a plan (based on lots of experience) behind when and how things are announced and done.

What will the kids be doing the week of home camp?

The main areas of focus are on: a) indoor music practices, both as a full group and with their sections; b) learning the marching drill (the formations you'll see on the field); c) preparing for Away Camp

What will they be doing to prepare for Away Camp?

In addition to verbal instructions and suggestions, the kids will be signing up for their housing (essentially, selecting their roommates), for which bus they will be riding (our buses will be filled nearly to capacity, making advance signups necessary). Parents will be working to make sure all paperwork has been completed so we can leave promptly on Sunday morning (times tba).

A few important words about hydration and sun protection

*Parent volunteers and the marching staff will consistently emphasize to the students the need to stay hydrated and to wear sun protection (sunscreen, hats, sunglasses) while they are at school. These two items are among the most critical in helping keeping marchers comfortable over the weeks of marching camp – and it truly is a team effort. **Please, join us at home in stressing the importance of protecting from dehydration and from getting sunburnt.** While staff and volunteers encourage students to properly take care of these things, it is not possible to give each of the 150 members individualized attention. This must be a partnership – talk to your kids – many are not used to the kind of and level of outdoor activity marching band requires!*

How about Marching Band uniforms, shoes, and those navy blue shirts I ordered?

Professional shoe fittings return this year and will take place on Wednesday afternoon for those that have ordered them. Delivery will be toward the end of August. Navy shirts are in production and will be distributed as soon as we get them in our hands. A schedule for full marching band uniforms is still being formulated. Watch for times and dates. Not to worry – the earliest the kids will be in full uniform will likely be the Homecoming game on Sept. 23, depending on the weather.

I hear the kids have a dinner break each day – what are the rules / suggestions?

Students may NOT leave the Stevenson campus for dinner! A parent may deliver dinner to a student that does not care for / cannot eat that evening's selection– but do not interrupt rehearsal time with your delivery! Wait in the parking lot, your student will text you when it's okay to hand off their food. Students also have the option to have food delivered (Doordash, etc) – but the coordination responsibility is theirs alone during the dinner window. Parent volunteers/staff members will not coordinate this for you.

What about my lost stuff?

It's really helpful going into our camps if personal items are labeled / identified with

the student's name. With 150 kids, items do get misplaced, forgotten, picked up accidentally by someone else, and so forth. It's nearly impossible to reunite so many lost times with their owners if they aren't identifiable!

Where / when do I drop off my donations?

Due some uncertainty with the status of the current construction in the hallways outside of the band room, there will be signs posted when you arrive to drop off your donations. Parent volunteers will help guide the controlled chaos.

Phew – that's a lot to know! Anything else?

*Yes indeed! **The most important thing about home camp is attendance.** They will learn more about each other, the band, and their show more quickly than at any other time this school year. All students must attend home camp, especially if they plan to use Marching Band as a flex credit to take the place of Physical Education towards graduation. If they are not in attendance, they will miss the most important type of communication we have – verbal!*

One more thing!

Stay in the loop by using Remind, Facebook, and e-mail blasts. Get that info – and much more – at www.stevensonbands.org

What to bring to with you every day to Home Camp

Required

- A great attitude to have fun, make new friends, learn, and focus on “Return to Broadway”
- Eat a good meal BEFORE you arrive at Stevenson. Preparing your body for the rigors of camp by eating and drinking right is especially important while we are “camping”
- Personal water bottle
- Personal water jug (at least ½ gallon) filled with ice water
- Hat and sunglasses
- Field marker
- Flip folder / lyre
- Pencil, highlighter
- Your instrument, mouthpiece, reeds, drum sticks, valve oil, etc (the stuff that’s applicable for the instrument you play)
- Closed-toed athletic shoes (previously broken-in) for marching
- Socks for inside your shoes when marching

Suggestions

- A pair of flip-flops / crocs to help air out feet when not marching
- An extra pair of dry socks (or three)
- Personal snacks (please respect others’ food allergies and choices)
- A string backpack (or similar) to carry your stuff (put your name inside someplace)
- Phone charger (label it) and cable
- A small personal sunscreen so you can reapply at any time

Ask your section leader if you have questions – and if they have any other suggestions for you to make camp more comfortable!