

Stevenson High School Instrumental Music Program



2024-25 Marching Band Handbook

June 2024 (preview version, updated 3/6/2024)

Target audience: All Prospective Marching Band Members & Parents

Stevenson, UAIS, Davis, Jeannette



www.stevensonbands.org

39701 Dodge Park Rd.

Sterling Heights

Mike Yaros - Director

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND

DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

Dear Students & Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the Pride of Stevenson High School, the Stevenson Titans Marching Band! I am elated to continue the tradition of this fine ensemble. As the Director of Bands here at Stevenson, I would like to take some time to share some important information that will help make everyone's experience in our program successful.

Marching Band provides a particularly special experience. During our time together, not only will members have grown musically but they will have also formed life-long connections with their bandmates. The band's accomplishments are truly impressive every year.

Stevenson High School has been providing students various opportunities for participation in Instrumental Music programs for over 40 years, including Marching Band. Music and marching instruction will continue to be led by experienced music educators that have your student's best interests at heart.

As you read this handbook it should be clear that our music program has strong expectations for all members of the Marching Band. It is important that everyone - from students to staff - represent themselves and our band in a positive way both in and out of school.

It's also important to understand that MSBOA, Stevenson High School, and Utica Community Schools requires all instrumentalist members of the Marching Band be enrolled in a band class to participate in the Titans Marching Band.

Attitude + Respect + Commitment = Success is the essence of our philosophy in the Stevenson Instrumental Music Program. All members are expected to be available for all performances, including parades and indoor events. Marching Band performances are a part of each student's grade in their concert classes during the school day here at Stevenson and at their respective Junior High School or the Utica Academy for International Studies.

I look forward to working with your children!

Mr. Yaros - Director, Stevenson Instrumental Music Program

Email: michael.yaros@uticak12.org



TO BE ANNOUNCED!

Featuring:

- Marching Band Music
 - Even More Marching Band Music
- You guessed it – Marching Band Music

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Expectations & Goals of the Stevenson Titan Marching Band

- One Band, One Sound, One Philosophy
- Our time together as a group is important and must be focused
- The musical sounds we make are beautiful. Music comes first!
- Rehearsal time is for ensemble development, not for practicing parts
- Individuals learn to prepare independently away from rehearsals
- We are a team-oriented family creating an atmosphere built on respect and friendliness
- We are goal oriented in terms of musical achievement and performance
- We are committed to the highest musical / visual / technical standards
- We prioritize becoming more musical away from the band – practice at home!
- A standardized formation will be set for every outdoor rehearsal
- When you are called to attention, do not speak or move
- Represent ourselves with excellence as a public face of Stevenson High School
- Delight and entertain our audience at all performances
- Work towards the achievement of the highest rating at Marching Band Festival
- Be the “12th man” for our varsity football team

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND

GENERAL INFORMATION

Eligibility

All students enrolled in a band class at Stevenson High School are automatically eligible to become a marching band instrumentalist. In addition, students that live in the Stevenson enrollment area that are in a band class at UAIS as well as 9th grade band students at Davis and Jeannette Junior High schools are also automatically eligible. 8th graders in a band class at our feeder junior high schools may also join with the approval of their parents, their junior high band instructor, and the Stevenson band director.

Every 9th – 12th grader in the Stevenson cluster may participate as a non-instrumental member of Colorguard; Guard members are encouraged to take an in-school band or choir class to help learn the integration of music with their routines.

Behavior & Attendance Expectations

Marching Band is a high school level activity: Members are expected to be responsible, self-motivated, and always exhibit exemplary behavior. Performances typically occur from August – October at, but not limited to, home football games, community events, parades, UCS' Band-a-Rama, and at Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Marching Band Festival, a judged activity in mid-October. Should the football team make the playoffs, the Marching Band may perform at games through Thanksgiving weekend.

The Marching Band will perform indoors at SHS for the Winter Concert (a full program that includes Stevenson in-class ensembles) in December as well as a Cluster Showcase in the January-February timeframe. Performances and activities may be added and/or removed from the schedule at the discretion of the Band Director. **Attendance at all performances, including the indoor Winter Concert, is compulsory for ALL marching band members.**

School rules are always in effect and members are expected to act accordingly when in uniform (full or summer) at every performance. If there is a problem that occurs, the Marching Band Student Contract explains all the repercussions possible depending on how severe the act was.

Once school begins, a student that is in jeopardy of failing a class may be denied further participation in Marching Band at the discretion of school administration and/or their parents.

Call Times:

For new members and their guardians, the concept of a call time can be difficult to grasp at first.

Activities on the band calendar will be listed with a specific time, however student call time is generally 15 – 30 minutes PRIOR to that listed time. These call times most often will be communicated verbally directly to the students.

For most activities, call times are early so students have time to prepare materials, socialize, and get into place so that things begin and end on time.

In band:

If you are early, you are on time.

If you are on time, you are late.

If you are late ... well, just don't ever be late!

YES! All Marching Band members, no matter which grade they are in or which school they attend - including Color Guard - are encouraged to participate with every Marching Band activity:

- *All full band performances, including indoor concerts, that include the Marching Band*
- *Homecoming Pep Assembly*
- *"Snaking the Halls" at SHS on the Fridays of home football games (except homecoming)*
- *Pep Band at select away football games (no transportation provided)*
- *Elementary School Tour*
- *Other performances that may be added at the request of the Band Director or UCS administration*
- *Students are responsible to arrange with their teachers in advance for missed class assignments and quizzes / tests*
- *Parents/guardians of non-SHS students must call in an early dismissal for their student to attend activities at SHS during the school day (Pep Assembly, Snaking the Halls, etc)*
- *Transportation to and from SHS is the responsibility of the parent/guardian*



Student Contracts and Parent Agreement

Parents/guardians and students must sign a Marching Band Contract and will be held responsible for adhering to these agreements, even after the marching season ends and/or before a new season begins.

The verbiage of the Marching Band Contract and Parent Agreement is provided at the end of this handbook.

Acknowledgement of the receipt of this handbook and the associated Student Contract and Parent Agreement must be completed online on or before May 31, 2024.

Link:

www.stevensonbands.org/2024MarchingBandContract

Memorization of Music

Marching show music must be memorized and tested out with Section Leaders as the season progresses. We realize all students learn at different levels and there is a system in place that works very well, not to worry. The faster the music is memorized, the better the show will look and sound.

Varsity Letters and Chevrons

Upon the successful completion of a **complete** year of marching band, a student will earn either a varsity letter (first year) or a chevron (subsequent years) **if** they perform/participate in all Marching Band Performances, including **all** indoor concerts.

- A varsity letter / chevron may be withheld if a student has an unexcused absence for any performance. Mr. Yaros has full discretion on the determination of an unexcused absence.
- Students that miss required rehearsals may be prevented from performing at Mr. Yaros' discretion. Not performing under these circumstances would be considered an unexcused absence.
- Distribution of letters and chevrons will take place following the conclusion of the Marching Band's indoor concert responsibilities.

Physicals

Mandatory current-year physicals are a UCS rule for the safety of all members of the Marching Band and must be completed and uploaded to BigTeams by August 1st, 2024. If the student has already completed a physical in 2024, it **must have been dated on or after April 15th, 2024.** This rule applies to all UCS marching band camps, and athletic-related activities at all of our high schools.

Physical Education Flex Credit

Students who complete **two complete seasons** of Marching Band in 9th – 12th grades (8th grade marchers are not eligible until 9th grade when they are academically considered a high-schooler) may apply to use Marching Band as a Flex Credit to fulfill the graduation requirement for ½ credit of high school Physical Education:

- **To be eligible for approval for flex credit, 100% attendance is required at ALL full-band activities, including rehearsals.** Activities include (but may not be limited to) camps, football games, rehearsals, indoor concerts, and parades. If an activity is missed due to illness, a doctor's note must be turned in to Mr. Yaros to fulfill this requirement.
- Students must ensure they have been signed in at each activity.
- Students are responsible to complete the required UCS flex credit paperwork at the conclusion of the Marching Band Season, **following any indoor concerts**, submit it to Mr. Yaros for his approval, then turn it in to the student's school counselor.

Utica Community Schools Mandate:

- *EVERY student in Marching Band must have a physical*
- *Physical must be completed by a medical professional*
- *Physical must be completed on or after April 15, 2024*
- ***POSITIVELY NO EXCEPTIONS***

Upload completed MHSA physical forms to BigTeams

Spring Travel

The full Instrumental Music Program attempts to have a student trip at least every other spring, and yearly if possible. **All members of the Marching Band, as they are considered members of the Instrumental Music Program, no matter their home school,** are invited to participate on these **optional** trips.

Travel is an integral part of the musical experience and a wonderful opportunity for kids to bond and learn how to be responsible for themselves in an age-appropriate manner. Encouraging these types of annual musical experiences helps students to learn and advance musical growth.

Titans Fight Song

*Hail Hail to the Titans,
Our victory march has just begun,
Though the battles long may rage,
they'll all fall before us, cause we're number one!
And when the Titans march to victory,
You better hear what we say,
Cause we will fight, fight, fight,
And we will win tonight,
Because we're Titans all the way...
HEY!*

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND

SCHEDULE INFORMATION

- *The SHS Instrumental Music Program has been recognized as one of the top music programs in the State of Michigan*
- *Participating in High School Band classes does not interfere with other after-school activities like athletics*
- *Participating in High School Band does not interfere with college prep classes. Being in Band **does** meet the Fine Arts requirement for High School graduation in Michigan*
- *SHS Instrumental Music students may have the opportunity to take an educational trip in the Spring. Past trips have included New York City at Carnegie Hall, Disney World, Washington D.C., performing for Presidents Bush and Clinton., Virginia Beach, Chicago, Nashville, Cleveland, and Cincinnati. All Spring trips are voluntary*
- *Our Band Booster organization raises funds for the students involved with the Instrumental Music Program. These fundraisers help to support the students' overall Instrumental Music experience*
- *Participating in Marching Band in junior high means you will start your Stevenson music experience knowing many upperclassmen and be able to talk to those older experienced students about classes, teachers, transportation, school activities, schedules, and finding your way around SHS*
- *"The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers in the 21st century" (Business Week Magazine)*

Schedule Overview

Full Marching Band activities for the new season begin in June during the last week of school when the new Marching Band meets at SHS for their first rehearsal (after the first ½ exam day). During this meeting, marching band members typically receive and rehearse their show music (bring your instrument / mouthpiece / drumsticks, etc.), meet section leaders, and receive any updated information about August band camp.

During the summer band members are expected to participate in activities with their instrument groups (sectionals). Student-led sectional schedules are communicated between students (you won't necessarily see them on the band's Facebook group or in Band App messages). Previously scheduled family travel/vacation plans should continue as planned - while also making every effort to have students participate in sectionals when in town. Driver's training and/or a student's employment is not a valid excuse for missing sectionals. Being an active participant in the summer helps students musically and socially to prepare for our camps.

Section leaders (chosen prior to the start of the new marching season) organize meetings to get to know each other, practice music for the show, learn basic marching techniques, and plan for camp. Sectionals held inside the building at Stevenson must have a responsible adult present while students are in the building (parent or band alumni volunteers over the age of 18 are welcome).

The full band meets together for rehearsals in August. In 2024, our first camp will take place between **Mon Aug 5th and Fri Aug 9th**. Our second week of camp will run from **Sun Aug 11th through Thu Aug 15th** at Michindoh near Hillsdale.

The full band will continue to rehearse together once school begins, normally once per week on Tuesday evenings as well as at mini home camps that will take place at SHS on a weekend day in late September or early October in advance of MSBOA Marching Festival. There will also be more section-only rehearsals that are scheduled as needed and communicated by section leaders.

Marching Band members are responsible for understanding and adhering to the schedule, which includes signing up for and reading electronic communications that provide numerous updates and changes as the season progresses.

2024-25 Stevenson Marching Band Calendar (preview 3/18/24)

Summer Sectionals – to be announced in late spring / early summer

- Flutes/Piccolos
- Clarinets
- Trumpets
- Alto Saxophones and Mellophones [Saxes & Horns]
- Tenor Saxophones/Trombones/Baritones/Sousaphones [Low Brass]
- Drumline and Frontline
- Color Guard

2024-25 Marching Band Calendar (under construction!)

March

Mon Mar 18, 7PM Kickoff Meeting @ SHS

April

Tue Apr 11, 5:30 - 6:30PM Color Guard Clinic I

Tue Apr 16, 5PM Drum Major / Section Leader Auditions

Tue Apr 18, 5:30 - 6:30PM Color Guard Clinic II

May

Wed, May 15 Registrations due for 2024-25

- Fri, May 31
- \$150 non-refundable deposit due for 2024-25
 - Orders/payments for apparel due for 2024-25
 - Online completion/submission of 2024-25 Marching Band Contract
 - Completion/submission of 2024-25 Medical Information Form

June

Wed June 5, 12 - 2 PM First Rehearsal @ SHS

July

Jul 7 - 12 CMU Drum Major / Guard Captain Camp

August

Thu, Aug 1 Final payment of marching band fee due

Mon Aug 5 - Fri Aug 9 Home Camp

Sun Aug 11 - Thu Aug 15 Away Camp @ Michindoh

Tue Aug 27, 6-8pm Marching Band Rehearsal

Thu, Aug 29 Home Football vs. Novi

September

Mon, Sep 2 Romeo Peach Festival Parade

Tue Sep 3, 6-9pm Marching Band Rehearsal

Fri, Sep 6 Home Football vs. Utica

Tue Sep 10, 6-9pm Marching Band Rehearsal

Tue Sep 17, 6-9pm Marching Band Rehearsal

Fri, Sep 20 Home Football vs. Dakota

Tue Sep 24, 6-9pm Marching Band Rehearsal

Fri, Sep 27 Home Football vs. Ike

October

Tue Oct 1, 6-9pm Marching Band Rehearsal

* Tentative * Sat, Oct 5 Troy Athens Invitational Performance

* Tentative * Sun, Oct 6, 1-5pm Mini Home Camp I

Tue, Oct 8, 6-9pm	Marching Band Rehearsal
* Tentative * Sun, Oct 13	Mini Home Camp II & UCS Band-A-Rama @ SHS
Tue Oct 15, 5-6:30pm	Marching Band Rehearsal
* Tentative * Wed, Oct 16	MSBOA Marching Band Festival
Fri, Oct. 18	Home Football vs. LC North
* Tentative* Tue, Oct 22	Tuesday Night Lights w/ Davis & Jeannette
Fri, Oct. 25	Home Football vs. Brother Rice

Away Football Games

9/13 @ Chip Valley | 10/4 @ Anchor Bay | 10/11 @ Romeo

2024 MHSAA Football Playoff Schedule

District Semifinals	Fri 11/1 or Sat 11/2
District Finals	Fri 11/8 or Sat 11/9
Regional Finals	Fri 11/15 or Sat 11/16
State Semifinals	Sat 11/23
State Finals	Sat 11/30, 1 PM @ Ford Field

December

Mon Dec 9, 6 PM	Marching Band Banquet @ Century Banquet Center
TBA	Marching Band Indoor Music Rehearsal
TBA	Stevenson Winter Concert (includes full Marching Band)

January or February

TBA	Cluster Showcase Concert
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Updates to this calendar are online at <https://www.stevensonbands.org/calendar>

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND

UNIFORMS & APPAREL

Full (Formal) Marching Band Uniforms

All school-issued full uniforms are the property of Utica Community Schools; they are to go home following performances, primarily so they can be aired out (*hint: toss a couple fresh fabric softener sheets in your garment bag after each use to help keep uniforms smelling fresh*). Racks are provided in the band room for uniforms to be hung properly if they are brought to school on the day of a performance.

NEVER STORE FULL UNIFORM PIECES IN A BAND LOCKER OR LEAVE THEM ON THE FLOOR

Parents/students are responsible for the full replacement cost of their uniform (approximately \$500) should it not be returned or is damaged beyond repair. **NEVER, EVER cut or trim uniform material!**

Attention New Members!

All instrumentalist marchers (everyone but color guard) are required to purchase/own the following:

- **Navy Blue T-shirt (\$22 or \$24)**
- **Marching Shoes (\$48)**

These items are purchased/distributed through the band

Money saving tip!

*Navy blue t-shirts should be worn **ONLY** for performances!*

Wearing (and laundering) them more often subjects them to fading, ripping, stains, and shrinking. Keep them in your closet until needed for performances and save money on a replacement.

Full uniforms consist of:

- Jacket (school property)
- Bibs (school property)
- Hat (shako) + case (except tubas, school property)
- Plumes (school property, issued and returned on performance days)
- Marching Shoes (purchased by student / student property)
- Socks (same color as shoes, must extend at least 3" above the ankle, student property)
- White gloves (student property, issued just prior to the 1st performance where they are to be worn)
- Students in sections that require gloves will be issued one pair (replacement pairs are \$3/ea)

Students are responsible for:

- Keeping track of their uniform pieces
- Returning uniforms at the end of the season in the same condition as they were issued
- Keeping their uniform hung up properly to prevent wrinkling
- Keeping their uniform dry / aired out
- Taking their uniform home following all performances (do not leave them at SHS)

School-owned uniforms are issued, tracked, and collected by the Band Boosters. They are sent out to be dry cleaned (paid by UCS) at the conclusion of each season. Parents will coordinate the sizing and distribution of uniforms prior to the first performance at which they will be worn under the guidance of the Band Director.

Marching Band members that are typically not issued a formal marching band uniform:

- Color Guard (always)
- Drumline and/or Frontline (depending on show and membership numbers)
- These students will receive separate information about what they are wearing

Summer Marching Band Uniforms

For hot weather performances, marchers wear white shorts (NO SHORT SHORTS or STRIPES), marching shoes, socks that match the shoe color, and a performance t-shirt (either our navy blue performance shirts or the current season's theme shirt). All shorts must be approved prior to the first performance.

All Marching Band members will need a Summer Uniform:

- White shorts (purchased individually at the store of your choice)
- Theme t-shirt (issued to all Marching Band members, included in cost of Marching Band)
- Navy Blue t-shirt (\$22 or \$24, must be purchased through the Band Boosters)

Requirements for Summer Uniform White Shorts:

- *No stripes – must be solid white*
- *No athletic-style shorts (no elastic waistbands)*
- *Clean / professional appearance (no rips, stains, minimal wrinkling)*
- *Mid-thigh length or longer*

Suggestions for Summer Uniform White Shorts:

- *Flat khaki-style preferred over cargo-style (minimal pockets)*
- *Shop early! Online stores typically have a better selection*

When in uniform – either Full or Summer – students must own & wear Marching Shoes (except Color Guard):

- Marching shoes are purchased by students through the band (\$48)

Student purchase of Section Shirts (optional)

During the summer, Section Leaders may design their own, separate t-shirts that may be purchased by their fellow section members. Section shirt designs are subject to approval by Mr. Yaros to ensure conformity with the UCS dress code. There will typically be a coordinated day when section shirts are worn for a photograph. These shirts are separate (and optional) from the two that are required (Theme Shirts & Navy Shirts). Section shirts are not coordinated, nor are the finances handled, by the band or Band Boosters. This is an extra expense for those wishing to participate.

Adult/Family purchase of Theme Shirts (optional)

Once a design is selected, 2024-25 Show Theme Shirts (typically t-shirts & hoodies) will be available for purchase at near-cost for anyone that is interested in buying them to help show support and spirit for the Marching Band.

Important: Marching Band members do not need to purchase a theme shirt unless they would like an extra or a replacement.

Adult/Family purchase of Spiritwear (optional)

Depending on interest, the Band Boosters from time to time may also offer for purchase a variety of optional Stevenson Band spiritwear. Keep an eye on our web site and social media pages for announcements.

Official Booster apparel / name badges (optional)

Band Booster volunteers acting in an official capacity during band events as chaperones are encouraged to purchase and wear official Booster polos and name badges.

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

It is very important that parents and students subscribe to our electronic communication channels to stay informed and up to date with the Instrumental Music Program & Boosters. You will miss out on key information if you choose not to sign up / not read the messages provided. Subscribers can remove themselves at any time – which is especially nice after your child graduates.

In addition to electronic messages, we have a web site and use Social Media to send out information. Our web site is a great reference tool to get answers when you need them!

Group Communication:

Band App:

www.stevensonbands.org/resources/bandapp/

Web site:

www.stevensonbands.org

Marching Band specific info:

www.stevensonbands.org/marching-band



Social Media:

Instrumental Music Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/stevensonbands

- Private - "Instrumental Music Business Only", members & posts must be approved
- Members are removed following graduation of the student

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/shstitanband

- Public – Used so our families can share our public events, fundraisers, etc

X / Twitter: www.twitter.com/shstitanband

- Public – Used so our families can share our public events, fundraisers, etc

Remember: Social media is forever. Think of your audience before you post!

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cost and Payments

Each year, a fee is charged to all students that participate in Marching Band and is **due in full no later than the Thursday, August 1st**. For 2024-25, this fee is \$485, just \$10 more than in 23-24.

Just some of what is paid for by the marching fee:

- Camps
- Music staff
- Theme shirt, marching gloves
- Drill writing, music, props
- Logistics (trailer, trucks, fuel, etc)
- Food & bottled water during season

The Band Boosters' general fund, which is built through fundraising activities all school-year long, helps to offset a portion of the cost of Marching Band that would otherwise have to be paid by members. Without fundraising, the pay-to-march fee would be considerably higher for everyone. In addition to the marching band fee, members are also responsible to purchase items to complete their uniforms (primarily applies to new members). Refer to the Uniforms & Apparel section on page 12 of this handbook.

Utica Schools provides very limited financial support in the form of a small budget for school bus transportation. The district does not pay staff or for any Marching Band materials, including music. The band director receives just a small stipend for the full marching season.

Note: Unpaid Marching Band fees at the conclusion of home camp on August 9, 2024 will result in a fine being placed on the student's Power School account. Unpaid fines will prevent the student from being permitted to register for classes, traveling on any other student trips, participating in certain extra-curricular activities, and, if a senior, participating in graduation activities. Help us manage costs and minimize the efforts of our volunteers by paying on time. Thank you!

How to pay for Marching Band fees and apparel

- Online at www.stevensonbands.org/2024MarchingBandPayments
- \$150 non-refundable deposit: Due at registration (no later than May 31, 2024)
- Order and pay for shoes & navy shirts (if needed): Due May 31, 2024
- Full payment (remaining \$335): Due August 1, 2024
- Unpaid balances go in PowerSchool as fines that must be paid to SHS
- Unpaid balances may prevent participation in other band and school-related activities

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND REGISTRATION

Registration Steps

1. All prospective members (first time and returning) of the Marching Band, including Color Guard, complete and submit the Registration Form at www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingband - **Due Mon May 15**
2. Pay \$150 non-refundable deposit at: www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingbandpayments - **Due at registration, no later than Fri May 31**
3. Order and pay for any needed apparel items (marching shoes / navy t-shirts) – **Due Fri May 31**
Payment link: www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingbandpayments
4. Complete online certification of Student Contract and Parent Agreement – **Due Fri May 31**
Online certification link: www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingbandcontract
5. Complete the Member Medical Information form online – **Due Fri May 31**
Online completion link: www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingbandmedform
6. Complete payment of the full \$485 Marching Band fee – **Due Thu August 1**
Payment link: www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingbandpayments
7. Upload the completed copy of the MHSAA physical form to BigTeams – **Due Thu August 1**
 - Download a blank form here: www.stevensonbands.org/physical
 - **Important! Complete ALL sections of this form (both sides)**
 - Physical Examination & Medical Clearance section **MUST** be filled out by a medical professional on or after April 15, 2024
 - **Instructions for BigTeams registration and submission information is on page 26 of this handbook and on our website at www.stevensonbands.org/marchingband**

Don't wait! Plan to get a sports physical before August 1st!

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND PREPARATION

Marchers should stay physically active – both with their instruments and other outdoor activities to help ease the physical demands of band camps. Break in your athletic shoes before rehearsing in them – don't come to camp with new shoes (truly helps prevent blisters).

Student-led fundraising efforts like car washes and bottle drives can be part of the plan for students to get to know each other and to take responsibility in their roles as members of the band. Parental help is requested to make these activities a success!

Traditionally, the band's sections compete against each other to see which one is the most successful at fundraising. The money raised helps pay for show expenses and other items that are needed during the season. Each member of the winning section typically receives a low-denomination gift card at the Marching Banquet in December.

Shop for materials / required items such as lyres, folios, and drill books so they are ready for home camp. Students will learn more about these items from student leaders while attending summer sectionals.

Basic Marching Band Supply List

See page 23 of this handbook for item descriptions

- Personal water bottle
- Lyre and music flip folder, with 8-12 windows
- Personal field marker, (your choice, flat is preferred)
- Pencil, Highlighters, 2-3 colors
- Sunscreen, Bug Spray, Hat
- 2 "Dot Books" (section leaders will need a 3-ring binder and sheet protectors)

Lyres and music flip folders can be purchased at local music stores or online at Amazon.com

Volunteers wanted!

- *Booster parents needed each day during camp*
- *Collecting donations*
- *Assisting with Change Wars*
- *Assisting with meals*
- *Assisting with uniforms*
- *Helping meet student needs*

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND CAMP INFORMATION

The focus of our camps is learning the music and marching drill. Marchers should be aware they will be outside in the summer heat at certain portions of the day. Outdoor marching during camp may take place on asphalt in the SHS parking lot. Wear comfortable shoes (white athletic socks are important too). Sunscreen, sunglasses, hats, and a refillable water bottle are **required** to keep cool and hydrated.

Attendance at camp is essential for all members to build trust and safety on the marching field. In addition to spending time together learning their music and the marching drill, campers gain valuable life experience by being responsible for themselves and how to co-exist with their peers.

Not permitted at our Camps

- *Fireworks, alcohol, tobacco and/or vape products, illegal substances, and weapons of any kind*
- *Violators will be sent home immediately and subject to discipline as determined by Utica Community Schools administrators*

Students that have jobs must tell their employers in advance they are not available to work between August 5th – 9th and August 11th – 15th. **Student employment and/or driver's training is not an excuse to miss camps!**

All staff and volunteers for our camps are background checked and cleared as required by Utica Community Schools.

Helpful Hints

- Clothing must be school-appropriate. If you would not wear it to class, do not wear it to camp
- Bring extra socks with you each day in case you would like to change to keep feet dry
- Supportive, broken in athletic shoes
- Sandals or flip-flops can be worn to air out feet when not on marching field
- Bring rain gear – raincoat or poncho (hint: pack a few dollar store ponchos that can be tossed)
- Bring snacks
- Marching supplies – **personal water bottle**, music flip folder with 8-12 windows, lyre, personal field marker, pencil, highlighters (2-3 colors), "dot books", hat, and sunglasses
- Sunscreen and insect repellent for personal use
- Cinch sack or small backpack to carry your stuff
- Ankle and/or knee support braces, if worn/needed
- **SOCKS AND SHOES MUST BE WORN ON THE MARCHING FIELD AT ALL TIMES – NO SANDALS. Shoes and socks protect your feet from injury, sunburn and insect stings.**
- Chafing is a common issue – look for anti-chafing products in the drugstore
- **Mark your name or initials on clothing and belongings** (especially on band gear, as everyone has the same t-shirts, etc.)
- Bring light colored clothing – dark colors absorb the heat
- Try to get some exercise before band camp. You are on the marching field for many hours and this could be difficult if you are too sedentary before camp
- **EAT and DRINK** properly at camp, this is not the time for diets; you will need energy and fluids to participate. Limit pop / caffeine during the day
- Get proper rest. You will be tired from marching

STEVENSON BAND BOOSTER CLUB

About the Band Boosters

The Stevenson Band Booster Club was organized to supplement the Instrumental Music program with fundraising activities, chaperoning, and other support activities under the direction of the Band Director and Booster Board.

If you have a child in any Stevenson Band Ensemble, including Marching Band, you are automatically a Band Booster and are asked to volunteer your time and talents. The Boosters are often in need of donations of time and items to support the band.

Learn more about the boosters by attending our Band Booster & Program Update meetings. The meeting schedule will be posted on our calendar which can be found on www.stevensonbands.org.

Your fellow band parents / band boosters are an excellent resource to get advice and answers about all things band. Get engaged and have fun!

Fundraising

Under the close guidance and direction of Mr. Yaros, the Stevenson Band Booster Club helps provide financial support for the Instrumental Music Program and its members through a number of fundraisers.

Fundraising activities take place throughout the year to help with students' band expenses and to raise funds to help offset program costs for all, including all in-school ensembles. Every family – including those at the Junior Highs and UAIS – is encouraged to participate with Band Boosters' fundraisers throughout the year.

If your child has previously participated with Booster fundraising, you may have money in your student assistance account that can be used for camp and/or marching apparel expenses. See page 23.

Chaperones / Logistics

The Band Boosters play an important role in the success of the Instrumental Music Program by providing volunteers to help chaperone activities, provide logistical support during the outdoor Marching Band season, and more. Volunteers are needed annually for sizing and distributing & collecting attire for both Marching Band and Concert Ensembles.

Annual Change War

- *Start saving your loose change!*
- *During home camp, containers will be available for sections to drop coins into*
- *Sections compete against each other to see who has collected the most coins – each member of the winning section receives a low-denomination gift card*
- *Parents needed daily to tally and roll coins*

Donations

The Boosters publish several requests for donations including non-perishable items such as snacks and bottled water that will be consumed by the Marching Band throughout the season. Donations provide a huge boost to both the kids and the parents by minimizing the amount of time that volunteers need to shop during camp and events. Donations of food for game-day dinners are also coordinated.

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND STUDENT CONTRACT LANGUAGE

Participation

I will attend all rehearsals/performances throughout the Marching Season as a member of the Stevenson Titan Marching Band. Performance conflicts with UCS-sponsored sports are excused depending on our event. Work is NEVER an excuse. **Under no circumstances are any students to leave the football games early without permission from Mr. Yaros.**

I fully understand if I miss, or I am late for ANY rehearsal/performance, I will be benched for the next performance, (depending on the reason), and my grade WILL be lowered. This is part of EVERYONE'S GRADE. If I do not have any music class for a grade, this still applies to you. If I miss TWO events/practices, I understand that I will be dropped from the Marching Band (depending on the reason). I also MUST supply Mr. Yaros with a letter, written by myself, with a signature from my parents/guardian explaining my actions.

I fully understand that I am responsible for my own decisions and actions and that many others depend on my attendance on a regular basis to assure that the Stevenson Marching Band is ready to perform safely. Students will be acting on their best behavior at all times, this will not be compromised. Also, as a Stevenson High School marcher that plays ANY instrument, you must be enrolled in a Band class to participate in the Titan Marching Band. There are no exceptions. If you are not on a class list by September 3, 2024 you will be removed from the Marching Band roster.

MARCHING BAND IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT. All members MUST participate every day at every rehearsal. Your attendance is vital to our safety and success.

Completion of Physical

I fully understand that I am responsible to ensure I have completed and uploaded a current year physical in order to participate in Marching Band, including camps. A current year physical is dated on or after April 15, 2024 - no exceptions. This rule is mandated by Utica Community Schools. The due date to submit completed physical forms is no later than Thursday, August 1, 2024.

Travel

I agree to conduct myself in a manner that is professional and is that of the high standards which the Stevenson High School Music Department requires on all trips with the Instrumental Music Program. During these events, Instrumental Music Boosters will serve as chaperones and will act as parents and guardians. All members are always expected to treat chaperones with respect and courtesy.

All school rules will be enforced at all times. Any infraction upon those rules could mean dismissal from the Instrumental Music Program with suspension or expulsion possible. In the case of a situation that involves a senior, that student may not be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. There will be no exceptions to any of these rules if they are broken.

If there is an incident, chaperones and the Band Director will document all facts and submit this information to the school's administration upon returning from the trip. Depending on the severity of the incident, the student's parents will be responsible for providing the student with a one-way ticket home immediately, at their expense.

All Instrumental Music Program members are expected to represent our school and community as if they were in uniform at all times. We are very proud of the reputation we have established. Please remember, it only takes one person to ruin it for the whole group.

Physical Education Flex Credit

Two years of Marching Band can be used to receive a Flex Credit to be used to fulfill the UCS graduation requirement of ½ semester of Physical Education.

I understand that to be eligible for this credit, I must complete 100% of the attendance requirements for the Stevenson High School Marching Band which include (but may not be limited to) all:

- Full-band performances
- Football games
- Camps
- Parades
- Rehearsals
- Indoor concerts

If I should miss an activity due to illness, I MUST provide a valid doctor's note to Mr. Yaros. I understand that I am responsible to complete and return, and have Mr. Yaros sign, all the required UCS paperwork so that the counseling department knows about and can apply this credit to my school record.

Online certification of receipt and acceptance of this Student Contract is due May 31, 2024

Online certification link: www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingbandcontract

STEVENS ON MARCHING BAND PARENT AGREEMENT LANGUAGE

I am signing my child up to be a member of the Stevenson High School Marching Band. All prospective marching band members must complete all registration and payment steps no later than Monday, August 5, 2024, the first day of home camp, to be fully eligible to participate.

Unpaid Marching Band fees after August 9, 2024 will be treated as fines in the student's Power School account and may prevent participation in class registration, extra-curricular activities, and, for seniors, graduation activities.

Utica Community Schools mandates that all Marching Band Members complete a physical to be eligible to participate in Marching Band. This physical must take place after April 15, 2024 and the completed form must be uploaded to BigTeams no later than August 1, 2024 to be eligible to participate in camp(s).

I have reviewed the Student Contract above with my child and agree to assist the Band Director and his staff members with the enforcement of all provisions of the contract.

Permission to Participate

I agree to allow my child to participate in Marching Band during the 2024-25 season which includes camp activities between August 5th and August 15th, 2024. If my child should be injured or become ill

while participating, I agree to pay for any necessary medical expenses, either through my own insurance or by other means.

Disclosures and Waiver of Liability

The information I/we submit to the Instrumental Music Program concerning myself and my/our child is truthful to the best of my/our knowledge. Further, in consideration of my/my child's participation in a Utica Community Schools (UCS) sponsored Marching Band, I/we do hereby agree, understand, appreciate, and acknowledge that participation in such marching band is purely voluntary; that such activities involve physical exertion and contact and that there is inherent risk of personal injury associated with participation in such activities, which risk I/we assume; and that I/we agree to, and hereby waive any and all claims, suits, losses, actions, or causes of action against UCS, its members, officers, representatives, committee members, employees, agents, attorneys, insurers, volunteers, and affiliates based on any injury to me, my child, or any person, whether because of inherent risk, accident, negligence, or otherwise, during or arising in any way from my/my child's participation.

I/we understand that I am/we are expected to adhere firmly to all established policies of UCS and Stevenson High School. I/we hereby give my consent for the above student to engage in marching band and for the disclosure to UCS of information otherwise protected by FERPA and HIPAA for the purpose of determining eligibility for marching band.

I fully understand that my student must have completed and uploaded a current year physical in order to participate in Marching Band, including camps. A current year physical is dated on or after April 15, 2024 - no exceptions. This rule is mandated by Utica Community Schools. The due date to submit completed physical forms online to BigTeams is no later than Thursday, August 1, 2024.

My student has read and we both agree to the terms of the Student Contract.

Online certification of receipt and acceptance of Parent Agreement is due May 31, 2024

Online certification link: www.stevensonbands.org/2024marchingbandcontract



STEVENSON MARCHING BAND

GLOSSARY OF IMPORTANT TERMS

- **MARCHING BAND FESTIVAL** takes place in the middle of October. The band is judged on marching, music, and the general effect of the performance. Festival is the culmination of all the effort at camp, evening rehearsals, sectionals and more. The goal is to receive a First Division Rating. Multiple schools participate, judged independently of each other.
- **UCS BAND-A-RAMA** usually takes place on a Sunday evening in early October. Featuring performances from all four UCS Marching Bands, it is a spectator event for parents and other fans held at either Stevenson or Utica HS. Each of the 4 booster groups rotate hosting responsibilities. Proceeds from admissions are used towards a scholarship fund for UCS instrumental music students (Gonda Scholarship)
- **A FIELD MARKER** is an object placed on the field so you can easily return to it during rehearsal. It can be anything small and relatively flat, like a small stuffed animal, a mini frisbee, a toy car, etc
- **A FLIP FOLDER** is used to hold music, in a specifically sized page protector, while marching. Attaches to a lyre
- **A LYRE** is a piece of hardware that connects a FLIP FOLDER to either an instrument or a flute player's arm to hold music while it is being learned

- Examples of a flip folder and lyres:



- **DOT** – A marching band drill contains many pages with numbered dots on them. Each marcher is assigned one of these dots. In visual terms, a marcher moves in step during a performance just like the dot in the book does
- **DRILL and DOT BOOKS** – For Section Leaders, a drill book is a 3-ring binder and about 35 clear page protectors (purchased on your own) that will hold pages with the full marching drill (all the moves marchers make during a performance). A dot book is an inexpensive 3" x 5" (approximately) spiral notebook used by individual marchers to reference just their position in the drill
- **MSBOA** is the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (www.msboa.org). An organized group of K-12 music educators across the state, MSBOA coordinates various competitions and activities. Students in the Stevenson cluster can participate in the following activities: Marching Band Festival, Band & Orchestra Festival, Jazz Festival, Solo & Ensemble, Honors and All-State groups. MSBOA activities are organized by district/region and state. The Stevenson cluster is member of MSBOA's District 16 (often stylized as District XVI).
- **CALL TIME** – The absolute latest time you should be present for a band activity. Expect the band director to adjust call time often, so be prepared to be flexible. The most successful band students often plan in advance to arrive 30 minutes prior to published call times to get ready.
 - Hint: If you are 15 minutes EARLY for Call Time then you are on time; If you show up AT Call Time then you are late; If you show up AFTER Call Time, well, just please don't do that!
- **Snaking the Halls** - Prior to home football games, except Homecoming, the Marching Band will march through the hallways of SHS just prior to the end of the school day (during Stevenson's 6th Hour). ALL Marching Band members are invited to (not required) SHS to participate – however, transportation is NOT provided for students not already in attendance at SHS when the band gathers at about 1:30 PM. Parents of students outside of the building must arrange for an early dismissal and all transportation.

STEVENSON MARCHING BAND

CUT TIME SOFTWARE

We are using online software called Cut Time to allow parents and students 24 x 7 x 365 on-demand access to individual band financial info and more!

All current Stevenson Instrumental Music students (including Marching Band) will automatically have a Cut Time account created for them once they:

- Sign up for Marching Band <or>
- Receive fundraising credits <or>
- Have a financial balance due <or>
- Have a form due

Upon automatic creation of the student's account, they will receive an invitation e-mail to their own e-mail address. Once accepted and a password is set, the student will have login access to their account.

Parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to create their own profile (using their own e-mail address) that will be linked to their students' account by clicking the following link:

<https://www.cuttime.net/createProfile.cfm>

Profile Creation Notes:

- Subscribing Schools/Groups: Stevenson HS Bands (Sterling Heights MI) ID:13054
- Your Position: Parent/Guardian
- Note: entering your birthdate is optional. This field is used for compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998; all parents/guardians are over the age of 13
- Profile requests will be manually reviewed and approved
- Each of the students' parents/guardians may create their own profile (no more shared credentials!)

Creating a parent profile is an excellent way to keep track of student assistance account balances, payments due, and paperwork that is due! Every student should have at least one parent/guardian with a Cut Time account!

To login to Cut Time for access to student information, click the link below:

<https://www.cuttime.net/signin.cfm>

or just look for this icon on our web site:



Authorized Cut Time users can:

- View your students' financial accounts (including fundraising credits)
- View forms due
- Update phone numbers / e-mail addresses

PAST SHOW THEMES

1992-93: Cartoon Show	1 st Division	2008-09: Motown USA	1 st Division
1993-94: Broadway Show	1 st Division	2009-10: Les Miserable	1 st Division
1994-95: Fiddler on the Roof	1 st Division	2010-11: The Piano Man Show	1 st Division
1995-96: Beethoven Show	1 st Division	2011-12: Road Trip USA!	1 st Division
1996-97: James Bond	1 st Division	2012-13: Welcome to the Jungle	1 st Division
1997-98: Western Show	1 st Division	2013-14: Vegas, Baby!	1 st Division
1998-19: Big Band Jazz	1 st Division	2014-15: One Upon a Time	1 st Division
1999-00: Star Wars	1 st Division	2015-16: Heart of a Hero	1 st Division
2000-01: West Side Story	1 st Division	2016-17: Friends	1 st Division
2001-02: Aaron Copland	1 st Division	2017-18: Wizards & Magic	1 st Division
2002-03: Jesus Christ Superstar	1 st Division	2018-19: Super Bowl Hits	1 st Division
2003-04: Disney Fantasmic	1 st Division	2019-20: The Music of Queen	1 st Division
2004-05: The Mask of Zorro	1 st Division	2020-21: Behind the Mask	n/a
2005-06: Jekyll and Hyde	1 st Division	2021-22: Rock of Ages	1 st Division
2006-07: Hollywood Highlights	1 st Division	2022-23: Return to Broadway	1 st Division
2007-08: The Beatles	1 st Division	2023-24: Nightmare in the Shadows	1 st Division

2024-25: to be announced ???????????

A tradition of excellence!

Class of 2025 – What will your legacy be?



PHYSICAL SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Stevenson Marching Band Physical Upload Information using BigTeams

The Stevenson Marching Band uses the same system as the athletic departments at SHS, DJHS, and JJHS to submit required sports physicals. This will result in one system that will work the same way no matter which secondary school you attend and no matter which activity / activities you participate in (band and/or sports). This will also eliminate the issue of misplaced physicals for those that opt to participate in winter and/or spring sports.

Physicals must be completed and uploaded to BigTeams no later than Thursday, August 1st – prior to the start of home camp. Both sides of the form must be completed and uploaded.

Getting started with Big Teams:

If you registered for either a sport or marching band and submitted a physical for the 2023-24 school year through Big Teams Student Central, the student and parent accounts you previously created will now also work for the band this coming year- you do not need to register again. You **do** need to submit **a new physical, dated on or after April 15, 2024**, for the new school year.

Be sure to select Marching Band as one of your sports (and add Stevenson High School if you are/were a junior high school student in the 2023-24 school year).

For new users to Big Teams, follow these instructions:

1: The student will go to <https://studentcentral.bigteams.com/> and follow the next steps (as a student) to complete registration. Click “Sign Up To Create New Account” and proceed through the account creation process (Note: Your school has not created an account for you).

IMPORTANT: Register for the school you will attend classes at in 2024-25. If you are a junior high school student, you will then add Stevenson as a second school to be able to select Marching Band as one of your sports.

2: A parent/guardian will go to <https://studentcentral.bigteams.com/> and follow the next steps (as a parent/guardian) to complete registration. Click “Sign Up To Create New Account” and proceed through the account creation process. (NOTE: Your login email address will need to be unique to your account and cannot be re-used. If you are a parent and also a staff member, you will need two accounts with two unique logins, one for being a parent and one for being a staff member.)

3. The student will send an invitation to their parent/guardian to link accounts: To do so, use the search “+ Link Parent Account” search options. If no results found, input parent’s preferred email address or mobile number, and click Send Request. Proceed to Athletic Forms after sending linking request or wait to complete the form requirements with your linked parent after they accept the invite.

4. The parent/guardian will accept the invitation to link accounts: The invitation will show within the parent profile. The linking invitation is emailed/texted to the intended parent but does not require action in order to accept the invite. Simply sign in with the email address/phone number that your student invited you by going to your Linked Accounts section. Once linked with student proceed to next step.

Everyone completes these steps:

1. Completion of “Exam” digital form (you must scan and upload of both pages of physical form):

Required for all Marching Band Members. Must be **a new physical, dated on or after April 15, 2024**

2. Requested - Completion of Emergency Contact – Parent/guardian Only: Your school utilizes the Emergency Contact section to build reports for game/events. Be sure to input as much information as possible, clicking UPDATE at the bottom when complete. Relevant information will also carry over to digital forms saving you time when completing registration for your student(s). Once complete click Forms followed by Athletic Forms.

3. Optional - Completion of remainder of digital forms (these are required if playing a sport, optional for band):

Students can begin completing forms while logged into their own account by clicking Forms and then Athletic Forms. Students can also wait for their parents to accept the linking request before getting started. In the Linked Accounts section for parent accounts there is a “Sign In As” feature that will allow students to sign their forms while logged into the parent account.

Once Parents are linked with your student(s), click Forms followed by Athletic Forms. From there, scroll down to your first student’s form requirements. Once complete, all forms will either show a status of Complete, Pending Staff Approval, or Awaiting Athlete Signature. . Need to help your student? Return to your Linked Accounts page after clicking My Profile to assist your student with their signature requirements.

Approved and/or Declined Notifications: If/when all forms are complete/approved by your school, a notification will be sent to you stating all forms have been accepted. You will be notified via email and/or text message (if you have selected the text message option during account creation). If a form has been declined by your school, you will be sent a notification in which you will be given the reason for denial and a link to review and resubmit your changes back to the school.

IMPORTANT: Band students that are not playing a sport and opt not to complete all the athletic forms will not receive an approval notification through BigTeams. If you opt to skip these forms, you will have the opportunity to return later to complete them should you change your mind about participating in a sport.

Need additional assistance? Check out Self Help on the BigTeams site or visit the help website at:
<https://bigteams.my.site.com/support/s>

Be sure to keep track of your BigTeams account information. Students and parents will continue to use these same logins to submit physicals and register for athletics each season / year they are a participant.

REGISTRATION & BAND APP QR CODES

Step 1: Online registration (due May 15)



Steps 2 & 3: \$150 deposit & order apparel (due May 31)

+

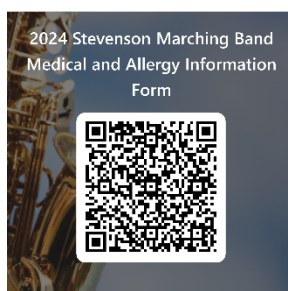
Step 6: Complete full payment of Marching Band fee (due August 1)



Step 4: Online contract certification (due May 31)



Step 5: Online completion of Medical Information form (due May 31)



2024 Titans Marching Family “Band” (on the Band App)

ALL students need to join and participate! Parents are welcome and encouraged



Or visit <https://band.us/n/a0a001T7t0c3c>

Titans Band Boosters “Band” (on the Band App)

Parents encouraged to join the Band and get involved with the group



Or visit <https://band.us/n/a0a809T1t8u4r>

