

Warren Consolidated Schools  
Sterling Heights High School

# Sterling Heights High School Bands

**Marching Band Packet**  
2026-2027

[shhsbands.org](http://shhsbands.org)



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**Sterling Heights High School  
Stallion Bands**

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*Please (both parents and students) read all of the enclosed information. This will help everyone to be prepared and productive for Band Camp and Marching Season.*

Dear Band Members and Parents,

It's time to prepare for a great year with the Stallion Bands. The bands of the past have helped to create a band with pride and great tradition of musical excellence. We provide the spirit, excitement and musical elements to not only football games, but throughout the school and school year. You have earned your membership to this fine organization through hard work, and you deserve the honor by being personally prepared when we begin our rehearsals as an ensemble. As a member of one of the most important elements representing Sterling Heights, you will be challenged to be an active participant in creating exciting music and marching performances. The new school year brings with it the opportunity for each of us to develop our musicianship, friendships, leadership, and teamwork. Whether you are a veteran or an incoming freshman, it takes commitment and hard work to reap the rewards. Congratulations on your membership to Stallion Bands! You are about to continue or begin a journey that you will never forget!

**THE STALLION MARCHING BAND** has an exciting season planned. We have home football games, including our annual Senior Night and Homecoming. We will also perform at WCS Band 'O Rama, MSBOA Marching Festival, Stallion Spectacular, Sterling Heights High School Pep Rallies, and the Sterling Heights Memorial Day Parade!

**PREPARATION** will continue through the summer: The Drum Majors will be attending Drum Major Camp to develop their musical, marching, and leadership skills. Section Leaders will be attending a Leadership Retreat. Color Guard and Drumline members are working hard through the summer to continue to develop their skills. Many band members will return from summer music camps or private lessons having gained new musical and leadership skills. And of course, there's your preparation that creates a great sound. It takes all of this to create a fine band. We are all fortunate to be able to be a part of something so meaningful and exciting each year.

**BAND CAMP WILL BEGIN in AUGUST** - These essential rehearsals are required of all band members. In addition to polishing fundamental musical and marching skills, and learning our halftime show, the band learns to perform as a group, and we get to know each other as people and as musicians. There is really no way to "make-up" missing Band Camp. All band members have the same rehearsal and performance attendance responsibilities. Drumline and Color Guard members begin practices in the summer. **Pre Band Camp** begins at the end of July.

**MUSIC PREPARATION, MEMORIZATION, AND EVALUATION** – Prepare all of your music to the best of your ability upon your arrival to Pre Band. By mastering your music, you will be able to learn your marching drill confidently and correctly. You will not want to wait until Band Camp to learn your part! -Remember, a mile is easiest run one step at a time: Don't try to do it all at once. Continue to practice regularly through the summer and you will be ready and confident in August. Find a recording of the music to help you. JWpepper.com is great. Record yourself and listen, and follow the enclosed "Important Rules for Productive Practice" – your practice will be more efficient, productive, and satisfying – and you will really enjoy sounding great!

**GETTING IN SHAPE** – Just as you must be prepared musically, it is important that you are physically ready for Pre-Camp. To develop endurance and strength, how about running, biking, swimming, hoops, baseball, tennis, soccer, helping with yard work, or marching at our practice field at SHHS?

**YOUR INSTRUMENT** - make certain your equipment is in top-notch shape, cleaned thoroughly, adjusted, oiled, extra reeds broken in, etc. Don't be without your instrument for long. Make arrangements for a loaner instrument if necessary. Remember one day of not practicing moves you backward two days!!!

**SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS** – If you use a school instrument (mellophone, sousaphone, percussion, etc.) and have not picked yours up, call or e-mail me. I will let you know when it's ready for you to pick up.

**SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED** - 1) sturdy, workable lyres - take your instrument with you to purchase a model that fits. 2) Flip folder - standard black, with windows. Both lyres and flip folders can be purchased at A&G Central Music, Eastside Music. Flutes - a "Flutist's Friend" wrist lyre will take care of both lyre and flip folder requirements, and you should not need a back-up. Percussion - no lyre needed, or flip folder is needed. Percussion will maintain a binder of music.

**DRESS FOR CAMP** – light-colored T-shirts, shorts, tennis shoes (no sandals, beach shoes, or heels for marching) and socks (avoid blisters) will keep you comfortable. Jeans or anything tight are strongly discouraged. A hat is a great asset on sunny, hot days, and sunglasses will reduce “brass glare”. We will be working hard - be dressed for it.

**UNIFORM FITTINGS AND RESERVATIONS** - All students will be fit for uniforms during Pre Band Camp and prior.

**WEEKLY AFTERNOON/EVENING REHEARSALS** - through October, **we will rehearse one evening per week**. It should be noted that many marching bands rehearse more hours, or two or more nights per week. We want to be reasonable with your family's scheduled commitments, so we really work at using this time efficiently.

**PARENTS** – please GET INVOLVED! Kids do better in school when you are involved!

**BRING WITH YOU THE FIRST DAY OF PRE-CAMP:**

Instrument or flag brass: valve/slide oil, woodwinds: extra reeds, perc: sticks, tuning key, music, lyre and flip folder, pencil for marking music and charts, cold water and **lunch**, comfortable clothes (see above)

**QUESTIONS?** - Contact your section leader or myself.

**WHAT KIND OF FALL SEASON WILL WE HAVE?** How exciting? How much fun? How satisfying? How much growth? It's in your hands; the strength of any group comes from its membership. In order for a band program to be successful you must be strong in the following areas: Parental support, Student work ethic, Supportive Administration, Great Teaching, and Supportive Community. Let's all do our part to make this season the best that it can be!

**MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS:** After Band Camp, we will have two rehearsals per week until the start of the school year (see calendar). Once the school year starts, rehearsals will be **ONCE** per week from 5pm-8:30pm. The day of the week will rotate between days to accommodate students that also play a fall sport. **It is imperative to our success as a band that students are at the rehearsal for its entirety!** Students who also play a fall sport will **ONLY** be allowed to miss **ANY** portion of a marching band rehearsal because of a **game/ meet/ match**.

ANY student who misses a rehearsal may lose their opportunity to perform in the pregame and halftime show during the next home game. However, they will still be required to attend the game, in uniform, and perform in the stands.

### **PRE BAND CAMP-**

There will be three days of pre-camp held at **Sterling Heights High School**, except for guard and drumline which will have five. It is required for all students to attend Pre-Band Camp in order to be in Marching Band.

**Be sure to bring a sack lunch, drink, a bottle of water and sunscreen on pre camp days.**

### **BAND CAMP**

Band camp will be held at Bear Lake Camp in Lapeer Michigan for one week. We will meet at Sterling Heights High School and bus to Bear Lake. On Friday at **11am**, we will have a performance at **Bear Lake Camp for parents and family members. Parents must make travel arrangements for their children to return from camp. It is the responsibility of the parents to make arrangements!**

## **A Few Words About Band Camp... From the Band Camp Committee**

Lions Bear Lake Camp provides three balanced meals daily to our students. There has always been an abundance of good food available to feed our hungry students, staff and chaperones. A salad bar is offered daily at lunch and dinner. The salad bar has a wide range of items to satisfy a broad range of appetites. In addition to the daily entree and salad bar; there is usually bread, soy butter and jam available as an option for picky eaters.

### **Snacks...**

During evening free times, healthy snacks and juice are available in the Dining Hall provided by money donated to the SHHS Band Boosters. They are specifically selected to be both PEANUT FREE and appeal to a broad range of kids taste preferences including: Air Popped Popcorn, Crackers & Cheese, Pretzels, Nutri- Grain Bars, Cheez-Its, Animal Crackers, etc. We also have an Ice Cream Social on Wednesday evening and provide supplies for S'mores during evening bonfires as a special treat. Fresh Fruit is always available in the Dining Hall.

### **Bringing Food from Home...**

We highly discourage bringing any food or drinks from home. Lions Bear Lake Camp maintains a PEANUT FREE facility. We have students with severe food allergies, so for the safety of our kids please do not bring any food from home. Enough food is provided during meals and snacks during free times to satisfy even growing teenagers.

### **Energy Drinks and Exercise don't mix..**

Medical experts advise that caffeine –laden energy drinks such as Monster, Red Bull, 5Hour Energy and others; are a bad choice during exercise and are therefore strongly not recommended at band camp. The concentrated caffeine (and other herbal stimulant ingredients) in these beverages not only make you lose more fluids through urine; it also has a laxative effect. To ensure proper hydration, begin drinking plenty of water in the weeks prior to camp and continue to do so while at camp. Begin a routine of going to bed early and getting up early before camp. Resist using any energy drinks or coffee to boost your energy.

### **Water Bottles..**

Please remember to pack a reusable plastic or metal water bottle and clearly label it with your student's name. They will be responsible for bringing their water bottles to the practice field with them daily at camp. A water station located on the field can be used to refill these water bottles, as needed throughout the day.

### **Injury Prevention..**

Please pack and wear appropriate clothing and shoes for Band Camp. This includes light colored, breathable clothing to help keep you cool. Jeans/jean shorts contribute to chafing and discomfort. Since chafing has been an issue in the past, we recommend the daily use of products like *Gold Bond Medicated Powder* or *Body Glide Anti-Blister & Chafing Stick* for both the ladies and gentlemen. *Body Glide* and similar products are available at most sporting goods stores.

To avoid blisters; wear only supportive, broken- in athletic shoes with white cotton socks that go above the ankle. We advise that you change your socks mid-day (and shoes, if possible) to keep your feet dry and refreshed. Pack plenty of socks!!

If you are prone to ankle or knee injuries, please plan ahead. Bring and wear a support brace or wrap every day. Doing so will keep you from injury and missing valuable time on the field.

Apply sunscreen and bug repellent often. Wear a hat and sunglasses to keep your head cool and sun out of your eyes.

## Band Camp Packing List

Please limit your luggage to two pieces, not including instrument case. To avoid loss, please label your name on all your belongings if possible (especially luggage and instrument cases).

### Personal Items:

- Bedding: Sleeping Bag, Pillow, Blankets, Sheet
- \*Clothing: Enough for 5 days- shorts, t-shirts, tank tops, sweats, hoodies, etc.
- Shoes: 2 Pairs of broken in supportive athletic shoes for practice. Flip flops for shower.
- Socks: Ample supply (10 pairs) of natural fiber (white) over the ankle socks recommended.
- Sleepwear: Cool evenings are likely
- Jacket
- Rain poncho
- Baseball cap
- Sunglasses
- **Water Bottle:** Reusable/un-breakable. Clearly labeled with name
- Towels/Washcloths
- Toothbrush/ Toothpaste
- Shampoo/Soap/Deodorant
- Comb/Brush
- Insect Repellent
- Sunscreen: SPF 30+
- Chapstick
- Flashlight: w/ fresh batteries
- Medications: Give to nurse before departure in original bottles, with name and dosage instructions.
- Ankle/Knee wrap or support braces
- Feminine Supplies
- Contact Lens Solutions/Supplies and glasses
- *Gold Bond Medicated Powder and/ or Glide Body and Chafing Stick*
- Book, deck of cards, games for free time
- *\*Optional: Camera, Cell phone & charger, iPod/charger, alarm clock*

*\* Dress code applies at camp! No inappropriate logos/ images. No lowcut tops. Please bring and wear modest clothing. Use your best judgment.*

**\*\*You are personally responsible for all of your belongings.**

Do not bring food to keep in your cabin. No nut products at camp.

Please keep in mind that there are limited outlets for electric devices.

Electric fans are provided by the camp for each bunk area.

Carpenter aprons will be provided to help keep water bottles and other items handy during practice.

### Instrument & Music Supplies:

- Your Instrument: Cleaned and in A-1 condition
- Sheet Music
- Lyres/Flip Folders/ (Extra) Folder pages loaded with sheet music
- Clarinets & Saxophones: Adequate supply of reeds
- Brass: Adequate supply of valve/slide oil
- Percussion: Adequate supply of mallets/sticks

## Band Camp Rules

- DO NOT go near the lake without an adult, including the fishing dock.
- DO NOT enter the fenced beach/swimming area for any reason.
- NO SWIMMING, Lifeguard will not be on duty.
- Students must remain in their cabins after 11:00 pm “Lights Out”. Quiet hour in Cabin Row will be enforced at 10:30 pm.
- During Evening Free time you are limited to the following areas: Dining Hall & Patio, Campfire area and the lighted area of Cabin Row. All other areas are off limits after dark for your safety.
- DO NOT go into any cabin not assigned to you at any time, for any reason.
- DO NOT enter camp trails without an adult/chaperone.
- Golf Carts are for chaperone/staff use only.
- Hazing, public displays of affection and other inappropriate behavior are not tolerated
- ALL MEDICATIONS should be given to the camp nurse prior to departure. The camp nurse will dispense ALL MEDICATIONS, please report to her when it is needed. Parents should collect any unused medication when they pick up their students from camp on Friday.
- The handicap swing on the playground adjacent to the dining hall is off limits.
- Sidewalk chalk, fireworks of any kind, matches, and lighters are NOT permitted at camp.
- In case of any emergency or injury, notify a chaperone or staff member immediately.
- Be respectful of others privacy and property; including school/camp equipment and property. Do not touch anything if it does not belong to you.
- For safety, keep all personal belongings in your bunk and/or cubby. Keep the main aisle clear.
- Clean up after yourself. Do not litter, use a trash can. If you see trash, pick it up. A clean camp, is a happy camp
- Shoes must be worn at all times outside of your cabin.
- As a courtesy, limit your shower time to 10 minutes.
- Be nice, make friends, have fun! 😊
- No low cut tops, no mid rift tops, no short shorts

All WCS and SHHS rules and codes of conduct apply. Band Camp is an official school function.  
Failure to obey these rules will result in you being sent home from camp at your parent’s expense

*Visiting Alumni are not to disrupt band students while they are on the field. They are welcome to visit in the dining hall/patios areas only, during free time when chaperones are present. For safety and security, visitors are not allowed in cabin areas*

## Map & Directions to Lions Bear Lake Camp

From Sterling Heights:

Take I-75 North to Exit 81; M-24 North- toward Lapeer

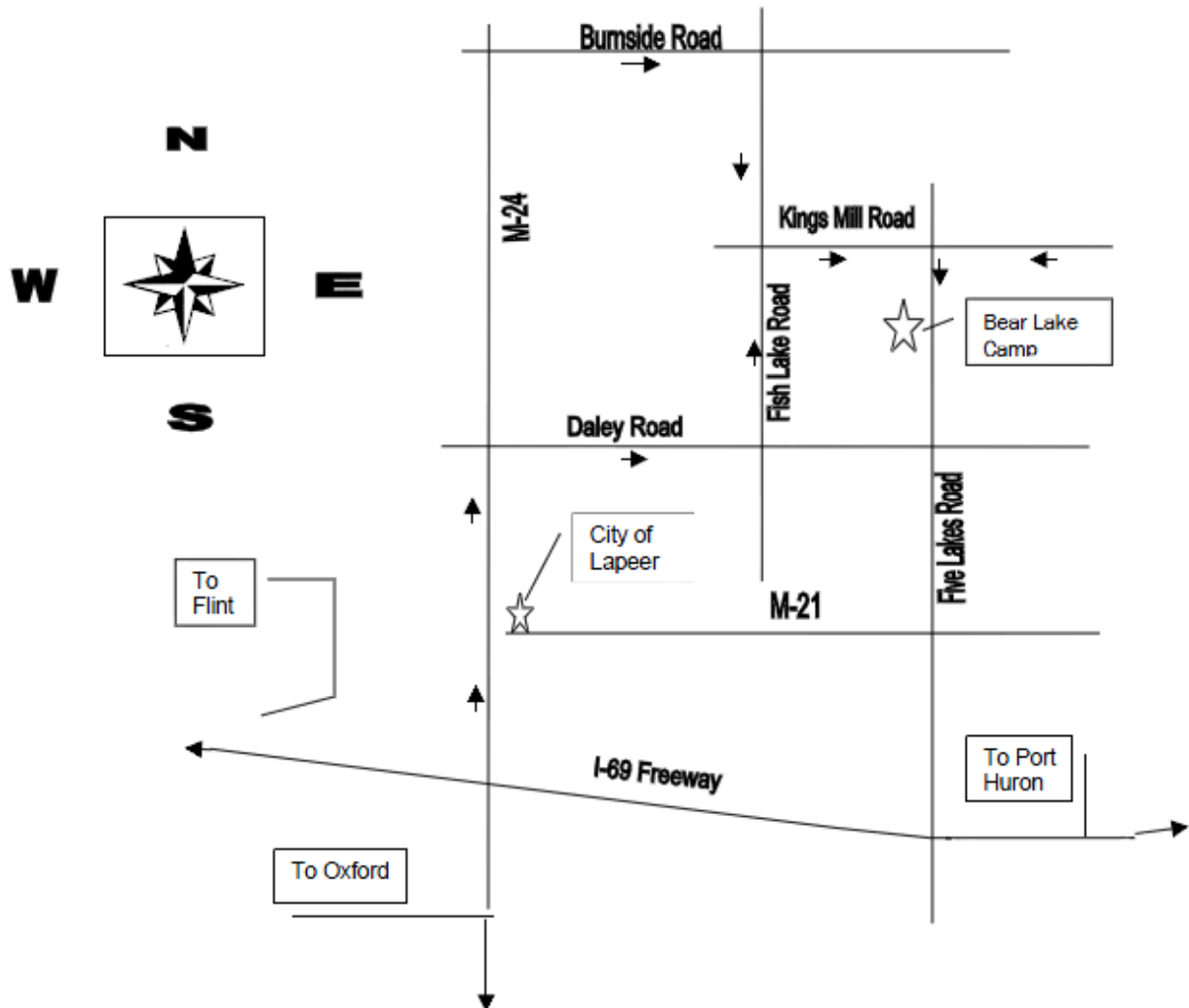
From the intersection of I-69 and M-24 proceed North 4.5 miles to Daley Road

Turn Right at Daley Road and follow directions in map below.

For GPS Users: Bear Lake Camp is located at 3409 N. Five Lakes Road, Lapeer, MI

*On Friday, please park in the main lot adjacent to the athletic field. The remainder of the camp will not be accessible due to camp staff cleaning and maintenance.*

### HOW TO GET TO BEAR LAKE CAMP



**DIRECTIONS:** From the intersection of I-69 and M-24 proceed North 4.5 miles to Daley Road. Turn right (East) onto Daley Road and go 3 miles to Fish Lake Road. Turn left (North) onto Fish Lake Road and go 3.2 miles to Kings Mill Road. Turn right (East) onto Kings Mill Road and go 1 mile to Five Lakes Road. Turn right (South) onto Five Lakes Road (Dirt Road) and go 1 mile. Bear Lake Camp will be on your right with a big sign to greet you.

**LIONS BEAR LAKE CAMP IS LOCATED ON FIVE LAKES ROAD ONE MILE SOUTH OF KINGS MILL ROAD**

## Sterling Heights High School Band Camp Daily Schedule

### MONDAY

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:00am - 7:30am	Arrive at SHHS
7:30am - 9:00am	Depart SHHS
9:00am - 10:00am	Arrive at Bear Lake Camp/ Unload
10:00am – 12:15pm	Stretch/ Basics on Field
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Lunch in Dining Hall
1:30pm - 3:30pm	Music Rehearsal/ Sectional/ Drill
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Free Time
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Dinner in Dining Hall
6:00pm - 9:00pm	Drill on Field
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Evening Activity/ Snacks in Dining Hall
11:00pm	Cabin Check/ Lights Out

### TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, & THURSDAY

TIME	ACTIVITY
6:30am - 7:45am	Stretch/ Basics on Field
7:45am - 8:45am	Breakfast in Dining Hall
9:00am - 12:15pm	Drill on Field
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Lunch in Dining Hall
1:30pm - 3:30pm	Music Rehearsal/ Sectional/ Drill on Field
3:30pm - 5:00pm	Free Time
5:00pm - 6:00pm	Dinner in Dining Hall
6:00pm - 9:00pm	Drill on Field
9:00pm - 11:00pm	Evening Activity/ Snacks in Dining Hall
11:00pm	Cabin Check/ Lights Out

### FRIDAY

TIME	ACTIVITY
6:30am - 7:45am	Remove all belongings from cabins/ Load Trailers/ Final Cleaning
7:45am - 8:45am	Breakfast (In Summer Uniform) in Dining Hall
9:00am - 10:30am	Stretch/ Basics/ Drill on Field
11:00am – 11:30am	Performance at Bear Lake
11:30am - 1:00pm	Depart for home. <b>NO BUS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED</b>

## Important Rules for Productive Practice

The first time you play your piece, or any section of it, be extremely careful to avoid making any mistakes in notes or time values. Get the idea, sing and finger first, go slowly. Form good habits your first time.

Sub-divide the piece into short sections.

Occasionally begin your practice period by beginning at the last section of the piece, then the next to last section, and so on until you have reached the beginning.

For the first few days of practice on a new piece, repeat one section four to eight repetitions before beginning to practice the next. When two sections have been practiced in this way, they should be joined together and given two to four repetitions as a whole. Ultimately, all the sections should be fitted together in this way. The same process will help you when it comes time for memorization!!

Resist the temptation to go on playing faster and faster (“rushing”). If you have a metronome, use it for an “external discipline” to check yourself.

During your practice, free your mind from any anxiety concerning the final results of your practice, either with regard to standards or deadlines.

Always try to approach the act of learning a new piece when you are as fresh as possible.

Always be on the watch for signs of staleness. This usually reveals itself through a lack of expression in your piece or in the presence of more than the usual amount of inaccuracy. Become one with the music.

In the earliest stages of learning anything new, the rate of forgetting is very rapid. Therefore, the maxim “Little and Often” in the early stages of learning is very important.

Try to practice at times when you do not feel irritable or annoyed; find your good times.

**Do** get into the habit of trying to look upon yourself as an ordinary human being. This means you neither set yourself absurd and impossible standards of work or achievement, nor allow yourself to be satisfied with a standard which you know really could be and ought to be better.

Think ten times and play once.

Count bars, not beats, if your playing is lacking in movement.

Think the rhythm and hear the tones always before starting to play.

Listen for resonance, not noise, in loud passages.

Don't work against time. If you have only one hour at your disposal, plan 45 minutes practice and do the most with each minute. If you attempt a plan for the whole hour, you will have an eye on the clock, a nervous tension that may result in muscular tension, and much of your mental energy will be wasted.

# Marching Band Handbook and Frequently Asked Questions

shhsbands.org



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# STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND MISSION STATEMENT

## *PRAESTANTIA ~ DOMESTICUS ~ CIVITAS ~ LEGOTUM*

### *PRAESTANTIA "EXCELLENCE"*

It is the belief of the Sterling Heights High School Band that we pursue excellence in all our endeavors. Members of the band consistently create positive habits which allows us to achieve our goals. We believe in excellence in musical performance and therefore arrive prepared, with a positive attitude, and well practiced for all rehearsals and performances. We understand that our personal best is expected of us at all times. SHHS Band also believes in excellence in education. Students of the SHHS Band understand that failure in the classroom is not an option. Furthermore, we know that continual dedication and acts of professionalism will help achieve all of our goals both musically and otherwise.

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." -Aristotle

### *DOMESTICUS "FAMILY"*

The members of the SHHS Band are part of a family. We understand that our goals of musical excellence and educational excellence are limited when we work as individuals rather than as a team. We are dependent upon each other for the success of our group. Members of the SHHS Band are expected to help each other, in and out of the classroom. We treat each other with respect and care, supporting and encouraging one another in times of despair. Furthermore, we believe that we must cooperate and communicate as a family in order to achieve our goals. SHHS Band students also understand that the above is not only necessary for the success of our band program but also a necessary ingredient for success in life beyond high school and college graduation.

### *CIVITAS "CITIZENSHIP"*

Members of the SHHS Band embrace the responsibility that is expected of them as ambassadors of Sterling Heights High School and Warren Consolidated Schools. Members of the SHHS Band will demonstrate leadership within the school community as well as leadership in the Sterling Heights community at large. Additionally, as model citizens of Sterling Heights High School, we learn from our diversity; diversity of thought, culture, and ethnicity.

### *LEGOTUM "LEGACY"*

We as members of the SHHS Band, have a unique opportunity and obligation as a member of long standing organization of Sterling Heights High School. We understand that the previous members of the SHHS Band have created a standard and an ideal of excellence for us to follow. Furthermore, it is up to the current membership to build from the established excellence and to uphold these standards. We understand that this culture is created by acts of leadership from the membership. Likewise, we believe that the true test of a leader comes after the individual has graduated and is no longer part of the organization.

## INTRODUCTION

Being a member of the Sterling Bands has the potential to provide some of the most memorable experiences you will have during your high school education. This handbook is written as a guide to help you be successful in the Marching Stallions and to explain the opportunities and responsibilities of being a member.

Marching is an integral part of any instrumental program across the United States, and dates back to before the American Revolution. Once used to keep the armies together during war, and to identify allies and enemies, the marching band has come to be a leader in entertainment to the fall sports season. The majority of the fall semester is dedicated to marching band, and coincides with the football schedule. There are many performances involved as well as travel opportunities. The marching band provides entertainment for half time shows, parades, and pep rallies, on the field, in the stands and in the parking lot. Although marching band does not construe the entire department of instrumental music, it is a very large portion. Because it is such an instrumental part of the program, it is important to know that marching band will be mandatory for all students in the band program at Sterling Heights High School.

It is often said that “if you want anything done, ask a busy person.” Busy people know how to manage time and effort. That is why sports and other “outside” activities are encouraged and supported by the director. Time is shared by all coaches and extra practice is always available. The majority of the band is involved in many fall sports, (soccer, swimming, tennis, etc.), and are still an integral part of the marching bands.

During marching season, the students have the chance to meet the other members of the program, and learn the most important aspect of being in bands...teamwork! The instrumental music department at Sterling albeit separated by different bands, is always **one** program! Each ensemble affects the other, and we all work as one whole. Marching band is the chance for all band personnel to work together on the field and build the true comradery that is unique to being a band member.

## PRE BAND CAMP

**Pre Band Camp**-Three days are devoted to basic marching techniques. The freshmen will have a chance to get to know their student leaders, new staff and their new director! We will work on things such as:

- Correct position of Attention
- Verbal commands
- Proper roll/glide step marching
- Making basic formations on the football field
- Marching with instrument in playing and rest position
- Familiarizing ourselves with cadences
- Music rehearsals
- Memorization techniques
- Making acquaintances with new peers and team mates
- HAVING FUN!!!!
- Uniform fitting and distribution

## BAND CAMP

**Band Camp** primarily focuses on learning our Half Time Show. We also re-enforce and continue the basics covered in the first three days of camp. Additionally, we have scheduled some special surprises as well as an optional evening activity.

The band will be augmented by the assistance of the Band Boosters, and a full time marching and musical staff! The staff has been selected by Mr. Imbrunone and will assist in band camp as well as throughout the season.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT THE HIRED STAFF IS AUTHORIZED BY MR. IMBRUNONE TO FIX AND ADJUST ANY AND ALL PERSONNEL ON THE FIELD. THEY ARE AN EXTENSION OF THE DIRECTOR AND ARE TO BE RESPECTED AS SUCH!***

Marching Band Camp is required for **all members of the marching band! If you don't attend, you are not in the marching band. If you leave to go home during band camp, you may lose your place in the marching band. This will be taken on a case by case basis with the student.**

Band is the largest team in the school. We work and live together as one unit. If one person doesn't practice and learn their part, they are hurting the team as a whole. There is no I in team, or band.

The most important thing to remember is to have FUN!!!

## REHEARSALS

\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE READ\*\*\*\*\*

All rehearsals are required.

**Rehearsals will be ONCE per week from 5pm-8:30pm.** We will rotate the day of the week to accommodate students that also play a fall sport. Students who also play a fall sport will only be allowed to miss ANY portion of a marching band rehearsal because of a **game/ match/ meet**.

ANY student who misses a rehearsal may lose their opportunity to perform in the pregame and halftime show during the next home game. However, they will still be required to attend the game, in uniform, and perform in the stands.

If there is a family emergency, or formality, such as a wedding, or a funeral, there must be a written note from the parent, and contact from the student. With the exception of funerals, the director must be notified of any planned absences at least two weeks in advance.

**Parents, please do not schedule doctor appointments during band rehearsal times.** Your students attendance effects the entire band.

It is vital to the success of our marching season, that attendance is not an issue. To simply put it, students need to be at practice. Imagine trying to adjust formations with people missing. It's impossible.

“To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late” William D. Revelli  
Please be on time to all rehearsals and performances.

## BEHAVIOR

The Warren Consolidated Schools and Sterling Heights High School Student Code of Conduct must be followed on the field as well as in school. The same consequences will be followed by the band director if the code of conduct is broken.

## COLOR GUARD

The color guard is also a historic part of the band program. The guard also dates back to before the American Revolution. The guard has always been used to present the “Colors”, showing the country of the army, and today presenting the flag during memorial services and celebrations. This is a very serious part of the band, which through the years has opened up and has given the band much more color, movement and show possibilities. **Guard members are considered to be members of the band**, and must adhere to the same rules as the band members. These members are charted into the show and the band, by the drill writer and director, to keep continuity of the show. Due to the extra practice and training required, there is a separate audition for each. The audition will be held in front of the band director as well as the guard coach (hired by the director), choreographer, and possibly the current section leaders.

The attendance policies for the auxiliary units are the same as the band members.

## DRUM MAJORS

Drum Majors are the leaders of the band! They are the director's right hand. There are many times during the season, mainly in performance, in which the drum majors are in control. The auditions for Drum Major are to be held in April or May. They are held in front of the band, a criterion is presented to the applicants at that time. The band votes for drum majors and the director has the overall and final decision. Past practice is to have Senior Drum Majors and Junior Drum Majors.

## SECTION LEADERS

Section leaders are the right hand to the drum majors. Everyone can not be at all places at once. Section leaders are those that show good leadership qualities, and know all of the essentials both musically and fundamentally. These people know their own parts and charts as well as those around them. They assist in the charting of the show, giving of memory tests, and extra help to those who need it. They have the authority to call sectionals, which are mandatory when called, as they are in constant contact and consent with the director. If at anytime any one member has problems with their section leader, they must approach their drum majors or the director.

## SECTIONALS

Sectionals are outside practices from the full rehearsals. These may be called by the section leaders, drum majors or director. They are usually student run with check ins by the director. They will be called with ample warning of time, and so are mandatory. If a student is unable to attend a sectional due to work or some activity, the student must address the director so a compromise in schedule may be made. Note that sectionals are to help sections as a unit which in turn only helps the band as a whole.

## FOOTBALL GAMES

Games start at 7:00 p.m. We will set a call time prior to each game and meet in the band room. Students are to report to the band room. Each member is required to stay the entire length of the game and remain in the stands unless otherwise noted by the director. Your director is the **only** person that may dismiss you from a game or rehearsal! It is my philosophy that our performance begins when we step out of the band room and ends when we return. Therefore, **ALL PERSONNEL ARE REQUIRED TO STAY IN THE STANDS FOR THE ENTIRE GAME!**

The band sits in a designated section of the stands. **Only band personnel** are allowed in this section. A non band member may not sit with the band and will be asked to leave.

Remember that you represent the entire band while in uniform. Do NOT deface or disrespect the uniform, doing so only disrespects the band. You are to remain in full uniform until dismissed from the band room after the game.

When the team wins the game, the band may reverse their helmets, and "bee-bop" back to the band room.

We are at the game to give our best performance at Half-Time and to support our football team. Please show respect to the team and play when appropriate in the stands. When your drum major or director cut you off or tell you to be very quiet YOU DO SO! The team can be penalized on the band's behalf, so we will try our best to avoid this occurrence. We are not the only support team at the football games. We will do our best to work and cheer together with the cheerleaders.

It is vital for everything to run smoothly on game day, students follow protocol. You can imagine the planning that goes into running a large event such as this. Please help your students with this.

Additionally, students are required to wear their Marching Stallions shirt to school on game days. This helps unify us throughout the school.

*Game day is a special day in Stallion Country. It is a day when staff, students, parents, and alumni come together for our football team. It is also an event where Sterling Heights High School can showcase many of the great things that make up our community; great student body, fantastic parent support, dedicated staff, award winning cheerleading and dance, and the world class "Marching Stallions!" On a personal note, marching band, particularly football games, were some of the most fun times I had while in high school. Many members of the Stallion Marching Band members feel the same way. We have a lot of fun at the games!*

## **SPORTS AND OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Activities outside of band are encouraged and supported. Many of the personnel in the band also play sports; participate in leadership and many other clubs. The coaches and I work together to share our student body, and make sure that they are able to put their best efforts in all of the organizations that they are a part of. Everyone is still responsible for their music and charts regardless of how many activities they are in, but outside help is always available. It is vital to the success of all activities that students balance the time appropriately. If a student is successful in a sport but is letting the band team down, adjustments may be made.

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Of course everyone needs money, and so we all work. This is understood, however, it is state law that an employer may not reprimand an employee due to an academic schedule, as long as the employer has **ample notice of dates from the employee**. Each member of the band has dates of performances and rehearsal dates. **There is no reason for anyone to miss rehearsals or performances due to work.**

**Note: Band is an ACADEMIC COURSE, and so does take priority over out of school scheduling!**

## **COLLEGE CREDENTIALS**

Band is looked at by colleges with, equal if not more, interest than any other club or organization in the school. Being a member of the band (especially marching band) shows that the student can participate as a member of a team. They have the opportunity to show leadership qualities and they are able to manage their time efficiently between multiple tasks (especially as section leader or drum major). There are scholarships offered to those in marching band (both in and out of the music field) because of these qualities.

## SOME THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

1. Be on time and ready to work at all practices.
2. Come with a positive attitude that we're going to be the best we can be "as a team"
3. Practice time is an important time to put routines, music and coordination together and to work on techniques. Any disagreements should be addressed AFTER practice. Everyone's time is valuable, so any personal issues should be left at the door. Your problem is not everyone else's problem.
4. Should you become ill or not feeling well, we need to know right away so we can deal with your health issues and not have you working out when it's not physically safe. ALSO – if you are injured in or at school or practice, please make us aware. There are procedures we must follow on these incidents.
5. All adult and team members are to be treated with respect and kindness. There is to be no name-calling, gossip or insults towards ANYONE. Any infringement on this rule will result in reprimand from the director. We all deserve to feel like we fit in and are a part of the team, as we have many levels of talent.
6. As a team, practices are very important. Absences happen. These need to be valid reasons.
7. I will listen to any suggestion, but, as director, I will have the final decision. Hopefully, these rules will make for a more positive team. I'm looking forward to another great year.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## ... About Marching Band

### What if I play a non-marching instrument?

Some instruments, such as the oboe and bassoon, are not used in marching band. Students who play a non-marching band instrument should contact Mr. Imbrunone as soon as they sign up for band. Mr. Imbrunone will help them determine which instrument to play in marching band (many students choose to play the instrument they played in fifth grade, play a percussion instrument, or march guard).

The school district offers summer instrument rentals for a nominal fee. If your student needs to rent an instrument, please advise Mr. Imbrunone. These instruments are available on a first-come first-served basis.

### When does Marching Band rehearse?

Practice is 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. once a week during marching season. Marching season runs from early September to late October. Attendance at practice is **mandatory**.

### What is “call time”?

Call time is the time when the student should be in full marching uniform in the band room with instrument out and ready to play (not just walking in the door). **Please remember “To be early is to be on time. To be on time is to be late!”** Mr. Imbrunone will announce the call time for each football game a few days prior to the game.

### Does the Marching Band go to Festival?

Yes. The MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association) Marching Festival is typically held in October, on a school night, at a high school in the area. **Attendance is mandatory**. At this festival, area marching bands perform their halftime shows in front of judges who score the bands on music, marching and overall affect. Tickets can be purchased prior to the event through Band Boosters or at the event box office. If attending the Festival, make sure to arrive early because parking may be difficult and you will only be allowed to enter the stadium between band performances.

### What is Band-a-Rama?

Band-a-rama events are held in late September or early October. At these events, several area bands perform their half-time shows and receive feedback from judges to help prepare for Marching Festival. **Attendance is mandatory**.

- WCS Band-a-Rama is held for the WCS high school bands only and the location is alternated between all three high schools. At this event, in early October, the bands perform their half-time shows and receive feedback from judges to help prepare for marching Festival. **Attendance is mandatory**.

### Are there any other after school obligations during marching season?

Yes. Section Leaders may call for sectional rehearsal (rehearsal for students who play one particular instrument) during the summer and/or throughout the marching season. These sectionals may be held at school or at a student’s house and are intended to help the section improve musically and bond as a group.

### What time does the marching band play at football games?

The kickoff time for SHHS home football games is 7:00p.m. The Marching Stallions perform a Pregame Show approximately at 6:45 p.m. The band also performs at halftime.

### Do the students do anything as a group after home football games?

Yes. After every home football game, a large number of marching band members (along with some parents) gather at a local restaurant. This is not a mandatory function.

## **. . . About Band Camp**

### What is Band Camp?

Marching Band Camp is a fun week when the entire band learns the marching show for the new season. It is vitally important that **all** band members attend this camp.

### Does my child have to go to Pre-Marching Camp and Band Camp?

Yes. Attending both pre-marching camp and band camp is vitally important to your child's success in the marching band. At pre-marching camp and band camp, the entire band show is learned. It is also a time when band students make friends and form the band family.

### What is a lyre and a flipbook and where do I buy them?

A lyre is a small music stand that students use while marching. For most instruments, the lyre attaches to the instrument. The flute lyre is worn on the flutist's forearm. A flipbook holds the various pages of music. You may be able to purchase a lyre and flipbook as one piece. Lyres and flipbooks can be purchased at any local music store, but don't wait until the last minute to buy them since a lot of band students need to purchase these at the same time. They will be available at the Kickoff Meeting.

### What happens on the last day of Band Camp?

On Friday, the last day of Band Camp, an informal performance will be held on the practice field at Bear Lake for family members. After the performance, the band students will be released to their parents to drive them home. **Please note: bus transportation home from camp will not be available.**

## **. . . About General Band Issues**

### Can my student join Marching Band but not be in a regular band class?

Yes. However, 90%-95% of the students are in both marching band and a regular band class. Due to some scheduling problems (frequently involving participation in WCSPA, MMSTC and CPC), some students are unable to fit a band class into their class schedule. By allowing them to join Marching Band these students are able to continue participating in music and be a part of the band family. Please note, any scheduling problems preventing your student from being in a band class needs to be brought to the attention of Mr. Imbrunone. Most conflicts have a resolution. Please ask our counselors questions about conflicts, because there is a solution.

### Do I need to specify a particular band when I fill out my child's class schedule?

Yes. All freshmen should register for Cadet Band. It is best for the freshman to be in the Cadet Band in order to have a chance to meld better with the program and their new director.

### Can my child be in band and participate in sports?

Yes. Students who participate in sports should inform Mr. Imbrunone. Upon receipt of the sports schedule of practices and games, compare it to the band schedule and advise Mr. Imbrunone of any conflicts as soon as possible. Mr. Imbrunone and the athletic coach can then work out compromises. Communication between the athlete, Mr. Imbrunone and the coach is very important.

### Why do you want my e-mail address?

Most communication with parents is done by e-mail. The Band Booster Secretary sends reminder and breaking news e-mails to band families.

### Does my child have to participate in MSBOA Solo & Ensemble?

No, but they are strongly encouraged to participate. Participation in Solo & Ensemble makes the student into a stronger player which, in turn, strengthens the concert ensembles. Participating in Solo & Ensemble also helps the individual learn responsibility, long range planning skills, and working with others.

Are instruments available through the school district?

Yes. The WCS Music Department has a limited number of instruments that may be used by band students. Most of these are the instruments that “round out” a musical ensemble—tuba, baritone, bassoon, oboe, piccolo, bass clarinet, etc.—however some standard instruments are available. These instruments are on a first-come first-served basis. Contact Mr. Imbrunone if your student is interested in using one of the district’s instruments.

Can instruments be rented for the summer?

Yes. The WCS Music Department has a limited number of instruments that may be rented over the summer for a nominal fee. Since these instruments are available on a first-come first-served basis, contact Mr. Imbrunone several weeks before the end of the school year.

Are the Band Booster and SHHS Booster Club the same organization?

No. The SHHS Booster Club is a larger organization that is concerned with activities for the entire school population. Band Boosters is an organization just for SHHS band parents.

How do I get involved with Band Boosters?

Come to one of our meetings. All parents of band students are automatically members of Band Boosters.

**Membership is free!**

What does the Band Booster Organization do?

The Band Booster Organization was formed to support our fine band students and the band program. We manage to have lots of fun in the process! We provide chaperones, fund "extras" and necessities that are not paid for by the district, arrange the banquet, administer band camp, etc. There are lots of volunteer opportunities, and help is always welcome! Please feel free to join us at one of our meetings!

Does the band have a website?

Yes, it is [shhbands.org](http://shhbands.org). Our website is kept up to date with our Google Calendar. Check it out!

# STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BANDS MARCHING UNIFORMS

## Items Provided by the School

Coat  
Bibbers  
Shako  
Plume  
Raincoat (distributed as needed)

*Please note that all items provided by the school stay at the school. Students change into uniforms prior to a performance and change out of them after a performance.*

## Items to be Purchased through Band Boosters via Revtrak

Black shoes  
Black gloves (various styles dependent on instrument) (percussion do not wear gloves) (included in the cost of camp)

## Items to be Purchased on Your Own

Black socks (must be at least calf length)

## Marching Stallion T-Shirt

The Marching Stallion T-Shirt is included with the cost of band camp. A new t-shirt is provided to each student every year. The Marching Stallion T-Shirt **must** be worn to school on the days of home football games, pep rallies, etc..

# STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

The Band Booster Organization is a parent organization formed to promote the welfare and interests of the students in the school bands; to encourage participation in support activities such as fundraising, volunteered time, social events, etc.; and to encourage community support of band activities.

Band Booster activities are fun and rewarding, and students are not the only ones who benefit. Active Band Booster parents form friendships that last well past their child's attendance at SHHS.

Band Booster meetings are usually held in the band room (located in the southeast corner of the high school—you may enter through the outside band room door).

Various fundraisers are held throughout the school year to benefit the Band Booster Organization and, by extension, all band students. All monies raised go toward band activities. **Running a band program is expensive and much of the cost is not paid by the school district, therefore your participation and support of these fundraisers is crucial.**

## The Sterling Heights High School Band Boosters

Use several forms of communications to share information including:

**Remind:** Please join our remind group to be kept up to date on everything. We have a different group for each grade level.

**Email~** Our official email address is [StallionBandBoosters@Gmail.com](mailto:StallionBandBoosters@Gmail.com). The Band Booster Secretary uses this email account to send out all official communication from the Band Director and Band Booster Club. Please subscribe to the email list by emailing your name, students name and band class that they are in. *Your email address will not be shared; and will be used for official band correspondences only.*

**SHHS Band Website~** [www.shhsbands.org](http://www.shhsbands.org) Please refer to this site often as it is constantly being updated with the most recent information. One of the best features of the website is the Google calendar that can be integrated with your personal Google calendar. Additional features, such as downloading files from the site will be available soon. Tag this site or place a link to it in your toolbar so that you can access it easily and often.