

Oswego High School BANDS

PRIDE	DEDICATION	EXCELLENCE	LOYALTY	PRIDE	DEDICATION	EXCELLENCE	LOYALTY
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Greetings!

It's time to begin planning for the 2020-2021 Oswego High School Panther Marching Band season. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is much that is still up in the air in regards to rehearsals and performances. That said, we still would like to begin the registration process now. As much is uncertain moving forward, we are going to present information in this document as we would in a normal season with the understanding that some rehearsals/performances may be cancelled/rescheduled/etc. Due to COVID, we are still in the process of selecting a show and will let everyone know what it is once it has been decided. After you sign up, we will provide you with music and additional information that contains answers to some frequently asked questions. If our season proceeds as normal, we will be performing at all home varsity football games and will be hosting the 24nd Annual Panther Marching Band Festival. Additionally, we will be competing in the Prospect HS Knight of Champions, Dekalb HS Marching Band Championship, Northern Illinois University Red and Black Classic and the Downers Grove South HS Marching Mustang Music Bowl!

What is the Panther Marching Band?

The Panther Marching Band is an extra-curricular music ensemble that serves several purposes. This volunteer group will draw the most dedicated and motivated students, resulting in a marching band that has the desire to strive for the next level of quality performance. The Marching Band provides half-time entertainment at all home varsity football games and participates in community events such as local parades and other functions. The Panther Marching Band plays a vital role in raising morale throughout the Oswego Community. We also perform in a variety of marching band festivals/competitions each year.

Why should I be in the Panther Marching Band?

The real question should be: Why shouldn't you be a part of it? The PMB provides positive experiences musically, socially, and personally. It provides students with the opportunity to perform in a quality ensemble and to be challenged both musically and physically at the same time. Few activities teach you as many concepts at once as the Marching Band. As a member of the PMB you will learn to improve yourself in the areas of musicianship, personal responsibility, discipline, social interaction, and physical coordination. As an incoming freshman, the PMB provides the chance for you to get to know some sophomores, juniors, and seniors before the first day of school. The older students are extremely willing to help out their fellow band members find classes, find lockers, help with their homework, and any other problems you may encounter along the way. The PMB provides you with a STRONG social support group right from day one to help insure your success at Oswego High School.

What are some of the time commitments involved?

Attached in this packet is a list of performance and rehearsal dates. Along with summer camps, once school starts most rehearsals are Monday and Thursday afternoons from 2:45pm – 5:30pm. As a member of the PMB, we expect the commitment from you to attend ALL scheduled band activities (unless there is a situation due to COVID which would keep you from attending), both rehearsals and performances. The SUCCESS of the organization depends on the contributions of everyone. This is a TEAM where all members are equal and essential. All members have a place and function in creating a complete performance.

What if I have a conflict with a rehearsal or performance?

We all realize and understand that sometimes unavoidable conflicts occur. Considering we may have to reschedule a number of rehearsals this year, we know there may be a higher number of conflicts than usual. Please list any conflicts you're aware of at this point as best as you can, and we can update them as we move into the summer and fall as needed. Conflicts will be dealt with on an individual basis. Since all circumstances are different, please do not assume that your absence is excused without discussing the conflict with the directors. If too many conflicts exist, the directors may not allow the student to participate in the marching band season due to excessive absences. Students will need to make up rehearsal time for all absences.

PLEASE SCHEDULE SUMMER VACATIONS AROUND SUMMER CAMP WEEKS AS BEST AS POSSIBLE. *See Attendance Policy on the following page for additional information regarding absences.*

How much does it cost?

Normally, the fee for participation in marching band is \$275.00, HOWEVER, this amount may be reduced if our season is shortened due to COVID. The money goes towards your T-Shirt, additional instructors during band camp, transportation, and helps fund other necessary costs to run the organization. You will also be asked to buy specific marching band shoes called "Drill Masters" (ordered through us) that will cost approximately \$30.00. This is potentially a "one-time" purchase (depending on your growth). Also, as per school board policy, all student activities will be charged an additional \$65 participation fee that will go directly to the school district and which will be paid through pushcoin (participation fees and show fees will go directly to OHS Bands). We will not collect any money at this time and will update everyone at some point down the line when we have a better idea of if we are going to reduce costs or not.

Do I have to audition?

No...for the most part. Percussionists will need to submit a recording to see which instrument they are best suited to play, but everyone will have a spot in the band either way. Information regarding percussion recordings will be sent out to percussionists soon. Drum majors and section leaders also must audition for their position. There are no auditions for brass or woodwinds either as long as you have sufficient skill on your instrument. Students without sufficient experience on their instrument will be auditioned. Color guard is also the only section that students can participate in that does not require you to also be in one of our curricular bands during the day. Make sure to invite your non-band friends to join this section!!!

Are there alternates/shadows?

Each year we will provide students the opportunity to participate in the marching band as an alternate/shadow. Essentially, these students will participate in all aspects of the marching band except marching on the field during competitions. They will be given a separate job for competition days. They will still perform in games, parades, etc. Their drill position will be written so it doesn't affect the larger form on the field. Shadow positions may be assigned to students who have to miss a large portion of summer camp/rehearsals (if we are still able to hold these rehearsals as normal) or those who are struggling significantly with fundamentals of playing and/or marching. This way, students will still be able to participate in the PMB in the most educationally beneficial way for both individual and band. Shadow positions will be determined during June camp/rehearsals if we still are able to rehearse at that time.

Are there playing tests?

In a normal season, there would be playing/memorization tests given throughout the pre-season/season. Tests would be assigned both on Smart Music and as live memorization tests. You would need to memorize all of your music in order to fully participate. After all, if you're staring at your music while trying to march across the field in multiple directions, you're most likely going to run into someone and cause an accident, damaging instruments or people. Normally, if you didn't not pass your memorization tests, you would not march in a subsequent performance. You could try the test again before the next performance. Since we don't know how our summer/season schedule will ultimately look due to COVID, expectations for both Smart Music and memorization tests are subject to change.

How can I start practicing now?

Once we select a show, we will post sheet music and mp3s for the show on our band website, www.ohsband.org under Marching Band (password: panther). If you're a brass or woodwind player, make sure to sign up for marching band smartmusic by opening a Chrome browser and visiting <https://admin.smartmusic.com/join> and entering this code: L4D6N-WFEV4. Music will be available once we upload the show.

What do I need for rehearsal?

Depending on which section you are in, students will always need to have some or all of the following items at each rehearsal unless otherwise specified: appropriate marching clothes, gym shoes, instrument, equipment, music, pencil, drill book, dot book, dot chips, gloves, flip folder and lyre. (The students will be given some of the items during the first few rehearsals). Please note, if a student forgets any of the above items 3 or more times during the season they will be pulled from a subsequent performance.

As a parent, how can I help?

The OHS Band program has a history of success and we couldn't do any of it without the help of our volunteers. To continue on with this tradition of excellence WE NEED YOUR HELP. The Band Boosters provide logistical, organizational and financial support to the marching band. A minimum of 2 hours volunteer service is requested from each marching band family at a booster event between June 2020 and May 2021. Events include, but are not limited to all sports concessions, summer band camps, football games, marching competitions, PMBR, Crystals, Bandcake Breakfast and the Band Banquet. The volunteer from each family can be an adult or student. Students who volunteer will also earn community service hours. Volunteer opportunities are sent via email throughout the year with signup instructions or you can sign up at the picnic on Aug. 14th.

How do I Sign Up for Marching Band?

1. Click [here](#) and fill out the official online sign up form. You can also go to www.ohsband.org, click on the "Bands" tab, then "Marching Band" and find the google sign up form. *The deadline for signing up is Friday, May 8th.* Once you've officially signed up, please also do the following...
2. Sign up for the Marching Band Google Classroom (code:47tau31)
3. If you're a brass or woodwind player, make sure to sign up for marching band smartmusic by opening a Chrome browser and visiting <https://admin.smartmusic.com/join> and entering this code: L4D6N-WFEV4.

Other questions?

We hope that this letter has answered your questions about the Panther Marching Band, while making you aware of any changes and policies that are different this year. Due to COVID we will not have our normal parent/student welcome meeting at the end of the school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us. We will send out additional information once you have registered. Thank you and stay safe!

Thank You!

Mrs. Stephanie San Roman, Director of Bands

Mr. Kevin Schoenbach, Associate Director of Bands

Panther Marching Band Attendance Policy

Due to COVID, all rehearsals/performances are subject to change/cancellation. If there is a need to reschedule rehearsals, we understand that may cause conflicts with other events. Because of this, we will be significantly more flexible than normal when it comes to rehearsals. We all know how much work it takes to put a marching band show on the field. We all take pride in that work and the level of excellence we achieve. That is why we end every rehearsal by asking, “Who’s got the best band in the land!?” and the students responding, “OSWEGO!” To maintain the level of excellence that the Oswego Band Program is known for, it takes a strong commitment by every single student. Outside of any COVID related rescheduling issues, this means that students must attend ALL rehearsals and performances unless the absence is excused. **All absences must be discussed with a director prior to the actual rehearsal.** Examples of excused /unexcused absences:

<u>Excused</u>	<u>Unexcused</u>
-Doctor’s appt. that you are unable to reschedule	-Homework/Group projects/Extra study time
-Out of town	-Work/Job
-Major family event (i.e. wedding)	-Don’t feel like coming to rehearsal
-Emergency, illness	-Couldn’t find a ride
-Anything else approved by a band director	-Anything else that has not been approved as an excused absence by a band director

******Once school starts, we only have two rehearsals a week, so it’s very important that everyone is at each rehearsal******

- 1. Students will need to make up rehearsal time from excused and unexcused absences.** When a student doesn’t make up rehearsal time/work on what they missed at the last rehearsal, it becomes very difficult for them to move forward at the next rehearsal. They will also not be prepared for the upcoming performance, especially if the rest of the band learned new/additional positions on the field. To maintain safety on the field and a high level of performing excellence, students will need to sit out of the subsequent home football game halftime show if they have not made up the time. They will still participate in warm up, stands tunes, and pre/post game performances.
- 2. Students will sit out of a subsequent performance following an unexcused absence.** Students will still participate in warm ups, stands tunes, and pre/post game performances. **If a student has two unexcused absences, he/she will be dismissed from the marching band.**
- 3. Sports and Other Activities.** You will not be allowed to miss marching band rehearsal/performance/warm up, etc., due to a sport or activity. You are welcome to still participate in those sports/activities, as long as you do not miss any marching band. This means if there is a conflict, marching band must take priority over the other event. This will need to be discussed with your coach/activity advisor well in advance.
- 4. If you do not believe you can commit fully to all rehearsals/performances, we encourage you to join one of the many other wonderful activities at OHS!** When students sign up for Marching Band, they are given their very own spot on the field. If you are missing or decide you can no longer continue in the middle of the season there is a hole in the formation. This distorts the forms and lowers our score at competitions, causes extra work for the students surrounding the hole in the formation, creates poor morale, etc. Please take this into consideration when deciding whether or not to participate in the PMB. Thank you!

OHS MARCHING BAND SCHEDULE 2020-2021

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
Fri., May 8		*Commitment Form/Fees Due
June 1	8am-12pm	Rehearsal (Newbies/Leaders 8-9am, All 9am-12pm)
Jun 2-4	8am-12pm	Rehearsal
June 15-18	8am – 5pm	June Band Camp
July 20-23	12pm-5pm	Color Guard Camp (Color guard only)
July 27-30	12pm-5pm	Color Guard Camp (Color guard only)
August 3-7	8am-5pm	August Band Camp (Everyone)
August 10-13	8am-5pm	August Band Camp (Everyone)
Fri., August 14	12pm-8pm	August Band Camp/Picnic 4:30-7pm/Demo at 7pm
Wed., August 19	In School	Panther Preview Assembly @OHS
Thur., August 20	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Fri., August 21	4pm-5pm	Pantherfest Performance @OHS
Mon., August 24	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Thurs., August 27	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Fri, August 28	5:30pm-10:30pm	Home Football Game vs. Neuqua Valley
Mon., August 31	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Thurs., September 3	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Mon., September 7	12pm - 2pm	Prairie Fest Parade (step off at 1pm)
Thurs., September 10	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Fri., September 11	5:30-10:30pm	Football Game vs. Joliet West
Mon., September 14	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Thurs., September 17	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Sat., September 19	All Day	Prospect High School Knight of Champions
Mon., September 21	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Thurs., September 24	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Sat., September 26	All Day	Dekalb HS & NIU Marching Competitions
Sun., September 27	2pm-4pm	Homecoming Parade (step off at 3pm)
Mon., September 28	5pm-9pm	Panther Marching Band Review (begins 6pm)
Thurs., October 1	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Fri., October 2	In School	Homecoming Assembly @OHS

Fri., October 2	5:30-10:30pm	Football Game vs. West Aurora (Homecoming)
Mon., October 5	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Thurs., October 8	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Fri., October 9	5:30pm-10:30pm	Away Football Game vs. OEHS @OEHS
Sat., October 10	All Day	Downers Grove South HS Mustang Music Bowl
Thurs., October 15	2:45pm-5:30pm	Rehearsal
Fri., October 16	5:30-10:30pm	Football Game vs. Yorkville (Senior Night)

TBA Playoff Games will occur either Friday or Saturday each weekend from Oct. 30 through Nov. 28

Mon., May 31	8:00am – 11:30am	Memorial Day Parade
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