

Tyrone Golden Eagle Marching Band 2026-2027 HANDBOOK

Important Contact & Communication Information

David Hock, Director

- Email: dehock@tyrone.k12.pa.us
- School Phone: 814.684.4240 x 3306

Marching Band Page:

<https://tahs.tyrone.k12.pa.us/our-school/music-department/band/marching>

Announcements and Important information are posted on this page weekly

SportsYou – all students and parents must sign-up for the SportYou app. This is where ALL group communications and calendar dates will exist. See the separate handout for sign-up details.

www.Facebook.com/tyronebands

www.Instagram.com/tasdband

tyroneband.weebly.com

WHAT is marching band?

Marching Band is a sport of the performing arts that involves physical athleticism in addition to making and performing exciting music. Marching students learn and memorize challenging music, guard or majorette equipment work; at the same time while marching on the football field with complex body movements and forms. Students work on physical exercises to build core muscle groups for proper body movement, to build physical endurance, and to avoid injury. Proper marching technique and body movement is vital for effective performance of music or guard/majorette equipment. Students that do not wish to do the more athletic aspects of marching band can choose to perform on a percussion instrument in the “pit” or “front ensemble” which includes keyboard percussion and other types of percussion or electronic instruments.

Marching band is a full commitment with an intense schedule of required events that are required.

- Summer Rehearsals learning music
- 2 weeks of summer band camp (required) working on visual/body basics and learning drill
- July – November (regular season)
- Practice several times a week
- Football games – performing a halftime show and playing pep tunes
- Competitions on select Saturdays September – November
- Parades at various times throughout the whole school year
- Playing music (patriotic, school alma mater, or pep tunes) at various school functions, including pep rallies and for other sport events

WHO can join Tyrone Marching Band?

- Students who are enrolled in Tyrone Area School District, homeschooled, or enrolled in an independent cyber school are eligible to join.
 - Students who attend another brick-and-mortar school, such as Bishop Guilfoyle, Tyrone Christian Academy, or Grier are NOT able to join our activities due to district rules.
- Musicians: entering 8th grade and up. Rare exceptions are made for 7th graders
 - You must make every effort to be in a band class during the school day
- Color Guard: entering 7th grade and up. No prior experience required
- Majorettes: entering 5th grade and up. Talk with instructors Marcia Fink or Corinne Creppage
- Runners: non-performing students who help at football games and competitions, 7th grade and up

Cyber & homeschool grade reports for eligibility

- CCA & Reach Cyber: We work with the cyber school to have them submit grade reports to the school. You may have to fill out and sign a form for this to happen
- All other students must submit a grade report every week by Friday.

WHY Marching Band?

- To be part of a performing group that
- To work hard at something and learn skills that you will not learn anywhere else
- Have pride in accomplishing something great
- To improve yourself as a musician and a person.
 - Build confidence
 - Learn leadership skills
 - Learn how to listen and work with others
 - Learn the steps for how to accomplish something great

GOALS

- Accomplishing something important and meaningful
- Integrity of actions and words
- Treat ourselves, fellow team members, and instructors with respect
- Good Sportsmanship
- Representing the band program, school, and community

PRIDE

PASSION

- Enthusiasm for music and learning
- Emotional connection with the music and work we perform
- Bringing positive attitude and support to all our team members
- Putting our entire selves into the music

EXCELLENCE

- Work hard to be the best musicians and performers that we can be, always trying to improve, not making excuses
- Being present at rehearsal and fully engaged (not distracted)
- Take correction from instructors and don't complain

PARTS & AUDITIONS

Students will be assigned to parts primarily based on skill level, experience, and work ethic. We take into consideration your strengths and preferences when assigning parts, but it is impossible to accommodate or make everyone happy. While age and years of experiences are sometimes taken into consideration, the reality is that parts will be assigned to benefit the entire performing group, not solely based on age, or number of years in the group.

MARCHING BAND ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Marching Band is a FULL commitment and a TOTAL GROUP EFFORT! Unlike sports, EVERY student is an irreplaceable piece of the puzzle. When students are missing, the whole group suffers.

As of Tuesday, May 26 you must commit for the ENTIRE 2026 season. Think carefully about how band will impact your schedule.

ALL activities on the calendar are MANDATORY (including Parades). **Majorettes schedule will vary, be sure to communicate with your instructors.

FOOTBALL GAMES & COMPETITIONS.** Students may not miss a single football game or competition during the season for any reason other than legitimate severe illness or legitimate extreme life circumstances (like death in the family). No exceptions for any activity, not even school activities or sports.

- If you know you will miss a scheduled performance for any other event no matter the reason, your participation in the group may be affected, including limiting your role in the group or potentially not allowing you to join. We may excuse an absence depending on the circumstances, but you MUST talk with Mr. Hock before the sign-up deadline (May 26).
- You will be dismissed from the group...
 - If you fail to tell us about an event ahead of time, and you miss a football game or competition
 - You lie to us about illness or family emergency in order to miss a competition for another event

ABSENCES - Chronic Absences, no matter the reason, is a huge concern that hurts the group.

- If you miss rehearsals during the week (including Tuesdays) and missed significant material and we feel that you are not prepared, you may be asked not to perform that week.
- If you miss rehearsal on a Thursday, you can't perform on the field on Friday, you will stand on the sideline and watch.
- If you miss rehearsal on Saturday morning, you can't perform Saturday, you will stand on the sideline and watch.
- In general the decision of whether or not you can perform will be up to the discretion of the instructors whether or not you will perform that weekend
- Parents need to verify with us that you are missing practice. You must clearly communicate directly with your instructor. If you don't do this, it's unexcused and automatically can't perform that week.
- If you have chronic absences of 4 or more during the season, we reserve the right to ask you to leave the band
- If absent from school day for more than half a school day (illness or unexcused), student is NOT allowed to participate in practice on that day only. If you miss less than half of the school day due to an EXCUSED doctor's appointment you may still attend practice that evening.

NOTIFYING YOUR INSTRUCTOR of ABSENCES:

- You must **DIRECTLY** contact **Mr. Hock or your INSTRUCTOR** by phone/email/text/group chat **BEFORE** rehearsal. **DO NOT** tell your friend to relay a message to your instructor. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to contact your instructor **DIRECTLY** if you are going to be absent. It is nobody else's responsibility. Failure to follow this procedure will result in an automatic unexcused absence.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER SCHOOL SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

We can be flexible to share time with SOME school sports. However, some are not compatible with band, especially coaches that will not be flexible with band. If you are in a sport that directly conflicts with marching band, talk to Mr. Hock ASAP about your options. Due to the complexity of practice and competition scheduling we reserve the right to assign you an easier or less important role in the group(s) due to the likelihood of missing a lot of time, but will discuss this with you well in advance.

If you choose to do any other activity or sport...

- Must not significantly conflict with the marching schedule
- You may not miss any football games or competitions. Period.
- Regular sports/activity practices must have minimum conflict with practices.
- Games or events must have minimal impact (miss very few band practices during the season)
- We will not accommodate non-school related activities and you cannot miss any practice time for any non-school related activity.
- General rule: Sports students are expected to be at band rehearsal within 1 hour or less after you return from any game or within 30 minutes of the conclusion of your sports practice.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY (grades)

- If you become ineligible you can't participate in any activities (including practices) during the time of ineligibility.
 - Regular weekly ineligibility is Sunday-Saturday (reported the previous Thursday).
 - End of marking period ineligibility is for 15 school days (3 weeks or more)
- If you miss due to academic ineligibility, this hurts the group. We need to know that we can rely on you. No matter the time of year, if you miss 3 or more weeks due to academic ineligibility, we may either (A) change or diminish your role in the band at the discretion of the instructors, or (B) ask you to leave the band for the rest of the season to focus on your grades.

BEHAVIOR & PROCEDURES

BEHAVIOR/ATTENDANCE: Any student who has major reoccurring behavior problems or incurs 5+ unexcused absences may face temporary suspension or permanent dismissal from the band.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Students are responsible for their own belongings, instruments, and school locker... NOBODY ELSE
- B. Be prepared with everything you need: pencil/pen, drill & music, water bottle, instrument, etc
- C. Each student will be assigned a specific job in relation to equipment set-up and tear down.
- D. CLEAN UP ALL TRASH, ALWAYS, EVERYWHERE.

BEHAVIOR & CONDUCT

- A. **All school rules and the rules below apply no matter where we are or what we are doing: Practices, performances, on the field, in the stands, on the bus, and everywhere in between.**
- B. You CAN and WILL be written up for any negative behavior that happens during band events
- C. RESPECT yourself, other members of the band, and others that you see. Good sportsmanship with other schools is absolutely required. Act in a way that gains respect and praise.
- D. Bullying, physical or verbal attacks on any member of the band or staff are not tolerated.
- E. Relationships: No kissing, no “cuddling”. Band activities are not your personal date night
- F. **Whether you are in uniform or not, with the band or not, you are a MEMBER OF THE BAND. Your actions have a direct reflection on this ensemble. THINK before you act.**
- G. **Social Media:** Everything you post online can not only make you look bad, but could make the band look bad. It can also cause drama in the band which negatively affects all of us.
- H. Walk away from drama. Don’t feed it. We’re here to make music together, not throw insults.
- I. Respect the chaperones and Instructors!

If you are dismissed from the group at any point during the season, whether it be due to chronic absences, Behavior issues, academic ineligibility, or any other reason stated in this handbook, you will not be refunded any of the money that you fundraised or paid out of pocket.

EVENT TRAVEL (School Policy): ALL students are expected to ride the bus to and from all events. If there needs to be an exception, only a parent/guardian may legally drive the student. A note/email outlining this must be provided at least TWO (2) HOURS BEFORE WE LEAVE for the event (not during or after).

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY. It is school district policy that parents must not be involved in sports/activity rehearsals or games/performances. Parents may not interrupt or intervene in practices or performances. Parents who are not school board approved as chaperones may not be present during practices; they may not be around students other than their own at any time except in the presence of a school district employee/instructor; this includes performances. The only exception is once or twice a year if and when parents are invited for an open rehearsal before Wildwood. Parents who are approved as chaperones are tasked with chaperoning students on the bus or in the absence of instructors but are not permitted to act as instructors or advisors. Any parents who have concerns may bring those concerns to the instructors or school administration outside of rehearsal or performance time.

Rehearsal Etiquette

- Cell phones must be put away in your bag, not on your person during rehearsal. They are a distraction.
- Water Breaks – everyone will have a water jug on the sideline. Water breaks will be quick and efficient, no sitting down. If you are efficient with water breaks they will occur often
- NO TALKING during run-throughs or immediately following a run-through. Always wait for instructions.

BAND UNIFORM & RAINCOAT CARE

It is the student's responsibility to keep his/her uniform in the best condition possible. Students are monetarily responsible for any damages that are not a result of normal wear

- Hang the uniform PROPERLY. Pants folded on crease and hung on hanger, jacket hung over pants.
- Return uniforms and shakos to uniform storage after each performance, unless otherwise directed
- One of the best ways to keep your uniform fresh is to shower & use deodorant DAILY.
- Do not wash/dry/apply heat to the uniforms. (dry clean only). Avoid spills, oils, good stains, etc.
- CLEAN SHOES before every performance.
- Shoes go in the SHOE POCKET on the back of the bag, NOT IN with the uniform.
- WHAT TO WEAR UNDERNEATH: band shirt, athletic shorts, & LONG BLACK SOCKS.
- Jewelry is not permitted during any performance.
- Gloves are provided for wind players

REQUIRED UNIFORM ITEMS

- SHOES: All students must have proper marching band shoes. Shoe fitting for marching musicians will take place the first week of band camp. (~\$50 a pair)
- LONG BLACK SOCKS: Winds/percussion are responsible for having long black socks
- BAND POLO: Required for warm-weather performances, parades, and pep rallies. (\$15)

There are many costs involved in running the band, including travel, uniforms, instruments, equipment, fees, student events, and so much more! Fundraising is how we pay for these items and experiences.

Our fundraising events are designed to allow students to meet our goals without having to pay out of pocket (with the exception of the soda donation). To that end, many of our fundraisers are highly participation based. Fundraising is expected by EVERY student. For the fundraisers that are participation based, a specific amount is credited towards the student’s fundraising account. Other fundraisers receive dollar amounts. Each type is outlined below. Some fundraisers are listed on the calendar, others will be announced later. If you refuse to fundraise you will be asked to pay out of pocket to cover this amount.

For the regular Tyrone Area Marching Band season, running June 1 – December 1, each student is required to fundraise or pay the following amounts by December 1 (also known as the “fundraising quota”):

- **Competition students: \$200 + \$25 soda donation**
- **Football-game-only students: \$100 + \$25 soda donation**

REQUIRED FUNDRAISERS:

SODA \$\$	ALL Students, donation for soda/beverage purchase for concession stand	\$25 out of pocket <i>(cash/check)</i> Due by Band Camp
DELGROSSO’S BBQ	ALL Students must sell ~10 tickets or pay \$25 buyout	Profits from each ticket sold goes toward student account
TAG DAY <i>(collection at assigned businesses)</i>	ALL STUDENTS. Participant students will be treated to a party by the band boosters	~\$40 <u>credit</u> to your account
CONCESSION STAND – Parent volunteers	5 regular home football games, 1 or 2 potential play-off games. Each family is expected to volunteer for at least one game.	\$20 <u>credit</u> to your account (per volunteer, per game)
HOME TOB COMPETITION *	Parents, family members or friends are VITAL to make sure this event is a success. There are many jobs available	\$40 <u>credit</u> to your account (per family/friend volunteer)
PATRON ADS (competition students only)	Students sell AD space in our TOB Competition Program. Local Businesses or personal lines/ads from family/friends	100% profit All money collected goes toward student’s quota
BAND APPAREL Optional but recommended	Sale of Marching band apparel	Profits from each item sold goes toward student account
Additional Fundraisers	Sept/Oct/Nov Sales. These will be announced. They are only required if a student needs them to meet their quota	Profits from each item sold goes toward student account

FINE PRINT DETAILS:

All money fundraised or paid out-of-pocket to the Tyrone Band Boosters is sole property of the Tyrone Band Boosters. As such, refunds will not be issued except in the case of errors. Any money fundraised or paid out-of-pocket that exceeds the above stated “fundraising quota” by any student is still the sole property of the Tyrone Band Boosters, will be added to the general fund, and cannot be carried over to future seasons or years. Extra amounts raised over the \$225/\$125 quota MAY be donated to one or more other students’ “fundraising quota” to help said student(s) cover their “fundraising quota.” Extra amounts will not automatically be applied to other students unless explicitly stated in writing. It is understood that if the student(s) and/or parent(s) are unable to or refuse to participate in the fundraisers and as a result do not fulfill stated “fundraising quota”, the student(s) and/or parent(s) are required to pay the Tyrone Band Boosters out-of-pocket in order to satisfy the “fundraising quota.”

2026-27 Marching Band

Student and Parent/Guardian Contract

We the undersigned have read the marching band handbook, behavior policy, attendance policy and have reviewed the 2026 marching band calendar. We understand that...

- the commitment to this group including all mandatory events on the calendar
- after May 26, 2026 we must honor our commitment to the band for the entire season.
- I must notify Mr. Hock of scheduling conflicts or absences IN ADVANCE as soon as reasonably possible.
- absences from rehearsals may require that I sit out of performances.
- **I understand that chronic behavior issues or absences for any reason (including ineligibility) can result in my role in the band being diminished or being told to leave the band with no refund of fundraised money.**

SUMMER DATES – Please list summer dates you will be ABSENT

I understand that **Ineligibility** results from two or more failing grades on any given week and means that, if I become academically ineligible, I will be unable to participate for a full week (Sunday through Saturday). I understand that no exceptions will be made, and it is my responsibility to keep my grades above a 60% on a weekly basis. I also understand that chronic ineligibility may result in dismissal from the unit.

We the undersigned have read the uniform policy and promise to take care of the school assigned uniform and raincoat. The student will follow the dress code and present themselves in a professional manner. Any loss or damage to the uniform, shako, or raincoat that is due to neglect on the student's part must be paid by the student.

We the undersigned have read the fundraising policy. We understand that the student must meet a fundraising quota as outlined in the accompanying Marching Band Handbook.

We understand the following financial requirements...

- If I/we refuse to do a fundraiser we must pay out of pocket for each fundraiser the equivalent profit amount that is listed on the fundraising requirements in the handbook.
- I/we the PARENT(s) understand that we are required to volunteer to help with the home show on Sat, Oct 4, as well as volunteer to help in the band concession stand at least 1 home football game.

Student name (PRINT): _____ Date _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian name (PRINT): _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____