

Edgewood High Marching Band Handbook



Edgewood Marching Cougars Staff

Head Director

Jon Arnold

Assistant/Percussion Director

Nick Fields

Colorguard Instructor

Sabrina Gowsell

Contact Information:

High School Band Room 513-867-6300 (ext. 4321)

Head Director: Mr. Arnold jon.arnold@edgewoodschools.net

Assistant Director/Percussion Director: Mr. Fields
nick.fields@edgewoodschools.net

Guard Instructor: Ms. Gowsell
sabrina.gowsell@edgewoodschools.net

Band Website www.edgewoodbands.com

MARCHING BAND EXPECTATIONS

Attendance Expectations: All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals and performances.

1. Written excuses signed by a parent or guardian are required before or immediately following an absence. Students need to present a note from their parents or guardian to be excused for illness or family emergencies. (email Mr. Arnold - jon.arnold@edgewoodschools.net with notification of any absences.) Drumline and Pit members should contact Mr. Fields by email nick.fields@edgewoodschools.net, and Ms. Gowsell by email sabrina.gowsell@edgewoodschools.net for guard absences.

2. All working students should provide their employers with the summer and fall schedules, thus providing a means of eliminating schedule conflicts.

3. Conflicts with other school organizations will be taken into consideration provided: A) The directors are informed in writing by the student, one week in advance of the conflict. B) The student must be in good standing according to the rules and regulations of the organization.

4. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal, may result in the loss of position or suspension for the upcoming weekend performance. **SPECIAL NOTE:** An unexcused absence may result in the loss of your position, suspension and/or expulsion from the group at the discretion of the director. The goal of our attendance policy is to provide information to students, parents, and directors when there is an attendance problem. The safety and security of our members is a priority.

PLEASE NOTE: Any student who quits or is expelled from band for any reason will not be entitled to a refund since expenses are pre-paid.

Edgewood City Schools Code of Conduct: A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the Music Department. The community, school administrators, and the music staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program in Music Education. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration. All band members shall abide by a Code of Conduct, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation in the Extra Curricular Music Program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the musician, the Marching Band or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to theft, vandalism, disrespect, or violation of law. Students participating in the Marching Band must conduct themselves as mature young men and women. Participation in extracurricular programs is a privilege and not a right. Any band member whose conduct could be construed to reflect discredit upon the band

and/or the school, will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the music staff and/or administration. Issues of misconduct, which are not directly stated within this document, will be dealt with on an individual basis. This is an extension of the Edgewood City Schools Student Code of Conduct.

Marching Band Expectations:

1. Treat all members with mutual respect.
2. Be punctual and in your designated area at all times. Being "On time" in band language means ten minutes prior to the scheduled starting time. Students who are late will be disciplined.
3. Profanity/disrespect will not be tolerated at any time.
4. It is the responsibility of each member to have all equipment and other pertinent items at all rehearsals (drill books, music, pencils, etc.) Likewise, it is just as important to make sure everything is put away and stored in its proper place after rehearsal.

Expectations in the stands during a football game: The band is a vital part of school spirit at football games. Watch the game and your director because things happen quickly. Be prepared to play the "Fight Song" after each touchdown. Rules while in the stands:

- Play your instrument only when the entire band plays. Stay in your section at all times!!!
- The bandstand is for band members only. Do not invite your friends to sit with you in the stand or enter the end zone area at any time.
 - Break comes in the third quarter.
- At the end of third quarter, you should be in your seat ready to play. If anyone is late, they will sit during third quarter of the next game.
- Take care of your instrument to prevent damage.
- Make a good impression. Remember, you are wearing an Edgewood uniform which stands for your school and community.
- You must have ALL your music in your own personal flip folder with you at each game.

Expectations for Bus Trips:

*****PLEASE NOTE: All marching band members must ride the bus to and from ALL events.**

- Keep the bus clean; pick up and properly dispose of all trash.
- Maintain silence at railroad crossings
- Use moderation in talking and singing.
- Hands and arms must remain inside the bus at all times.
- Thank and listen to your bus drivers and chaperones.
- Stay seated while the bus is moving.
- Do not board or load equipment on the bus until asked to do so.
- Stay on the bus until asked to unload.
- Leave windows up when leaving away football games unless told otherwise.
- You must travel on the bus to all engagements.
- Band members must not play instruments near unloading area.

Practice Clothing

1. Tennis shoes only (canvas or leather). No sandals, dress, or street shoes. (The need for freedom and flexibility in the ankle along with the placement of the heels and toes together is critical!)
2. Shorts, sweats, jeans, must not be binding.
3. Always wear socks for good personal hygiene to avoid foot injury such as blisters.
4. Any non-binding shirt is preferred for marching activities.
5. Due to the risk of personal injury, no dangling jewelry (i.e. earrings) will be permitted at any time.

GUARD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Your hair must be pulled back and out of your face. Make sure this is done before practice. This is recommended for any band member who has longer than shoulder length hair.)

PROCEDURES

Discipline Procedure

1. Records will be kept concerning all violations of the rules in this handbook. Should it be necessary to reprimand any student for violation of these rules, we will follow these guidelines:

A. The **first** violation of any rule will result in a verbal warning.

B. The **second** violation of any rule will result in a verbal warning and an extra duty assignment handed out by the directors.

C. The **third** violation of any rule will result in a verbal warning and an extra duty assignment handed out by the directors, and the loss of third quarter privilege.

D. The **fourth** violation of any rule will result in the suspension from a performance (i.e. pre-game, half-time, or contest).

E. The **fifth** violation of any rule will result in the loss of position, and suspension or expulsion from the group. (Note: a violation that is considered severe will bypass the above steps and be handled immediately by directors and school administration) Direct communication with a student's parents will occur at the second step and will continue through the fifth step. We believe open communication with parents is an essential part of the success of the student in our organization.

2. In order to establish an organization with pride, unity, and self-discipline, we must enforce the rules set forth by the directors and members of this organization. Every effort will be made to be fair and just with all members.

Should any student or parent have a question concerning any disciplinary action, contact the directors immediately. *During third quarter of the football games, band members are allowed to get refreshments and meet with friends. If a student loses third quarter privileges, he/she must sit in the bleachers for the duration of third quarter at the next football game.

Uniform Inspection

Prior to performances, members must pass through an inspection of their uniform and equipment. This is done so we can have the best appearance possible, to develop good personal habits, and pride. The following criteria have been established for achieving a clean and uniform look in our band: 1. No jewelry is to be worn while in uniform. 2. No nail polish is to be worn while in uniform. 3. A short or long-sleeved shirt (preferably the band tour shirt or summer band shirt) must be worn under the uniform coat, **no spaghetti strap shirts permitted**. (This is necessary for proper personal hygiene and uniformity.) 4. Black socks will be worn while in uniform. 5. Hair must not cover the collar when hats are worn. Any member with long hair must pin their hair up. 6. All uniform parts must be worn properly. 7. When not performing, but still in uniform, all members may remove only gloves and hats unless the directors issue another directive.

Color Guard Uniforms The color guard's marching uniform tends to change each year by what the show design and theme requires. Uniform items color guard members purchase will remain their property at the end of the season.

Marching Band Uniforms Summer marching uniforms consist of summer shirts, purchased from the band, khaki shorts, socks and tennis shoes. The shoes and socks are the student's responsibility to obtain before the first summer performance. The marching band uniforms are provided for each student by the band. The students should wear tour T-shirts and shorts under their uniforms. This makes dressing much easier because there is no privacy when changing into uniforms. At competitions dressing is done out in the parking lot and in the band room for football games.

Tour Shirts

Each student will be provided with a tour shirt. Each year there is a new tour shirt representing the show that is being performed that year. Students are expected to wear their tour shirts when they travel to competitions so when they are out of uniform it is easy for chaperones to spot Edgewood students. Please remind your student to always wear their tour shirt. **Chaperones** These are the parents who travel with the students every time they leave the school, primarily for football games and competitions. The majority of chaperoning opportunities occur during Marching Band season but there are also several opportunities during Concert Band season when the band travels to OMEA Adjudicated Events in the spring. **Chaperones will be designated by the band director.**

Communication The band tries very hard to keep the lines of communication open. The main avenues are:

1. **Website** - www.edgewoodbands.com Updates from the directors and the boosters will be posted on the link. Please check out our site often. 2. **Email** - We maintain a database of emails for distribution of all information 3. **REMIND app** - This link is used for last minute changes and next day reminders, as well as ETA's for getting to the high school from away events: Enter 81010 and text @f6h49. **Students** - all pertinent information is communicated to your students either verbally or with a flier. This, at times, is the least reliable means of getting information so prior to big events (competitions, trips, etc.) you may want to ask your student if information has been sent home with them or **check the website.** Questions and/or concerns should be communicated first to the directors. All percussion questions should go to Mr. Fields, and guard questions go to Ms. Gowsell.

Marching Band Practice

The after-school rehearsals are **very** important. They allow the students to continue to refine and polish the music and drill learned during band camp. Drill and music are constantly being refined/changed to make the show the best it can be, so please ensure **that** your student regularly attends.

Football Games EHS Marching Band performs at every home football game and away games. They perform portions of, or sometimes the entire Marching Band Show at halftime of the game. This is always an opportunity to work on perfecting the show and learning to perform to an audience. Every student is required to attend these games and any absence needs to be discussed with the director. During the game the band sits together, plays pep tunes, and has a lot of fun. They perform during half time and then get the third quarter off to get refreshments, visit friends, and relax. All students remain in their uniforms during the **entire** game.

Band Contest/Performances Parents and families are always invited to any and all performances. We try to make it a practice to sit as a group at a contest or performance to cheer our students on. Nothing is better for the students than to give their best performance and get a standing ovation from the parents acknowledging all their hard work. Maps or directions to competitions are always available several days prior and are usually emailed out or are also in print for your student to bring home. **Practice/Performance Schedule** A lot of time is spent putting a band schedule together deciding all dates and times upfront so students and parents can plan accordingly, and we endeavor to change the schedule as seldom as possible. A few reasons for schedule changes are: a) a competition/game has been canceled or rescheduled which is out of the director's control b) new opportunities to showcase the student's talents become available after the schedule is published **TBA Times** Competitions do not inform the directors of their performance time until about a week before the performance. Therefore, the "big picture" schedule will indicate the day to keep open and the specific times will be passed on to the students as soon as the director knows. This can be frustrating for overall scheduling for families, but it is out of the director's control.

Rule of Thumb: On Band Competition dates, please keep the entire day open!

Schedules for the TBA performances are almost always available one week prior to the performance and will be communicated via the band webpage and verbally to students. The itinerary will also be posted in the band room.