



ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Darrell S. Keech, *Director*

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To All Prospective Marching Band Members & Their Families:

It gives me great pride to welcome you to our 56th year of the award-winning Arlington High School Marching Band (AHSMB)! The Band is the five-time New York State Champions and will hope to welcome over 40 new members this season!! The staff has been at work for months getting ready for an exciting, fun, and positively memorable 2023 season.

The amount of exciting news and information is too great to be included in a letter, so each year we gather to “kick-off” and register for our new season. At that time, you will have many questions answered, receive lots of information, meet people from each part of the band (students and parents), hear about our very important volunteer opportunities, find out information about the show theme for the next year, sign-up for the 2023 Marching Band, and much more!!

There are two items that I would like to bring to your attention now: first, marching band does cost money, but we have established programs that allow everyone to participate no matter what their financial situation. *NO ONE SHOULD MISS OUT BECAUSE OF MONEY ISSUES!!* Second, many students think the Marching Band is “very time-consuming.” It does take time, but **WE REHEARSE LESS THAN MOST SPORTS TEAMS AT AHS**. We practice only *two nights a week* once school starts. We find that Marching Band, good grades, and a successful first year at Arlington can go together!!!

Below you will find an outline of our schedule through the summer. This is a great overview, but not a complete list. The most accurate calendar can be found on our website. Our spring schedule overview is as follows:

- **Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion & Color Guard “Meet-and-Greet” and rehearsals**
Sessions start a few hours each week on April 25 (Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion) and on April 26 (Color Guard). Check <https://www.arlingtonschools.org/marchingband> for details.
- **KICK-OFF TO REGISTRATION MEETING - SUNDAY, May 21st @ 2:00pm in the Arlington HS Auditorium**
- **SUMMER REHEARSALS*** - One per week on Wednesday in July and August.**
Check the website calendar for more details. If you have a vacation or music camp planned for a few weeks of this time, don't worry you can still be a part of the Band!!

***Summer vacations and music camps are valid excuses for missing two (2) of the summer rehearsals; missing more than 2 rehearsals could jeopardize your place in the field show (Member vs. Marcher). If you feel like you might miss too many rehearsals and still want to be a part of this amazing group, contact Mr. Keech as soon as possible and we can work on options that can work for you!!

“A Commitment to Excellence”
www.arlingtonschools.org/marchingband



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- **BAND CAMP WEEKS - MANDATORY FOR ALL MEMBERS/MARCHERS**
August 14th-18th & 21st-25th, Monday-Friday, 8:30am – 5pm
Our first show is the Parent Night/Band Camp wrap up - Friday, August 26th at 6:00pm in the AHS Stadium!
- **PERFORMANCES – The Highlight of our Season!!**
We perform at home football games, local parades, and competitions in Connecticut and New York State. Most of our performance dates are below. A complete schedule will be on our website by May so you can make sure it works with your schedule before you join.

2023 Performance “Sample” Schedule

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday	Aug 25	Parent Night and Show Debut @ Arlington HS
Saturday	Sept 9	USBands Competition – Bethel HS, CT
Saturday	Sept 16	NYSFBC Competition @ Mohonasen HS
Sunday	Sept 17	Pleasant Valley Days Parade
Saturday	Oct 7	NYSFBC Competition @ East Ramapo
Sunday	Oct 8	NYSFBC Competition @ Arlington HS
Sunday	Oct 22	NYSFBC Competition @ Kingston HS
Saturday	Oct 28	Parent Show and Senior Recognition @ Arlington HS
Sun-Mon	Oct 29-30	NYSFBC State Championships – Syracuse, NY

At any time, if you have a question, do not hesitate to contact Mr. Keech. I sincerely hope you are as excited about our season as I am. Your talents and great energy will help guarantee a great year filled with great friends, great memories, and GREAT PERFORMANCES!!

Sincerely,

Darrell Keech, Director