



ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

Darrell Keech, *Director*

Evan Rzodkiewicz, *Assistant Director*

February 7, 2025

To All Prospective Marching Band Members & Their Families:

It gives us great pride to welcome you to our 58th year of the award-winning Arlington High School Marching Band (AHSMB)! The Band is the six-time and defending New York State Champions and will hope to welcome almost 40 new members this season!! The staff is already at work getting ready for an exciting, fun, and positively memorable 2025 season.

The amount of exciting news and information is too great to be included in one 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 2025 Marching Band, and much more!!

There are two items that we would like to bring to your attention now: first, some students think the Marching Band is “very time-consuming.” It does take time, but **WE REHEARSE FEWER DAYS 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! Second, Marching Band does cost money, but we have established confidential programs that allow everyone to participate no matter their financial situation. **NO ONE SHOULD MISS OUT on this amazing opportunity BECAUSE OF MONEY ISSUES!!**

Below you will find an outline of our schedule through the spring, summer, and fall. 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-Greets” and rehearsals**
Sessions are a few hours each week starting at the end of April (winds, percussion) or May (guard). Check our website at <https://www.arlingtonschools.org/marchingband> for details.
- **KICK-OFF TO REGISTRATION MEETING** - SUNDAY, May 18th @ 2:00pm in the Arlington HS Auditorium
- **SUMMER REHEARSALS***** - One per week, Wednesdays in July and early 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 18th-22nd & 25th-29th, Monday-Friday, 8am – 5pm

Our first show is the Parent Night/Band Camp wrap up - Friday, August 29th at 6:00 pm 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 *tentative list* is below and a complete schedule, including home football games and our “off weekend” will be on our website by May so you can make sure it works with your schedule before you join.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday	Aug 29	Parent Night and Show Debut @ Arlington HS
Saturday	Sept 6	USBands Competition – Bethel HS, CT
Saturday	Sept 13	NYSFBC Competition @ Mohonasen HS
Sunday	Sept 21	NYSFBC Competition @ Copiague HS
Saturday	Sept 27	NYSFBC Competition @ Malverne HS
Sunday	Oct 5	NYSFBC Competition @ Sachem HS
Sunday	Oct 12	NYSFBC Competition @ Arlington HS
Saturday	Oct 18	NYSFBC Competition @ Mineola HS
Sunday	Oct 19	NYSFBC Competition @ Kingston HS
Saturday	Oct 25	Parent Show and Senior Recognition @ Arlington HS
Sun-Mon	Oct 26-27	NYSFBC State Championships – Syracuse University

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

Sincerely,

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**The Arlington Marching Band, Staff, and Volunteers
6-time NYSFBC National Class Champions
2004, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2024**

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