

The 2025 Arlington High School Marching Arts Handbook

Updated May 18, 2025

Mr. Darrell Keech, Director
Mr. Evan Rzodkiewicz, Assistant Director



Welcome to the Arlington Marching Band! The band is one of the most honored, respected, and prestigious musical groups in the state! This hard-working group comes together each year to perform, entertain audiences, have fun, and make friends. Marching band develops a sense of belonging, pride, discipline, and accomplishment for all members and their families.

For a student who is new to the high school, marching band gives you a great head start in meeting other high school students before the school year starts. Participating in marching band gives all members an experience unlike any other and becomes an integral part of every member's lifelong memories.

We are often asked, "What do I need to be successful in the Arlington Marching Band?" The answer is simple but challenging; **be your best in all things at all times!** This is not only true in our performance aspects, but also in our "life aspects." Our organization is constantly trying to achieve more, both individually and as a group. Year after year, our goal is to also be better than we were, better than we are, and better than we think we can be. Our "commitment to excellence" in everything we do is a never-ending challenge filled with moments of great fun, great memories, and great performances!!!

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Arlington Marching Band Program is to develop a commitment to excellence in professionalism, character, leadership, and artistry. Through the educators, boosters, and administrators, the students of the Arlington Marching Band can learn, develop, and internalize these principles, which are the keys to outstanding bands and exemplary members of our society.

WHO IS THE ARLINGTON MARCHING BAND?

The Arlington Marching Band is composed of the following:

- Woodwinds and Brass – Grade 9-12 - Brass & Woodwind instruments*
- Percussion – Grade 9-12 - Battery** & Front Ensemble**
- Color Guard – Grade 8-12**
- Drum Majors – Grade 11-12**

**All accepted (with good attendance and behavior). In rehearsal observation or placement audition for Member or Marcher status is required.*

***Audition for acceptance and placement is required*

Membership in a school music program is required for participation in the wind and percussion sections and for drum majors. Color guard students do not need to be a member of the school music program.

SOURCES FOR INFORMATION

Darrell Keech	486-4860 x70285 GV: 845-288-2675	dkeech@acsdny.org	Director (Attendance and all other issues)
Evan Rzodkiewicz	486-4860 x70807 GV: 845-393-1738	erzodkiewicz@acsdny.org	Assistant Director (Tour Fees)

General Email through ACSD Gmail and/or FamilyID

Occasionally the directors send out bulletins containing URGENT information. Please make sure that our email addresses are making it to your inbox, and you are checking for them regularly during the season.

Websites

We have our own website! You should REGULARLY CHECK THE WEBSITE throughout the season as this will be our primary source of information.

- www.arlingtonschools.org/marchingband Arlington Marching Band Website
- www.abbimusic.org Arlington Band Boosters, INC Website
- www.nysfbc.org New York State Field Band Conference (NYSFBC)
- www.usbands.org US Bands
- www.musicforall.org Music for All – Bands of America (BOA)
- www.musicalartsconference.com Musical Arts Conference (MAC)
- www.wgi.org Winter Guard International (WGI)
- www.mycgc.org Mid-York Color Guard Circuit
- www.mainguards.com Mid-Atlantic Indoor Network

Band Booster Meetings

The Arlington Band Boosters, Inc. (ABBI) is an organization open to **all parents** and guardians of children in **any of the bands** at Arlington High School. Parents who have children in any of the Arlington Bands are automatically members; this includes color guard. There is no membership fee. ***Please come to the meetings!*** They are a great way to find out what is happening not only with the Arlington Marching Band, but the entire Band department.

Copyright Protection

Breaking the COPYRIGHT LAW is a FEDERAL OFFENSE!

Contacting Composers and Publishers could cause problems for our organization. DO NOT CONTACT ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS OR COMPANIES and DO NOT POST ANY COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS ONLINE. This includes sheet music, video/audio recordings, or pictures of copyrighted images.

MARCHERS AND MEMBERS

The Arlington High School Band program has a Marcher/Member program to allow flexibility in handling the diversity of student skills, attendance habits, and discipline scenarios. The goal of the Marcher/Member program is to *enable as many students as possible to be a part of this organization* in a way that allows them to feel that they are a productive, positive part of the band without getting in “over their head.” In sports, there is the bench, or even a junior varsity team to allow players to “come along” over time. The Marcher/Member program gives the Band some of the same flexibility.

Members...

- ✓ Are considered full participants of the Marching Band. They attend all functions, receive all benefits, and are responsible for all fees. They “dress” and travel with the group.
- ✓ Will march a position, if possible, to fill in for absences. This will allow training for future Marcher status.
- ✓ Will have the chance to work into a permanent position in the current year’s show if a spot opens.
- ✓ Will march all parades, pre-game performances, and perform at all “stand stills”.
- ✓ Will practice, warm-up, and experience everything the band does as close to the Marcher’s experience as is possible without jeopardizing the safety of members or the evaluation of the group at competitions.

Marchers...

- ✓ Have all the responsibilities as a Member but are also assigned a specific performance role in the competitive performance show.

All Marchers are Members...Not all Members are Marchers

All Members and Marchers **MUST** be enthusiastic and willing to learn new material at a rapid pace. The fun and experience Members enjoy will help them grow and learn with the goal of becoming a full Marcher during this or future seasons. It should be noted that Members in bands with this type of program have marched at State Finals, conducted as assistant drum majors, and have gone on to lead their section in later years.

Member or Marcher Assignments

Initial Marcher/Member assignments will not be made until the first day of Band Camp in August. This allows all students the maximum amount of time to be evaluated and to show growth. Factors included in the Member or Marcher decision include:

<u>Behavior / Effort</u>	The ability to consistently demonstrate engagement and focus during rehearsal while demonstrating the high effort level needed for growth.
<u>Music Proficiency</u>	The ability to play the instrument well enough that simultaneous visual and musical responsibilities can be achieved.
<u>Marching Ability</u>	The ability to demonstrate basic marching fundamentals (specifically, timing of the feet and body coordination) and mental ability to remember marching sequences.

Can a Member or Marcher switch positions during the season?

Yes! This will happen if Members start to demonstrate abilities, attitudes, and attendance that exceed a Marcher in their section. Students will be “worked into the show” in this situation as time and abilities allow. This will take place on a case-by-case basis. In addition, students may be moved from Marcher to Member status due to ongoing behavior or attendance issues.

RULES AND PROCEDURES

Arlington Marching Band – Rules

1. ALL Arlington Central School District and Arlington High School policies are in effect at all times and in all locations the Arlington Marching Band is together.
2. Violations of the ACSD alcohol, tobacco, and/or drug policy AT ANYTIME during the season will result in immediate dismissal from the Arlington Marching Band!!
3. Absolutely no hazing or initiation in any form will be tolerated.
4. Insubordination directed toward staff and/or chaperones will not be tolerated.
5. NO GUM or CELL PHONES during rehearsals or performances.
6. Talking during instructional blocks will not be tolerated.
7. Public displays of affection are inappropriate AT ANY TIME.
8. All students are required to attend all Arlington Marching Band activities unless excused by the Director. See ATTENDANCE POLICY.
9. Students are required to remain with the Arlington Marching Band after performances and will be dismissed as a group. No Band member is permitted to leave in advance of group dismissal at any time without a Travel Release Form submitted 24 hours (or more) before the beginning of the trip!
10. All instruments, equipment, and uniform parts must be CLEAN and in good condition.

Arlington Marching Band – Travel Rules

1. The Chaperone is the authority on the bus. Instructions from chaperones are to be considered coming directly from the directors.
2. Bus rides should be fun, but not dangerous. No loud noises (including singing/chanting/yelling); no profanity; and stay seated while the bus is moving.
3. ALL food and drinks must be in re-sealable containers. Drinks must have locking or screw on lids.
4. While the bus is moving the aisle must be always clear.
5. No body parts are allowed outside the windows, and there should be no communicating outside the windows.
6. Music and Video players may be used, but only if the user wears headphones.
7. Aerosol or fragrance products can NOT be used on the buses at any time.
8. When arriving at our destination, students should remain seated and quiet until given permission to unload.
9. Upon return to AHS Students must clean the bus and check for personal items.

Consequences for breaking rules

1. Verbal Warning
2. Parent Contact
3. Temporary removal from rehearsal(s) and/or performance(s)
4. Formal Marcher vs Member Status review (loss of "dot")
5. Removal from ensemble to be done in conjunction with AHS Administration

Special Events

From time to time, special events may arise in addition to football games, competitions, parades, and exhibitions. Participation in special events not previously scheduled will be at the discretion of the Band Director and Arlington Administration after conferring with the marching band members regarding the feasibility of the event. Although we try, the Arlington Marching Band is not able to accept all invitations.

After-School (before rehearsal or performance) time

All students should go home at the end of the school day. There they can do homework, rest, eat, hydrate, and prepare for an outstanding evening rehearsal. The three hours between the end of the school day and start of rehearsal is a critical rest and recovery time.

There are two other scenarios that might happen from time-to-time:

1. Student is staying after school, UNDER THE SUPERVISION of ANOTHER TEACHER for make-up work, club, sport.
2. The parent works through 5:15 and cannot get their student back to AHS for rehearsal but the student has no specific location to be UNDER THE SUPERVISION of ANOTHER TEACHER.

Students on campus, AT ALL TIMES, need to be under the supervision of a teacher. This doesn't mean that they need to be sitting in front of the teacher every minute, but there always needs to be an adult acting "in loco parentis".

If your child is going to need to be at AHS, after school and before rehearsal and will be in the music area, you MUST CONTACT Mr. Keech to make arrangements AT LEAST 24 hours in advance via email.

After 2:20pm students who are the director's responsibility will:

1. Remain in the assigned location (this means students WILL NOT be allowed off campus)
2. Follow all school rules
3. If staying first with another teacher or coach will report to a director 5 minutes after their previous activity ends.

Failure to follow these conditions will result in the director's refusal to be responsible for the student in the future. Students who are not approved to stay will be asked to leave the music area.

ACADEMIC AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/ELIGIBILITY

The Arlington Central School District believes that participation in interscholastic activities and co-curricular activities is one of the many opportunities that should be afforded to students. It provides students with the opportunity to develop self-confidence, a sense of teamwork, leadership skills, and commitment. Studies have shown that, overall, student-athletes and students who are actively engaged in the life of their school perform better academically.

Nevertheless, academics must be the focus of any educational program. Academic eligibility is determined at the beginning of a co-curricular program and is subject to review throughout the duration of that program. The students' grades will be checked at the 5 and 10-week marks throughout the school year.

To be academically eligible to participate in athletics and extra-curricular competitions, students will need to attend academic study hall, or the extended day program determined by the following areas criteria:

Academic probation-is a designation for any student **failing two or more core classes including their music class (if applicable) at the end of the mid-marking period or marking period. In order to still compete and be eligible the student is required to attend after school support daily (Monday through Thursday). This includes an academic study hall or extended day program.**

If your child has been determined to be academically ineligible, they may continue to be a member of the team and practice, but may not participate in games, competitions, or performances until they begin to attend the academic supports after school.

If a student is determined to be academically ineligible or on academic probation, the designated administrator will contact the student, parent, and coach/director/advisor.

All Arlington athletic teams and competition teams are subject to the eligibility policy.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance at all rehearsals is required. The single most important factor in the success of our organization is attendance and students' presence at rehearsals is vital to our growth. We are aware that there may be extenuating circumstances in which your child cannot attend rehearsal. The directors understand this can happen, but all families must understand that we **CANNOT** improve with people missing rehearsals.

Definitions

Excused absence: *significant* illness, quarantine, death in the family, religious obligations

Unexcused absence: work, homework, no ride, sleeping, etc.

Summer Rehearsals

A maximum of 2 excused absences will be allowed for summer rehearsals.

Perfect attendance at Band Camp is MANDATORY.

Season Rehearsals

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is expected. Unexcused absences from all or a portion of any events WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.

Any unexcused absences may result in **Performance Suspension**

2 unexcused absences may result in removal from the Arlington Marching Band

What is Performance Suspension?

The member will practice, travel, warm-up, BUT NOT perform with the group for that performance.

What is Performance Suspension Review?

This process is conducted with the knowledge of the student. The Directors and select staff members are involved. We evaluate the situation using the following essential questions:

1. The material covered at the missed rehearsal.
2. Was the work or music learned and made up outside of practice and then prepared for the next rehearsal?
3. Is the ensemble member able to do all the work needed for the performance?
4. What was the reason for the absence?

At some points in the year when we are learning or refining material, even one absence (excused or unexcused) may result in a Performance Suspension. This is due to safety concerns that arise when students do not know their performance responsibilities.

Notification of Absence

Other than emergencies, **absences must be submitted in EMAIL to Mr. Keech no less than 7 days (rehearsals) or 30 days (performances) prior to the absence by a PARENT ONLY.** If an emergency arises that requires you to miss or arrive late for a rehearsal, a **PARENT** must notify Mr. Keech as soon as possible *before* the rehearsal so that the staff can make appropriate adjustments to the rehearsal plan.

In such cases of emergencies, notification can be given via any of the following ways (in order of most-to-least preferable):

1. Email to Mr. Keech
2. Phone call and/or voicemail to Mr. Keech @ 845-486-4860 x70285

ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS SUBMITTED BY STUDENTS ONLY WILL BE CONSIDER UNEXCUSED!

Conflicts with the Band

Conflicts between band and other activities or events are the responsibility of the student. Students should not become involved in activities that may directly conflict with marching band activities. When outside activities create hardships concerning the band, unless it is a rare and unusual situation that may only happen once, the student and their family should work out the conflict in favor of attending the marching band rehearsal. It is the policy of the band to assist students when conflicts occur within the scope of the band policy. Students should not expect *excused* absences for conflicts *automatically*. Students are reminded that band is a demanding activity and that involvement in outside activities should be limited to those that are compatible with the band schedule. All conflicts regarding performances **must** be worked out so the student can fulfill their responsibility to the marching band.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Many schools charge substantial fees (thousands of dollars per students) for their members to be in marching band. At Arlington, with very prudent planning, support of the ABBI, and the Arlington Central School District, we can keep costs at a minimum for our members.

NEW ITEM

Fee Schedule for the 2025 Season

Rookie 1st year in Fall Marching Band		Payment & Due Date	Veteran 2nd or greater year in Fall Marching Band	
Payment	Total to Date*		Payment	Total to Date*
\$175	\$175	Registration Deposit Friday, June 13	\$150	\$150
\$225	\$400	Payment #1 Friday, August 8	\$200	\$375
\$225	\$625	Payment #2 Friday, September 5	\$200	\$575
\$225	\$850	Payment #3 (FINAL) Friday, October 3	\$200	\$750

*Adjust individual payments as needed with PROFIT from fundraising or under/over payments

Fundraising

There will be fundraising opportunities made available. Please take advantage of these opportunities. Any money made through the fundraising process will be credited toward your student's fees or if you choose the Assistance Fund. There are **NO REFUNDS** of **FUNDRAISING MONIES**.

Refunds – Tour Fees, Fundraisers, Donations to an individual student

Expenses for the organization is set prior to registration. Expenses must be paid regardless of student participation. In fact, when a student drops out during the season, expenses frequently go up as costs of rewriting the show are incurred. Due to this, there are **NO REFUNDS** for **TOUR FEES**. If you "overpay" fees excess funds will be rolled forward.

Financial Assistance

From time to time, families have a situation that make it financially challenging to join the marching band. Please find a time to confidentially speak with the directors. There are options that can help.

How do you formally request Financial Assistance?

If you need assistance, the first step is to contact Mr. R zodkiewicz as soon as you know of the need, preferably the same day you register for the Band. Once you declare to a director that you will need assistance, the director will contact your student's guidance counselor to confirm the need. We ask that if you are asking for assistance in any way that you:

1. Participate in ALL fundraisers and volunteer as parents' schedule allows.
2. Not purchase extra merchandise (Section Shirts are an exception to this)
3. Alert the directors if your situation improves and you can be removed from the Assistance.
4. You **MUST REAPPLY** each time you register for an ensemble, even in the same year

While each situation is different, after establishing need, the directors will work with the family to explore the following options.

- Option #1 - Extended Payment Plan. Full payment over a longer period of time.
- Option #2 - Dollar Matching. Every dollar raised/paid, a dollar is applied from the assistance fund.
- Option #3 - Custom plan

Guard Equipment and Costumes

As with marching brass and percussion, ALL GUARD EQUIPMENT and COSTUMES are the property of the Arlington Marching Arts (Marching Band, Winter Guard) programs. ALL items (rifles, sabres, flags, poles, costumes, props, etc.) **MUST** be returned to the director at the end of the season.

FORMS AND CHECKS

Forms will be made available on the band's website under the "Handbooks and Forms" section.

To Make a Payment

- Cash payments are not accepted.
- Utilize the Electronic option through SQUARE.
- All other payments must be made by a check or money order. All check or money orders must be made payable to "**Arlington Band Boosters, Inc.**" Never make checks or money orders payable to individuals.

Please indicate the purpose of the payment in the memo area of the check. One check or money order can be written for multiple expenses, but please indicate in the memo area what the payments are for. *All bounced checks will be charged a \$25 check fee at the discretion of the ABBI Treasurer**

To Submit Forms and Payments

By Mail: you can mail forms and payments to the organization specified on each form:

Evan R zodkiewicz
Arlington High School
1157 Route 55
LaGrangeville, NY 12540

In Person: Payments may be submitted in person anytime by using the **drop safe** located in the instrument storage area.

NEVER HAND FORMS OR PAYMENTS DIRECTLY TO DIRECTORS or STAFF!

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MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Medications

In general, the Director (s), Staff, or Volunteer (includes chaperone) CAN NOT administer any medications at any time. If medication is needed during rehearsal, a performance, or trip, one of the two documents listed below must be completed by a physician, signed by a parent and returned to the Health Office at least two weeks before the date of the event.

The most utilized form is the **Emergency Medication Order Form** (For self-carry/ self-administered medication). This form is used for medications needed in life threatening situations, which may include such medications as inhalers, Epipens, Benadryl, Glucagon. This form is filled out by a doctor, signed by a parent and returned to the Health Office at least two weeks before the date of the event.

In the event of an overnight trip, the **Healthcare Prescriber's Medication Order for School Trip form** would be used for any necessary medications not already covered by an Emergency Medication Order Form. Any controlled substances would be carried by the Director (s), Staff, or Volunteer (includes chaperone). This form is filled out by a doctor, signed by a parent and returned to the Health Office at least two weeks before the date of the event.

Medical Information

Original medical notes from a doctor regarding any injuries, i.e.-concussion, sprained ankle, etc., must be given to the Health Office upon arrival at school the day after the injury regardless of where the injury took place. A copy of the order should also be given to the Director prior to the next rehearsal/performance.

If throughout the course of the season, there are any changes in your child's health or medical condition, submit new medical orders to the Health Office and to the Director. For the health and safety of all students, it is essential that we have current and accurate information.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONING

Students who participate in marching band are athletes and expected to train vigorously to develop the strength, stamina, and power for successful and confident performances. Students are expected to participate in all elements of workouts and rehearsal, unless there is a written medical order (concussion documented injury, restriction on activity, etc.).

Marching band requires members to run, jump, leap, hop, roll, and to develop full body strength and strong cores to support movement and performance. Students must be cognizant of their own physical conditioning and opportunities for development outside of rehearsals. Staff will provide movement exercises and recommendations to support this development in safe and healthy ways.

Marching band requires members to exert energy and work hard. If there is not a passion for and commitment to engaging fully with the physical demands of long rehearsals, the program may not be a match.

PERFORMANCE AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

Performances

You will fill with pride when you see the Arlington Marching Band take the field in performance! Our marching band is a great source of pride for our school, community, and most importantly, our members. They display their award-winning efforts at performances during the fall marching season. In addition to performing at home football games, we have the great opportunity to travel around the Northeast and perform at several competitions.

The schedule varies from year to year, depending on when and where competitions are being held. Normally, one competition is scheduled each weekend from mid-September through the first week in November. The Arlington Marching Band participates in three circuits. Details concerning these events and all competitions are distributed in the fall closer to the time of the events. Please refer to the "Season Schedule" and bulletins distributed throughout the season for details of all events.

Travel

ACSD provides bus transportation to and from events, except for local parades and home football games. In the fall, members can sign up to ride the same bus as their friends. These bus assignments are in effect for the entire season. NO REQUESTS for changes will be accepted after the lists are processed.

We highly encourage members to return from competitions on the buses, but we understand there are occasions when parents (or an over-21-year-old designee) must transport their child home. If this need arises, parents/guardians MUST:

1. Fill out a "Travel Release Form" and place in the drop safe at least 24 hours before the trip.
2. At the end of the event, the adult designated on the "Travel Release Form" must personally report to bus #1 and present PHOTO ID to the chaperone. No one may leave without checking out with a chaperone and we will not allow students to look for you. In addition, we will leave when the group is ready; if your child was not picked-up when the group is ready to depart, they will be brought back to Arlington High School with the group.

Exact Return Times

Parents should plan with their students to learn when the buses will be returning to school. If your student does not have a cell phone, have them plan to borrow a friend's phone.

WIND / PERCUSSION / DRUM MAJOR UNIFORM INFORMATION

Winds & Percussion

Marching band members and their families are responsible for the care of their uniforms and are responsible for the repair or replacement costs for lost or damaged uniform parts.

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At the uniform fitting, marching band members will pick up their uniforms and order gloves, shoes, and garment bags. Please note that all percussion members (drumline and pit) do not need gloves. Gloves, shoes, and garment bags from the previous year can be reused if in good condition. Also, marching band members must provide their own black socks. Refer to the “Band Uniform Information” for further details.



Color Guard

The same rules apply to the Color Guard as applies to the winds, percussion, and drum majors. More detail on the care of the costumes (uniforms) will be made available upon delivery. All costumes (uniforms) **MUST BE RETURNED** at the end of the season.

Wind, Percussion, Drum Major Uniform Rules and Guidelines

The care and pride with which each member treats their uniform is of great importance to the organization. It goes without saying that all the rules and regulations for the Arlington Marching Band are in place while in any part of the uniform. Beyond that there are many additional expectations that are covered below. The details of these guidelines will be covered with the group when we get close to our first uniformed performance.

1. Always be dressed as the group (full, hats on/off, half, etc.)
2. Always have your uniform pieces folded and carried the same as the group
3. Always carry your shako right-side-up, in the left hand, four fingers on top
4. Always wear your uniform to specification, never half-open or hat backwards
5. While in uniform, never consume food or beverages that may stain the uniform
6. No make-up or hair products can be used/worn/dispensed around the uniforms. Guard will have a specific “look” defined for them each season and must achieve that “look”.
7. No jewelry is to be worn while in uniform (other than defined by the show designers). No piercings should be started after July 15th to allow time for existing piercing to heal and piercings to be removed for each performance.
8. As of September 1st, through the end of the performance season, hair must be a “natural” color and fit completely under the shako if needed at performances. “Show ready” hair style must allow the shako to be put on with one hand. Faces must be “clean shaved”. (Note: If there are any religious or medical needs for facial hair, please contact Mr. Keech BEFORE September 1st for an

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allowance). The staff will define for the Drum Majors and front ensemble members their specified hair style.

9. All uniform and costume parts (other than those directly purchased by the student as uniform accessory) must be returned immediately after each season.
10. Fingernails must be kept trimmed. The length is at the discretion of the director to insure an effective performance, safety of the students, and prevent damage of equipment. While in performance season, fingernails must be natural color or as specified by the director.

To be distributed at fitting or as the orders are received (summer):

- Jacket, pants, and gauntlets: You will keep your assigned jacket, pants, and gauntlets at home. Shako and plume are kept at school. Guard will keep their entire costume at home.
- Gloves: You will need multiple pairs of gloves, one for practice and one for performance. Everyone should order at least three pairs of gloves at the fitting *except for drumline and pit members who do not need gloves*. Gloves will be available for sale throughout the season.
- Garment bags and hangers: The garment bags we sell at uniform fittings are the *only* acceptable garment bags. **NO PERSONAL GARMENT BAGS WILL BE ALLOWED and ALTERATIONS OF ANY KIND TO GARMENT BAGS ARE PROHIBITED.**
- Shoes: These are special shoes for marching. Please know your shoe size when you arrive. You do not need to order new shoes if your previous pair is in good condition from the previous year.
- Member T-Shirt: One uniform T-shirt is provided to each member as part of the registration fee. Additional T-shirts may be ordered. T-shirts must be worn under the uniform. T-shirts will be distributed before the first performance.

You must provide:

- Black socks: we suggest that you buy at least two pairs and keep an extra in your garment bag. You must have these before the first performance. Socks must be all black and tall enough to go half-way to the knee.
- Undergarments: with the wind/percussion/DM uniforms, the style of undergarment is important. Briefs, boxer-briefs, spandex shorts, panties, and snug-fitting thermal underwear are allowed. Boxers, shorts, sweatpants, etc. are **PROHIBITED**.

**DO NOT ALTER YOUR UNIFORM OR MEMBER T-SHIRT IN ANY WAY
DO NOT WASH YOUR UNIFORM UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY THE DIRECTORS**

SEASON OVERVIEW

The Arlington Marching Band season starts with rehearsals in July. Prior to the start of full marching band rehearsals, there has already been much activity preparing for the upcoming season.

Percussion, and Color Guard Sectionals

Percussion and color guard sectionals start in the middle of winter in preparation for the season.

Rehearsals

Attendance at all full marching band rehearsals is expected of all members.

Band Camp

Held for the full marching band, Band Camp is a two-week, intensive training camp. The rehearsal schedule during these weeks provides the organization with an opportunity to firmly establish performance standards that will permeate our entire season. These are the **MOST IMPORTANT** two weeks of the season! *Band Camp is mandatory for all students.*

Performances

Home football games, parades, and competitions make up our performance schedule. Please check the complete calendar *before* signing up for the Arlington Marching Band.

REHEARSAL CHECKLIST

Before Rehearsal

- ✓ Make sure you prepared all materials (music, choreography, etc.) assigned at the previous rehearsal. Note: a repeated lack of preparation may result in a performance suspension.
- ✓ Coordinate with your family's schedule to make sure you can arrive early
- ✓ Pack all your gear in one bag; when you pick up your bag, you are ready to go
- ✓ Assist with the field set-up as assigned
- ✓ Eat something substantial (high quality, not junk)
- ✓ Drink good fluids (water, Gatorade, juice)
- ✓ Dress appropriately (in layers) for the weather
- ✓ Leave jewelry at home

At Rehearsals**

- ✓ Equipment (instrument, flags, sticks, etc.) – anything needed to keep rehearsal operational
- ✓ Water – In a ½ gallon (or bigger) insulated cooler
- ✓ A full backpack containing the following items:
 - 3-ring binder for music (plastic sheet protectors for each page)
 - Dot Book on a string (provided to each student as part of fees)
 - Pencils
 - Practice gloves (Drum Majors, Winds, and Color Guard)
 - Breathing tube or Non-Latex Balloons (Winds) if provided by the band
 - Metronome (Drum Majors)
 - Tuners (Drum Majors & Wind Section Leaders) – provided by the band upon request
 - Energy snacks (power bars, nuts, pretzels, etc.)
 - Sunscreen (as needed)
 - Hat (visor or shade style)
 - Sunglasses (as needed) – If you wear prescription glasses and sunglasses, you must have both so you can switch as soon as the sun goes down.
- ✓ Necessary Personal Protect Equipment (if needed)

Dress Code**

- ✓ The ACSD Dress Code for decency will be enforced.
- ✓ In addition:
 - **NO JEANS & NO SKIRTS**
 - **NO Hoods**
 - "High Quality" Running or Cross Training Sneakers + good athletic socks
 - Shorts/wind pants/sweatpants
 - White or light-colored T-Shirts
- ✓ Note: this is a physical activity that sometimes occurs in less than pristine conditions. Clothes should be able to get a little dirty/sweaty and *never* restrict your movement.

****Failure to have these items or failure to abide by these regulations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Repeated problems will result in a Performance Suspension****

After Rehearsal

- ✓ Repack your gear – do not leave anything behind
- ✓ Assist with the field clean-up as assigned
- ✓ Eat something substantial (high quality, not junk)
- ✓ Drink good fluids (water, Gatorade, juice)
- ✓ Prepare all materials (music, choreography, etc.) assigned for the next rehearsal

PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST

Before Performance

- ✓ Pack all your gear in one bag; when you pick up your bag, you are ready to go
- ✓ Pack food for the trip – pack more than you think you will need
 - **We will almost never stop for food or have access to concession stands.** Please bring enough for the entire trip.
 - AVOID HYPER-CAFFEINATED BEVERAGES!
- ✓ Confirm performance and pick-up times with your family
- ✓ Eat something substantial (high quality, not junk)
- ✓ Drink good fluids (water, Gatorade, juice)
- ✓ Dress appropriately (in layers) for the weather (even under your uniform)
 - Winds and Percussion – for competition please wear all black undergarments
 - Guard – Follow this year's uniform dress code (supplied later)
- ✓ Pack your uniform in Garment Bag
 - Winds/Percussion/Drum Majors
 - Jacket
 - Pants
 - Black Member T-Shirt
 - Gloves (Winds & Drum Majors)
 - Black shorts or long johns to wear underneath pants
 - Two pairs of “performance” black socks (All black, at least ½ up to the knee)
 - Color Guard
 - Details to be provided at the time your uniforms are distributed

At Performances

You might be ready to explode with excitement and energy, but we will strive to create an atmosphere of professionalism, focused-calm, discipline, and ultimately an amazing performance! This is from the time we arrive to the time we depart! We will cover this in more detail as the season progresses. There are a few important guidelines for now:

- ✓ Never be in a group of less than three Arlington students
- ✓ Know your boundaries (the stadium, the parking lot, the bus) and NEVER go outside these boundaries
- ✓ Always be dressed exactly as the rest of the group (street clothes, half uniform, full uniform, member jackets, etc.)

After Performances

- ✓ Repack your gear – do not leave anything behind
- ✓ Assist with the bus or cafeteria clean-up as needed
- ✓ Pick up any gear from the truck
- ✓ Assist with preparing the music rooms for class the next school day
- ✓ WAIT FOR YOUR RIDE IN PLAIN SIGHT OF THE DIRECTOR!
- ✓ Your equipment will need some attention when you get home:
 - Air out your uniform and then return it to the hanger and bag when dry
 - Launder your socks, shirt, and undergarments ASAP so they are ready to go the next time
 - Clean your marching shoes
 - Repack your show gear as soon as you can, and then be sure to CHECK IT AGAIN the day before the next performance

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Student Leadership is an integral part of the program. Leaders must consistently demonstrate the traits of an ideal member of the organization before and after being selected as a student leader. Leadership positions are an honor and a privilege. Students will be asked to serve for one season after a thorough vetting process. Leaders are required to reapply each season. If at any time THROUGHOUT THE SEASON the Director determines a leader demonstrates a lack of preparation or actions unbecoming a leader (in person or through electronic means), the Director has the right to remove the student's leadership responsibilities and title and replace them with another member of the same or a different section.

Drum Major

Eligibility to be considered AND REMAIN a leader

1. You must be enrolled in a music class.
2. You must have maintained a minimum of an 80% GPA and maintain ELIGIBILITY.
3. You must not have any office referrals from any high school band director.
4. You must have and maintain a near-perfect attendance record.

Audition Process

1. 400-word essay
2. Skill demonstrations including Basic Musicianship, Conducting, Verbal Commands, Salute
3. Interview

Expectations

1. Those selected as Drum Majors must attend a special summer training session (\$\$)
2. Assist in distribution of music and drill to staff and students.
3. Know the location of all sections and the schedule of events.
4. Make sure the field is set-up and packed-up (delegate responsibility).
5. Have sound systems, metronomes, cords, and blocks wherever needed.
6. Always have a current schedule, students list, set of scores, set of drill charts, watch, personal metronome, glow stick, and white gloves on their person.
7. Be ready to assist the directors as needed.
8. Any other responsibilities or jobs as determined by the Director.

Student Leaders

Eligibility to be considered AND REMAIN a leader

1. You must be enrolled in a music class. Color Guard leaders are exempt.
2. You must have maintained a minimum of an 80% GPA and maintain ELIGIBILITY.
3. You must not have any office referrals from any high school band director.
4. You must have and maintain a near-perfect attendance record.

Audition Process

1. 400-word essay
2. Skill demonstrations sampled from previous year
3. Interview

Expectations

1. Be the most prepared student in their group.
2. Check their group at every performance.
3. Assist, when asked by the directors, all students within their group with dot books, music, uniforms, marching, instruments, etc.
4. Know the location of all group members. This report will be taken to the Drum Major and then to the Director.
5. Ensure the "readiness to rehearse" of all members of their group.
6. Attend ALL leadership meetings (See calendar)
7. Any other responsibilities or jobs as determined by the Director.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Application

Essay Requirements

In two pages or less, please answer the following questions:

1. What college and major are you planning on starting this fall?
2. What other scholarship opportunities are you attempting to receive?
3. How has performing as part of a NYSFBC band shaped your music, your future, and you as a person?

Essays are due no later than **October 15th of each year** and the recipient will be announced at the Marching Band Banquet in November.

New York State Field Band Scholarship

Each year the NYSFBC grants a scholarship to an outstanding senior from each program that competed in the State Championships. To apply you must: 1) be a senior in this year's Arlington Marching Band, 2) be planning to attend a 4-year college this coming fall, 3) complete and submit the essay before NYSFBC State Championships.

Peter Klein Memorial Scholarship

Peter A. Klein was a dynamic and jovial person. Although a very determined and devoted worker, he was always quick to make a joke, and even quicker to laugh.

Raised in Salt Point, NY, Peter's lifelong love of music was enhanced when he attended Arlington High School and became an enthusiastic participant in both the Wind Ensemble and the Marching Band. In the Wind Ensemble he played first the clarinet, and then the bass clarinet. When he joined the Marching Band, he became a member of the drumline – starting with the cymbals and moving to the bass drum. Peter highly enjoyed the opportunity the band afforded him to interact with his fellow students and to develop his leadership skills. He was fond of traveling to the various band competitions, and he never seemed to mind the endless hours of practice on the field. He took great pride in how “his band” performed in competition and how the members worked as a team to produce a great performance. Even several years after he left Arlington, he continued to attend some of the band's competitions.

Although he rarely played the instruments, he learned in school again, Peter continued his musical interests by becoming a proficient pianist and singing to anyone who was willing to listen.

Peter graduated from Arlington in 1984 and went on to earn two degrees from Clarkson University, one in Electrical Engineering and the other in Physics. Throughout this time, he also worked tirelessly to perfect his computer programming skills. After graduating from college, he worked for IBM, before striking out on his own to become a very talented and successful computer consultant in Manhattan. He believed in taking risks and – above all – always following one's dreams, even in the face of fear and failure. In this spirit, he achieved a range of personal accomplishments including the registering of two patents and learning to pilot an airplane. In 2000, he married his wife Lorena, and lived with her in Weehawken, NJ until his death at the World Trade Center on September 11th, 2001.

Upon his death, many of Peter's friends wanted to establish some kind of memorial in his name. Remembering what an inspirational and fun experience Peter had enjoyed in the Arlington Marching Band, his family decided to commemorate his life and accomplishments through the Peter A. Klein Scholarship Fund.

FOR THE PARENTS!!!

Arlington Band Boosters, Inc. (ABBI)

The mission of the Arlington Band Boosters, Inc. is to enhance the music experiences and opportunities of students in the ENTIRE Arlington Band program. This includes music scholarships and awards, payments for guest conductors, workshops and performances by professionals and college groups, and much more. ABBI holds fundraisers throughout the year to fund these activities. As one of those band programs, the marching band receives financial support from ABBI. During the school year, your child may be asked to participate in various ABBI fundraisers. Please keep in mind that these will support all your child's band activities, including marching band.

Help your child through the tough times – nothing this rewarding is always easy

There will be ups and downs in the season. We will work with the members to try to understand and – when needed – be patient with themselves and others. At home, you can offer words of encouragement on the tough nights. Maybe they are REALLY TIRED, or not feeling successful at a task.

Come see your student

Although we ask that you stay away from rehearsals to help minimize distractions, during the last 15 minutes of any rehearsal, we usually perform a culmination of the work for that night. Later in the season this might even include a full performance (run-through). Listen to the instructor on the microphone and join in cheering our performers. WHO DOESN'T LOVE AN AUDIENCE!

Getting your student ready for a trip

- Besides performance gear, pack a change of comfortable clothes & shoes for the bus ride home.
- Always pack food for your child as they often eat lunch/dinner on the bus.
- Kids will typically call/text parents to let them know the return time.
- Kids love it if you bring baked goods for them to share on the bus.

Parents attending competitions

- Parents are not required to attend competitions, but if you do you must provide your own transportation.
- There is an admission fee for parents attending competitions.
- Bring blankets/stadium seats – dress in layers, bring hand warmers.
- Host schools usually sell food and beverages.
- At some events you can purchase “air grams” that are announced as the band comes on the field. Most students say they never hear them, or they are at best a distraction.
- You will see your child perform but will not have individual contact with them.
- For State & Regional competitions, check the host college website for stadium policies and what you are permitted to bring in. High schools prohibit bringing in food & beverage.
- Syracuse (Dome) and all other overnight competitions are great experiences. You should attend if possible. Reserve hotels early as they fill up.
- For overnights, parents typically line the hotel lobby to cheer for the band when they return from the competition.

Spectator Etiquette

- Silence your electronic devices.
- Cheer for all bands; all of them have worked very hard to perform their show.
- Refrain from talking during performances.
- Wait until a performance is completed before entering or leaving your seat.
- Always remember you are representing our children and Arlington. Always conduct yourself admirably.
- Wear your Arlington colors and photo buttons (see fundraisers).
- We all try to sit together in a sea of maroon and gold.
- Do not use noise makers of any kind (just cheers and applause please).

Invitational Weekend – Sponsored and Organized by ABBI

- Arlington's opportunity to host a home competition to bands from around the State and beyond.
- The Invitational has a long-standing pride and history within the school, the community, and the marching band circuit.

Fundraisers

Below is a list of *some* of the fundraisers we participate in. We are always looking for new fundraising ideas and sponsors. Contact a member of the ABBI Board if you have more ideas.

- Adam's Gift Cards, Cookie Dough sale – money raised can be applied toward membership fees
- Photo/Button/Magnet – purchase photos of your child or wear it as a button
- Invitational Program book ads

Awards Night

This is the culminating ceremony of the entire season. Students are awarded their Varsity letters for their membership jackets, as well as other season awards.

Volunteer! Your children are depending on it!

The very best bands have the very best parent volunteers! The more demanding and success the students get, the more support they need. Our goal is to involve every family in some manner. The more you invest, the more you will appreciate what it is your children can accomplish!

Support your kids in some way. There are almost infinite ways you can help. Some ways you could help we have not even thought of, but many are listed below.

Bus Chaperones	Chaperone applicants will be reviewed and approved by the director Chaperones ride bus to and from events and Take attendance Supervise students on bus Help students prepare for competition Be prepared to help remove equipment from the field after competition Make sure bus is left clean after arrival at the school
Band Camp Chaperones	Assist with the supply of extra food and beverage Help monitor students Assist with odd jobs to help the staff with the number of students present Monitor weather situations if they arise
Pit Crew	Work with student pit members to move pit equipment Assist with moving equipment at rehearsals (rotating basis)
Build Team	Assist with any construction or props projects Skills could involve welding, carpentry, electrical, painting, etc.
Uniform Fittings	Assist with fitting and distributing uniforms in June
Sewing	Assist in uniform and flag construction/repair/maintenance

WINTERGUARD SUPPLEMENT

Admiral Winterguard Participation Requirements

All students who wish to be considered for the Admiral Winterguard must successfully complete the previous Marching Band season. In addition, performers must be a full-time student at Arlington High School. In the 2025 season, the group will compete at the nationally competitive Scholastic Open division.

The Admiral winter program is an audition-based program, and evaluations/auditions for invitation to participate in the guard are ongoing through the entirety of the marching band season.

Cadet Winterguard Participation Requirements

All students who wish to be considered for the Cadet Winterguard must be a full-time student at Lagrange Middle, Union Vale Middle, or Arlington High School in grades 6-12. In the 2025 season, the group will compete at a higher level of Scholastic Regional A or Scholastic A division.

There is NO MARCHING BAND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT to be considered for the Cadet Winterguard.

Guard Equipment and Costumes

ALL GUARD EQUIPMENT and COSTUMES are the property of the Arlington Marching Arts (Marching Band, Winter Guard) programs. ALL items (rifles, sabres, flags, poles, costumes, props, etc.) MUST be returned to the unit director at the end of the season.

WINTER PERCUSSION SUPPLEMENT

Arlington Winter Percussion Ensemble Participation Requirements

All students who wish to be considered for the Arlington Winter Percussion ensemble must be enrolled in a band, orchestra, or choir class. In addition, students must be a full-time student at Arlington High School.

DIRECTOR'S CLAUSE

The director reserves the right to alter this handbook in any way seen fit by himself or the administration of Arlington High School. These alterations may occur at any time and will be announced and distributed prior to being enforced.