

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MARCH?

A marching band is a large ensemble, often made up of a hundred or more people. These members belong to various sections of the band, including the winds, the drumline, the pit, color guard, and even sometimes a dance team. These bands often perform at school sporting events and in parades. At football games, the band often takes the field before the game starts and at half-time. These shows take hours and hours of rehearsal to perfect, and they contribute to the pageantry and tradition of football games.



Marching band contains its own culture, and is something that is celebrated in schools and universities all across the country. It has its own set of lingo, which includes

Dinkles band shoes optimized for the perfect heel roll, jazz runs, drill charts, parade rest, and the phrase “marching 8-to-5,” which means that you march so that you take eight steps within five yards. And you always step off with your left foot.

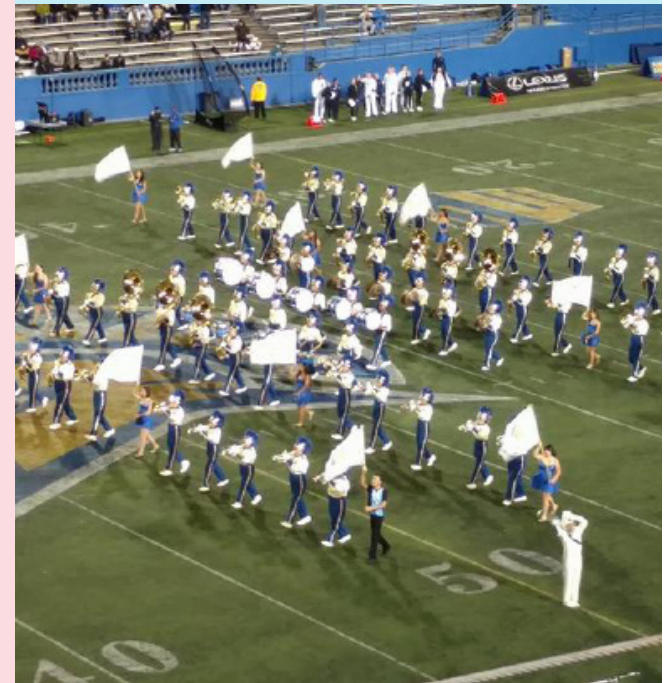
There is no better feeling in the world than being a part of a perfect show and looking out as the crowd goes absolutely wild. When you are in a marching band, it may not seem like an individual is all that important; after all, every person is dressed exactly alike, and it is extremely hard to distinguish individuals out on the field. However, if *you* make a mistake, it is blatantly obvious to everyone watching. Every person has to match everybody else around them, and for that reason, this kind of group highlights the importance and contributions of every single member. When you are in a marching band, you are a part of something so much bigger than yourself, but you are still important as an individual.

WHAT STUDENTS WILL NEED:

- Instrument and all the essentials (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, etc.)
- Uniform, including proper gloves, shoes, socks, and even sunglasses
- Pencil for music corrections and marking spot on field during practice
- Drill charts
- Water, water, and more water
- Comfortable clothes for practice
- Enthusiasm and persistence

Boosting School Spirit

The Power of Pep and Marching Bands



DEAR STUDENTS:

Be warned: marching band can change your life. If you are joining your high school or college band for the first time, prepare yourself for some great friends and pure fun. Rehearsals may be long and tiresome, but there really is no better feeling than a stadium of football fans cheering for you after you perform your perfect halftime show.



What It Means to March, Benefits of Having a Band, and Essentials for Your Stands



How Can This Benefit Your School?

You Do Not Have Enough Members for a Marching Band... What Do You Do?

Stand Essentials

FORM A PEP BAND.

A marching band helps to create a fun atmosphere at your school's sports events. With their cheers, chants, and songs, they encourage fans to participate in the event; they make the event more interactive for the spectators. This helps to create an electric environment and a dedicated fan base.

More than anything else, the band is there to support the school's sports teams. This positivity can help facilitate an encouraging climate, and this can help your teams to succeed. With a band, you are guaranteed to always have fans to support your team.

Marching and pep bands help to promote the arts while also promoting sports and public events; it is a group and activity that your school can be sure to be proud of.



The SJSU Pep Band, Cheerleaders, and Sammy the Spartan



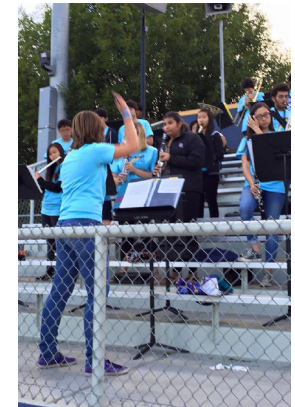
The San Jose State University Pep Band at a Basketball Game

Marching bands come in all shapes and sizes, but it can be discouraging if you are trying to form a group and can only recruit twenty or so musicians -- there just are not too many formations you can make. **HOWEVER**, all hope is not lost: that is the perfect size for a pep band.

Pep bands give your crowds something to sing along to and dance with, and they serve as wonderfully enthusiastic and impassioned cheerleaders (and sometimes hecklers). Especially at basketball games, these groups can truly make a difference. Whether they are playing obnoxiously during an opponent's time-out or simply playing some fun tunes in between periods, a pep band can positively alter the entire environment on the court.

The most important part in boosting school spirit in the way described in this brochure is by first organizing an ensemble. But then it must be determined: what will your band play?

With halftime shows, it is good to know your audience and what they would enjoy. Between different formations and dance moves, the possibilities for a great halftime show are endless -- be as creative as you can!



Leland High School Pep Band

However, in the stands, when your band is acting as a pep band, there are some tunes that never fail to miss the mark, no matter who is in the crowd. This includes your school's fight songs and other related hymns, typical charges, and various classic rock songs such as Queen's "We Will Rock You" and Bon Jovi's "You Give Love A Bad Name."

Additionally, when there are cheers within the songs you play (such as yelling "Charge!" or the name of your school), make sure your band is yelling as loud and clear as they can. The crowd is more likely to participate if your band is passionate and understandable.