



Erie All-City Marching Band

Handbook

2017-2018

*“The mission of the Erie All-City Marching Band is to create a **positive learning environment** that fosters **academic achievement** and **good citizenship** through the medium of **musical and visual artistry.**”*

Dear Erie All-City Marching Band Parents and Members,

Welcome to the Erie All-City Marching Band! This great organization hails over a decade of excellence in performance and competition. We are very happy you have made the choice to become a member of the Erie All-City Marching Band family!

This handbook is intended to give all readers an idea of what it is like to be part of the Erie All-City Marching Band (EACMB). In this handbook, you will find information about what to expect, what to look forward to and what you must do to be a successful and contributing member.

As a member of the band, you can look forward to a positive, rewarding, exciting and hard-working experience of a lifetime. Nothing can compare to the rewards of a successful high school career.

Did You Know?

- Children raised in cultures rich in music tend to develop learning and communication skills more quickly than other children.
- There is a high correlation between positive self-perception, high cognitive competence scores, self-esteem, and interest and involvement in school music programs.
- Music experiences instill positive attitudes, a positive self-image, a desire to achieve excellence, an ability to set goals, cooperation, and group cohesiveness.
- Recent testing revealed students with music performance experience scored an average of 22 points above the mean on verbal and 18 points above the mean on math sections of the Standardized Achievement Test (SAT), and had an overall **higher grade-point average** than other students.

Music can be seen as one of the solutions to many of our cultural problems. It is a common language of communication for our shrinking global society, crossing all ethnic and social boundaries. We cannot take for granted what "being in band" means to our students: it is a shared musical experience among people; it creates a unique bond that cannot be duplicated by any other experience in the high school setting; and learning music is preparing for a successful life.

Once again, welcome to the Erie All-City Marching Band. Please take time to read this handbook carefully and return the appropriate forms by the assigned date so we can start a wonderful year!

Musically Yours,

Erick Nicklas, Director

Staff, Erie All-City Marching Band

Attendance Policy

Conscientious rehearsal attendance is vital to your child's education and to the well-being of our program. As we put drill on the field and work to develop our competitive production, it is essential that all band members are present for the **entirety** of all rehearsals. Equally important is instilling in your son or daughter the essential life skill of being accountable for your obligations and personal time management.

Regular attendance at rehearsals is essential to the success and education of your son or daughter as well as that of the entire ensemble. With this in mind, all marching members must attend at least 90%.

Regular winter rehearsal attendance is required to gain membership to the band, however, for those students who wish to pursue a winter sport or activity special arrangements can be made on a case by case basis. Please see a director to make such arrangements.

Repeated attendance issues may lead to the member's position being closed, sidelined or filled by another more available participant.

Here are some guidelines to help you clearly understand our attendance policy. If you have questions, please contact the director or assistant director of the band.

If you are going on vacation, read line #3 & 6.

1. Rehearsal attendance is **mandatory**.
2. Excused absences include illness (must be absent from school) and religious events (weddings, funerals, bar mitzvahs, confirmations). An outside job does not suffice as an excused absence. Transportation conflicts are also non-excusable. If you need a ride, consult with a fellow band member or staff.
3. Students should fill out an ABSENCE FORM (available in the band room or on www.eacmb.org) a minimum of **2 weeks prior** to the absence and turn it in.
4. A student who misses any two rehearsals in a given week during the performance season prohibits his/her participation with the ensemble during a Friday night or Saturday performance. This will be left to the discretion of the director. Attendance, however, is still mandatory for these performances. Students will be required to stand during the duration of the performance.
5. Punctuality is factored in as well: if a student arrives to rehearsal more than thirty (30) minutes past the beginning of rehearsal, he or she is considered tardy. Three tardies constitutes an absence.
6. There is, of course, always extenuating circumstances that may prohibit a member from being at multiple rehearsals. These rare occurrences should be discussed with staff prior to the absences.

Contact Information

Throughout the marching band season, you will likely find the need to get in contact with the various staff members of the band. The Erie All-City Marching Band staff has an open-door policy. Please, never hesitate to contact the staff with any questions or comments that you might have. The following are the best ways to reach the staff:

Any questions regarding attendance should be directed to band staff.
(814) 580-6680 [voice/text] or emailing info@eacmb.org

Any questions regarding fundraising, parental support, etc.
boosters@eacmb.org

We are online 24 hours per day at
www.eacmb.org

Academic Accountability

As stated in the Erie All-City Marching Band mission statement, academic achievement is paramount to any marching band activity. The staff of EACMB work closely with faculty from the various schools that make up the Band to be sure each member is in good academic standing.

As a student of Erie's Public Schools and a member and representative of the Erie All-City Marching Band, members are expected to maintain a passing average in classes.

Use of School-Owned Instruments and Property

Erie's Public Schools has provided high quality instruments for each member to use for the marching band. Members will be assigned instruments for usage with the marching band. Repairs will be financially backed by the Erie All-City Marching Band, however, any abuse or theft of school issued property will be the responsibility of the member and the members' family.

Members of the marching band should be cognizant of the importance of instrument care! We are fortunate to have such high-quality instruments.

Being A Good Citizen *(Student Conduct Guidelines)*

1. Students are expected to exhibit behaviors that are conducive to optimum TEAM achievement. These behaviors can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. performing to the best of your ability at all times,
 - b. supporting other members and their efforts, and
 - c. showing respect for the goals of the organization.
2. Students will be expected to exhibit behaviors of self-discipline during rehearsals. These behaviors can include, but are not limited to:
 - a. not talking during rehearsals,
 - b. not disturbing instruction in any fashion,
 - c. respecting students, faculty, staff or parent volunteers, and
 - d. maintaining the interest and focus toward the goals of the organization.
3. Students will be expected to exhibit courteous behavior at all times. Please refrain from being loud, boisterous, and rude in your communication with or around others.
4. Public Displays of Affection (PDA) are inappropriate in the band facilities, on busses, or official band/school functions at any time.
5. If you can't say it in a G-rated movie, you shouldn't say it while representing the band in ANY manner (i.e. rehearsal, performance, in uniform, in band shirts, etc.) Please be mature enough and respectful enough to consider your surroundings and your audience when you are alone or with others. Erie All-City has taken years to build a good reputation, but it can be torn down in just minutes!
6. Due to the physical performance nature of marching band, students should make HEALTHY food and beverage choices while participating in and between rehearsal and performance activities. For example, WATER, sports drinks (Gatorade, Propel) are permitted; *pop, soft drinks, etc. are prohibited!* If you learn of a new drink that you think may qualify for use at rehearsal, please ask a staff member.
7. Dress Code: No 3 B's (no belly's, no bottoms, no busts), i.e. no spaghetti straps, etc.
8. Harassment, hazing, bullying, or abuse of students, staff, or parents will not be tolerated. An infraction of this nature may subject that student to dismissal from the band.
9. Any infraction of conduct, attitude, or responsibility may result in one or more of the following consequences:
 - a. Laps, push-ups, etc.
 - b. conference with student
 - c. conference with parent
 - d. loss of performance status
 - e. conference with appropriate administrator
 - f. dismissal from the band program
8. **All rules and guidelines of the Student Code of Conduct in Erie's Public Schools policy manual apply.**

Band Relations

- **Internet:** There are many social networking resources on the internet where marching band is discussed. As a member of Erie All-City Marching Band, it is your duty to uphold our good name in your communication online. Any unfair or poor representation of the Erie All-City Marching Band on any internet website will be removed, and the author of that content will be reprimanded via disciplinary action via Erie's Public Schools or by law enforcement.
- **Band Functions:** At competitions, district festivals, and other band functions, the good name of Erie All-City (EAC) is in your hands. As a member of the band, you are expected to be respectful of other organizations and their respective members, regardless of any comments made to you. Remember the phrase, "You have a very nice marching band."

Uniform Care and Policy:

The School District provides a marching band uniform for each member of the band. All band equipment is expensive and difficult to replace. They need to last for many years to come. We must care for all of our equipment as though it has to last for another fifteen years.

- A. NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING EXCEPT WATER WHILE WEARING THE UNIFORM. You will usually have time to change out of uniform at band shows so that you may enjoy the concession stand.
- B. Students are responsible for keeping their uniform in presentable condition at all times. This includes hanging the uniform properly after each performance; this will maintain its form and will reduce the need for ironing.
- C. Visible jewelry is not permitted to be worn while in uniform unless it is a part of the uniform.
- D. Students are required to have marching shoes. Shoes are ordered annually by our booster organization. Each student is responsible for this expense as needed.
- E. The band will supply your child with one pair of gloves. Additional pairs will be at the cost of the student.
- F. Under the uniforms, students will be required to wear the official EAC show shirt, or a black shirt w/sleeves (no tank tops), shorts and clean black socks.
- G. Uniforms will be collected and inspected each year. Students are financially responsible for all uniform pieces that are lost or damaged. Uniforms will be passed out clean and returned clean each year.
- H. Specific instructions on how the uniform is to be worn will be given prior to the first performance. All uniforms must be carried, folded and worn the same way. If we are in "halves", then everyone must be in halves, et al.

Rehearsal Etiquette

1) Be on time.

- a) We have a limited amount of rehearsal time please do NOT waste it by starting late.
- b) Being on time means having all equipment ready and in your designated rehearsal area BEFORE start time.

2) Be respectful of others at ALL times

- a) Be respectful of other members, they are part of YOUR team!
- b) Be respectful of YOUR Boosters, they have volunteered to help YOUR team have everything WE need!
- c) Be respectful of YOUR instructors, they are YOUR biggest critics and YOUR biggest fans BOTH at the same time!
- d) Be respectful of everyone else, just because EVERYONE deserves respect!

3) Come prepared!

- a) Have your pencil
- b) Have your music (binder and sheets)
- c) Have your dot book
- d) Have your water bottle (insulated and labeled with your name)
- e) Have your sneakers/shoes that you can march in

4) Put down your phone or other electronic devices.

- a) There will be time on breaks for cell phone use.
- b) Please make sure your ride knows when to pick you up before you get to rehearsal. Get a schedule.
- c) Please let friends and family know you will not be available to talk/text during rehearsal time.
- d) EACMB policy on cell phone/electronic device confiscation and return will be forthcoming.

5) Know when to bring questions and concerns to staff

- a) Don't try to interpret rules or instructions for each other. If you need clarification go to your instructor.

6) Be mindful of your attitude and your language. Never say CAN'T.

- a) The man who says he can't and the man who says he can, are BOTH right.
- b) Instead say I haven't been able to do that yet, but today I'm going to try again.

“Watch your thoughts, for they become words.
Watch your words, for they become actions.
Watch your actions, for they become habits.
Watch your habits, for they become character.
Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny.”

- Margaret Thatcher

Friends and family are welcome to come for the last half hour ONLY of rehearsal to view our progress.