

2017-18 Stevenson High School Marching Band

Home Camp, SHS: August 7–11 / Away Camp, Lake Ann: August 13-18

Thank you for your interest in the Pride of Stevenson High School – The Titans Marching Band! All students enrolled in a band class at Stevenson High School are invited to join the Marching Band as an instrumentalist. In addition, students enrolled in band class in the International Baccalaureate program as well as 9th grade band students from Davis, Heritage, and Jeannette Junior High schools can participate. All students in grades 9-12 at Stevenson, the Junior Highs, and IB are eligible to participate as a non-instrumental member of Color Guard; Guard members are encouraged to take a band class to better understand the integration of music with their routines.

Most communications are done electronically. To keep up to date:

1. Updates are sent regularly via e-mail blasts. To sign up: visit www.shs-music.org – look in the lower left corner for “Click here to sign up for the SHS Mailing List”.
2. Sign up for Mr. Sekich’s Remind text messages for marching band by texting @mrsekic to 81010 from your cell or visit www.remind.com/join/mrsekic on your computer.
3. Sign up for the Band Boosters Remind text messages by texting @shsbbc to 81010 from your cell or visit www.remind.com/join/shsbbc on your computer.
4. Search for and ask to join the private Facebook group “2017-2018 Stevenson Titan Marching Band”. Mr. Sekich personally approves requests and needs to recognize you before you’re approved. Contact Mr. Sekich at Michael.Sekich@uticak12.org.
5. Keep your contact info up-to-date throughout the school year. Communicate e-mail address and/or phone number changes to any Band Booster board member.

Overview, Schedule, and Expectations

Most Marching Band performances occur in late summer and early fall at 4 or 5 home football games usually on Friday evenings, a late summer parade (usually Romeo or Richmond), Utica Community Schools’ Band-a-Rama (usually a Sunday in early October), and as a participant in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Marching Festival (a weeknight in mid-October). Should the football team make the playoffs, the Band may perform at games through Thanksgiving weekend. In addition, the Marching Band will perform indoors at the Stevenson HS Instrumental Music concert in December, at SHS for a Cluster Concert in January, and for the City of Sterling Heights Memorial Day Parade on Memorial Day Monday. Attendance at all performances is mandatory.

The new season begins in June during the last week of school when next year’s Marching Band meets at SHS for their first rehearsal. Marchers will be expected to participate in activities with other members of their instrument groups (sections) throughout the early summer. The full band gathers together for two weeks of rehearsals in August, starting with home camp at Stevenson (**Aug 7 – 11**) followed by away camp at Lake Ann Camp near Traverse City (**Aug 13 – 18**).

The full band will continue to rehearse together once school begins, usually once per week on Tuesday evenings as well as at mini home camp(s) that will take place at SHS on a Saturday or Sunday in late September or early October in advance of Band-a-Rama and MSBOA Festival. There will also be more section-only rehearsals that are scheduled and communicated by section leaders.

Marching Band members have the responsibility of understanding and adhering to their schedule, which includes signing up for and reading electronic communications that provide numerous updates and changes as the season progresses.

A handbook will be distributed at the June rehearsal that includes many more details on the expectations of Marching Band members. This packet will include a Marching Band Contract that must be signed by the student and a parent and returned to SHS on or before the first day of home camp on **Monday, August 7th**.

All documents are published on the Instrumental Music web site (www.shs-music.org) for your reference at any time. They will also be posted on our Facebook group and sent via e-mail blasts. Engagement and participation in these communications systems is an essential way to avoid confusion and get information you need about band performances, rehearsals, and fundraising efforts.

Marching Band Fees, Payments, Fundraising

A pay-to-march fee of \$450 is charged for students that participate in Marching Band. Included is Band Camp at Lake Ann (*charter bus transportation, room and board, meals, drinks, snacks, team building, pizza party and dance, ice cream social, adult chaperones and counselors, music staff instruction (at camp & at home), a show theme t-shirt, white gloves, purchase of music and marching drill, and more*). For new members, the \$450 doesn't include the purchase of items to complete their required uniform (\$60 for instrumentalists, tbd for color guard).

A nonrefundable \$100 payment, which is applied toward your balance, **is due by Monday, May 1, 2017** and will serve as your student's reservation. Complete and return the Marching Band reservation form along with \$100 to sign up. The \$100 is nonrefundable due to costs that are incurred as part of the preparation process for your child.

The full \$450 fee for Marching Band is due on Monday August 7, 2017. Optional payment coupons are included in this packet to pay in installments or make full payment at any time. **Checks are to be made payable to Stevenson Band Boosters NO CASH PLEASE.** We can accept credit cards for an additional fee, contact Mike Austerman or Allison Tackett for info. Payments are to be dropped in the Blue Box in the Stevenson Band Room (under the American flag) or mailed to Mike Austerman: 2804 Arrowwood Ct., Sterling Heights MI 48314.

Returned checks are charged a \$25 fee. You will not be allowed to write checks for future band expenses should a returned check and the associated \$25 fee not be resolved satisfactorily. This follows the policy that is enforced by Utica Community Schools.

Unpaid Marching Band fees at the conclusion of Band Camp on August 21st will result in the student not being permitted to travel on any other trips and his/her report card could be held back until the balance is paid. If the student is a senior, his/her cap and gown may be held back and he/she may not be permitted to walk at the graduation ceremony.

Fundraisers are available through the Band Boosters to help with band expenses. If your child has participated in fundraisers you may have money in your student assistance account that can be used for camp and/or marching apparel expenses. New marchers are encouraged to join returning

members during Tag Day, when students ask for donations from the community outside area businesses. Tag Day dates in 2017 are Friday May 19th, Saturday May 20th, and Sunday May 21st.

Group fundraising allows the Boosters to offset a portion of the costs of the Marching Band for all participants. Marching Band fees would exceed \$550 for each member without the funds we raise together. For this reason, we encourage every family – including those at the Junior Highs - to participate in the Band Boosters' fundraisers throughout the year.

If you would like to assist a family in need, each year the Band Boosters attempt to set aside funds received through donations that assist those that would not otherwise be able to participate in Marching Band. These funds are limited and based on the kindness of donors. There is an area on the payment coupons to mark if you wish to contribute, or contact Mike Austerman or Allison Tackett for more information. Depending on your tax situation, donations may be deductible as the Stevenson Band Booster Club is organized as a 501c3 charity.

If there are extenuating circumstances causing you to have trouble paying for Marching Band, please contact Mr. Sekich or Mr. Austerman now for more information on the possible availability of assistance through the Band Boosters. Don't wait until you have a past-due balance.

Form / Paperwork Requirements

Each form in the Marching Band packet is to be completed and returned in a timely manner. There are due dates at the top of each one. During the summer, Band Booster volunteers must process and organize the information (consisting of nearly 1000 individual forms) to keep our marchers safe and to meet state licensing requirements. Turn in forms as they are completed – do not hold back completed forms while waiting to complete others. The buses to camp will not leave until all paperwork is 100% complete – don't be the person that holds up an entire band!

It is required that every marching band member have a physical completed by a medical professional prior to camp. **Important: The physical must be completed and dated on or AFTER April 15, 2017. There can be no exceptions to this requirement** as it is mandated both by the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and Utica Community Schools. **Any MHSAA form turned in with a date earlier than April 15, 2017 will be rejected and another physical must be completed before your child will be allowed to participate in marching band.**

The MHSAA physical form **must** be filled out completely (both sides) and signed by an MD, DO, PA or NP. In addition to the band's copy of the completed form that must be turned in, we strongly recommend making extra copies you can give to athletics (if necessary) and for your home files.

The Emergency Medical Treatment form **must** be notarized. No exceptions – this is mandated by the State of Michigan and Utica Schools. A free notary public will be available at most Band Booster meetings and other Stevenson band events through the end of the current school year.

A photocopy of the current medical insurance card (front and back) that your child is covered under must be provided in your returned paperwork. It is necessary should emergency medical treatment be required for your student.

Completed forms – **there are 6** - plus a copy of the **front and back** of your medical insurance card - are to be placed in an envelope labeled “Band Camp” and put either in the Blue Box in the band room or sent via US mail to Mike Austerman at 2804 Arrowwood Ct, Sterling Heights, MI 48314.

It is critical that the “Apparel/Activity” form is received from all students by June 1, 2017. This will allow time to order t-shirts, shoes, gloves, and ball caps so they are ready for the first performances of the marching season. **ALL marching band students, including color guard, MUST return this form so we can order their theme shirts and gloves in the proper sizes.**

Each band member (excluding color guard) is required to have **two** t-shirts for the season:

- A theme t-shirt (included in the Marching Band fee) that captures the fun of the show and features a handy calendar on the back. It is used only for the current marching season.
- A navy blue t-shirt that must be purchased separately. It is used at the discretion of the band director for performances every year the student is in marching band. Color guard does not need this shirt – for guard only, purchasing one is optional.

For all new Marching Band members (excluding color guard, which has separate requirements through Coach Dee), there is a required additional \$60 fee to cover the cost of completing their required Marching Band uniform. The \$60 includes a navy blue Marching Band shirt (\$20) and white shoes (\$40). Note: shoes tend to run small; we recommend writing down ½ size larger than your student’s current size. Returning marchers have the option of ordering a new navy t-shirt and/or shoes – check to ensure what they own now will fit in the fall.

A representative from the shoe company will visit SHS during home camp to try on shoes and ensure the correct sizing; any required changes/corrections to the order will be made at that time.

While at Lake Ann, students will have the option to participate in various recreational activities. Two of these activities come with an additional fee: zipline trips are \$7 each, and paintball games are \$22 each. We recommend signing up for no more than 2 total due to time constraints. Advance signups are taken so Lake Ann can staff properly for these activities.

Full payment for orders of shoes, navy shirts, caps, zipline, and paintball must be made when the form is turned in by June 1st. Checks are to be made payable to Stevenson Band Boosters.

Shoes, navy t-shirts, caps, and gloves will be delivered as they become available, usually during a rehearsal after we return from away camp.

Summer Preparation Information

Marchers will need a pair of white shorts for parades and/or football games in the late summer and early fall. Please make sure they are modest and appropriately long. They will be used with either the theme t-shirt or the navy t-shirt and white marching shoes to create a summer uniform. School-owned formal marching uniforms will be distributed during home camp; typically, they will not be used until the weather gets cooler.

Other items that are best obtained during the summer include a lyre, folio, and extra clear folio pages (used to hold and display music on instruments) along with a 8 ½ x 11” 3-ring binder with about 30 or more sheet protectors (used for the drill).

Students will participate in a practice during the last week of school in June to receive show music, meet section leaders, and gather updated information about camps. Parents are welcome to observe this practice, but it is mainly for marching band members. A Band Booster parent will be available to collect late camp forms, payments, and answer questions.

Section leaders are chosen by Mr. Sekich each spring. Section leaders will organize meetings of their members over the summer to get to know each other, practice music for the show, learn basic marching techniques, and plan for home and away camp. These typically take place at Stevenson or at a section leader's home. Sections will design their own t-shirts that can be purchased by members. These are separate from the two that are required for the entire band.

Student-led sectional schedules are communicated between the students (you won't see them on the band's Facebook group or in Booster e-mails) and may use several options which might include Remind messages, e-mail, text, and others. New marchers must provide correct contact information to their section leaders during the full band meeting/rehearsal in early June. Marchers are responsible to understand when and where to meet with their sections during the summer by communicating with their section leaders.

Mr. Sekich encourages everyone to continue with their normal summer travel/vacation plans but to also make every effort to have your student participate in sectionals when in town. Marchers should stay physically active during the summer – both with their instruments and other outdoor activities to help ease the physical demands of home and away camp. Break in your shoes early – don't come to camp with new shoes to help prevent blisters.

Marchers will likely also participate in student-led fundraising efforts like car washes and bottle drives. Fundraising in the sections is set up as a contest each year with the money raised helping to pay for this year's show and other items that are needed during the season.

Start saving your loose change! There will be a "coin war" that takes place during the week of home camp. Which section will take the crown as fundraising champ in 2017?

Once school starts, there will be required full marching band rehearsals one evening each week at Stevenson from 6-9 p.m. This will usually be Tuesday, depending on field availability.

Home Camp Information

This year's **home camp will be Monday August 7th – Friday August 11th from roughly 8:30am to 4:00pm.** The times may vary a bit but students should plan to be at school the entire time. Students must bring a lunch to eat during their break because they will **not be allowed to leave the school grounds to get food.**

Home camp will be similar to away camp; the focus is on learning the music and marching drill. Marchers should be prepared to be outside in the heat at certain portions of the day. Wear comfortable shoes (white athletic socks are important too). Sunscreen, sunglasses, hats, and a refillable water bottle are **strongly** recommended.

While at home camp, students will request cabin-mates for away camp at Lake Ann. Bunkhouses typically sleep up to 11 students plus a stafferone; campers should be thinking about with whom they want to spend their cabin time with.

The Boosters will publish a request for donations of non-perishable items that will be consumed by the Marching Band at Away Camp and during the season at home. Donations will be accepted at Stevenson during the week of home camp and provide a huge boost to both the kids and the parents by minimizing the amount of time that chaperones need to be away to shop.

Booster parents will be at home camp each day to collect missing or incomplete forms and to collect replacement forms should anything have changed over the summer. There may also be a social gathering on Friday afternoon after Mr. Sekich releases the marchers. Information on the social gathering will be provided via an e-mail blast and on the Facebook group by early August.

Away Camp Information

Stevenson Marching Band Away Camp will be at Lake Ann Camp near Traverse City (www.lakeanncamp.com). It is scheduled for Sunday August 13 thru Friday August 18, 2017. Attendance at away camp is essential for all members. In addition to spending time together learning their music and the marching drill, campers gain valuable life experience by being responsible for themselves and how to co-exist with their peers.

Specific information about Away Camp (what to pack, how to prepare, etc) will be made available to you as we get closer to August. Keep checking the web site and Facebook page and be sure to sign up for e-mail blasts and Remind messages to receive this info as soon as it is finalized and published.

While we are at away camp there will be pictures and blogs posted daily so parents can watch the activities and get a taste of what happens at camp. Parents are welcome to visit camp however it is required to notify the staff ahead of time and sign in at Lake Ann when you arrive.

Stevenson Marching Band Away Camp is regulated and licensed by the State of Michigan, as is Lake Ann Camp, therefore the staff and volunteers are background checked and cleared by the State. The forms that you are required to fill out are necessary for the safety of our kids and for the annual inspection from the State of Michigan while we are at camp.

A nursing staff is on-site at all times during away camp. Medication policies are fully enforced – violations can result in immediate dismissal from camp and Marching Band. Except for epi-pens and inhalers, absolutely no medications (prescriptions or over-the-counter) are to be packed in student luggage. Consider skipping vitamins for this week.

The parents of our veteran marchers can help answer questions and provide information about Marching Band and Band Camp. Contact information for 2017-18 Band Booster board members:

Mike Austerman (camp director) – President: mike.austerman@gmail.com, (248) 709-5795

Paula Hubbard – Vice President: gphubb@comcast.net, (586) 995-3302

Allison Tackett – Treasurer: jstalt2@aol.com, (586) 872-0026

Gail Gumieny – Secretary: tupperwareracer508@gmail.com, (586) 822-8244

Cyndi Titello – Fundraising Coordinator: cynthitello@yahoo.com, (248) 635-4930