

A few Marching Band to English translations for students and parents

BAND-A-RAMA- Annual event, held at either Stevenson or Utica HS, featuring the Marching Band shows for all four Utica Community Schools Marching Bands. Each of the four bands' Booster groups rotates various responsibilities for this event. Proceeds from admissions are used towards a scholarship fund for UCS Instrumental Music students.

CALL TIME – The time you need to be at the venue, ready to play, fully dressed in whatever the attire is for the event you are performing at or rehearsing for. Due to circumstances, Call Time can change multiple times prior to the event, so you will need to be somewhat flexible. *Important Note:* What Call Time REALLY means is: If you are 15 minutes EARLY for Call Time then you are on time; If you show up AT Call Time then you are late; If you show up AFTER Call Time, well, just please don't do that!

CHARMS- A software program used by the Boosters to maintain Student Account and Payment Due balances. You'll receive an e-mail from Charms after fundraising efforts, after making payments for band camp, trips, and more.

COLOR GUARD- Marching Band members that do not play a musical instrument in Marching Band. In addition to Mr. Sekich, Color Guard members have two adult coaches (Coach Dee and Coach Jenna) that work exclusively with Guard members helping teach the routine and leading practices. Instead of Section Leaders, Color Guard may be lead by Captains, at the discretion of Coach Dee, Coach Jenna, and Mr. Sekich. Color Guard members do not have to be enrolled in a band class at their home school – although this is strongly encouraged to help with the understanding of rhythms and how music meshes with their routine.

DIVISION 1 RATING – High School bands are ranked by Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) judges based on their musical performance, visual showmanship & ability at Festival. It is a BIG deal. The mighty Titans Marching Band has been ranked a Division 1 for 26 consecutive years!!

DOT – Your child's Drill Binder contains many pages with little numbered dots on them. CONGRATULATIONS, your child is now one of those Dots! In visual terms, your Dot moves in step during a performance just like the Dot in the book does.

DRILL BINDER or DOT BOOK– A 3-ring binder and about 35 clear page protectors (purchased on your own) that will hold pages with EVERY SINGLE move your Dot will make during a performance. Each student is responsible for assembling their own Drill Binder pages. Losing their Drill Binder is not an option for your Dot.

DRUM MAJOR– Student leaders for Marching Band. They consistently demonstrate leadership skills, exceptional musical ability & motivational excellence. Drum Majors must have at least one year of Stevenson Marching Band experience, audition and interview with Mr. Sekich, and attend Stevenson High School for their entire school day. The privilege of being a Drum Major also comes with extra responsibilities throughout the school year.

FESTIVAL (Marching Band) – Contrary to its name, this is not a carnival. Festival is the Super Bowl of the Marching Band Season. Held in mid-October, it's what your child spent those many hours practicing their music and drill over & over & over for. Attended by various other high school bands from around the area, each band is judged independently of one another – each with a goal of achieving a Division 1 rating from the judges. You & your entire family want to be sure you attend and root for the success of all the bands – but especially your Stevenson Titans!

FIELD MARKER – This is an object you will place on the field so you can GUIDE to it during Drill *Practice*. It can be anything small and relatively flat, like a SMALL stuffed animal, a mini frisbee, a toy car, etc. Your Field Marker is your friend. It will be with you for every marching season so be sure you pick something personal to you, that you won't lose & that won't break easily. Bring yours to the first day of Home Camp!



FLIP FOLDER– A small, plastic “board” used to hold Music, in a specifically sized “page protector”, while Marching. This attaches to your child's instrument or arm using a LYRE.

FULL UNIFORM – Includes the school-assigned Marching Band uniform, white socks, and white marching shoes. May also include, at Mr. Sekich’s direction, a hat (formal marching helmet/shako or band baseball hat). For Festival, certain sections will also wear white gloves. Worn in cooler weather and always at Festival.

GUIDE – A spot (that is constantly changing as you march) on the field that you need reference during various times throughout the performance. You will hear marchers saying “I’m guiding to XYZ” all the time during rehearsal.

LYRE – The thingy that holds your child’s FLIP FOLDER. Examples:



MARCHING BAND INSTRUMENTALIST- All members that play an instrument in the Marching Band must be enrolled in a band class at their home school (Stevenson, Utica Academy for International Studies, Davis, Heritage, or Jeannette). This is a Utica Community Schools mandate and is non-negotiable. If at any time during the first semester of the 2018-19 school year, you are not enrolled in a band class you cannot be an instrumentalist in the Marching Band.

MSBOA – Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (www.msboa.org). Essentially a trade group consisting of K-12 music educators, MSBOA coordinates various competitions and activities for students across the state. Students in the Stevenson cluster have the opportunity to participate in these activities: Marching Band Festival, Band & Orchestra Festival, Jazz Festival, Solo & Ensemble, and Honors groups. MSBOA activities are organized by district/region and state. The Stevenson cluster is member of MSBOA’s District 16.

SECTION – Each Marching Band instrument group has its own “Section”. The Stevenson Band instrumental sections include: **Clarinets**, **Color Guard**, **Flutes**, **Low Brass** (baritones, trombones, tubas, tenor and baritone sax), **Percussion** (Drum Line & Front Line/Pit) **Saxes & Horns** (alto saxophones & mellophones), and **Trumpets**.

SECTIONAL – A student-led practice session at a student’s home or at SHS with members from your section. Your Section Leader(s) will notify you when & where to be – usually by text or Remind message. Be sure you give them your cell number! They start mid-July, usually run 60-90 minutes, and meet 2 times/week until Home Camp. Sections also meet, as needed, **in addition to Tuesday Mandatory Practices**, 1- 2 times/ week during Marching Season (late August through Marching Band Festival in October). Sectionals are not mandatory, but your child is STRONGLY encouraged to attend as many as they can. (Yes, you can go on vacation during summer sectionals! Just not during Band Camp Weeks!). Percussion and Color Guard sectionals typically begin in Spring.

SECTION LEADER – A student who has shown exceptional musical & leadership ability. Your child’s Section Leader(s) are there to show them the ropes and provide support & encouragement, along with the other members of the Band.

Section Leaders are who marching band students need to first contact with questions. Section Leaders must have at least one year of Stevenson Marching Band experience, audition and interview with Mr. Sekich, and attend Stevenson High School for at least 3 hours of school day. The privilege of being a Section Leader also comes with extra responsibilities throughout the school year.

STAFFERONE- Young adult Stevenson Marching Band members that graduated in 2017 or earlier that return to assist Mr. Sekich and parent chaperones, primarily during Home and Away Camps. The word Stafferone is a purposeful combination of “Staff” and “Chaperone”. Stafferones’ primarily responsibilities are at Away Camp when they sleep in and are responsible for cabin rooms with current Marching Band students (chaperone responsibilities) as well as providing assistance as directed for other in-camp activities (staff responsibilities).

SUMMER UNIFORM – Includes dress white shorts (purchased on your own with no stripes, modest in length), either the navy blue shirt or current season theme shirt, white socks, and white marching shoes. May also include, at Mr. Sekich’s direction, the band baseball hat). Worn in warmer weather for performances.