

The Sound of Fall

SHS Marching Band - heartbeat of the school spirit



Have you ever wondered about that tick tock sound you begin hearing all over town in mid-August? Well, it is probably the biggest metronome in all of Sherwood, and it belongs to the Sherwood High School Marching Band. The metronome, the pounding of the drum line and the sight of that enormous scissor lift on the baseball field tell all that Marching Band season is in full swing.

The Marching Band is one of the largest extracurricular programs at Sherwood High School. More than one hundred students - freshman to seniors - participate in what many consider a Varsity sport. Consisting of woodwinds, brass, percussion, and color guard, the Marching Band works tirelessly together towards perfection.

“Marching Band is special because there are no limits to the number of performers we can put on the field,” says Band Director Brant Stai. “In that sense, everyone is a ‘starter’ and no one is second or third string or a bench warmer.”

The show the Band puts on the field is an incredible piece of art. The more insight you have, the more you will admire the hard work and commitment that goes into it. Off the field, the Pep Band get's the crowd going at home football games. The enthusiasm of the musicians is highly contagious. The Band truly is the heartbeat of the school spirit!

On the next pages, get a closer look at Band Camp and read what some members have to say about their love for Marching Band.



Band Camp

Rigorous, Relentless, and very Rewarding

Picture a hot August day. Many high schoolers are still sleeping or just relaxing before school starts in September. But not the Band kids! Oh no, they are ready to work vigorously on something that is truly amazing. A new Marching Band show!

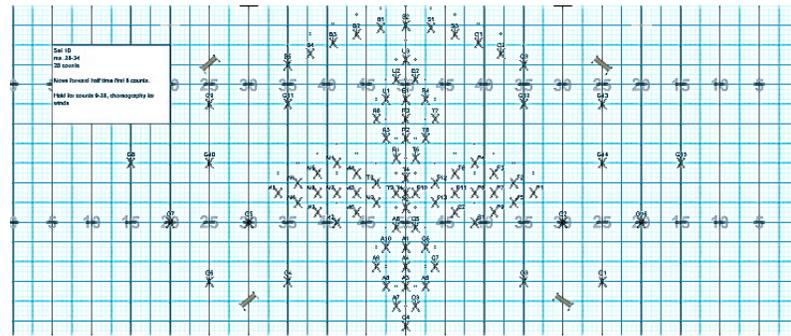
The nine-hour camp days can be brutal. Students come home tired, hungry and physically, as well as mentally, exhausted. So why do they do it? The answer you often hear is “because it’s awesome!” Drum major Ariel Flach is looking forward to the adrenaline rush during competitions. “There is such a feeling of satisfaction once we know we have put our best on the field,” she explains.

“The students refine their musicianship technique and grow their sound production exponentially” Band director Brant Stai adds. “It also doubles as a wonderful workout/exercise regimen. Students learn about delayed gratification, too. We will work for countless hours in practice and it might take weeks until the first performance. However, the reward of performing is well worth the wait. Students also learn the value of accuracy and repetition” Stai continues. “Marching band does a wonderful job at teaching those two traits. Like professionals who are great at what they do,

we isolate the activities that will make us great and then repeat those activities for hours and weeks and months. It’s the price we pay toward excellence.”



Brant Stai and Max Logan observing the practice from above.



This drill page shows the positions of every performer on the field. Everybody has a number and each step is tracked for the entire show.



Band members have to exercise, study, learn the choreography, and practice their new music during Band Camp.



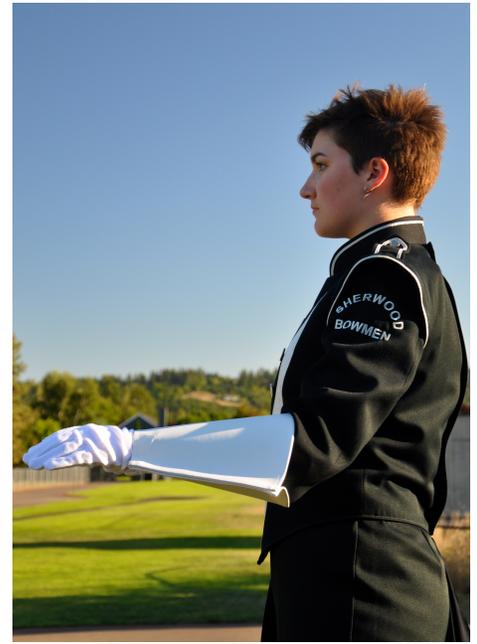


Kasalaine Moalaeua
Junior, Baritone

“We put in all our hard work and then it comes to a performance, that feeling at the end is just the best. Of course we have tons of fun at Marching Band Camp, too. During breaks we are in our sections and we just start cracking jokes.”

Ariel Flach
Senior, Drum Major

“Being part of a team is really important to Marching Band, and since we move as a unit everybody has to be on the same page, and we have to get along and work together well. I definitely learned a lot of skills about working with people and being part of a team and not putting myself first, but putting the band first.”



Will Karceski
Senior, Trombone

“At a competition it gets very emotional as you are going through the last parts of your show. You are realizing, ok, this is it, let’s try to make it your strongest show yet. When you finish, there is a huge excitement rushing through your body. And then, just the emotional atmosphere, when you are in the stands waiting for the scores, is very tense, and you are hoping to be best in your class.”



Only at Band Camp

- Max told us to do Mario sound effects during an exercise.
- One of the trombone players waved at an airplane.
- The alto section has a new character called Santa Con.
- The entire band did the ALS ice bucket challenge.
- The percussion section played tag by moving only on their behinds.
- Tutu Tuesdays for color guard (and Mr. Stai)



Tanner Hall
Sophomore, Alto Sax

“I like to think of Marching Band as a Mafia, minus the crime of course. Once you are in, you are really in and everyone that is in the band will make sure that you are looked after. It is a very tight thing and it is a very special feeling.”

Megan Allen
Freshman, Snare Drum

We do many things in Marching Band but it really comes down to making beautiful music and marching to that music to make it pleasing for people to watch and listen to. Marching Band is different from other sports because you have to be able to focus for hours and hours, especially during Band Camp and that is much harder than it is with sports.





Luke Bounpakob
Freshman, Trumpet

“Through Marching Band I made friends before my Freshman year even started. There’s always something fun happening at Band Camp. It’s the ‘behind the scenes’ of our show.”

Chris Taylor
Senior, Clarinet

“One of my favorite things about Marching Band are the interesting people that you meet, and the amazing bands that you see. There are so many bands out there that do so much. It is really great to see!”



Bryce Madrid
Senior, Color Guard

“Mastering a show is like crossing a marathon finish line. You just totally push through and then you are like ‘Yes, I’ve made it!’ At Band Camp, bonding with the ‘newbies’ is a great experience especially when you are older.”



Madeline Kelso
Sophomore, Color Guard

“I like all the people in Marching Band and how you get to spend time with everyone. I also like how you challenge yourself to become better.”



Richard Schmidt
Junior, Mellophone

“The family we call Marching Band is tighter than any other group I’ve been in. Everyone is there to help anyone and I’ve never seen something like that before. Marching Band is competitive, serious, super fun, and worth every minute!”

Madeleine Scypinski
Junior, Alto Sax

“The feeling at a competition is massive; it’s incredible. I call it a performance feeling because there is nothing like standing up in front of a crowd and showing them what you worked so hard to accomplish.”

