

Anoka Marching Tornadoes



A ROOKIE PARENT'S GUIDE TO MARCHING BAND



2016 Class A
State Champions



2018 Class A
State Champions

Welcome to The Anoka Marching Band!

What an awesome opportunity for your student! They joined marching band! You will also have the opportunity to become involved with this great and talented group of kids as well as the Anoka Band Parents Association (ABPA). Here are some helpful hints that we wish we would have known before the first day of practice!

WHO'S WHO

(a.k.a. Who in the world is my student talking about???)

Here are some of the adult staff you might hear about and how they lead marching band:

Tim Hauser: (Students call him "Hauser.") Mr. Hauser is a Band Director at Anoka High School. He is the head of marching band. Mr. Hauser.

Anders Rahkola: Mr. Rahkola has been working with The Anoka Marching Band since 2014. His role include teaching the winds and brass sections music and visuals. Mr. Rahkola runs a lot of the day to day aspects of rehearsals, including rehearsals during the school year. Since 2016 he's helped Anoka place in the top 3 for our class at state finals, including 2018 when he served as the Marching Band Director.



TERMS TO KNOW

(a.k.a. What is my student talking about...is this another language??)

Turns out there's a whole different language for marching band. Here are some terms your student will start saying to confuse you:

Band Socks: Knee-length, tight black socks with out visible logos.

Chickens: The plumes on top of their hats.

Dot Book: The small spiral notebook your student will receive in which they map out their placement and movement on the field for their show.

Drill: Where they move on the field as they play.

Field Show: The musical show they perform in competition and are judged on. Each performance is 5-10 minutes long. Minor changes - or major ones - are made each week so each performance is fun to watch and see their improvement as the season progresses. It is also why each practice is SO important to attend.

Gauntlets: The sleeve/ flared cuff worn over the wrist and forearm of the uniform jacket.

Home Show: Named "Music in Motion," our home show is when other high school marching bands come to compete by performing their own field shows for judges. Our Marching Tornadoes perform in exhibition after the competing bands are finished. Our Home Show has been on hiatus since 2020. It will not return for the 2023 season.,

Sections: This is the group of same/similar instruments as to what your student plays. (ex: Clarinets include both B flat Clarinets and Bass Clarinets)

Section Leaders: An upperclassman student whose responsibilities include running sectional practices and making sure all members of his/her section are keeping up at rehearsals. They answer any questions that come up and lead by example of how to make marching band a positive and fun experience.

Section Pride shirt: During spat camp, each section will collaborate on designing/choosing their own section shirt. This is done outside of practice time. They wear them on section pride day during Spat camp. Lots of fun pictures taken this day! (More about Pride Shirts in the Spat Camp section below)

UNIFORMS and EQUIPMENT

(a.k.a. What are spandex and why do we need them??)

For each performance in which your student is to wear his/her full uniform, this refers to all of the following:

- Spandex tops will be provided by the school. Bottoms to be purchased by student's families.
- Uniform [Bibs (pants) and Jacket (with mirror attached)]
- Shako (with Plume)
- Gauntlets
- Gloves
- Band Socks - purchased by student's families
- Band Shoes - purchased by families through the school at registration

Spandex refers to black performance wear shorts and tops. They do need to be all black as the band is required to be at least half uniform even when they practice on the field at shows. One person without their black shirt means they have to practice in full uniform, and that's hot some days! The purpose of spandex is to protect uniforms, and to allow students to change out of their uniforms after a performance. You may want to consider buying two sets of spandex: some weekends they perform at a football game Friday night and then again at a competition on Saturday morning. Think sweaty teens....

Uniforms for the instrument-playing band members and drum majors will be issued prior to the performance season. The school issued uniforms include the black bibs (pants) and coordinating jacket. Students will be fitted for the correct size, usually in June. ALL uniforms are stored at school or on the band trailer in a garment bag labeled with the band member's name and will be checked out for each performance. This makes the process of being ready for a performance much more efficient and lowers the possibility of forgetting any part of your uniform. For performances, jackets should have a triangular mirror velcroed to the front. A Band Parent Volunteer will distribute and collect mirrors before and after each performance.

Shako: The hats worn by the members marching on the field.

Show Shirt: This is the t-shirt ordered at the time of registration that represents their field show for the year. It lists all of the band's upcoming performances on the back. All students get one with their registration fee and will need it to change into after performances. You can order more and many parents do. It's really fun as a parent to order one for yourself to wear when volunteering or being with the band, or just to brag!!!

Spandex: The black performance wear clothing to be worn under your marching band uniform.

Spat Camp: A mandatory week in August when the students learn the majority of their field show. These are 8-10 hour practices every day during this week. It is very important to be there as the band not only learns the show, but they bond and come together as a group.

Tornado Night Out: These are required fundraising nights. The students wear uniforms and are driven by a band parent to local neighborhoods to ask for donations. This is a time for students to get to know each other better and is a huge fundraiser for our band...over twelve thousand dollars was collected last year! Our newest band members are paired up with upperclassmen. They will show them what to do.

Volunteering: The most rewarding experience of your life while bonding with your student! :) Many opportunities!!

YIMs: (pronounced "yimz") Y.I.M. stands for Youth In Music, the name of the Marching Band Championship competition held the second weekend in October at U.S. Bank Stadium. This competition is the culmination of all their hard work in perfecting their field show over the marching band season. Our Marching Tornadoes have done very well in their class for the last seven years, taking First Place honors in Class A in 2016 and 2018, second place honors in 2017 and third place honors in 2019, 2021 and 2022. Students refer to the competition as YIMs.



Key things for students to remember regarding school issued uniforms:

1. The uniform belongs to the school. You are allowed to use this uniform as part of your membership in this organization.
2. Always wear your uniform with pride and respect for the Anoka Marching Band to which you belong.
3. There are 3 stages of performance dress (and 3 stages only): out of dress (street clothes), half-dress, and full dress. These will be explained, in great detail, during rehearsal.

Shakos are also fitted for each student during the summer before performance season. These are stored on the marching band trailer in boxes labeled with the student's name. Plumes are stored separately from shakos in their own containers. A Band Parent Volunteer will be in charge of distributing and retrieving the plumes before and after each performance.

Gauntlets are white sleeve covers worn over the wrist and forearm of the uniform jacket. These are fitted to each band member and will be stored in his/her garment bag.

Gloves are provided to each member and typically are stored in his/her garment bag. The white gloves have a tendency to get dirty after several performances and may need replacing mid-season, or at the very least, before Youth In Music Championships.

Band Socks are to be solid black, knee length, and tight enough so they do not fall down during marching. Many parents purchase soccer socks.

Band Shoes are purchased by member's families and ordered through the school via the marching band registration form received at Registration Night. They are black to match the uniform bibs.



What About Color Guard Uniforms?

Color Guard uniforms and shoes are ordered in the summer every year to fit each individual member. Guard uniforms are selected to mirror the theme of that year's field show.

Other Equipment:

Things your student will need at all rehearsals:

Their instrument (including reeds, mallets/sticks, valve oil, etc.)

A BIG water bottle - most members use a one or two-gallon size jug during summer months

Sunscreen – necessary for all summer rehearsals

Bug spray for evening rehearsals

Athletic Shoes (Required for practice – No Sandals - no exceptions)

A pen or pencil

Their dot book (provided after a few weeks into rehearsals)

A hat or something to cover the head in the heat outside

A small bag (ie: drawstring bag or fanny pack) in which to carry their small items

PRACTICES and FEES

(a.k.a. What's my commitment?)

Practice Schedule:

It seems like a lot of time...and it is. Everything worth doing takes hard work. Practices in the summer range from 2-6 hours and longer during Spat Camp. Some students may come home discouraged or struggling with the drill. Encourage them to hang in there! We have seen students go from questioning why they joined marching band to it being all they could talk about, developing confidence and pride by the end of the season! A practice and performance calendar for the band season will be distributed at registration night, but it is also available on Mr. Hauser's webpage at the Anoka High School website: <https://sites.google.com/ahschools.us/anokahighschoolband/marching-band>

MARCHING BAND FEES & REGISTRATION

There are 3 fees for Marching Band

An ABPA Booster Fee, Summer Marching Band Fee and Fall Marching Band Fee. Students signing up for Marching Band are required to do both the Summer and Fall seasons. A qualifying Sports Physical must be on file with the activities office before paying for district fees. This must be done every 3 years. If you are not seeing a link to pay for your marching band district fees on AH-Connect it is probably because a current physical form is not on file.

ABPA Booster Fee: The Booster Fee of \$200 is due on or before June 1st. Checks can be made payable to the Anoka Band Parent Association. This money is used for your child's show shirt, food at different events and many other things needed to run Marching Band. There is a requirement for parent volunteering of 20 hours. If you complete your 20 hours of volunteer time you will receive \$100 back from the ABPA at the end of season banquet in November.

Summer Marching Band Fee: The district fee for Summer Marching Band of \$50 is due on or before May 15th. Registration for Summer Marching opens on April 20. Summer Marching Band, also known as Parade Season, starts mid May and consists of evening practices during the week and 2 - 5 parades that are typically on weekends. Both middle school students (incoming freshman) and high school students will practice together and preform in the summer parades as one marching band. This fee is paid via A-H Connect.

Fall Marching Band Fee: The district fee for Fall Marching Band is \$240. This fee cannot be paid until registration opens on August 1st and must be paid by August 14th. Fall Marching Band, also known as show season, starts July 24th and is an extremely busy time for our students. Fall Marching Band consists of LOTS of practices, camp, fundraising, performances at football halftime shows, competitions and youth in motion. We also march at the famous Anoka Halloween Parade. This fee is paid via A-H Connect.

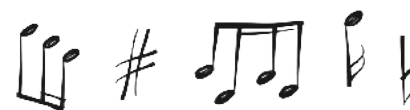
*Fall Marching Band starts before Fall fees are due. We have no control over this. We like to start practicing for our Marching Band show after July break, if not earlier.

FINANCIAL NEED/FEE WAIVER: If your son/daughter is currently receiving assistance from the school district free/reduced lunch program, you may qualify for reduced activity fee options. This program pertains only to the school district activity fee portion.

PAYMENT PLANS

(**Any family can request this option if needed**)

Please do not let any financial issue be the reason to eliminate your child from the experience of the Anoka Marching Tornadoes. Please contact Mr. Hauser to discuss possibilities of alternative payment options.



Anything Else That's Required?

Sports Physical: The Minnesota State High School League requires that a Sports Qualifying Physical Examination Clearance Form must be on file with the high school and renewed every three years for each student involved in a fall sport/activity. In previous years, clinics such as Fairview and Twin Cities Orthopedics have provided free high school physicals by appointment at their various clinics around the Twin Cities during the summer. Appointments are limited and registration often opens as early as the first week in June - check their websites for details.



SPAT CAMP

(a.k.a. The Best Week EVER!)

Around early August, band members participate in Spat Camp, a Monday through Saturday intensive week of learning their field show music and the associated drill. Practices are up to 10 hours a day at the high school, with much of that time spent outdoors in the elements, whether that be 90+ degree heat and humidity (more likely for August) or 65 degree chilly wind. It's important to prepare ahead of time for these outdoors hours by sending your student to practices with appropriate gear to avoid heat exhaustion, sunburn and a plethora of bug bites. (Seriously, the bugs can be vicious!)

In addition to the equipment listed above as required for every rehearsal, there are a few other highly recommended items for long Spat Camp days you might consider for your student:

- Light-colored clothing
- An additional pair of athletic shoes - some switch shoes mid-practice for better foot support
- Sunglasses
- Hats with a brim, or a covering for the neck
- Small towels (for wiping away perspiration)

Color Guard:

Bring your shoes, practice flags and gloves.

Dot Book: Your student will be given a small spiral notebook to use for his/her Dot Book. As he/she is learning the music and the drill of the field show, this book is their cheatsheet until they have it all memorized. Inside it, your student will record, in writing and/or with diagrams, where his/her personal "dots" are on the field as the field show music is played from beginning to end.

Food: On these long days, it will be necessary for your students to bring a lunch and snacks from home each day.

Parent Preview: This year the Parent Preview will be different than what we have done in the past. There are plans in the works for Anoka and Irondale students to work jointly with a clinician in the morning on Saturday, July 19. Afterwards, the two marching bands will perform their shows for one another. For Anoka it is also an opportunity for the band to show off what they learned during Spat camp and the week following. Parents, Siblings, Grandparents, extended family and friends are invited to see all the students' hard work from the past two weeks.

End of SPAT CAMP Party - On the Saturday following SPAT CAMP there will be a party for all the marching band members (kids only.) The party will be held at a band member's house. Kids are highly encouraged to attend.

Pride Shirts: Typically by Tuesday of Spat Camp week, your student's section leader will have gotten the ball rolling for the creation of Section Pride Shirts, to be worn on Friday and Saturday of Spat Camp week. These shirts are often the inexpensive (\$3-\$4) t-shirts that can be found at Michael's, Joann's or Hobby Lobby in an array of colors. The group will pick a color of shirt and a theme for how they are decorated. Sometimes they will bring them to Spat Camp and work on them as a section on breaks, or they will meet at someone's home in the evening to make them, or they may work on them individually at home.

****** If your freshman/new marching band member has heard nothing about Pride shirts by the end of the day on Tuesday, please have them bring it to the attention of their Section Leader or a Drum Major.

Just a helpful note: if your student is painting the front AND the back of their shirt, remember it takes an overnight for each side to dry, so start the first side no later than Wednesday evening. One of our freshmen moms figured this out the hard way... (oops!)

Is It Too Much?

While it all sounds strenuous and maybe even downright miserable to practice for 10 hours a day all week long, band parents will attest that most of our students discover Spat Camp week to be a fun experience where they make new friends, bond as a group, and build pride for the band and for their school. If your freshman finds the first few days overly taxing, please encourage them to stick it out. It is a rare student who dislikes the experience enough to want to quit after Spat Camp.

PARENT VOLUNTEERING

(a.k.a. Hey, this sounds fun! How can I get involved??)

Well, we're glad you asked!! There are many ways you may want to get involved. Look for emails, Facebook posts on the Anoka Band Parent's Group or sign up notifications sent out by the marching band's President and Vice President, for possible opportunities. There is a 20 hour required commitment for parent volunteers for the fall and summer seasons. Once your 20 hours are completed you will receive \$100 of your ABPA registration fee back at the end of the season. Have a particular talent or ability? Have a passion for props or chaperoning? Just connect with the volunteer coordinator and I bet we have a spot for you! Here's some info you might like to know:

Anoka Band Parents Association (ABPA): This is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to supporting the Anoka Band Program. If each parent contributes a small amount of time and talent to the band it will assist in keeping costs reasonable for students, provide necessary logistical support, and give parents a chance to get to know each other. Parents help the band in many ways: cheering in the stands, fundraising, first-aid, photography, equipment moving, uniform specialists, etc...Most parent volunteer coordination throughout the season is taken care of by our booster organization (ANOKA BAND PARENTS.) EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND MONTHLY MEETINGS.

Props: The marching band field show has props used to enhance their field show. These props are usually created by parents and students led by the Volunteer(s) in charge of props, who work(s) closely with Mr. Hauser to make the show great.

Concessions: The band runs the concession stand at events on Goodrich field and relies solely on parent volunteers. There are many volunteer opportunities to work with other parents. It's a great way to get to know others and attend soccer and/or football games for free! You will be assigned a position when you arrive for your shift and it will be explained to you

Fundraisers: We have many opportunities to fundraise for the band: Tornado Night Out, Heggies' pizza and peaches are all fundraisers for all bands. These three fundraisers happen July, August and the first few weeks of September.

We have a Home Show? What's this?

This is Anoka's marching band show that we host on Goodrich Field located at the Fred Moore campus of Anoka Middle Schools for the Arts. This is our show. It is called Music in Motion. At our own home show, our band will perform in exhibition while other local marching bands compete. This is where we need the most volunteers to make the event successful. It truly is a big group effort! Our home show has been on hiatus since 2020. It won't be held during the 2023 season.

COMMUNICATION

(a.k.a. How do I find out what's going on in Marching Tornado World?)

Mr. Hauser typically sends emails with details, and an ABPA officer/chairperson will post them on the facebook pages as well. Here's some helpful websites/facebook pages to know about:

ABPA website: www.anokabandparents.com
(for the updated band calendar)

Facebook Groups: - Anoka Band Parents

Now You Are Ready!

Again, welcome to marching band! We hope this experience is as amazing for your student as it was for ours. PLEASE ask any of the marching band parents for help if you have any more questions.



Go BAND!!

