



FLORIDA HIGH BAND

AMANDA GRIFFIS, *Band Director*

MARK KLAICH, *Director of Athletic Bands*

3000 School House Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32311

(850) 245-3700 • msk235@fsu.edu ; agriffis@fsu.edu • www.fsusbands.com

Dear Future Marching Brave,

On behalf of the faculty and students of the **Florida High Marching Braves**, I am pleased to invite you to join our marching band program for the 2026-2027 school year! The Marching Braves uphold a long-standing tradition of excellence and are recognized across multiple school districts for their achievements in performance, leadership, and musicianship. The Marching Braves maintain a consistent and visible presence, performing at major school events, athletic games, and throughout the community.

As we move into next year, we are excited to offer our students unique opportunities that extend beyond the classroom and performance field. Things like away game travel, special field trips, community events, and other prospects are exclusively open to those involved in marching band.

We welcome students regardless of experience level in grades 8-12. Whether you are an accomplished performer or exploring music and music-performance for the first time, there is a place for you within the Marching Braves.

Students may become involved through several pathways:

Wind Instruments (Woodwind and Brass): Students interested in learning a woodwind or brass instrument are encouraged to join, regardless of prior experience. Beginning students may still participate in all band activities. No audition necessary for acceptance into this area of the program. Simply ensure that Band 1 is on your schedule for next year and email agriffis@fsu.edu if you have any questions regarding band class placement.

Color Guard: The Marching Braves color guard team is an essential component of the Marching Braves, combining dance with flag, rifle, and sabre performance.

- **Auditions:** May 6th – 7th, 3:30PM-5:00PM
- **Optional Spin Clinics:** April 28 & May 4, 3:30PM – 4:30PM

Percussion (Drumline and/or Front Ensemble): Students interested in percussion will have the opportunity to audition for this premiere ensemble. Students must ensure that Band is on their class schedule and should email agriffis@fsu.edu if you have any questions

- **Auditions:** May 6th and 7th, 4:00–5:30 PM
- **Clinics:** Upon request – see band student or director for scheduling.

All wind, color guard and percussion students:

- **Full Band Camp:** Tuesday July 21st – Friday July 24th, 9am-4pm. Saturday July 25th, 10am-2pm
 - Parent performance and potluck Saturday July 25th at Florida High Football Field & Cafeteria

Participation in the **Marching Braves** offers students the opportunity to be part one of the most visible and high-achieving organizations on campus. The band program at Florida High serves as a cornerstone of school culture and pride. We take our commitment to excellence very seriously and are excited for you to join us in that quest!

The achievements of the Marching Braves extend beyond the marching band field. Members balance rigorous academics—AP, Honors, and Dual Enrollment—while building leadership, discipline, and teamwork. The program offers experiences beyond high school, fostering personal growth, lasting friendships, and unique travel opportunities exclusive to band members.

See below for our levels of membership. Please return this intent form no later than the last day of school along with subsequent fees (see breakdown on next page). Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

****MEMBERS MUST ATTEND MARCHING BAND MEMBER MEETING ON MAY 19TH AT 6:30PM AT FSUS TO SECURE THEIR SPOT - CONTACT MRS. GRIFFIS VIA EMAIL WITH ANY CONFLICTS/CONCERNS (AGRIFFIS@FSU.EDU)****

Sincerely,

Mark Klaich
Associate Director of Athletic Bands, msk25@fsu.edu

Amanda Griffis
Director of Bands, agriffis@fsu.edu



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Membership: All students are enrolled in a band class during the school day AND earn the REQUIRED Performing Arts Credit for Graduation regardless of the two levels below they choose. The Florida High Band offers two levels of co-curricular membership to all students. An intent form in May will give the student/parent the opportunity to select which level of participation they want to be involved with.

MARCHING BAND

Description: The Marching Band is an all-encompassing band consisting of band members in grades 8-12 (combines all the band classes from the school day) providing entertainment to audiences during football games. All students of the band program are highly encouraged to participate in the Marching Band even if there are minor conflicts with the schedule. The music and drill/marching routines are learned during band camp, and on the Thursday evening rehearsals. All members of the Marching Band also participate in the Football Band – Stands Only.

Goal: To perform fun music and to have fun with each other at the highest level possible!

Performances: The Marching Band will perform at all home and 3-4 away varsity football games, playoff games, the Big Bend Marching Band Invitational and the required FBA District Marching MPA, usually held in mid-late October or the first Saturday of November. There will be additional parades in the area based on calendar availability.

Rehearsals: The Marching Band will hold rehearsals after school. Typical rehearsals consist of Thursday evenings from 3:30pm-6:00pm. The percussion and color guard sections may rehearse at different times. Sectionals may be called by your section leader on Monday(s) from 3pm-4pm. There will be a (short) full band camp starting on Tuesday July 21st (refer to calendar, dates subject to change).

Financial Obligation: The Marching Braves fee is around \$250. Students using a school-owned instrument must also pay a rental fee of \$50 for the year. New members will have to purchase various “consumables” around the price of \$75-\$100 total, but are items used each year following. Please communicate to the Marching Band/Band Director if there is a financial concern.

HOPE Graduation Requirement (New for 2026) – Students who participate in Marching Band for TWO years will earn the required HOPE graduation requirement. Do NOT take HOPE if you participate in Marching Band for two years.



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HOW DO I AUDITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND?

There is not an audition to be a member of the Florida High Band program. All new incoming students will be placed into Band 1. If you wish to be considered for Symphonic Band and/or Wind Ensemble, a short audition will be required towards the end of the year in May. The audition will consist of 7 major scales with an optional etude (music selection that showcases yours abilities). Students may be in high school band without participating in middle school band.

CAN I BE IN SPORTS AND BAND?

YES! *We have just about every sport represented throughout the band program, including varsity football players. In addition, it is the policy of the Florida High Band is to be as flexible as possible with students juggling multiple activities. We strongly believe that students learn incredible life skills by being in both activities, and experience has shown that high-achieving, high-earning, high-performing students are involved in playing an instrument.*

IS MARCHING BAND A HUGE TIME COMMITMENT?

Yes and no. *Band students represent some of the most well-rounded, high-achieving students at Florida High. Our students maneuver their academic, employment, and musical prowess throughout marching season and beyond. The marching band rehearses one day a week, with a short rehearsal on game days (from August through mid-October). And while you get out of band what you put into it (like anything else), We intentionally structure our marching band schedule to maximize participation from ALL students and keep parents/family schedules in mind. So whether band is **YOUR** thing, or just **ONE** thing, there is flexibility to excel in band and other areas.*

HOW DO I TRY OUT FOR BAND LEADERSHIP?

Leadership interviews, applications, and selections occur at the end of April each year. Leadership opportunities are open to high school students with at least one year of marching band experience. Students complete an application process that consists of an essay plus letters of recommendation from their teaches and peers. Students must participate in a one-on-one interview with the band director. Drum Major candidates have a separate audition and interview date.

WHEN ARE BAND FEES DUE?

*Band fees of \$250 should be submitted by the last day of school (May 22nd) – Families needing to discuss payments or payment plans should reach out to agriffis@fsu.edu - Checks must be made out to Florida State University (**CHECKS MADE OUT TO FSUS CAN NOT BE ACCEPTED**). We purchase music, costumes, drill, and other marching band materials over the summer so they are ready for our students when they come back in August!*



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2026-2027 Florida High Marching Band Commitment Form

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Florida High Marching Braves! We are excited to have you as a part of band family!! You are joining a Superior band program, and one of the most dynamic organizations at Florida High! All students who sign up for band will be placed into one of the 3 concert bands: Symphonic Band (advanced ensemble, audition only), Gold Band (intermediate ensemble, audition only), or Garnet Band (non-auditioned ensemble). If you pass the pre-requisites for Jazz Band, you will be placed in the Jazz Band class along with your primary band class. Band is a co-curricular class per the Florida Department of Education; this means events outside of the school day are graded. For Florida High, this mostly includes concerts; Fall Concert, Winter Extravaganza, Spring Concert/MPA, etc. are the typical ones during the year. In addition, we participate in football games, parades, and marching showcases/MPA.

The importance of knowing how many students are participating in the Marching Band are vital to the summer planning. Students earn their own spot on the field, their own uniform, and other materials. Students who do not turn in this form by the due date can still be involved in marching band but may not get their spot on the field until later.. The drill for the Marching Band is composed over the summer and only includes students who commit on or before the last day of school.

2026-2027 Marching Braves Commitment Form

_____ **Yes! I am ready for a great marching season – put me in the show!**

_____ **I am available to attend the incoming marching band meeting on May 19th at 6pm in the band room!**

_____ **I have a conflict with the incoming marching band meeting on May 19th at 6pm (speak with Mrs. Griffis ASAP)**

Student Name (first, last) _____ Shirt Size: _____ Short Size: _____

Shoe Size (M or W): _____ What Instrument/Guard: _____

Fee payment type: Cash / Check (made out to FSU (NOT FSUS)**

please include payment with this form – can be turned in to lockbox in Mrs. Griffis office, on the night of new parent meeting, or by last day of school! Receipt provided upon payment

\$ _____ Total Band Fee Included (Circle items needed below, then provide payment for that amount – payments can be turned in *before* due date if desired. Receipt given upon payment received.).

MARCHING BAND – QUICK DESCRIPTION

ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SHOULD BE IN MARCHING BAND. Students are assigned one of the above-mentioned class and participating in football games, parades, pep rallies, and other sport/community events as needed. In addition, the Marching Band will attend one marching showcase in early October and the required FBA District Marching MPA on Oct. 17 2026. Rehearsals are limited to enable more student participation:

Monday 3pm-4pm – Sectional day – work with your section leader on parts you need help with!

Thursdays 3:30-6:00 – Full Marching Band in the marching field/stadium (ends Oct. 17)

Additional percussion/color guard rehearsals may vary. All students/families will be made aware with enough time to plan.

Students involved in other activities can also be in marching band. Attendance concerns will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and should be done weeks or months in advance. Students who are involved with marching band will earn a varsity letter/bar in band. See required versus optional fee breakdown below.



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2026-2027 Florida High Band Financial Breakdown

The band offers payment plans as well as numerous fundraisers to try to offset some of these expenses. Families experiencing extreme financial hardships should see Mrs. Griffis for a payment plan to be followed over the course of the year. Fees should never be the reason for a student not to participate in band. Checks should be made payable to *FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY* (checks made out to FSUS/Florida High Band can not be accepted - please check carefully before submitting!). Please put your student's name and what the check is for in the memo area. Payments must be made by the end of the school year - see Mrs. Griffis if you need an extension or to make a partial payment to secure your spot in the show! The envelope should be labeled with your students name and placed in the black lock box in Mrs. Griffis' office or mailed to the following address: Florida High Band, 3000 School House Road, Tallahassee, FL 32311

Expense Worksheet for FH Band Members				
REQUIRED	Amount	Payable	Due	Notes
Sub-Uniform Shirt	\$15.00	FSU	July 25, 2026	Required for everyone - returners may use last year's
Sub-Uniform Shorts	\$15.00	FSU	July 25, 2026	Required for everyone - returners may use last year's
Uniform Hat	\$10.00	FSU	July 25, 2026	
Marching Band Shoes	\$35.00	FSU	July 25, 2026	Required for everyone - returners may use last year's
Band Activity Fee	\$250.00	FSU	May 22, 2026	See what this includes below
IF NEEDED		Payable	Due By	
Instrument Rental (includes percussion)	\$50	FSU	July 25, 2026	Covers instrument rental for entire year (per instrument - percussion submits one \$50 fee for all equipment)
Drill Lanyard	\$2.00	CASH	as needed	One is included in Activity Fee. Pay if lost.
Gloves	\$5.00	CASH	as needed	For woodwind and brass players only. At least 2 recommended.
Concert Band Shirt	\$25.00	FSU	Sept. 4, 2026	For new member boys or boys that need replacement.
Concert Bow Tie	\$5.00	FSU	Sept. 4, 2026	For new member boys or boys that need replacement.
Concert Band Dress	\$75.00	FSU	TBA	For all girls in concert band.
OPT. EXPENSES	Amount	Payable	Due By	Notes
FSU Band Day	TBA	FSU	TBA	Band watches Chiefs skull session, halftime show
Halftime Show T-shirt	TBA	FSU	TBA	Optional. Not included in Activity Fee.
All-State Audition	\$15.00	FSU	TBA	Only students auditioning for All-State Band
BBADB Audition Fee	\$5.00	FSU	TBA	Only students auditioning for All-County Band
District Solo/Ensemble	\$10 per event	FSU	TBA	\$10 per event entered for Solo/Ensemble up to 4 events
State Solo/Ensemble	\$30 per event	FSU	TBA	\$30 per event entered for Solo/Ensemble up to 4 events
Band Booster Sponsorship	varies	FSU	as needed	Portion of sponsorship goes to individual student fees



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The Marching Braves are responsible for raising 100% of their operational costs. The \$250 Activity Fee covers the following expenses:

- Highly qualified marching band instructional staff
- Guest clinicians for Concert Band and Eurhythmics classes.
- Band Entry Fees
- Eurhythmics Entry Fees (large ensemble registration for District/State S&E)
- Custom Halftime Drill
- Customized Halftime Show Music
- Cleaning materials for Marching Band Uniforms
- One Drill Lanyard & Holder
- All Concert Band Music
- Visual enhancements for marching band general effect (backdrops, silks, etc.)
- Additional equipment and instrument/equipment repairs.

Band Booster Meetings are once every other month and will be listed on the Band calendar.

Please keep in mind by signing this agreement you are agreeing to pay and/or fundraise all of the above fees and expenses for the 2026-2027 school year. The Band will begin ordering items this summer. If your student transfers and/or drops this class, you will still be financially responsible for any uniforms or other costs incurred based on your confirmed participation. Per FSUS board policy 3.191, all fees must be paid by the last day of school for students. Failure to do so will result in withheld opportunities including prom, grad bash, transcripts, and potential re-evaluation of student enrollment at FSUS..

PRINT STUDENT NAME _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

STUDENT NAME _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

