

Frequently Asked Questions About EHS Band

Q: What are the band offerings at EHS?

A: Symphonic Band- open to all 10th, 11th, 12th grade band students

Varsity Band- open to all 10th, 11th, 12th grade band students

Concert Band- open to all 11th, 12th grade band students

Marching Band- required of all band students 10 – 12

Jazz Band- open to all 10 – 12 band students

Q: How do I know which band I should be in?

A: Students are placed in the appropriate bands based on auditions, interest, and individual musical goals. The 4th quarter play test for all grade 9 – 12 band students is used as the audition. Students are also surveyed on their interests and aspirations in the Edina Band program so that we can help them find the best fit.

Q: How does the marching band work?

A: The EHS Marching Hornets is made up of all grade 10-12 band students. The marching band performs at the Edina home football games and runs from the beginning of school until mid-October. The entire Marching Band plays for the Pregame show (Symphonic+Varsity+Concert), while only Varsity and Concert band members march the Halftime show.

Q: When is marching band?

A: Marching band begins two weeks before school starts, August 18 – 22, in what we call Marching Band Camp. Band Camp runs from 8 am – 4 pm the week of August 18 – 22 at EHS. Our first performance is the Minnesota State Fair on Saturday, August 23.

Q: Can I be in sports and in marching band at the same time?

A: YES!!! It is entirely possible for students to participate in both Marching Band and a Fall sport or activity. We do our best to be flexible and encourage students to get involved in as many activities as they can handle at EHS. We have students representing virtually every fall sport and activity who march in marching band and make it work successfully. It does take good time-management and communication skills, but the students who make it happen have rich and rewarding experiences at EHS. We in the band department believe strongly that it is important for students to be successful in whatever endeavors they pursue and we work hard to be as flexible as possible in helping them achieve that success.

Q: Can I take both band and choir as a Sophomore?

A: Yes, if that is something you choose to do. Depending on what classes you want to take, this could be accomplished one of several ways...

- I. Deferring classes (ex. health and or P.E.) until your Jr. or Sr. years when more electives are available
- II. Taking a zero hour course (there is a zero hour choir offering)
- III. Hold off on taking certain desired courses until Jr. or Sr. years when more electives are available

Q: I can't seem to fit band into my schedule. What should I do?

A: Consider the following options to make band fit into your schedule

- I. Defer a required class (ex. health and or P.E.) until your Jr. or Sr. years when more electives are available
- II. Consider taking a zero hour course for one semester, one year, or multiple years
- III. Hold off on taking certain desired courses until Jr. or Sr. years when more electives are available

The Importance of Band

- **EXCELLENCE:** Decades of consistent superior ratings at region state music contests have earned Edina Bands highest recognition for outstanding student achievement.
- **SCHOOL LIFE:** Being a member of band allows students to become involved in school activities and participate as a valued member of the school community.
- **CHARACTER:** Students working together creating a high quality concert performance is an effective way to develop skills in cooperation, self-discipline, concentration and leadership.
- **COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES:** Students who are active in band are looked upon with favor by colleges and universities. High school transcripts which show consistent music participation are an asset when applying to college.
- **TRAVEL:** All EHS band students will have the opportunity to tour while involved in the band program. The Edina Bands have traveled across the United States as well as internationally.