

# **TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN THE WEBSTER HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND**



- 1) **“THE OVERNIGHT TRIPS ROCK!”** *Last year the Band went to Cincinnati and competed in two shows! Every four years we go to Phoenix for the Fiesta Bowl Competition and Parade.*
- 2) **“THE BUS RIDES ARE AWESOME!”** *The Band travels all over Central and Western New York during the season and competes at the Carrier Dome each year!*
- 3) **MEET UPPER CLASSMEN IN HIGH SCHOOL BEFORE YOU GO!** *This makes the transition from middle schools to high school easier!*
- 4) **SUMMER BAND CAMP IS FUN!** *Practice ~8 hours a day for about one week, but unlike some sports, no one will be tackling you...a bonus!*
- 5) **IMPROVE YOUR CONFIDENCE!** *Performing at the shows gives you confidence to know you can participate in public settings.*
- 6) **BE PART OF A COMPETITIVE TEAM!** *The Band competes in the New York State Field Band Competition every year in the Syracuse Carrier Dome.*
- 7) **LEARN NEW AND DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSIC!** *Not everything in your life will be speed metal or hip hop oriented.*
- 8) **SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY!** *March in Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July & Fireman’s Parades.*
- 9) **IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOUR COLLEGE RESUME!** *There are some very cool college marching bands that will want you too!*
- 10) **EARN A VARSITY LETTER!** *Yes, the same one earned by the athletic teams!*

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## **Quotes from actual band parents on what they think of marching band:**

➤ “You hear the announcer’s welcome: ‘Ladies and Gentlemen, from Webster, NY, the WEBSTER MARCHING BAND!’ Our drum majors are resplendent in their appearance, our Guard is in perfect unison, and the Band is moving with a grace that only comes through months of commitment to reaching this point in their season. Whether on the field with the pit crew, or in the stands with the thousands of fans from the heart of marching band country, Webster is undeniably at their best this season, and we know, as we watch them, that they have given us everything they have to give. They leave nothing on the field, but excellence.”

➤ “You see their smiles, tears, joys and sorrows all rolled up into one magnificent ~8 minute performance in front of thousands at the Fiesta Bowl competition – the sense of parental joy cannot be matched, nor more easily described. The look of determination and the smile when the cheers ring out makes the months of practice and competitions a simple blur. If your teen is at all musically or athletically inclined, they should consider marching band – I’ve seen lifelong lessons taught and friendships happen that are irreplaceable.”

## **COMMON MYTHS ABOUT THE WEBSTER MARCHING BAND**

**Being involved in the Marching Band is a HUGE commitment; it ends up taking over your life as a student or a parent! NOT TRUE!!!** *You're right—the Marching Band is a commitment, but it is far less of a commitment than many of the sports programs! In Marching Band, it is the one “team” that NO ONE sits on the bench – and whether an incoming 7<sup>th</sup> Grader or outgoing 12<sup>th</sup> Grader, the band is strong because of all participants.*

**For students** – *Rehearsals start in Spring—once a week in the evening (three times a week for color guard). There is no practice in June, so that students may concentrate on their studies. Summer months (July and August), practice is twice a week with a couple of extended practices on Saturdays. Band Camp takes place near the end of August and students rehearse from Noon to around 8 p.m. September and October is competition season and practice takes place two evenings per week with a competition on Saturdays.*

**For parents** – *Boosters are expected to participate in two Bottle & Can Drives (one in June and one in August) and Autumn Fanfare (our show) in October. Other than that, you can volunteer for whatever interests you, but that is up to you.*

**My child doesn't play a “marching band instrument” so there's no chance they can be in Marching Band, right?** *There are many opportunities in marching band. For those who play an instrument, it is a great opportunity to expand their musical repertoire. For those who don't play a band instrument, they can participate in color guard (students interested in flags and dance). Another opportunity to participate is in “The Pit” (the stationary percussion section) which requires students to be able to read music, but they can typically learn their instrument during the season.*

**I've heard that Marching Band is expensive. How much does it cost for my child to belong to the band?** *The cost to participate varies from year to year based on the overnight trips for the year, but there are numerous, totally optional, fund raising opportunities to help defray the cost. Plus if you have had kids in travel sports, marching band may seem like a bargain!*

**My student is way too involved in sports (or dance, etc.) to be in the Marching Band. They're involved in something different all year long!** *Sports (or other activities) and Marching Band are actually a great mix. There are a lot of students who are involved in sports, dance or other activities. Fall is really the toughest time to juggle and it is true that if a student plans to participate in football/cheerleading, Marching Band is not an option. All other Fall sports are compatible with the Marching Band schedule. There may be some rehearsals where the student may need to come to Band late due to practice/games/meets or even miss rehearsal all together. The important part is that the student keeps the Marching Band Director and their Coach informed of their schedule. The schedule is prepared early in the season (generally available around February) so it gives you a lot of time to identify conflicts.*

**My child is still in Middle School...why would I be interested in the High School Marching Band?** *You're in luck! The Webster High School Marching Band draws from the four secondary schools in the District—Spry, Willink, Schroeder and Thomas. Students can join in the Spring of their 7<sup>th</sup> Grade year, or any year afterward. One of the really great things about the band is that it gives kids across the District the opportunity to be in band together. Another benefit of joining during Middle School is that it gives them a chance to make friends with kids that they'll be joining in High School and helps “ease into” the High School experience by creating a “support net” of friendly faces.*

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### **For more information:**

- Go to [www.webstermarchingband.org](http://www.webstermarchingband.org)
- Webster High School Marching Band Contacts:  
Tracy Johnson (872-6208)  
Wendy Thorpe (872-1891)

- Ask a parent of a band member – they'll be the ones wearing the ‘booster’ buttons with pictures of their kids on them, ready to burst with pride.