

# Spartan Marching Band

## Syllabus

Spartan Marching Band is an extension of Wind Ensemble and Concert Band. All students must participate in Marching Band in some fashion. Students may be part of the hornline, drumline, color guard, or as a drum major.

**HORNLINE** - Members of the hornline are placed into ranks according to seniority and chair position from the previous year. Students may participate in the hornline on the following instruments: flute/piccolo, clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, trumpet, mellophone, trombone, baritone, and sousaphone.

**DRUMLINE** - Members of the drumline are assigned instruments according to seniority and chair position from the previous year. Upperclassmen will be given priority to play snare drum and multi-toms. Students may participate in the drumline on the following instruments: snare drum, multi-toms, bass drum, and cymbals.

**COLOR GUARD** – Color Guard members must pass an audition to participate. Guard members will be asked to be involved in choreography, flag design/construction and costume design/construction. Guard members must be team-oriented, as they will be working closely with other members of the guard. The color guard often has additional practices aside of scheduled Marching Band rehearsals and members are expected to attend.

**DRUM MAJOR** - Drum Majors are elected by the other members of the Band. Auditions are held for Assistant Drum Major in the spring before the season begins. Candidates must show skill in conducting, marching, and the ability to give vocal commands properly. Drum Majors are responsible for conducting the Marching Band and leading the band during parades. The Drum Major must be a responsible, mature student with good leadership qualities. These students are also expected to be teachers to the younger students and those who need extra help. They are expected to be the first to rehearsal and the last to leave.

### REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS AND ATTITUDE

- Follow all directions from the director and other staff members. This includes all information in printed, verbal, and other formats, beginning with the guidelines and instructions given during the summer rehearsals and all schedules and materials mailed out over the summer. Responsibility for the direction of the ensemble begins with the director and proceeds through instructors, drum majors and other student leaders. Responsibility for the performance of the ensemble rests with each and every member. Begin with your own performance.
- Students are expected to be early to rehearsal and be in formation at the announced start time. Tardiness is defined as being late for call time as well as not being in your place and ready to rehearse when the director begins rehearsal.
- Drum majors are to set up equipment (podiums, PA, yard markers, etc.) on the rehearsal field at least 30 minutes before rehearsal, then report to the director 20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of rehearsal for instructions and a briefing of the rehearsal plan.
- ALL SMB members should be in concert arcs (or other formation as directed) 5 minutes prior to the start time of rehearsal. Section leaders may then assist with attendance.
- All cases, flag bags, etc., may be stored in the ICHS band room or in the bleachers at the football field during rehearsal. Please do not leave them lying on the sideline.
- Be attentive to announcements whether given by the director, other staff members or student leaders.
- When in rehearsal mode, SILENT ATTENTION IS REQUIRED. Rank leaders/drum majors will give instructions when asked to do so. We have no time to waste. All talking will cease at any time we are at a “set” position. Failure to observe this basic rule will slow our rehearsal and will not be tolerated.
- Students are expected to have all rehearsal supplies with them at each rehearsal.
- Memorization of music is highly recommended. Challenge yourself to get rid of your flip folder. You’ll be surprised how much you really know.
- Returning members of the SMB are to demonstrate the highest quality of marching, playing and rehearsal protocol in order to assist new member in developing their work ethic.
- Because the SMB is the largest and most recognizable group at ICHS, we must set the best example of courtesy toward others and of appropriate treatment of facilities. We are committed to the care and upkeep of all rooms, lobbies, and hallways at ICHS, as well as our football field and bleacher area, and or practice facilities. Leave it in better shape than you found it.

**REHEARSAL SUPPLIES** – To be properly prepared for each rehearsal each student should have their drill chart, a pencil, their place-marker, their instrument, and their music. Percussionists should have the proper equipment including sticks and music binders. Color guard members should use their practice flags for all rehearsals unless otherwise instructed. All students should wear supportive footwear for rehearsal. Sandals, flip-flops and the like are not permitted. Dress appropriate for the weather. A jacket or sweatshirt as well as hat and gloves are advisable when the weather turns colder.

**MONDAY NIGHT REHEARSALS** - Spartan Marching Band rehearses Monday evenings (during football season) from 6 - 8 p.m. on the football field. Please check Band Calendar for exact dates. All members are required to attend.

- Students needing to get their instruments or other equipment from the high school band room will need to do so before 5:15 p.m. on rehearsal nights.
- ALL Drumline members and tuba/bari sax players will be at ICHS at 5:00 p.m. to load their equipment. We will depart for the football field at 5:15. Following rehearsal, ALL Drumline members and tuba/bari sax players will return to ICHS to put away their equipment. Students are dismissed as soon as their equipment is stored properly.
- Color guard members need to be responsible for their own equipment. Each guard member will have his/her own flag bag and should come to rehearsal with all appropriate materials.
- Rehearsals will begin at 6:00 p.m. prompt. All members should be warmed up, physically and mentally, and in formation 5 minutes before the start of rehearsal. Attendance will be taken during group warm-ups at 6:00.

**Remember: If you're on time, you're late!**

**GAME NIGHT REHEARSAL** - On game nights the Spartan Marching Band will rehearse on the Marching Band Field behind ICHS. Drumline call time is 4:30. (DL will begin section warm-ups at 4:45.) Winds and color guard call time is 5:00. Students need to be in formation and ready to rehearse at 5:15 prompt.

- Students will be dressed in uniform, but may leave hats and jackets off for rehearsal (except for Homecoming).
- During group warm-ups at 5:15, DMs and SLs will conduct uniform inspections of all members. Students not in proper uniform will be removed. They will either fix their uniform problem or be dismissed from the performance and receive an unexcused absence.
- Students will have about 20 minutes in which to use the restroom, eat a snack, and/or finish getting into full dress uniform after our rehearsal is completed.
- At 6:30 p.m. the Band will parade from the High School to the football field via the service drive and begin the Pre-game activities.
- **The Game Night Rehearsal is our opportunity to get into Performance Mode. When we appear in public we represent Imlay City Schools and the Imlay City community. Exemplary behavior and spirit are required!**

**ON THE MARCH AND IN THE STANDS** - The Band performs during the game as well. Students should exhibit mature public behavior at all times in order to respectfully represent our school.

- All members are expected to actively participate in all cheers and stand tunes. Pay attention to the Drum Majors and be prepared to play at any time.
- The role of the SMB during the game is to entertain and energize the fans. Show great Spartan Spirit in a positive, enthusiastic manner.
- Only SMB members are allowed to sit in our section of the stands. Visitors must sit elsewhere. SMB members must sit in their sections.
- Drumline performs many cheers during the games. Pay attention to the DMs and the Center Snare for music selection.
- Students will be permitted to use the restroom and concessions at the discretion of the director or the Drum Majors.
- The SMB will be excused during the third quarter to use the restroom and concessions. All students must be in their seat and prepared to play with 2:00 remaining on the third quarter clock. We will play between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. Pay attention to the DMs for music selection. This privilege will be revoked if students choose not to comply.
- Helmets must be removed while you are in the stands. Put them safely on the seat, plume up. Do not leave them on the floor where they can get stepped on.
- If you leave our seats for any reason, you must be in full dress uniform (except helmet).

**PARADES** – All SMB members are required to march in scheduled parades. Unless otherwise instructed, the SMB marches 7 columns wide. Section leaders should march on the front-right of their section block. Other upperclassmen should march on the outside. Underclassmen will fill out the middle of the block. This policy does not hold true for the drumline and color guard. Guard will march in pairs, or if there is an odd number, with the captain at the point. The drumline will march in their prescribed block. All members will play during the parade as well as participate enthusiastically in all cheers, cadences, etc. Students will march in their section and should not deviate from this. **MARCH IN STEP!**

## UNIFORM ISSUE

Prior to the Blueberry Festival Parade, all students will be issued a uniform.

- Winds and percussion will be issued a uniform jacket, bibber pants, raincoat, and helmet. Tuba players will not receive a helmet. Color Guard will be issued black pants, a top, and a raincoat.
- Plumes will be distributed prior to all performances (weather permitting) and collected at the end of the performance.
- Cymbal players will need black leather baseball gloves.
- Color Guard will need a long sleeve black top.
- All students will be issued a garment bag.
- All students will need to have plain black shoes (no white markings, colored laces, etc.) and black socks. Color Guard may be instructed differently depending on their show costume.

## UNIFORM WEAR

- The uniform is to be worn in its entirety as directed. We appear in FULL uniform or NO uniform. This includes keeping jackets zipped, bib straps on your shoulders and hats on. The exception to this policy is Game Night Rehearsals in which case jackets and helmets are removed during rehearsal, as outlined under Game Night Rehearsal.
- No part of the uniform is to be worn for any purpose other than SMB performances.
- Students should always wear appropriate clothing under their uniform. When the weather is hot, t-shirt and shorts is acceptable. In colder weather, Under Armor, thermals, sweatshirts, etc. are appropriate. Hoodies should not hang out over the collar of the jacket, and likewise,
- Bibber pants are to be carefully altered so that the cuff touches the top of the shoe without breaking the crease line. Do NOT cut material from the cuffs when making the alterations.
- Helmets are to be worn outdoors. The helmet is worn level on the head, always facing forward, with the front edge covering the eyes. The chin strap is to be worn under the chin. The helmet is to be removed as directed by the director or the drum major.
- Helmets should be carried respectfully by grasping the front of the helmet and resting it on your forearm facing forward, plume up. Your helmet should never be carried like a bucket or be strapped to your backpack or other similar manners.
- Hair should be placed under the helmet so it does not touch the collar of the uniform.
- Tubas and Color Guard should have their hair neatly arranged and secured from the wind.
- Only natural hair color is permitted when in uniform.
- Jewelry is not permitted while in uniform, except for one set of simple stud earrings.

## UNIFORM CARE

- Only the jacket and bibber pants should be transported in the garment bag. Shoes and socks may go in the rear pocket, but should not be stored in the main compartment with the rest of the uniform. Helmets should NEVER be transported in the garment bag.
- The uniform is not to be stored in the Band room. Uniforms should be kept on a quality hanger when not in use. All parts should be stored together. Uniforms should never be stored in a locker, trunk of a car, etc.
- The uniform is ALWAYS to be hung up when not in use. There is no excuse for crumpling the jacket and pants on any occasion.
- Hang the uniform in a dry place. NEVER STORE A WET UNIFORM IN A GARMENT BAG.
- Do not tumble dry or blow dry a wet uniform. Allow it to air dry. Dry clean if necessary.
- Allow the helmet to dry at room temperature to prevent mildew.
- Clean the shell of the helmet with mild soap and water to remove marks and stains.
- Report all damage to the uniform and or helmet to the director IMMEDIATELY after performance so repair and/or replacement can be completed as soon as possible.

## UNIFORM RETURN

- Uniforms will be collected immediately after the final performance of the year (often the Memorial Day Parade). Wind and percussion players will turn in their jacket, bibber pants, helmets, raincoats, and garment bags. Color guard members will turn in their issued tops and black pants, raincoats, and garment bags.
- Current replacement or repair costs will be charged for portions of the uniform either not turned in or damaged.

## EQUIPMENT ISSUE

- The following instruments will be issued to SMB members for use during the season: piccolo, mellophone, marching baritone, sousaphone, and all drumline equipment.
- Percussionists may have drums, cases, sticks, drum stands, cymbals, cymbal bags, etc.
- Color guard members will be issued a flag bag as well as a number of poles and silks.
- Once in hand, students are responsible for the care and maintenance of each piece of equipment issued to them. This includes keeping all valves, keys and other moving parts in good conditions. Brass players should oil valves and lubricate slides often to prevent them from freezing up and corroding.
- All ICHS equipment should be kept clean and looking top-notch. Cymbals should be polished. All brass instruments, including saxophones should be shined. All drums should be periodically wiped down and cleaned of all dirt and residue.

## EQUIPMENT RETURN

Students may use the issued equipment for the current school year. All ICHS instruments and other issued equipment will be inspected upon return and a designated date near the end of the school year. Any damage from misuse or negligence will be charged to the student. General wear and tear repairs will be handled by ICHS.

**LABELING UNIFORMS & FLIP FOLDERS:** With a piece of masking tape, each student should label their own raincoat, hat, and flip folder with their name. Please label the raincoat on the inside of the collar, and the hat also on the inside. This should help students avoid accidentally taking the wrong one.

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES:** Marching Band is a physical activity and will be treated as such. Rehearsals may begin with calisthenics and light jogging. Students are expected to participate in all facets of the rehearsal including physical warm-ups. (Students who are physically unable to participate will be excused from these portions of rehearsal).

**VARSITY FOOTBALL PLAYERS AND CHEERLEADERS:** Varsity Football players will be excused from rehearsals and performances pertaining to the Half-time show, however, these students are required to participate in all parades and the rehearsals that will precede them. Varsity cheerleaders will be excused from Pep Band activities at the football games, but are required to participate in the Half-time performance and hence will be required to attend Monday night rehearsals as well. Varsity Cheerleaders will also be excused from Pep Assemblies when the Cheer Team is performing, otherwise they will be expected to perform with the band.

**CHAIN OF COMMAND:** The SMB chain of command is as follows -

**Director** – responsible for the vision and overall presentation of the SMB

**Instructors** – responsible for rehearsing music for their section as well as addressing marching and drill concerns in their sections.

**Drum majors** – responsible for conducting the SMB. These student leaders will also teach some basic marching techniques as well as assist the Director with any tasks related to the operation of the SMB. The DM's are responsible for getting the ensemble set at attention prior to each rehearsal or performance.

**Section leaders** – responsible for music and marching concerns specific to their section. Each SL needs to know their music and drill and be able to assist others in their section that needs help. SL are responsible for getting their section in formation prior to each rehearsal or performance.

**SMB members** – responsible for knowing their music and drill. All SMB members will come to rehearsals and performances prepared with the right equipment and/or uniform. This includes instruments, music, drill charts, place markers, pencils, helmets, raincoats, gloves, proper footwear, and a positive mindset ready to rehearse/perform to the best of their ability.

All students are expected to follow directions from SMB staff and student leaders. Leadership in our organization is important. All students must be leaders by knowing their responsibilities; music, drill, uniform, attending rehearsals, call-times, etc.

**“Go I.C.!”**