

Dear Future Elk Grove Band Students and Family,

First off, I would like to welcome you and your student as future members of the Elk Grove High School Music Program. My name is Ron Fiorito Jr., the Director of Bands at Elk Grove High School. Here at Elk Grove we have a long standing tradition of excellence in performance. The program consists of two concert bands, two jazz bands, two jazz combos, competitive marching band, color guard, drumline, pep band and small ensembles.

This up coming year has many exciting events and concerts including:

- Elk Grove Hometown Parade
- Home Football Games
- Illinois Marching Band Competition
- Pops and Pizza Concert
- School Musical
- District 214 Symphonic Band Festival
- Percussion Festival
- Plus the occasional trip to Disney, New Orleans, New York City etc.!

Elk Grove provides a challenging yet rewarding experience through the Marching Grenadiers, concert bands and jazz bands. There is much to gain by participating in the music program. Music provides not only an outlet for musical development but also facilitates development in leadership, commitment and self- discipline. Additionally, music provides many social opportunities for students and parents such as trips and football games! New this year is a YEAR LONG PE EXEMPTION for all students in marching band! This allows students to have more time to study during the school day or take an extra class.

Included with this letter are a few additional materials. Please take the time to read through them. Remember that students will need parental support and encouragement throughout their years in high school. I believe students will find their involvement in music to be extremely worthwhile, meaningful and educational!

Many more answers can be found on our website <http://www.eghsband.com/> or feel free to email me at ron.fiorito@d214.org any time. I look forward to meeting you and your student very soon!

Sincerely,

Ron Fiorito Jr.
Director of Bands
Fine Arts Coordinator

Frequently Asked Questions and Excuses

Q: Do I have to be involved with marching band to do concert band? I don't like marching band...

A: Marching band is required BUT I can't let you decide not to do something you have never done. How do you know you don't like it if you have never tried it? Many new students find marching band intimidating but quickly realize that marching band is actually exhilarating and the best way to meet new friends. Too many students drop concert band because of marching band only to regret missing out on all the wonderful opportunities and beg to rejoin.

Q: Will I have time to do homework/sports/work if I do marching band?

A: Of course!! Our students are well involved and/or working a job outside of band and continue to make school work a priority. In addition to gaining a social outlet, band provides a study group with students who share classes with you. Additionally, many of our students are involved other sports and activities such as: the fall play, musical, choir, jazz bands, soccer, football, cross country, swim team, basketball, National Honors Society, orchesis, hockey, and so many more! Don't forget that marching band gives students a year long PE exemption.

Q: I have played my instrument for four years and I'm tired of doing the same concerts.

A: EGHS bands provides you with many new and exciting performance opportunities such as:

- Home football games as a Marching Grenadier
- Marching band competitions at various high school and college stadiums!
- New instrument opportunities including piccolo, bass clarinet, alto clarinet, English horn, mellophone, bassoon, sousaphone, tuba, drum set (jazz band/pit orchestra) guitar/bass (jazz band/ pit orchestra) and drumline.
- There are even more opportunities in our small ensembles: Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Band, pit orchestra, Jazz Choir, Symphony Orchestra, and Percussion ensemble.

Quotes from current members...

“I was worried with not liking marching band because it would be too much work. But it turns out that after all the hard work and hours, you end up creating a beautiful show to be proud of and gaining lifelong friends you otherwise wouldn’t have met.” – Kelly Rogers, Senior

“I was concerned that the music would be too difficult for me to play when I first joined, but when I joined band I became a better player the harder the music was.” –Sarah Grinen, Sophomore

“Having more activities help keep me on my feet and manage my time instead of being lazy.” Greg Rynne, Junior

“If I wasn't apart of band I would be so quiet and afraid of trying new things. Band showed me I can do anything if I work hard for it and that I shouldn't be afraid to speak out because people will like me for who I am.”
- Hayley Rathmell, Senior

SEE THE WEBSITE FOR ALL CALENDAR DATES

<http://www.eghsband.com/>

Ensembles:

Symphonic Band/ Marching Band (course 01781/01782)

Made up of mostly upperclassmen, this is the top band at Elk Grove. This band is by audition only and holds the top players. Honoring a traditional wind ensemble set up, most players are 1 on a part. Symphonic Band performs literature that is challenging and has a very active concert schedule. Symphonic Band members are required to participate in the Marching Grenadiers and Pep Band. Participation in other musical groups is encouraged.

Concert Band/ Marching Band (course 01771/01772)

This ensemble is made up of a variety of students from freshman to seniors. All students are welcome in Concert Band. Symphonic Band focuses on fundamental techniques on the individual and ensemble levels. Members are required to also participate in the Marching Grenadiers and Pep Band. Participation in other ensembles is encouraged.

Marching Grenadiers

This group is made up of all band members from Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Drumline and Colorguard. These students are also required to participate in Pep Band. The Marching Grenadiers are an award winning band well known for playing technically demanding music and providing a quality show experience. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings and during concert band classes during the day. Performances include: football games and competitions. Students cannot opt out of marching band HOWEVER all students in marching band will receive a year long PE waiver.

Prior to starting school, ALL MEMBERS are required to attend our summer band camp. We rehearse in June in preparation for the Elk Grove Hometown Parade and again in July/August to prepare for the marching season.

Drumline

Run by Tom Leddy, this group consists of snares, tenor drums and bass drums. They perform as part of the Marching Grenadiers and pep band (drum set). They have additional performances throughout the year. Rosters for the group are set in late May following "chop sessions" during the spring semester. Members must be in a concert ensemble.

Pep Band

This ensemble is made up of every member in band. They play pep tunes for home basketball games. This group is required of all drumline, Marching Grenadiers, Jazz band/Ensemble, Concert Band and Symphonic Band members.

Jazz Ensemble

This ensemble is by audition only and for students with prior jazz experience. This group performs at various community events throughout the school year including Jazz in the Meadows. Jazz Ensemble focuses on quality improvisation and more demanding charts. Members of this group are required to play in a concert ensemble unless they are a piano or guitar player. This class meets before school during 0-hour.

Jazz Band

This ensemble is open to all students interested in jazz. This group meets before school and focuses on jazz basics such as articulation, style, and improvisational techniques. Members of this group must play in a concert ensemble unless they are a piano or guitar player.

Pit Orchestra

A seasonal group, this ensemble performs during the student musicals. Numbers and instrumentation varies greatly upon the musical selected. This group will provide opportunities for pianists and drum set players. Sign up occurs a few months before opening night. Rehearsals are after school.

Symphony Orchestra

This ensemble is run by the orchestra director, Maura Brown and combines the highest orchestra and the top wind players from Symphonic Band. Auditions are held in the fall. This group will take tours and perform at concerts with the orchestras and band.

