

TURNER ASHBY HIGH SCHOOL



MARCHING KNIGHTS

2023-2024

Handbook
And
Commitment Form

www.turnerashbyband.weebly.com

Welcome . . .

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the award-winning Turner Ashby Marching Knights! The Marching Knights is a great activity that helps develop confidence, positive attitude, self-esteem, cooperation, and self-discipline. It also gives members the thrill of performing in a great band in front of enthusiastic fans. It takes a great deal of time, discipline, and dedication, but the rewards are well worth the effort!

The Marching Knights is a six time Virginia Honor Band and has received numerous awards over the past years. In 2022, the Marching Knights placed 2nd at JMU's Parade of Champions and 1st at the Shenandoah Valley Marching Invitational. In addition the band received a Superior rating at the VBODA State Marching Assessments and has received numerous caption awards such as Best Music, General Effect and Guard. The band has a long history of excellence and many achievements to show for it.

Tradition, excellence, and commitment run deep within our program. We are honored that you and your student have chosen our program and we are proud to have you as a member of the TA Marching Knights!

Rob Nash
Director of Bands

Methods of Communication . . .

- **TA BAND Notes Emails** - I will send out weekly emails during the season with schedules, due dates, and updated information. The subject line will read "TA BAND Notes" for all emails. Please check your email regularly.
- **BAND WEBSITE** - Visit the TA Band Website to download schedules and forms. We will also post pictures during the season and recordings of all Marching Knights performances.
 - www.turnerashbyband.weebly.com
- **REMIND Text System** - We will use the *Remind* text messaging system this year to alert parents and students of any last minute changes in our schedule and to alert the parents when we are 15 and 30 minutes from school when we travel. This allows parents to plan their arrival time at the school to limit the wait. To sign up to receive text reminders, follow the instructions below. *** This is a NEW text list, so if you were signed up last year, you will need to sign up again for the upcoming school year to receive text messages. ***
 - **Send a text to: 81010**
 - **Text this message: @87k8a6e**

Eligibility . . .

- **Course Requirements** - All brass, woodwind and percussion students must be enrolled in a band class this current school year. Color Guard members do not need to be enrolled in a music class.
- **Instrumentation Requirements** - Students must perform on the instrument they play in class unless special permission is granted by the director. Wind players will be placed in either a

marching or non-marching position during July's pre-camp. Percussion students will audition for instrument placements within the percussion section in June. They include, snare, tenors, bass drum and pit percussion. These placements are for the current season only.

- **Academic Requirements** - All members must remain in good academic standing at all times. Students with failing grades will be suspended or dismissed from the organization.

Placements . . .

- **Wind Players** - All brass and woodwind players will be placed during July in either a marching or non-marching position based on their current musical and marching abilities. This is NOT an audition, the students will NOT have to prepare anything for placements in advance.
- **Percussion Members** - All percussionists will be placed on an instrument during the first week in June based on their current musical and marching ability level. This is NOT an audition, the students will NOT have to prepare anything for placements in advance. Instruments on the field include snare drum, tenors, bass drum, and the front ensemble instruments including keyboards, cymbals, auxiliary percussion, etc.
- **Guard** - All guard members will be placed during July in either a performing or supportive position in our competition show. All members will participate in the parades.

Attendance Policies . . .

Good attendance is VITAL to our success as an organization. Simply put, you cannot contribute if you are not present. When you are absent, you will miss important information and will fall behind putting the overall quality of the whole band at risk. The absence of one person not only affects that person, but also the entire group. Balance, precision, spacing, and alignment cannot be improved or maintained with absences. By joining, you are making a commitment to the Marching Knights. Be someone others can count on!

- Band Camp is mandatory and no student is permitted to miss ANY PART of these rehearsals. Do not schedule vacations, doctor's appointments, SAT prep classes, or any other events on these dates. Exceptions MAY be granted by the Band Director if discussed well enough in advance, however this may result in reduced participation in performances until the work can be made up.
- If you need to miss a rehearsal, YOU MUST submit it on the ABSENCE FORM. Students who miss more than 5 rehearsals during the season for any reason may be removed from the organization. Absences MUST be kept to a minimum.
- Students are required to attend ALL rehearsals. Any student that misses two or more rehearsals in one week will be suspended from performing the week the absences occurred.
- Turner Ashby High School policy states that students must attend the last two blocks of the day in order to participate in afterschool activities, including performances. Exceptions are granted for early dismissals for professional appointments.
- If absent, you are expected to devote extra time towards getting caught up. Check with your section leader or drum major to find out what was missed.
- Performances ARE NOT TO BE MISSED! Check the calendar carefully to make sure you can commit to all performance dates. When a student is missing from a performance, we will be forced to march an "open hole" which will negatively affect how we are judged.

Membership Fee . . .

The marching band fee is \$95 and is due by June 1st. The fee covers music, show t-shirts, practice field maintenance and miscellaneous expenses during the season. Band Boosters' cover competition registration fees and band camp staff stipends. Students may request financial aid to cover this cost if needed. Marching band fees are non-refundable.

Equipment & Supplies Needed . . .

Every member will need the following items for the marching season. They will be purchased through the school. Orders will be taken online and due the first week of band camp, with payment. See the TA BAND Notes Email for a link to the order form.

- **One inch, Three ring Binder** - This will be used to store sheet music, pencil, and drill. The binder should have a "shoulder strap" in order to carry it on the field while playing. This is purchased through a local store.
- **Insulated Water Jug, 1 gallon** - Students need to supply water for all outdoors rehearsals. Do not use small water bottles for summer band camp, you will run out of water very quickly.
- **Marching Shoes** - Band members will purchase Super Drill Masters (black) and the Guard will purchase split sole dance shoes (tan)
- **Gloves** - Woodwind and Brass members will wear a pair of black gloves during all performances. One pair will be provided to each student, additional pairs can be purchased through the school.
- **Socks** - Woodwind, Brass and Percussion members will wear a pair of black athletic socks during all performances. One pair will be provided to each student, additional pairs can be purchased through the school.
- **Flip-Folder** - Woodwind, Brass & Percussion members must purchase a flip folder to hold all stand music.
- **Lyre** - Woodwind and Brass members will need a lyre to hold the flip folder while playing in the stands.
- **Show T-shirt** - All members will receive one show t-shirt to be worn in the stands during competitions. Additional shirts can be purchased through the school.
- **BLACK Under Armor** - Brass, Woodwind and Percussion students must wear athletic "under armor" under their uniform at every performance. The student is responsible for purchasing a shirt and shorts/pants online or at a local store. It does not have to be a specific brand, just black.

Equipment Maintenance . . .

Every member is responsible for maintaining their equipment to good working condition at every rehearsal and performance.

- **BRASS & WOODWINDS**
 - Instruments must be in good working condition at all times. Broken instruments must be repaired immediately. Bring maintenance issues to the staff's attention as soon as they are known.

- Student-Owned Instruments: Shen-Vally Band Instrument Repair Service in Harrisonburg is an excellent repair shop. Students are responsible for obtaining repairs in a timely manner. Shen-Valley Band visits the school one day a week.
- School-Owned Instruments: Repair of school instruments must be handled through the county service contractor.
- Keep the finish clean and polished
- Avoid setting your instrument on its bell (it WILL get knocked over and the bell will become creased). Always place it flat on the ground in a roll with other like instruments.
- If using a school-owned instrument or mouthpiece, students will be held financially responsible for any loss or damage beyond normal wear and tear.
- Woodwind players must have 3 working reeds at all times.
- Brass players should oil valves at least every other day.

➤ **BATTERY PERCUSSION**

- Battery instruments MUST remain covered except for performances.
- Instruments must be clean prior to public performances.
- When handling cases, DO NOT carry them by their fabric straps WHICH WILL BREAK. Always handle cases by their metal handles.
- Students will be held financially responsible for any damage to instruments, sticks, and mallets beyond normal wear and tear.

➤ **FRONT ENSEMBLE**

- Pit Instruments must be covered except when in use.
- Be careful when moving instruments to avoid rolling over curbs, uneven surfaces, or anything that could damage the instrument.
- Pit Instruments MUST be returned to their correct location in the band room after use.
- Check your instrument frequently to make sure screws are tightened and parts are in good working order. Report missing or broken parts to the staff ASAP.
- Students will be held financially responsible for any damage to instruments, sticks, and mallets beyond normal wear and tear.

➤ **COLOR GUARD**

- Flags MUST be rolled after each rehearsal.
- Flags are to be handled only by the pole. Never pick up a flag by the silk.
- All equipment MUST be stored in the proper location in the closet after every rehearsal.
- All Flags must have weights properly taped and secured to both ends of the pole. They must have rubber stoppers on both sides of the pole covered with the appropriate colored tape.
- Students will be held financially responsible for any loss or damage to guard equipment beyond normal wear and tear.

Music and Drill . . .

- All sheet music for the competition show and warm-ups MUST be kept in a 3-ring binder. The binder will help keep music organized. I recommend sheet protectors to help keep music from

blowing away in the wind or getting ruined when it rains. Students **MUST** have their binder with them at all times for rehearsal.

- If you lose your music, you need to print it on your own via the music link provided in the TA BAND Notes email sent during the summer. **DO NOT lose your Music!**
- You must have your music/drill binder at EVERY rehearsal.
- You will receive drill sheets and a coordinate chart for quick reference during rehearsals. Students **MUST** have both drill sheets and coordinate charts at every rehearsal.
- Stand music to be played at football games must be kept organized in a flip folder.
- ALL Brass, Woodwind and Percussion players **MUST** have a flip folder with all stand music at every game.

Leadership . . .

In the Marching Knights, we have 7 leadership positions:

- Drum Major
- 2 Brass Section Leaders
- Woodwind Section Leader
- 2 Percussion Section Leaders
- Guard Section Leader

Requirements:

- Any one with at least one year membership is eligible for a leadership position.
- Student leaders must attend the leadership camp in July at JMU or another location approved by the director in advance.

Responsibilities:

- Help members learn their music, marching, drill, and general procedures.
- Serve as a model for other band members by demonstrating impeccable musicianship, marching, work ethic, rehearsal etiquette, and personal responsibility.
- Set high expectations and do whatever it takes to help members meet those expectations.
- Check members' progress and provide updates to the director and staff.
- Devote extra time towards helping students who are struggling or have fallen behind.
- Make sure students have all necessary equipment for rehearsals and performances and ensure everything is properly cared for.
- Ensure rehearsal areas are set up before rehearsal begins and ensure items are put away after rehearsals if applicable.
- Oversee organization of the storage room and other storage areas.

Characteristics:

- Demonstrates above average musical and marching abilities.
- Sets a good example for attitude, effort, enthusiasm, work ethic, and character in and out of rehearsal.
- Works well with others.
- Is empathetic, sensitive to others, and a good listener.
- Steps up to help without having to be asked.

Selection Process:

- Members interested in leadership will complete an application in May and submit it online.

- Auditions will be held the last Tuesday of May after school. Leadership candidates will conduct the first 2 minutes of the show music, display their voice commands and go through an interview with the Band Director and current Drum Major.
- Results of the auditions will be announced at the annual Music Department Awards Banquet on the last Thursday of May.

In the Marching Knights, we have 4 officer positions:

- Attendance Officer
- Uniform Officer
- Music Librarian
- Field Officer

Requirements:

- Any member is eligible to serve as an officer.
- Officers must demonstrate excellent attendance and organizational skills.

Responsibilities:

- **Attendance Officer** - The attendance officer is responsible for taking attendance at the beginning of all rehearsals and on all trips using the Google Form. They are NOT authorized to excuse absences, only report them. All absences must be cleared through the Band Director.
- **Uniform Officer** - The uniform officer is responsible for distributing uniforms at the beginning of the season and fitting everyone into their uniform. They will be responsible for maintaining the uniforms and handling any members' uniform needs throughout the season. The uniform officer will also be responsible for distributing and collecting the uniforms prior and after every performance. They must maintain the uniform closet in a neat and organized manner.
- **Music Librarian** - The music librarian will be responsible for distributing all stand music, star spangled banner and show music. They will handle any members' music needs throughout the season.
- **Field Officer** - The field officer will be responsible for setting up the sound system, yard markers and podium at every rehearsal. The field officer will coordinate their committee to ensure set up at all events.

Characteristics:

- Demonstrates above average organizational skills.
- Sets a good example for attitude, effort, enthusiasm, work ethic, and character in and out of rehearsal.
- Works well with others.
- Is empathetic, sensitive to others, and a good listener.
- Steps up to help without having to be asked.

Selection Process:

- Members interested in an officer position only need to sign up on the first day of band camp.
- The Band Director will select the 3 officer positions based on the list of interested candidates and announce them on the second day of band camp.

Uniforms . . .

Uniforms will be issued to students during Band Camp.

- The uniforms will remain stored in the uniform closet.
- Do Not attempt any alterations yourself. Report any issues to the uniform officer and they will handle the alterations if necessary.
- Students are held financially responsible for damage due to misuse or neglect.
- Black socks, FULL LENGTH, MUST be worn with the uniform. One pair will be provided at no charge. Replacement or extra pairs may be purchased at \$3 per pair.
- Brass and Woodwind players MUST wear black gloves. One pair will be provided at no charge. Replacement or extra pairs may be purchased at \$3.50 per pair.
- What to wear under your uniform:
 - In hot weather, wear BLACK athletic shorts and a BLACK athletic short sleeve shirt. Under Armor-type clothing is required. Students without a black shirt will not be able to take off their jacket in the stands during games.
 - In cold weather, wear form-fitting pants and tops. Under Armor-type clothing is recommended. Do NOT wear bulky garments that will be seen peeking out of the uniform. NEVER wear jeans under the uniform.
- At the conclusion of a performance, all uniform components will be properly hung up and put away before leaving. This will be checked by the uniform officers.
- The uniform must be worn as a complete uniform at all times. The only exception is during football games in the stands when the students are allowed to remove the jacket. In such a circumstance, the pants must remain over the shoulders.
- Long hair must be tucked inside the hat.
- Visible jewelry is NOT permitted while in uniform.
- DO NOT eat or drink while wearing the jacket. If you plan to visit the concession stand, you must remove your jacket prior to eating or drinking (water is an exception).
- Public displays of affection are not allowed while in uniform.
- Guard members MUST change out of the uniform after halftime at all football games to avoid spills/damage to the uniforms while in the stands.

Football Game Procedures . . .

Your actions during the games are seen by the school, teachers, administrators, the Bridgewater community, and visiting fans. You are expected to model outstanding etiquette at all times.

- All students are required to be fully dressed and ready to warm-up by the designated call time, 30 minutes before the start of each home game.
- Brass and Woodwind players MUST have their lyre and flip folder for all games. Percussionists MUST have their flip folder.
- Before the game, we will perform the Star Spangled Banner, Fight Song and possibly other music as needed.
- When the game begins, students must sit with their sections and be prepared to play pep songs at the director's command. Generally we play during long time outs and between quarters.
- DO NOT play your instrument unless directed to do so.

- We will perform all or part of our competition show at halftime.
- Students are given the 3rd quarter off. Students may visit friends, concessions, etc. but you **MAY NOT LEAVE THE STADIUM** for any reason. Front ensemble and guard are excluded from this policy so they can return equipment and/or change.
- Students **MUST** be back in the stands **BEFORE THE END OF THE 3RD QUARTER**. We will play at the conclusion of the 3rd quarter. Any student not back and ready to play in time will lose the privilege the next game.
- At the end of the game we will line up to march out of the stadium.
- Students are dismissed once all uniforms and equipment are properly put away and verified by the uniform officer and your section leader.

Competitions and Travel . . .

Parents are encouraged to come to competitions to support the band!

- An itinerary will be emailed to everyone and a copy will be given to each student in advance of the event.
- We will usually practice before departing the day of a competition. After practice, students will be given time to pack up and get their uniform from the uniform officer.
- **Bus Behavior expectations:**
 - Keep hands and feet to yourself.
 - Do NOT make a mess. Clean up after yourself.
 - Keep your volume to a level that does not disturb others.
 - You must sit facing forward while the bus is in motion.
 - Follow the directions from the driver, chaperones and staff.
 - Public displays of affection are NOT allowed.
- **At Competition Site:**
 - FOCUS! Know where to be, when to be there, and how to be when you get there. Move from one location to another quickly and with purpose.
 - Do not behave in a way that will embarrass yourself, Turner Ashby High School, or the band.
 - Bring money for concessions.
 - Bring warm clothes when the weather is cold to wear after the performance.
 - We will usually stay until the end of competitions for awards.
 - ALWAYS DISPLAY GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!! No matter the results, cheer for the other bands. We are ALL in this together.
- **Upon Arrival Back at the School:**
 - Students will be dismissed when everything is properly put away, verified by your section leader and uniform officer.
 - Students **MUST** ride the bus to and from all band trips, unless prior permission is given by the Band Director and school administration.
 - If a student needs to return early from a trip, one week's notice is required in addition to parent and school administration approval. Students are never allowed to transport other students in their cars.

Band Boosters . . .

As a parent of a Turner Ashby Marching Knight, you are part of the TA Band Boosters. The Boosters provide both logistical and financial support to the band. Managing an organization as active and successful as ours requires a great deal of parent support.

These are the areas we need parent support:

- **Fundraising** - Planning, organizing and implementation
- **Band Camp** - Providing lunch to the band during camp
- **Football Game Dinner** - Providing dinner to the band before every home football game
- **Drinks After Performances** - Providing water or Gatorade for the band after every performance
- **Chaperones and Pit Crew** - Accompany the band to and from performances; help us set up prior to each performance; and load the band trailer
- **Building/Carpentry** - Building carts, props, assembling new equipment, etc.
- **Trailer Driver** - We haul equipment in our trailer. We need a driver to pull the trailer to every competition

When Do We Meet?

- Typically Band Boosters meet the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm.
- Meetings are held in the band room.
- Parents may also attend the meetings virtually. A link to the meeting will be sent out the Monday prior to each meeting via email.

Parents are expected to . . .

- Help provide food during band camp or before fall performances at least once during the season.
- Provide water/gatorade for the band after performances at least once during the season.
- Assist in a minimum of one fundraising event during the year.
- Parents will sign up to help with meals, drinks, and fundraisers on the google form linked on the commitment form below. This form **MUST** be submitted before registration is complete.

Marching Fundamentals . . .

Every member MUST be able to CONSISTENTLY demonstrate SUPERIOR execution of the following marching skills:

Fundamentals

- Body Posture
- Instrument Carriage
- Roll Step
- Marching In Step
- Straight Leg Marching
- Floating
- 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 to 5 Step Sizes
- Balance and Posture during direction changes
- The "Checklist"

Commands

- Detail Attention
- Horns Up and Down
- Forward March
- Backwards March
- Right and Left Flanks
- Right and Left Obliques
- To the Rear March

Drills

- Donkey Kong
- Box Drill
- "X" Drill
- Octagon Drill
- Circle Drill

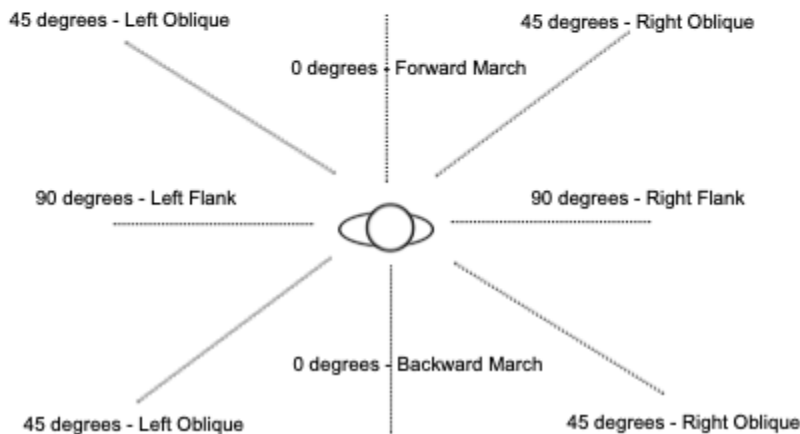
Flanks & Obliques

Forward & Backwards

Right & Left

Command: *Right Oblique March*

	Direction	Angle	Execute Command	Last Step	Execute Command
<u>When to execute:</u>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Oblique</i>	<i>March</i>	<i>Step</i>	<i>Turn</i>
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1</i>
	<i>Left</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Left</i>	<i>Right</i>	<i>Left</i>



Marching Knights 2023-24 Commitment Form

Complete the following steps to register:

- 1 - Return this form to your band director
- 2 - Submit the marching band fee of \$95 or request financial aid below
- 3 - Go online to complete the signup form by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.gle/LN9LE8fHnE4c7dh77>

1 - General Information: *(please print neatly)*

Name _____ Current Grade Level _____
Instrument/Guard _____ I have enclosed the \$95 fee
Address _____ I am in need of financial aid

Parents/Guardians Names _____
Student's Email _____
Primary Parent/Guardian Email _____
Secondary Parent/Guardian Email _____

2 - Medical Information:

List any medical conditions which may be a concern when marching.

3 - Financial Fee:

The marching band fee (\$95) will go towards the purchase of music for the season, student meals before performances and an official Marching Knights show T-shirt, socks and gloves. New members will have to purchase their marching shoes in the fall. Everyone will need to wear black "under-armour" or athletic gear under our new uniforms. They can be purchased locally or online.

4 - Schedule Conflicts:

Please list all conflicts with the current Marching Knights Schedule. It is vital that everyone is present at all rehearsals. The band depends on each other to establish intervals and field placement, so your absence does not only negatively affect you, but also the members around you. I know that conflicts are inevitable, please try to keep them to an absolute minimum. We learn a majority of the drill during band camp weeks, so missing these days may result in exclusion from the first performances until the work can be made up or removal from the group completely. Please plan around band camp and all performance dates specified in the schedule. Students can not miss a performance for any reason other than illness or death in the family.

Dates:

Reason for the Conflict:

5 - Commitment:

It is extremely important that all information is accurate in order to plan, write drill/music, and register for competitions. Please take this commitment SERIOUSLY.

I hereby commit myself to the Marching Knights for the 2023-24 season. I have read and agree to abide by all policies outlined in the Marching Knights Handbook. I will attend all of Band Camp and all Performances. I will practice diligently and I will do my best at all rehearsals and performances. I also have the support of my parents in this decision.

Student's signature

Parent's signature