

Saturday Marching Band Competitions Day

The Marching Bruin Band will rehearse at Forest Park before boarding the bus to travel to the competition. The students are given an opportunity to eat a meal they have brought from home after rehearsal and before getting dressed into their uniform. The exact schedule depends on travel time to the event and when the band is scheduled to perform at the competition. The schedule for each competition day will be distributed to students a few days before the competition by Mr. Davern. It will also be posted on our website, sent out by email, and posted on our Facebook group.

Parent help is needed for every competition in several areas! Please fill out our [Volunteer Form](#) or contact our Volunteer Coordinator Nanette Reames to become more involved - FPHSBBVolunteers@gmail.com

How should I plan for a Marching Band Competition Day?

Students should expect a marching band competition to be an all-day commitment which will last until late in the evening. Parents who want to attend the competition do not need to follow the student's schedule. They should plan to arrive at the competition site at least an hour before the band is scheduled to perform in order to ensure adequate time to find parking, walk to the stadium, pay admission (typically \$10-\$15 for adults), and find their seats before the band competes. Spectators are asked not to enter the stadium during a band performance. If you arrive while a band is performing, you should wait until a break before finding your seat. At many competitions there will be ushers who will indicate when to wait, and when you may enter the stands. We strongly recommend that parents plan their time at the competition so they can observe as many bands as possible to support all the programs.

What is the typical travel time?

Over 100 Marching Bruin students, staff, and parent volunteers are involved when we participate in a marching band competition. Travel time varies based on competition location. After arrival at the competition venue, it typically takes about 1 ½ hours to set up, assemble instruments, and warm up. Warm-up activities occur away from the stadium to minimize interference with the bands that are performing at the same time. A typical marching band competition involves more than eight bands. The events are typically spread out over a large site (most competition sites are on football fields.)

How will my student be transported?

Students always travel to and from marching band competitions as a group via school bus. Exceptions to this rule are only granted with written parental permission by Mr. Davern. Preparation and transportation to these events is already hectic and dealing with even one late or lost student could compromise the event for the rest of the band. On occasion, there are last minute changes which are discussed during the ride to the show. The order or scheduled performance times are subject to change. This makes it essential for the students to travel and arrive at the event together.

How will I find my student after their performance?

Students are required to leave their cell phones on the bus during a competition, so they will not be able to make or receive calls or texts from you. The staff values the full attention of the students before competitions so parent involvement during warm-up and passage to the field should be avoided. Only designated parent volunteers will be allowed to interact and enter with the band. After the performance they will return to the buses to put away their instruments before returning to the stadium to watch the remaining bands perform and wait for the awards ceremony. In certain situations, with permission from Mr. Davern, members may "dress down" into their "street clothes."

How will I find a place to sit at Marching Band Competition Days?

Finding other Forest Park parents is much easier than finding your own student. Parents try to sit together, and you can usually find them by looking for the Marching Bruin Band shirts in the crowd. At most competitions, parents and spectators sit on the “Home” side of the stadium. Performers (our students) are often required to sit as a group while watching performances and occasionally they must sit on the “Away” side of the stadium because they perform later in the competition.

What will my students eat at Marching Band Competition Days?

Students are given an opportunity to eat a meal before leaving for a competition but sometimes the band is gone for a long period of time. If this occurs, food is also typically available for purchase at every competition arranged by the hosting venue. Some parents choose to provide money for his/her student for snack purchases. Students are responsible for following the uniform guidelines when purchasing and eating food in uniform. All students must receive permission from Mr. Davern before they can eat in uniform or leave the stands to purchase a snack.

What if there is inclement weather?

Inclement weather does not automatically cancel a marching band competition. In most cases, the competition will continue even if it is raining. We strongly recommend you bring additional clothing for cold and wet conditions. Competitions often extend into the evening, and it can get very cold and wet.

What should I bring with me?

- Money – for admission to the competition and for purchasing food and beverages. Admission is typically \$10-15 for adults, sometimes less for children. (Performers AND Parent volunteers do not pay)
- Warm Clothes
- Wet weather gear
- Warm blanket
- Stadium seat or something to sit on

What should I send with my student?

- Water Jug
- Sunscreen
- A small bag for belongings, if needed

What does a typical competition schedule look like?

The schedule at a given competition usually starts with the smallest class (1A) and moves up to toward the largest class (5A). After the final band performs there is a break for score calculation. During this time the host band often performs an exhibition (host bands are not allowed to compete). Then the awards ceremony begins. Our band is typically classified as AAA which means that we will tend to compete later in the schedule. We will usually know our approximate performance time in advance, but schedules can and do change during the competition. Planning to arrive “just in time” to hear our band can be very risky. Awards ceremonies can go late into the evening, typically ending around 9:00 PM.

How will my student get home?

After the awards ceremony, students return to the buses area to load up for their return trip home. Any remaining items (instruments, equipment, etc.) need to be loaded onto the truck before we leave. Once the buses and truck return to Forest Park High School, a number of items must be unloaded and put away by students and parent volunteers.