



Apex High School Band

Daniel Jarvis, Director



General Overview

- Band is a great opportunity for rising freshmen students. We offer three classes of concert bands, marching band, jazz band, musical pit orchestra, lacrosse pep band, and various other activities through the school year.
- We believe in a well-balanced band program approach, rooted in solid music education philosophy and objectives and achieved through a welcoming, family-oriented, and fun environment. Everyone who wants to join is welcome and there is a place for you!

Concert Band (also called academic bands)

- Concert Band is the central focus of our band program, and is where the majority of instrument learning, music-making, and music education takes place. It is the foundational basis for our other ensembles and is where your students will gain the knowledge to become advanced musicians.
- Band is offered as a class during the school day in both semesters and it is expected that students take both semesters of the class. Each semester they will receive one academic credit, two credits for the year. Sometimes we have schedule conflicts and we'll work through them on an individual basis, but the general idea is that the students are in band both semesters. Students can be in band all four years of high school and there is no cap on how many band classes they can take.

Which Band Class?

- Most incoming freshmen with middle school band experience should register for Beginning Band- remember to register for both semesters
- If you made All District Band in 8th grade, contact Mr. Jarvis about auditioning for Intermediate Band or Advanced Band
- Students will audition in the spring for class placement the following fall

Concerts

- All Bands will play a full band concert in October, December, March, and May
- Small Ensembles concerts happen in late November and in late April. All students will be in a small ensemble. These are formed out of their normal band class.
- MPA- Music Performance Adjudication happens around the third week of March. A pre-MPA concert will be played around the first week of March.
- A Pops Concert combined with strings and choir programs is played around the end of May.

Jazz Band

- We typically have two jazz bands that start around the end of marching band, somewhere in November/December
- Jazz band will meet one day a week after school
- All students are invited to play. We offer typical big band instrumentation- saxes, trombones, trumpets, rhythm section.
- There will be an audition of some type for placement in the ensembles.
- Jazz band typically travels to a few jazz events in the spring semester, mostly in April and May.

Lacrosse Pep Band

- “Lax Band” is an extension of our marching band.
- Plays for between 3-5 home varsity men’s lacrosse games per year, typically in the March/April time frame.
- All players in the Apex Marching Band are welcome to come. There is no audition.

BAND and AOIT

- Yes, students can do both, at least partially, regardless of what anyone else tells you.
- Sometimes students are prevented from taking the correct concert band class because of class conflicts with AOIT. We handle these on a case by case basis.
- Incoming freshmen CAN sign up for marching band if they are registered for at least one band class in the freshman year (typically the spring semester).
- AOIT will mandate which band classes you can take- you may end up in the wrong level band class, or may not get to take band at all, depending on the semester.

Marching Band Overview

- Marching Band is an extracurricular activity. It receives no academic credit.
- Marching band has three or four weeks of competition per year in the late September to October range. Marching band finishes with competition season by the end of October and then marches the Apex Christmas Parade and the Cary Christmas Parade on the first two Saturdays of December.
- Typically, students are required to sign up for a concert band class as a prerequisite to joining marching band. Class scheduling issues sometimes come up, but this is the general requirement.

Marching Band Requirements

- Marching Band camp in the summer is required for participation in the activity. Camp will start this year on July 29. There will also be a required marching fundamentals camp June 7-11 from 3:30-5:30 daily. Full marching band camp schedule can be found on the band website.
- Attendance at all home football games and all marching band competitions is mandatory.
- Attendance at all marching rehearsals is mandatory. Practice will be three or four days a week after school. Students will not be able to march and play a fall sport.

Marching Band Auditions

- There is no general audition for marching band. It is open to all Apex Band students. If you want to join us, we'll find a place for you.
- There is an audition for drumline, front ensemble, and colorguard. These auditions usually take place in May. Watch your email for more information.

Marching Band Fees

We do charge fees for marching band. Your fee money goes to pay for music written specifically for our band, drill written specifically for each band member, percussion parts, color guard choreography, travel expenses, marching band staff, and many other things. Typically, marching band fees are around \$700-750 for the year. If you play a school owned instrument you'll also have to pay a cleaning and maintenance fee of \$100 per instrument for the year.

Apex Band Senior Stats (taken from survey given to 17 seniors in Advanced Band)

- AHS Class of 2021 Band students have been accepted to the following Colleges/Universities: UNC, UNCC, NC State, UNCG, ECU, WCU, South Carolina, Ohio State, Kentucky, Wisconsin, James Madison, Butler, Tulane, Guilford College, Appalachian State, U of Ohio, Babson, Purdue, Penn State, Clemson, Elon, Cedarville, Liberty, Savannah College of Art and Design, Harvard
- All GPA's of those surveyed were between 3.6-4.6

Apex Band Senior Stats cont.

- 100% are heading to a four year college or university
- 82% have taken at least one AP Course, some have taken as many as 5 or 6
- 47% played on at least one AHS athletics team
- 88% of them played in the Apex Marching Band
- 100% agreed that playing in the band was a good choice

Would you classify band as a valuable experience? Why or why not? (from present senior class)

Absolutely. Band taught me a lot of life skills (including the value of hard work and discipline) and gave me a community I felt a part of during high school. It's been one of the most valuable experiences of my life, and I'm going to work in the field with hopes of offering the same skills to other people.

Absolutely, I met 90% of my friends through band/marching band. It's taught me a lot about discipline, confidence, and leadership, and it's genuinely been a lot of fun.

Absolutely, I made so many amazing friends and it's nice having my band family, I love everyone. I have tons of amazing memories especially from marching band, my time in marching band has honestly been the best four years of my life. I've learned a lot of things, not just musical stuff, from Mr. Jarvis and my peers that I'll always value and carry with me. I couldn't have asked to join a better band program.

Yes. Music has been a great way of expressing myself and clearing my mind from any stress that school/life brings. It has taught me to pay attention to detail and to never quit, even when what I'm doing is hard and I make a lot of mistakes. Band teaches patience and dedication, as well as the value of hard work and collaboration with other people. I may sometimes regret not getting to take as many other electives as I would have liked, but I definitely can not say that band wasn't worth it.

Apex Band Family

The Apex Band is a family. There is a place for you here, regardless of your ability or previous band experiences. We have the best students in the school and strive to create meaningful music experiences that will be remembered for a lifetime!

Registering for All Things Band

For band class registration- Register through the Apex High School class registration through the school's student services department. Be sure to remember to register for both first and second semester.

For Marching Band registration- be on the lookout for an email from us in April, notifying you that the online marching band registration window has opened. Then, just fill out the form and make your first mb payment online. Late May is the hard cut off for marching band registration, so the sooner the better.

Parent Action! Please Fill Out This Form

Complete the Google form with parent and student information so we can keep you informed of upcoming information like marching registration, payment schedules, band camp info, etc. This also helps us get a preliminary view of our numbers for next year. Please be sure email addresses entered are correct.

<https://forms.gle/b33fVyKpyGzUBeDs6>

Contact Information and Links

Daniel Jarvis, Band Director- djarvis@wcpss.net, 919-387-2208, ext. 27253

General Information Band website: www.apexhighband.org

Apex Band Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/apexhighband>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/apexhighband>