

Smithie Marching Band Handbook



2023-2024 HANDBOOK

Susan Keserich, Director of Bands

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Season of the Smithville Smithie Marching Band! I am thrilled to have you on board for what promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience! Marching band requires discipline, commitment, music practice, physical exertion, and time. It will be one of your best memories from high school and will be one of the most rewarding experiences you ever participate in. It won't always be easy, and at times it may not seem fun, but I promise at the end of the show all of your time and effort will be rewarded.

The Marching Band is one of the most visible performance organizations at Smithville High School. The group performs at all football games and many community events. The schedule is enclosed. As you begin making summer plans, please take these dates into consideration. The success of the ensemble depends on the attendance of everyone. We are a team, a family, and we succeed together or fail together.

I am excited to continue here at Green this year. We already had five successful years, and it is my hope to continue this momentum moving forward for continued growth and development. If there is anything I can do to help you be successful, please let me know.

I ask that you fill out the agreement form and online registration by our second music rehearsal, **TUESDAY, JUNE 20**. Feel free to contact me at any time should you have any questions, comments, or concerns. I am looking forward to a fantastic season.

Sincerely,

Smithie Band Staff

Susan Keserich, Director of Bands

skeserich@mail.green-local.k12.oh.us

Jason Raffle, Drumline Instructor

jason@wadsworthmusic.com

Rules and Expectations

Attendance

- Attend summer rehearsals
 - Excused absences are only those that relate to member illness, documented doctor/dentist appointment, family emergency, schedule conflicts communicated in advance
 - Work is NOT an excused absence. Please be sure your employer has these dates
 - Family vacations already planned must be communicated on the registration form
 - Athletes - indicate which sport you play on the registration form. I will work with coaches to determine schedule
- Attend performances
 - A calendar is attached with all dates for the entire season. Additional performances may be called.
- Attend after-school rehearsals
 - We are looking at a potential change regarding Monday evening rehearsals once school starts. This will be communicated when it is known.
 - Students need to limit their excused absences to 1 during the entire season if at all possible
 - Work is NOT an excused absence
 - Excused absences are only those that relate to member illness, documented doctor/dentist appointment, family emergency, pre-arranged schedule conflicts
 - Any absence may result in the student not marching that Friday night due to safety concerns

Code of Conduct

As a member of the Smithville High School Marching Band, you are a representative of the music department, Smithville High School, and the community. You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional, courteous and respectful manner at all times. This manner of conduct is required and expected during all marching band activities including:

- Time between the end of the school day and any marching band activity
- Bus trips
- Any time on school property, including while in personal vehicle
- From the time we leave SHS until we return
- Rehearsals
- Performances

Any behavior or action which is a distraction to the progress of the marching band or interrupts the educational process of the marching band is a violation of the Code of Conduct and may result in a conference with director and parent, removal from a performance, removal from the marching band and/or other appropriate consequences at the discretion of the director and principal.

The Smithie MB is a school activity and all rules and regulations set forth by the GLSD apply during all rehearsals, performances and bus trips! This includes dress code.

Rehearsal Necessities

- Instrument / Music / Other Equipment
- Clothing for all weather – cool mornings, hot during the day, rain, etc.
- Tennis shoes and Socks
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses and/or hats
- School dress code applies – shoulders must be covered
 - No tank tops, spaghetti straps, etc.
 - Gentlemen - shirts must be worn at all times
- Water Bottle

Rehearsal and Performance Expectations

The following expectations are in place to keep you a safe and healthy member of the Smithie MB. They are also in place to ensure the success of the organization.

- Treat cell phone use as you would in class. It can be used for good purposes during rehearsal, but improper use of your cell phone will result in you not being permitted to have it
- School dress code applies at all events, including summer rehearsals
 - No spaghetti straps, tank tops, bare shoulders (This is also for your safety from the sun)
- Lace-up shoes and socks must be worn at all times for marching rehearsals
- Chaperones are an extension of the instructors and must be treated with respect and obedience
- Uniforms are to be worn properly at all times (see below)

Marching Band Uniform Expectations

The way we appear as an ensemble directly correlates to the amount of pride we have in ourselves and how others view our organization. Because of this, students are expected to wear the uniform properly at all times, following these expectations:

- Every student must have proper marching shoes
- LONG **BLACK** socks will be worn at all times
- Hair must be concealed in hat and off the shoulders as to protect the uniforms (please consider this when getting hair done)
- Current year marching band t-shirt under jacket
- No dangling earrings (safety hazard)
- No facial piercings (can be removed or covered with a band-aid)
- Nylon gym shorts, sweatpants or leggings under uniform – NO JEANS OR KHAKIS!
 - Denim material wears out the uniform pants more quickly
 - Pants must not be seen below hemline
 - Failure to have proper shorts/sweatpants, may result in member not being allowed to wear uniform, and thus not marching
- Black marching gloves
- Layering is allowed during the cold season

We are always looking for parent volunteers interested in helping make sure our uniforms stay looking great! If you sew, we'd love to have your help, too! Please mark the volunteer form for "uniform parent" if you are willing to help in any way.

Football Game Expectations

Smithville football games are some of the best times you will have as a member of the marching band. In order to ensure that everyone enjoys him/herself, and that we represent our school and organization the best we can, it is important that we all follow a few guidelines.

- Sit with your section in the stands designated for our group
- Be prepared to play at all times – this means that you have music and are listening for instructions
- Play only YOUR instrument. Remember that the majority of people that hear us perform, will hear us at a football game!
- Only play when the entire group is playing
- Remain in full uniform unless given permission to do otherwise
- No cell phones out except for third quarter and bus ride
- Third quarter is yours to have fun and enjoy time with your friends. Everyone must be back in the stands with instruments ready to play at the end of third quarter. **Because we function as a team, if one person is late to 4th quarter, the entire band will sit third quarter the next game.**
 - Instruments are left or carried based on announcements by staff

- o In the event of a “running clock” during third quarter, the staff will make an announcement as to when you should be back in the stands

You are a member of a fantastic organization and should carry yourself with Pride!!!

Communication

- Communication is key to the success of this organization
- Please contact Mrs. Keserich with any questions or concerns via phone or email:
 - o 330-669-3165 X 3101
 - o skeserich@mail.green-local.k12.oh.us
- BAND app
 - o All members of the Smithie MB are REQUIRED to download the BAND app and be a part of our group
 - o Parents of members are encouraged to sign-up, too
 - o Instructions are in this packet
- Parent Square
 - o Once Parent Square gets up and running, that will be our primary means of communication
- www.greenlocalbands.weebly.com
 - o Our website
 - o Calendar, handbook, show music, etc. available here

Absences

I fully expect and support the fact that our students are involved in multiple activities, both in school and outside of school. I also understand that some of these activities may result in an absence from a marching band rehearsal or performance.

- ALL absence requests must be submitted electronically, regardless of reason. Please visit our website for the absence request form (these are completed solely online)
 - o Students must submit the true reason for the absence.
 - o Mrs. Keserich will email the student/parent whether their absence has been “approved” or “denied” (she has not denied an absence yet)
- Please communicate absences as soon as you know them. While sickness and family emergencies cannot be communicated well in advance, there are many reasons that can. This allows for proper steps to be taken to ensure the performance of the band.

Transportation Requests

Again, because we are a small community and our students are involved in multiple activities, it may be necessary or desired that different transportation be arranged for your student to/from events. Please follow these guidelines

- Unless there is a very real emergency, please communicate transportation needs **BEFORE** the event.
- **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE STUDENTS TO RIDE WITH OTHER STUDENTS TO/FROM AN OFFICIAL SHSMB EVENT OUTSIDE OF SMITHVILLE HIGH SCHOOL.** This is for the safety of the student as well as liability of the band staff and school.
- The transportation request form is on our website. If you desire to fill one out, please save a copy, edit it as necessary, then email to Mrs. Keserich.
- Please do not send in a note unless it is not possible to fill out the form online.

Tips for Parents

Band Camp

- Band Camp days are very long and tiring. Please encourage your child to stick with it. It's worth it in the end!
- Make sure your child eats a good breakfast and drinks plenty of water before leaving for summer rehearsals
- Encourage your child to bring a water bottle

Football Games

- Third Quarter is the only time the band is given the privilege to get something to eat and visit family and friends in the stands. This privilege may be lost if rules are not followed. Students must return to the designated band stands and be ready to play before third quarter time runs out on the scoreboard
- At times students may be given food/drink from opposing schools, but you cannot count on it. Please bring money for concessions to all games.
- Away games may run late or buses may encounter problems, so pre-arranged pickup times may fluctuate. Please be patient if buses run late. Encourage your child to call or text you when we are leaving the away school
- Please be prompt about picking up your child at the high school after performances

Band Shows

- Parents are encouraged to come and cheer on the band!
- Talking and cell phone use during a band's performance is discouraged. Please be courteous of all bands performing and the surrounding audience members and refrain from talking in the stands once a band has taken the field
- Students should ride buses to and from competitions unless otherwise arranged through Mrs. Keserich
- Students should bring money for snacks at the concession stand
- Students should eat well and hydrate well before arriving at SHS. These are long evenings and free time is limited
- Pickup time may be delayed. Please be patient, ask your child to call or text when we are departing the show site so that you have an accurate idea of what time to arrive at SHS
- Please be prompt about picking up your child at the high school after performances

Additional Expenses

- Students are expected to purchase their own marching shoes (regular tennis shoes are NOT permitted), **BLACK** long socks, **BLACK** gloves, marching band polo, t-shirt, and beret (for percussion and tubas).
- Food! – students will need money to buy concession food/drinks at all away games and shows. They also often enjoy going out with their friends after the games/shows
- Brass and woodwind students need to purchase their own flip folder and lyre (sousaphones need only a flip folder). These can be purchased at any music store.
 - Trumpet and mellophone students - please take your instrument with you when you purchase a lyre. Not every instrument is manufactured the same and certain lyres don't fit certain makes of instruments.
 - Flutes - you will purchase a combined flip folder/lyre that will go on your arm.
 - If you already have one, there is no need to purchase another.

SHS Marching Band Dates Fall 2023

Exact report times will be communicated no less than one week before the performance

Tuesdays

There will be 4 music rehearsals on Tuesdays, 9am-11am, before camp. This will be music only rehearsals and they will eliminate the need to rehearse in the afternoon during Band Camp. If you can't make any of these, please indicate on the registration form.

Tuesday June 6

Tuesday June 20

Tuesday June 27

Tuesday July 11

Band Camp- 2 weeks before school starts and the week before fair, Monday through Thursday, 9:00AM-12:30PM

July 17-20: Full Band 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

August 7-10: Full Band 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

August 14-16: Full Band 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM

Community Fair: Thursday, August 17, PM

Marshallville Parade: Likely Saturday, August 20 (*this has not been communicated with me*)

Wayne County Fair: Monday, September 11th, in the AM.

Barberton Band Show: Saturday, September 23, PM

Bandarama: Saturday, September 30th, PM

Rehearsals outside of the school day:

Rehearsals will be on Thursdays after school until 3:30pm. Athletes will be with the band until then and report to their athletic practices after band rehearsal. This will be communicated with coaches by our athletic director.

Football Games:

8/18	HOME	Tuslaw
8/25	HOME	St. Thomas Aquinas
9/1	AWAY	Lucas (this is our only long drive)
9/8	AWAY	Chippewa
9/15	HOME	Dalton (youth night)
9/22	AWAY	Waynedale
9/29	AWAY	Hillsdale
10/6	HOME	Northwestern (homecoming)
10/13	AWAY	Rittman
10/20	HOME	Norwayne (senior night)

Drum Line/Majorettes

Mr. Raffle and the majorette advisor will call additional rehearsals. You are expected to attend any extra rehearsal they schedule or communicate with them that you are unable to attend. Excused/unexcused guidelines still apply.

Band Shows

Bandarama and the Barberton Band Show are on the above calendar. These are 100% REQUIRED events (absence requests other than illness will NOT be granted).

Susan Keserich

skeserich@mail.green-local.k12.oh.us

330-669-3165 x 3101

Agreement Form

All registration information is being collected online this year via google forms (find it on our website at: <http://www.greenlocalbands.weebly.com>). Your registration will not be considered complete until you have completed the online process. Your signature on this form agrees to all statements below, as well as to comply with all other rules and expectations in this handbook.

Please read the SHSMB Handbook thoroughly and return this form (and all following forms) with signatures no later than **TUESDAY, JUNE 20**

I have included ALL of the following forms:

___ Agreement Form (Required)

___ Registration Form (completed online at <http://www.greenlocalbands.weebly.com/>)

___ MB Wear Order Form

When it is available, you will need to update Final Forms BEFORE the first summer outside rehearsal



I have done the following:

___ Signed up for the Smithville High School group on the BAND app.

Student: I have read and agree to comply with the band expectations and guidelines.

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Student Email _____

Parent: I have reviewed this handbook with my child and we understand the expectations and guidelines of the Smithville High School Marching Band. I give permission for my child to attend all rehearsals / field trips / performances listed in the enclosed handbook. I understand that the staff member(s) who will accompany the students will exercise the necessary and appropriate duty of care for them, seeking emergency medical attention, if needed. I understand that the SHSMB is a publicly performing group, and that my child may appear in published photos and/or videos. I understand that if my child is using a school-owned instrument we are responsible for any damage due to misuse or neglect.

Name (please print) _____ Relationship _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Email _____ Student Phone Number _____

Best Parent Phone Number _____

Parent Volunteer Form

It takes a lot of time, energy and funding to run a program as large as the SHSMB. We need your help! Please circle at least one area in which you would be willing to volunteer. Many of these items can be accomplished on your own schedule. If you would like more information before committing, go ahead and mark the areas in which you are interested in and we will contact you with more details. If you have extended family members (aunts, uncles, grandparents, etc.) that would be willing to volunteer, please include their interests as well.

Summer Needs – Circle any that interest you

- Band Camp Volunteer
 - Must complete finger-printing background check at county office
 - Nurse
 - Chaperone
- Uniform Committee (Marching Uniforms)
 - Help with uniforms on performance days OR
 - Help with uniform fittings and maintenance (sewing, hemming, etc) OR
 - Help with uniform organization (record keeping)

Fall Needs – Circle any that interest you

- Loading Crew
 - Help load/unload all equipment before, during and after trips
- Chaperones (Must complete finger-printing background check at Board office)
 - Football Games / Band Shows
- Band Nurse (All events – home and away)
- Uniform Person (for issues on the road)

Year Round

- Fundraising Help

___ I'll help in any way I can. Just Ask!

Volunteer Name _____ Email _____

Cell Phone _____ Texting okay? _____ Home Phone _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____

MARCHING BAND WEAR ORDER FORM

Parents,

Attached is the order form for marching band t-shirts, polos, shoes, and gloves. *Polos, gloves, shoes, and sling bags will NOT change. You do not need to order those items if you still have them and they fit.*

EVERYONE will need to order a marching band t-shirt. Please indicate your student's size and enclose the appropriate amount of money. Return to Mrs. Keserich by **TUESDAY, JUNE 20** **If finances are a problem for your family, please return the order form and a note detailing when the money will come in.

Student Name _____

T-shirt Size (**EVERYONE MUST ORDER**) S M L XL XXL (+\$2)

Cost - **\$10**

Polo Shirt Size (**EVERYONE MUST ORDER**) S M L XL XXL (+\$2)

Cost - **\$35**

Shoe Size Men's Women's Size _____

Cost - **\$40 per pair**

Gloves (size only for brass players) S M L XL XXL

Cost - **\$4 per pair**

WW player (I'll need fingerless gloves)

Beret (ONLY for sousas and percussion if you need one) Yes

Cost - **\$10**

Sling Bag (this is for all new students and if a returning student lost theirs) Yes

Cost - **\$15**

Total Amount enclosed: _____ Checks made payable to Green Local Schools