

Marching Band Newsletter

Welcome to the first newsletter of El Paso-Gridley's 2022 Marching Band Season! This year's show is entitled "Magic" and will feature pieces from The Sorcerer's Apprentice, Harry Potter, and Disney's Fantasmic! The band will be performing at competitions, football games, and parades over the next few months. The full calendar is on the band website —unit1music.weebly.com — Exciting things are in store for this ensemble, you will not want to miss it!

MEET THE DIRECTOR

Hey everyone! My name is Ms. Emma Wierenga. I grew up in Eureka, IL and attended school in District #140. I then attended Olivet Nazarene University to pursue a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education, and Bachelor's of Music in Saxophone Performance, and a minor in Spanish. My marching arts career has included being a member of the Marching Hornets at Eureka High School, the Olivet Nazarene University Tiger Marching Band, and touring with The Cadets Drum and Bugle Corps as a Drum Major and now on the administrative staff. I am so excited to begin this new journey as the band director in El Paso-Gridley and I cannot wait to see what these students will be able to accomplish this season.



MISSION AND GOALS

Marching Band has consistently been a highlight in students' high school careers. These are the primary objectives upon which my instruction for the season will be based:

- Make participation in instrumental music and performance available and achievable to all students at El Paso-Gridley High School.
- Create an environment where students feel welcomed, loved, and supported in their development of abilities both in and out of the classroom. Promote the values of family, respect, responsibility, dedication, and hard work toward a shared goal.
- Provide a suitable foundation in music instruction for students who elect to continue the study of music after graduation and into their careers — Develop a life-long appreciation for music, even if students ultimately choose to not continue in music after graduation.
- Strive for personal and ensemble improvement every single day. Competition is important, but it is not everything. Give your best, raise the standards, and the rest will come.
- Develop performing organizations that are a source of pride for the individual, the school district, and the community.

BAND CAMP EXPECTATIONS

Band Camp will be held at EPGHS. Your attendance at band camp is mandatory — not attending can result in the loss of your drill spot if absences are not cleared by the director. Please make sure to schedule all doctor appointments and vacations around these dates. Band Camp is one of the most important parts of the season, as the majority of music and drill is learned at this time.

Percussion Camp: July 18-22, 6-8pm

Band Camp: July 25-29 and August 1-4, 8am-5pm

Thursday Night Community Performance: August 4th at 6:00pm, EPGHS Football Field

At the end of the second week of band camp, we will have a performance for friends and family to premiere the band's hard work at camp. This will be the first performance together as a band (yay!!). The uniform will be the EPGHS Marching Band Shirt (students will receive this on the last day of camp), blue jean shorts, and tennis shoes. This will also serve as our "warm weather" uniform.



IMPORTANT DATES

Drumline Camp

- July 18-22, 6-8pm

Marching Band Camp

- July 25-29, 8am-4pm
- August 1-4, 8am-4pm

Athletic Preview Night

- August 19, 5:30pm

Corn Festival Parade

- September 10

Football Games, 5:30pm

- August 26, September 16, September 30, October 21

Competitions, All-Day

- September 10— Washington
- September 24— Geneseo
- October 8—Metamora
- October 15—Dunlap

*****Full Schedule on the Band Website!!!!**

WHAT TO BRING TO BAND CAMP

- Your instrument
- All music (you will be given a binder on the first day)
- A 3x5 notebook with string that can be worn around your neck to write drill coordinates
- A pencil
- Water bottle
- Sack lunch
- Sunscreen/sunglasses/hat
- Comfortable clothes & shoes

IMPORTANT TIPS

- Eat breakfast every morning — even if you usually do not.
- Get plenty of sleep. Rest is an important part of success!
- Spend some time in the sun prior to camp. These will be long days, we do not want to shock your bodies if you spent all summer indoors!
- Hydrate! Drink lots of water leading up to camp.
- Be sure to have comfortable tennis shoes for marching. Break them in before camp to avoid injuries or blisters.
- Spend time practicing the show music and pre-game music before band camp. The more time you put in during the summer, the more we will accomplish during camp!

MARCHING BAND STAFF AND TECHS

Director: Emma Wierenga
Color Guard Instructor: Mel Ekey
Visual Tech: Adam Wierenga
Percussion Tech: Samantha Reynolds
Band Camp Techs: Luke Johnson, Lucas Dahmm

FOLLOW THIS QR CODE TO PRINT MUSIC:



GET INVOLVED!

Our family, friends, and volunteers play an immeasurable role in the success of the El Paso-Gridley band program. Volunteering is a fantastic opportunity to support these kids, have a front row seat to rehearsals and performances, and contribute to the achievements of this organization.

If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Emma Wierenga:

emma.wierenga@unit11.org

There are many opportunities to get involved:

- Uniform fittings and alterations
- Pull the band trailer to competitions
- Bus Chaperones
- Help with equipment on/off the field
- Feed the Band — Provide snacks/drinks for the band at camp and competitions (you'll be everyone's favorite :))

COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

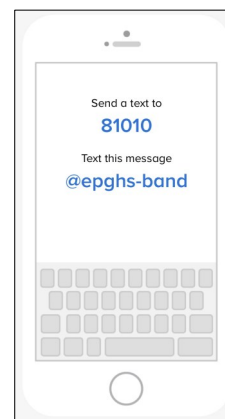
Remind 101: Text “@epghs-band” to 81010

- This is our primary source of communication through the season. Text messages will be sent with schedules, announcements, and important information. Members are required to join, parents are welcome to join.

Unit #11 Band Website: unit11music.weebly.com

- This will be your resource for all aspects of the instrumental music program in El Paso-Gridley.

Facebook: El Paso Gridley High School Band



MARCHING BAND FEE

In order to provide the best experience for our students, it is necessary to charge a small marching band fee. This fee pays for each student’s marching band show t-shirt, band camp and competition supplies, the competition marching drill and show design, and more. The fee is \$50 per student — Checks should be made payable to **EPG Schools, with “Band Fee” in the memo line.** Please mail your payment to: **97 W 5th Street, El Paso, 61738**, OR bring a check or cash on the first day of band camp.

TO DO!!! (THIS SECTION IS VERY IMPORTANT)

MARCHING BAND INFORMATIONAL/MEDICAL FORM!!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER

<https://forms.gle/m1oUaNGeCEirHn7r5>



- PAY YOUR BAND FEE (INFORMATION ABOVE)
- DOWNLOAD SHOW/PRE-GAME MUSIC (USE THE QR CODE TO THE LEFT)
- SIGN UP FOR REMIND 101 (INFORMATION ABOVE)
- GET EXCITED!!! THIS IS GOING TO BE AN AMAZING SEASON! :)

PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO CONTACT ME WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

EMMA WIERENGA—EMMA.WIERENGA@UNIT11.ORG