

Union Pines Marching Vikings Handbook



UNION PINES MARCHING VIKINGS

*For the Marching Season, Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band, the Concert
Band and all things music...*

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Welcome to the Union Pines Band!

Band is about **hard work, dedication, and perseverance**. It helps to develop life **skills** including **discipline, teamwork, and leadership**. It also helps to build **character, pride, self-confidence and a strong work ethic**. I understand it is a **huge time commitment**, but the experience is well worth the effort. Band is rewarding and will create **many fond memories** for years to come.

I appreciate all the hard work and dedication you put forth each and every day, and I am extremely proud of the talent you possess. Through the band program, this talent will be developed further and will be sure to put smiles on all faces. This program is successful because of you and your willingness to participate in the many activities of the band. The Union Pines Band is, without a doubt, one of the **hardest working** groups in the school, and one of the top bands in the state, and I applaud your efforts. I'm proud to be your director, and I am looking forward to yet another successful year.

It's All Good!

Sincerely,

Rob Hill, Director

Union Pines Bands

Sandhills Jazz Band

E.d.S. Walden University

M.M.E. Shenandoah Conservatory

B.M.E. DePauw University

Ph. 910-947-5511

rhill@ncmcs.org

www.unionpinesband.org

Welcome New Band Parent!

Welcome to the fulfilling life of a Union Pines Marching Vikings band parent. If this is your first year as a band parent, we are so glad to have you. If you are a returning band parent, we are excited to have you back!

The first year as a marching band parent can seem overwhelming if you don't know what to expect. This handbook was created to answer questions you may have and prepare you for the season and years ahead.

As a member of the Union Pines Marching Vikings, your student will be exposed to a variety of new experiences. As a highly competitive program, more will be demanded and expected of your child than in their middle school programs. As a parent, you will be proud to see what your child accomplishes over the marching season and the school year as a whole.

Band prepares your child for life beyond high school in ways traditional classes do not. Band is a group effort, and the actions of each student impacts the entire group. Band members learn their actions and effort have a direct impact on the overall success of the band as a whole. Students learn to work together, problem solve, and encourage their fellow band members. As underclassmen, your band student will be led by both the band director and student leaders; this system is an important way for your student to experience and learn service and distributed leadership.

We encourage you to join us at football games, band competitions, and parades. It is during these events that you will see the long hours and hard work given by your child pay off. We know you will feel an overwhelming sense of pride as you watch your child take the field, knowing they are part of something special.

Sincerely,

The Union Pines Band Boosters

Union Pines Band Biography

WHO ARE WE? The Union Pines Band program consists of 130 band students, which is a rather large percentage of the school, greater than 13 percent of the student body. Union Pines High School is located in a small town, and the fact that the band is extremely large in this type of atmosphere is equally impressive.



WE ARE COMPETITIVE The band is very competitive, and they compete in the largest divisions, classes 4A and 5A, even though Union Pines High School is classified as a 3A school. In the fall semester, the marching band competes regularly, and has brought much prestige to the school through their superior quality of performance. The Union Pines High Bands, under the direction of Rob Hill, have brought home several prestigious awards in recent years.

The marching band has received straight superior ratings in marching band competition for the past 17 years in a row, and many superior ratings in the concert band venue as well. For example, in a previous year, the Marching Vikings placed first in many competitions in a single year to include winning two Grand Champion trophies at the Wildcat Classic Competition and at the Brick Capital Classic. They also placed first in many judged caption areas such as music ensemble, horn line, marching, color guard, drum major, and general effect. The percussion section has also received the top

overall percussion score numerous times where they were the top group out of 22 bands in competition. The U.P. Color guard takes top placement and scores numerous times as well during the competitive marching season. The Union Pines High Wind Ensemble has placed first place in their division a number of times, playing the highest graded level of music, grade level VI. In addition to their top rating, the Wind Ensemble has taken top honors for highest overall score of the competition and was awarded the prestigious William D. Revell Concert Band Award, which is an award of distinction. The concert bands have also received additional awards for outstanding soloists. As a result of these recognitions, the Union Pines High Band is regarded as one of the top bands in the Southeastern District and in the state of North Carolina. Also, many of the Union Pines Band students audition for and make the All-County Band, the All-District Band, the All-State Band, and Governor's school. Many of the Union Pines Band students also march Drum Corps International, considered to be the major leagues of marching band, in top drum and bugle corps such as Carolina Crown, Glassman, Crossman, and Spirit of Atlanta.

WE PERFORM ALL YEAR

Also, during the fall semester, the jazz band performs in many professional venues with famous artists and acts as a public relations group, performing at many high-profile events. During the spring semester, the marching band and jazz band break into three concert bands: The

Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band, and the Concert Band. All concert bands compete at state level contests each year, and have all received excellent and superior ratings in grade levels III through VI (the



highest graded level of music). They have also received excellent and superior ratings at many out of state competitions where they have competed against many bands across the country.

They are a great asset to the school and the community, and they can be seen frequently at many events in Moore County, including the Fourth of July parade in Carthage, the Carthage and Southern Pines holiday parades, the Carthage Veterans Memorial Service, the Carthage Buggy Festival, Military Child Appreciation Day, and many other town events. Their mission is to bring joy to their audiences through their talent of music and marching.

WE PERFORM AROUND THE GLOBE



All three Union Pines bands, the Concert Band, the Symphonic Band, and the Wind Ensemble, have competed in North Carolina, New York City, Orlando, Washington D.C., Williamsburg, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, and represented NC bands in the National Festival of States Performance in San Antonio, Texas. They also have most recently performed in a castle in Toronto, Canada. They have also consistently received superior and excellent ratings in many venues across the country.

According to Mr. Hill, a very small percentage of the bands throughout the state that compete receive superior ratings. "Our groups are impressive," he said. "They are extremely talented and perform well because they have a tremendous sense of pride in what they do and their expectation is to give outstanding performances all of the time. They feel they owe it to their audience, and I do as well. The process to perform at these levels is rigorous. The bands spend a large amount of time in and out of the classroom preparing until the day of performance where they are evaluated on stage by a panel of judges. In order to receive a superior rating, the performance on stage should basically sound like a group of professional musicians recording a CD. All the aspects of professional musicianship are the qualities that are expected during performance. If a band plays well, they prove that they have learned the many musical concepts it takes to perform, and possess the knowledge and understanding of what it is to be great musicians."

WE ARE LED BY THE BEST



Rob Hill
UPHS Marching Vikings
Band Director



UPHS Marching Vikings
Color Guard Director

Donnie Bentley
UPHS Marching Vikings
Drum Line Instructor

Requirements and Benefits of Participating

Requirements to Participate

1. Dedication
2. Hard work and a positive attitude
3. A completed contract, health form, parent form, and registration form which is to be turned into Mr. Hill. You cannot participate in the group without these forms!
4. Band fees which must be paid according to schedule. We have a payment plan to allow monthly payments.
5. It is highly recommended that you, in addition to marching band in the fall, sign up for the concert band in the spring. We are able to compete at the highest possible levels of music because the majority of band students consistently take band each semester during their 4 years at Union Pines.

Benefits to Your Student

1. **Structure & Organization**—The Marching Vikings is a structured organization with a focus on excellence in performance and behavior that is developed through discipline, teamwork, and pride.
2. **Guaranteed Involvement**—Marching band is the truest of team sports. No one is left sitting on the bench, and no one is second string—every band member has a role that supports the overall performance and, in turn, its success.
3. **Time Management**—Marching Vikings quickly learn to use every minute of their day wisely as they balance practicing with schoolwork and other activities.
4. **A Sense of Pride**—You'll see the excitement and smiles on their faces when they nail a performance. Marching Vikings put forth their best effort when it's show time and are proud of what they accomplish.
5. **Punctuality**—Marching Vikings learn to be punctual. Call times are given for practices, games, and competitions. A call time is not an arrival time; instead, it is they time, students should be prepared to start.
6. **Prioritization**—Band rehearsals and homework take up a lot of free time. Your student will learn to prioritize these to be successful.
7. **A Second Family**—Sometimes it will seem like our kids spend more time with the band family than our own families. Your child will make lifelong friends.

Band Commitment

Marching Band is unlike any other activity at Union Pines High School. Although it meets during class as a full group, it also meets after school for sectional rehearsals (once a week on a designated day to avoid conflict with sports) and on Saturdays for rehearsals before competitions.

All of these times outside of the regular class time are a **REQUIRED** part of the class and the student's grade depends upon his/her participation. This class actually begins during the summer months to get ready for competitions and football halftime shows. This requires many hours of inside and outside practice.

Once the numbers are set, the show is written, the drill is taught and the camp is over, **we are committed** to perform and compete with the show we have learned. If a student backs out at this point, the entire band suffers because having a hole in the drill, or lacking certain instrumentation musically in the show will negatively affect our grade or rating as a group in competition.

This slows down our progress and would be a major setback. To help eliminate this problem we are requiring the signing of this contract to be sure the student and parent(s) understand the commitment necessary.

During the marching season it is understood that band members must put Marching Band rehearsals and performances at the top of their list of priorities.

The summers are extremely busy, but for a very good reason.

The hard work and time will pay off to be a very summer.

Attendance Policy

In order for this Marching Band to reach greatness, it is important that we use our practice time wisely. Your commitment to this band will be directly affected by your attendance and preparation.

The attendance policy will go into effect upon the first day of rehearsal in June. The entire band is a chain.

We understand that there are unavoidable absences and these must be clearly communicated to the director in advance if possible. The only event that will be permitted is an emergency. An absence will be considered excused if:

- You have a medical emergency, accompanied by a physician's note
- There is a death in your family
- Military Deployment
- If at all possible, please let us know when an emergency occurs, so we do not worry or wonder where you are.

Employment is not an excuse for missing a rehearsal or a performance. Any student who misses a rehearsal or performance due to work will be charged with an unexcused absence and your grade will be lowered accordingly.

Rookie Week for first year marchers and Band Camp for the entire band is absolutely **Mandatory!**

Each student is expected to come to rehearsals and performances prepared and ready to participate to the fullest of their ability. Any student that comes to a rehearsal or performance and does not actively participate will be subject to disciplinary action. This includes, but is not limited to: forgetting an instrument; not having a reed, mouthpiece, sticks, mallets, or flags; not having music; or not having the correct shoes for marching, etc.

This includes rehearsals and performances which are also graded.

Parents, please plan vacations around Mini Band Camps and Band Camp!!!

General Rules of Conduct - Rehearsal Etiquette

A well-defined and executed rehearsal technique has a direct impact on the success of the group. It is expected that all members adhere to the following rehearsal etiquette.

1. Be in the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment. You should have the following items with you at all rehearsals:
 - a. Coordinate sheets and coordinate sheet lanyards.
 - b. Small Pencil; you will need to write several things down on your music and drill at every rehearsal. It is very difficult to remember everything from rehearsal to rehearsal.
 - c. Water jugs; this is very important to have. Marching Band is a very active and physical activity. You will need water. We do not want people passing out due to dehydration. Every member should have their own water jug or bottle, especially in the summer months. Water will also be provided for all students during the two weeks of band camp.
2. All band members should dress comfortably and appropriately for all rehearsals. It is important for you to realize that we will be outside and moving. It is also up to you to watch the weather forecast and to dress for it. Appropriate clothing for rehearsals includes: t-shirts, shorts, sweats, and tennis shoes with socks (no sandals, dress shoes, or jeans).
3. Talking during a rehearsal when brought to attention is restricted to staff, drum major, and section leaders only. There will be many people on the field 130+. The staff cannot and will not talk over you. Remember, "When the talking starts, learning stops." Do not waste rehearsal time by talking. If you have a comment or question during a rehearsal, wait until the appropriate time. We will give you plenty of breaks at which you can socialize.
4. Having the right attitude is a proven fact that both positive and negative attitudes are contagious. You are expected to exhibit a positive and cooperative attitude at all times. Any student exhibiting a consistent negative, demeaning, or undermining attitude towards staff, parents, students, or the Union Pines High School Band program will be subject to a permanent removal from the group. Such violations may result in a conference involving the Director of the Band, the Parents/Guardians of the student, the student, and appropriate school administrator(s).

Rehearsal etiquette is the same no matter who is conducting.

General Rules of Conduct - Performance Etiquette

1. If you are on time, you're late, if you're early, you're on time! Do not be late! The times to be ready to perform or rehearse before a game, competition, or other event will be announced prior to the event.
2. March to and from the stadium with pride. The uniform is to be worn PROPERLY at all times. Your performance begins as soon as we march to the stadium or get off the bus for a parade or competition. It does not end until you are dismissed by the Director or Drum Major. Do not break ranks until instructed to do so. When marching in ranks you should be tall and proud. Do not let anyone outside of the band cut through the ranks. Do not talk when marching in rank!
3. You may not eat or drink in your uniform, except for water. Accidents will occur unexpectedly that may soil, stain, or permanently damage your uniform. You will be instructed at performances as to when it is appropriate to remove your band jacket and get something to eat and drink.
4. Do not lean or sit on anything that will soil, tear, or snag your uniform.
5. While at a performance it is imperative that you sit with your designated section.
6. There are to be no visitors in the designated band area during a football game. Only Union Pines Marching Band members, chaperones, instructors, and administrators are allowed in the band's section in the stands. This is important from the standpoint of your safety. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
7. The general rule is that if you have any questions regarding whether you should or should not be doing something in uniform, DO NOT DO IT!! When you are wearing the uniform, you are not looked upon by others as an individual, but rather as a part of the Union Pines High School Marching Band. Most of the spectators and band members from other groups who will see you behind the scenes will form their opinion of the *Entire Band* from their opinion of how *you* behave in uniform.



Uniforms

The Union Pines Marching Vikings take pride in their uniforms. These are VERY expensive and have many parts. Each student will be fitted and issued a uniform to be kept at Union Pines. Each student is responsible for making sure their uniform is turned in at the end of competitions for dry cleaning. If your uniform needs adjustments, DO NOT wait until the day of a competition/performance to let the uniform chairperson know. As soon as you know there's a problem, please let us know.

Things you need to purchase and wear at each performance:

1. Underwear – White shorts or running tights are advised, along with the band show t-shirt.
2. WHITE knee-high socks (NO ANKLE SOCKS – MUST BE KNEE HIGH)
3. White shoe polish for shoes. Shoes can also be cleaned with 409 or another mild cleaner. Mr. Clean Magic Erasers also work wonders on the shoes!
4. **CLEAN YOUR BAND SHOES THE NIGHT BEFORE!**
5. Girls need bobby pins or hair ties for their hair, and boys with long hair will need to put their hair up as well to fit in the marching hat appropriately.
6. There should be ONLY 2 hangers in your bag one for your bibbers (pants) and one for your jacket. PLEASE utilize these hangers. Our NEW uniforms are custom made, only we have them, therefore they are expensive!
7. PLEASE take care of your gloves and gauntlets! Know where they are before any competition!
8. **When a fitting day is assigned to you PLEASE BE THERE!!!!!! It's hard to guess on uniforms. A fitting is a must!**
9. Be **PROUD** of your uniform and treat it with respect. IF you damage it, you will have to pay for it, and they aren't cheap...so, be nice to it!

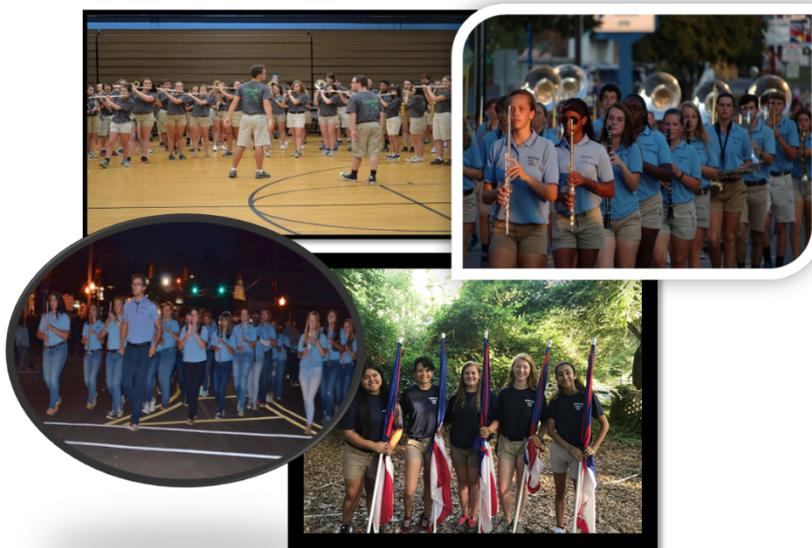
Dress Code When Out of Uniform

1. Each band student will be issued a show shirt and a polo shirt.
 - a. Show shirts are to be worn to all competitions and will be worn underneath the band jacket.
 - b. The polo shirt is to be worn for other performances such as parades or pep band, typically with either khaki shorts or blue jeans.

**Khaki shorts and blue jeans
will need to be provided by each band student.**

Purchase these in the summer *BEFORE* the first football game

2. Typically, the band will wear either Khaki shorts or blue jeans with either the polo or the show shirt early in the season before they start wearing the uniform.
 - a. Shirts will be tucked in for performances
 - b. Remember – YOU represent Union Pines High School



**Wear
your
shirts
with**

PRIDE!

Rehearsals, the Summer and the Schedule ~ What to Expect:

When is marching band season?

- Marching band begins in late May with sectionals and continues through mid-November. In addition to band competitions and football games, the Marching Vikings perform at parades throughout Moore County.
- Rookie Week is only for people new to marching; Full Band Rehearsal is for everyone. *ALL Practices are held at Union Pines High School*

Continue to check the Schedule at <https://www.unionpinesband.org/schedule> for the latest updates.

June:

- Rookie Week - first full week after school ends from 8:30 to 12pm.
- Drumline Camp and Sideline Percussion practice after Rookie Week practice (afternoons);
- All other sectionals are to be scheduled per section.

July:

- Marching Band Camp is held for two weeks!
- Sectionals are all meeting including Color Guard and Sideline
- Full Band Rehearsals
- 4th of July Parade in Carthage
- Middle School Junior Marching Camp
- **DCI (Drum Corps International)**: Typically, in the last weekend in July the band takes a bus to Charlotte for the drum corps competition. This is highly recommended but not mandatory. Tickets are about \$50 a person, which includes transportation.

August:

- Weekly mandatory Marching Rehearsals start (Tuesday Evenings)
- Sectionals (TBA) including Color Guard and Sideline
- Friday night football games may start if scheduled; all band attends

September-November (School starts):

- Friday night football games
- Weekly mandatory full band rehearsals after school (Tuesday evenings)

- Weekly sectional rehearsals (TBA)
- Saturday Competitions (includes bus rides to other schools to compete)
- Veterans Day Parade (on Veterans Day)
- Carthage Christmas Parade (December TBA)
- Southern Pines Christmas Parade (December TBA)
- Tour de Moore Classic (September TBA) (Southern Pines, local fundraiser)
- All-County Auditions (November)

Summary of practicing and why it is important:

During the summer, the band focuses on Rookie week (the week after high school graduation, 8:30 AM till Noon, M-Th) for new band members, music sectional practices throughout the summer, and band camp for all members (typically the last two weeks in July, M-Th) and then a once weekly night rehearsals held during the evening (typically on Tuesdays), and any additional weekly rehearsals if required. All schedules will be posted on the Union Pines Marching Viking Band website.

Once school starts, students will attend all home football games to provide pep band support and perform at halftime (and the occasional away game) and students will compete on Saturdays at various high schools in competitions. This is typically most Saturdays from September through mid-November. It is a very busy and fun time of year. Parent support is critical. Football game schedules are also posted on the Union Pines High School page.

The rehearsals after band camp are very crucial to the success of the band. Due to the difficulty of the band's drill and music, there will be between 55 and 70 pages of marching drill (this is a lot, more than most bands are capable of) that need to be memorized in addition to the music. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO BE AT THESE REHEARSALS.**

We will have the basic foundation for this year's marching show after band camp, but we must continue to maintain and build upon the basic foundation. If we do not continue to refresh our memories with the additional rehearsals, all of the hard work that took place at band camp will be lost. We will also be learning more drill at this point and time. Since we are a **highly competitive marching band**, we are always concerned about the quality of our performance. Also, our first half time show will more than likely be performed at a game before school starts. We need to be ready to perform, and as we all know, in the marching band world...

Football Games & Competitions ~ What to Expect:

Football games can start as early as late August and competitions start in September and last though early November. That means Friday nights are game nights and Saturdays, the band is away at competitions. The band performs at all home games and occasionally at an away game. Once school starts expect:

September-November (School starts):

- Friday night football games
- Weekly mandatory full band rehearsals after school (Tuesday evenings)
- Weekly sectional rehearsals (TBA)
- Saturday Competitions (includes bus rides to other schools to compete)
- Viking Classic –is held at Union Pines where we HOST the competition on the last Saturday in October. This is a large event and it requires everyone for volunteers including any parents, family or friends.

What does my child need to bring to competitions and football games?

Students wear daily clothes to competitions and football games. When students arrive at the football game or competition, they **change into their band uniform and wear the uniform for the duration of the event.**

Your child's uniform has a small pocket that can hold cash to be used at concessions. The band does not provide food.

Students are outside and need to dress for the weather. Students may bring backpacks, snacks, blankets etc. however items are not secured.

Please note, the band cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen property, including property left on buses during events.

How will my child be transported to band competitions and away football games?

For away events - Your child is **required** to ride bus transportation to and from all games and competitions.

For home football games, students will need to arrive at Union Pines High School at the designated time and picked up after the game. The band uses a group text or ensures the student can alert the parent when needed.

The Fall Marching Performance Schedule will be completed midsummer and will be posted on our website, www.unionpinesband.org

Half Time is Game Time!!

Band Fees

Due to a limited budget, we, as students and boosters, must provide additional funds. These funds go towards costs such as transportation, uniforms, equipment, instructors, extra clinics, music, drill writing, instructors, polo and show shirt, dry cleaning, uniform rental, new bibbers, instrument maintenance, operating costs and more.

The following expenses are outside of the band budget and need to be paid to the Union Pines Band. **These dues are non-refundable.**

Band fees are \$300. Band fees for the Color Guard and Drumline may differ from the rest of the band due to the varying uniform and equipment costs.

Make checks out to ***Union Pines High School Band*** – *please note on the memo line the check is for band fees and your student's name*

Payments can occur in a one-time payment of \$300

OR

Payments can be split into 3 payments on:

- The first payment of \$100 is due by **April 1**. This initial deposit will secure a spot in the band. If payments are not received on time, the spot will be deleted or filled with another marcher.
- The second payment of \$100 is due by **May 1**.
- Final payment or \$100 is due by **June 1**.

You can send a check or money order to:

Union Pines High School Band
1981 Union Church Road
Cameron, NC 28326

All band fees are due by JUNE 1. No exceptions!

Band Fees Explained

Because of the significant cost associated with fielding a competitive marching band, band fees must be assessed for students to participate. Fees are calculated to be a “fair share” of the costs required to field the band and are shared by all members. These fees pay for:

Travel: The band is responsible for the cost of all travel. The band must pay for the use of activity buses when traveling to competitions and other events. If qualified volunteer bus drivers are not available, the band must also pay district bus drivers a standard rate for their time. The band may utilize charter buses from time to time. In addition, the band must foot the cost for maintaining the band trailers as well as fuel to move each trailer to various events.

Competitions: The band must pay a registration fee for each competition in which it participates.

Special Staff: Both the color guard, the drumline, and sideline percussion are directed by special staff who are hired by the Director. This staff brings a level of expertise to these sections that is vital to a competitive band program.

Show: The band is responsible for purchasing all of the materials necessary to field a marching show each season, including music, drill, choreography, copyrights, props, and visual enhancements.

Instruments: Maintenance and care for instruments is incredibly important, and the purchase and ongoing maintenance of its instruments can be costly. The band provides many of the instruments necessary for a marching show, including sousaphones, sideline percussion, and more.

Uniforms: The band is responsible for the purchase and upkeep of its marching uniforms. While uniforms are used for many years, the up-front cost is quite expensive. Additionally, upkeep costs such as dry cleaning, are necessary to keep uniforms in top shape. Color guard uniforms are updated annually to reflect the tone of the show. Band students also receive a show shirt annually and a polo shirt that can be used for multiple years as part of their overall band wardrobe.

Administrative Costs: The band boosters have ongoing expenses that are necessary to support the needs of the band, including accounting software, tax preparation, office supplies, insurance, website hosting.

Band Happenings Outside of Competitions, Games and Practice

Band Boosters

The Band Boosters meet at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. The meetings are held in the UPHS band room. This is where ideas are shared on running the band program, fundraising etc..... **If you are a parent of a band student, you are a UPHS Band Booster** and you are welcome and needed to attend.

All that is required is the desire to help the UPHS Band program grow. Even if your student has a few months before coming to Union Pines, our booster meetings are very informative and you will get to meet great people!

Please come join us!

The Viking Classic Band Competition

The Union Pines Band annually hosts *The Viking Classic* marching band competition. This event will bring approximately 3,000 people from North Carolina and other states. Many of these people are from surrounding cities and counties. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!** The Viking Classic is typically held the last Saturday in October at Union Pines High School.

Prior to the Viking Classic, weekly meetings are held and will provide you with an opportunity to decide where to volunteer.

The actual event is an all day affair, held from 7:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. There are months of preparation involved which we will need all parent/booster volunteers. This is a huge undertaking but also our largest fundraiser for the band. Without the Classic, our band would be severely underfunded. So, make sure your calendar is clear on that day...WE NEED YOU!

End of Marching Season Dinner

Each year, after our last marching competition, we head to a restaurant of choice (they stay open just for us!) to reminisce about the season. This is a great time for staff, students and parents. There will be a limited menu available which will be emailed to you when the time comes. Please make sure you plan to attend this fun event!

Parent & Community Volunteers

To make such an amazing band stay amazing requires parent and community volunteers. Your commitment, no matter what type, makes a difference to the students in the Union Pines Marching Vikings. If you think you may be able to support any area of the band's efforts, reach out on Facebook, e-mail or come to the Band Boosters and let someone know of your interest.

Remember, we were all new once so please don't hesitate to get involved.

Here are just a few of the areas the band could use your help:

Summer Camp Help: Summer camp is intense and students need parent volunteers to bring in water, snacks and oversee any issues that come up. If you are able to bring in water or stay for a while to help oversee the students, a sign-up sheet is normally passed around. But don't let the sign-up sheet stop you, feel free to bring by water or volunteer to bring snacks anytime. Parents are also welcome to come watch.

Bus Transportation Drivers: There are around 140 students that participate in the Union Pines Marching Vikings that have to be moved to competitions on Saturdays. If you can already operate a bus in North Carolina or want to earn your CDL, please let the band know! Bus driver volunteers are critical to our success.



It's not just the students that need to be moved to competitions. Parents also **drive the trailers** to the competitions that haul the instruments, props and uniforms. The band has at least two large trailers and needs parents like you to help move them.

Competition Day helpers: Parents can help at competitions with bus supervision, uniform preparation and other areas.



Pit Crew: Pit Crew is critical to band competitions as the students do not move the props, sound equipment and all of the sideline equipment onto the field. For football games and competitions, this amazing crew of parent volunteers works together to drive the equipment and place it where it needs to be so the band sounds and it looks its best.

Fundraising: There are a lot of fundraising opportunities the band does to help offset any costs to the students. Fundraising includes selling fruit, selling local advertisements for the Viking Classic in October, car washes and more. Parents who can help with these fundraisers or have more ideas are very welcome.



Football Games: In addition to the Pit Crew at football games, parents help to raise funds by selling or overseeing the students selling 50/50 tickets, funnel cake and more. Parents also continue to bring in water for students.

Uniforms: The organization, care of and cleaning, distribution to students at games and competitions and reset of uniforms post events to get them ready for the next round takes the dedication of our parents. Making sure our students look sharp on the field is critical.

Viking Classic: Each competition is actually hosted by a high school where the school is able to both host a competition and raise money for its program. Union Pines holds its competition the last Saturday in October and calls it Viking Classic. This is a huge event with vendors, a program containing ad sales, high schools from all over the state attending and more. We rely on parents to help make this event the best of its kind.



No matter how much or how little time you have, if you want to help there is a way.

Every parent and family are appreciated in the Union Pines Marching Vikings Band! We look forward to seeing you at the monthly band booster meetings and Viking Classic meetings.

Second Semester Concert, Symphonic and Wind Ensemble Bands

Overview:

It is extremely important to continue playing your instrument throughout the year. Make sure you sign up for band 2nd semester as well when you sign up for classes. We are a powerhouse band and we are that way because 99 percent of the band continues to play their instrument each and every semester until they graduate.

The concert band is primarily freshman; the symphonic band – primarily sophomores; the wind ensemble-primarily juniors and seniors have competed in North Carolina, Florida, New York City, Chicago, Boston, Atlanta, Williamsburg, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and San Antonio. These bands consistently receive superior and excellent ratings.

The concert band and symphonic band are building years to get to the wind ensemble, which competes in the most difficult category, playing the highest and most difficult music, grade level VI. They have been awarded the prestigious William D. Revell Concert Band Award, which is an award of distinction and they have taken first place in many events with additional awards such as outstanding soloists. As a result of these recognitions, the Union Pines High School Band is regarded as one of the top bands in the Southeastern District and in the State of North Carolina. In 2010 they were invited to represent the state of North Carolina in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington D.C. and most recently have performed in Toronto, Canada.

Dress Code for Concert, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble

This attire also must be provided by students on their own.

- **Females:**
 - Black dress (at least knee length – must wear black hosiery & shoes with dress) or
 - Black Blouse and Dress Pants – with black shoes and black socks
 - Black dress shoes - and black hosiery if wearing a dress/black socks with pants

- **Males:**
 - Black Dress Pants
 - White Tuxedo Shirt (long sleeved shirt)
 - Black dress shoes, black socks, black bow tie, and black belt

All County, All District, and All State Bands

Overview:

Students also have the opportunity to try out for All County Band, All District Band, and possibly All State Band, depending on how high a chair a potential student may place during the audition. These are auditioned based groups for students who wish to go above and beyond the standard. These auditions are also a requirement for future band leadership.... section leaders, captains, and drum majors. All-County auditions take place in early November, All-District auditions take place in early January, and the All-State auditions typically take place in March (if All State eligible depending on chair placement at All District). You can keep up with these types of events via the NC Bandmasters website. We are the Southeastern District.
www.ncbandmasters.org

Pops Concert and End of the Year Banquet

At the end of the school year, we celebrate what all the band students have accomplished over the past year.

First, you will enjoy hearing each band perform a pops concert, movie themes, popular television show themes, cartoon themes, etc..... Second, it's time to eat! Please bring a covered dish to the banquet. The chairperson will contact parents to find out what they can bring.

After we eat, we hold a ceremony to award and send our seniors off with special thanks. Also, we watch the end of the year video, always created by the senior class. Always FUN to watch.... Making Memories, Making Memories!

Plan on being here from 6:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. ("ish")

Everyone pitches in and helps clean up. We use the cafeteria for the banquet and awards ceremony and we must leave it the way we found it.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a fee to participate in the marching band?

Yes. A payment schedule will be announced for the 2022-2023 season. We break the fee into smaller payments spread over several months.

Why are there band fees?

The band fee supports the budget for the year, and is used to pay for operational expenses of the band, including transportation costs (including the use of school system owned activity buses), music, uniforms, major equipment, instructors, and extra clinics. The Band Boosters conduct numerous fundraisers throughout the year to keep these fees as low as possible.

What is the Booster Club?

The Union Pines Band Booster Club is the booster organization that supports our program. The Booster Club provides a group of volunteers who support the band staff and students throughout the school year. Volunteers handle areas such as transportation, uniforms, logistics, pit crewing, and more. Additionally, the booster club organizes fundraising opportunities to help the band meet its financial obligations while reducing the financial impact on families. The club also provides assistance to those with financial hardship who would otherwise be unable to participate.

Does the band practice all summer?

No. You can find the band schedule at www.unionpinesband.com.

Are all practices required?

YES!!! Practices and rehearsals are crucial to the success of the band. The Marching Vikings perform music and drills at a level of difficulty many band programs are not capable of; members must learn and memorize 55-70 pages of marching drill and music before performances begin in the fall. The show's foundation is set during band camp, and continued rehearsals build on that foundation. As a **highly competitive marching band**, hard work, dedication, and perseverance are expected at all rehearsals.

Additionally, it is important to understand marching band is unlike any other activity at Union Pines High School. Although the band meets during class time during the school year, it also meets for sectional rehearsals and Saturday rehearsals before departing for competitions. While these times are outside of regular class times, they are required and will make up part of your child's overall grade. Your commitment agreement is used to set the overall size of the band and design the show. Once the band begins learning drill, **we are committed** to perform and compete with the show we have learned.

What is rookie camp?

Rookie camp is essentially an orientation week for new marching band students. The directors and student leaders teach the fundamentals of marching and visuals during this week. Rookie week is **MANDATORY** for freshman and other first time Marching Vikings.

Who is required to attend band camp?

Band camp is mandatory for all marching band students—no exceptions! The band directors and student leaders need all band members to be present during all scheduled rehearsals to ensure the success of the program. One absent member will disrupt rehearsal for all members of the band. Please help your student be on time and present for the entire session. Marching band class actually begins during the summer, and the grade of students who miss band camp or other rehearsals **will be affected**.

A good rule of thumb to live by in the marching band world: “If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late. If you are late, you are in trouble.”

What does my child need to bring to band camp?

First and foremost, a water cooler and sunscreen. Volunteers will supplement water throughout the day, but students should come prepared with their own water daily. Students should wear comfortable athletic style shoes and socks as they will be on their feet most of the day; flip flops are not allowed. We also recommend hats with visors and sunglasses for additional sun protection, as well as insect repellent. For comfort, we recommend students wear breathable, moisture-wicking fabrics. **DON'T FORGET THE SUNSCREEN**—carrying a sousaphone with a sunburn is no fun!

What other practices are required?

Beginning in May and continuing throughout the summer, your student will attend sectional rehearsals once a week (TBA).

When is marching band season?

Marching band begins in late May with sectionals and continues through mid-November. In addition to band competitions and football games, the Marching Vikings perform at parades throughout Moore County.

What does my child need to bring to competitions and football games?

Your child's uniform have a small pocket that can hold cash to be used at concessions. Please note, the band cannot be held responsible for any lost or stolen property, including property left on buses during events.

How will my child be transported to band competitions and away football games? Your child is **required** to ride bus transportation to and from all games and competitions.

Glossary of Band Terms

If you are new to the marching band world, you may feel like you're learning a new language. Here's a quick guide to help you figure out what your student, other parents, or the announcer at the competition is talking about. Before you know it, you'll be speaking fluent band too!

Band parents – The fanatical group of adults who support the Marching Vikings and keep the band running on all cylinders. Appreciated by Marching Vikings even though they may be too cool to say so to their own immediate family members. Prepared with a trunk full of white socks and sunscreen to keep their Marching Vikings in the best shape possible for performances.

Bagging uniforms – The process of handling and storing marching uniforms following competitions, using an assigned garment bag. Typically conducted at the conclusion of home football games or after the band arrives back at Union Pines following competitions or away football games. As it involves folding and hanging pants, band parents give frequent lessons.

Band camp – The two weeks each summer when Marching Vikings are indoctrinated... er... learn the drill for the season's performance. Mandatory. Required. Not optional. As in **DO NOT MISS IT**. The days are long. The days are hot. The days are worth it. Your Marching Viking might complain, but we promise they will survive. They'll learn perseverance, endurance, and teamwork. We'll have volunteers there forcing water on them and reminding them to reapply sunscreen. Five years from now they'll realize they miss it. Twenty years from now they'll remember band camps as some of the greatest times of their lives.

Battery of The Line – The drum line that marches on the field. Having trouble keeping things straight? The Energizer bunny marched with your drum and had a battery on his back. Also, much like the Energizer bunny, drummers keep going and going and going...

Bibbers – Bibbed pants worn as part of the marching uniform. Similar in appearance to overalls. Have a pocket that will hold band parents' money.

White socks – A crucial, but often overlooked, component of the band uniform. White socks suffer from the same affliction as their other sock brethren and tend to go missing, often right before competitions. You don't want your kid to be the kid with the white socks radiating between the White marching shoes and bibbers. You know they are going to disappear, so buy in bulk, keep some in your car, and be a hero when you swoop in with a pair to save the day. Related terms: **Band Parents, Bibbers, Marching Shoes, Uniform.**

BOA – Bands of America. This is a non-profit educational organization that is the leading presenter of music events for high school band students in the US. The Marching Vikings compete at its regional event in Winston-Salem each fall.

Coffee – The life force that flows through Mr. Hill's veins. He'll drink coffee from anywhere... except Wendys. If you see Mr. Hill without a cup, you may want to question all the fundamental truths you hold dear.

Color Guard – Marching Vikings who add visual impact to the musical performance through the use of flags, rifles, sabers, dancing, and marching.

Competitions – Events held on Saturdays throughout the fall where various marching bands converge and compete in high schools' stadiums across the region. Bands compete against other bands in their **class** (a grouping based on the number of band members, with some slight

variations). Classes can range from an all the way up to AAAAA, and the Marching Vikings typically compete at the AAAA or AAAAA level.

Cracker Barrel – Southern style restaurant. The band typically heads here after the last competition of the season to celebrate their hard work and accomplishments. Band students have first dibs on seating. Sorry parents, for this night only, the kids table is the best seat in the house.

DCI – Drum Corps International. The pinnacle of marching bands, these professional level corps made up of college-aged musicians (including UP alumni) and Color Guards are seen creating amazing formations and visuals while playing highly difficult music. Marching Vikings have the option to attend a DCI show in Winston-Salem in July. Marching Vikings and band parents may also be found viewing DCI shows on YouTube with some frequency.

Vipers – Marching shoes worn as part of the marching uniform. They are white They get dirty. Shoe polish, Mr. Clean Magic Erasers, or 409 help a lot.

Dots or Poker Chips – Specific points on the marching field that are used to represent each band member's place in a formation.

Drill – The marching choreography of the show involving the patterns in which the band marches while performing show music. That's right—***Marching Vikings march and play at the same time!***

Drill Charts or Coordinate Sheets – A symbolic representation of what each marching formation should look like.

Drum Line – All Marching Vikings who play percussion instruments, including the battery and the pit.

Football games – The sporting exhibitions that occur on fall Friday nights before and after the Marching Vikings' halftime performances.

Grand Champion – Top award at a band competition, it can be awarded to a band from any class.

Hangry – The emotion exhibited by a Marching Viking who has finished their performance and is now waiting in the long line at the concession stand. Can be prevented or alleviated by the use of a band parent's money.

"It's All Good" – A phrase you will hear 9,999,999 times over the next four years. Mr. Hill's mantra, adopted by students and parents alike.

Money – What your Marching Viking will request when they actually acknowledge you in public at competitions or football games. Once the money has been acquired, you will no longer be acknowledged by that Marching Viking, but other parents not related to them will be. Can be used to prevent or cure hungriness.

Pit – Marching Vikings who play instruments on the sideline during the performance and do not march on the field. Also known as the "front ensemble." Don't worry though—pit performers make up for the exercise they miss out on by not marching by pushing, pulling, lifting, loading, and generally moving their massive instruments.

Pit Crew – An award-winning group of band parents who function as a well-oiled machine to assist the Pit with the movement of sideline equipment and set up and break down sound systems for performances. Capable of setting up for a performance in under four minutes.

Plume – The large feather worn on the marching uniform hat. While it looks similar, it's not a duster, so please don't use it to dust with.

Sectional – Scheduled practice for Marching Vikings who play the same instrument or instrument category that allow members of each section to practice their specific music or visuals. Marching Vikings should reach out to their section leaders with any questions.

Show shirt – The t-shirt each Marching Viking is issued at the start of competition season highlighting the year's show. Worn underneath bibbers to competitions so band parents can find our Marching Vikings in a crowd. Similar to white socks, you'll probably want at least one extra because kids get smelly on hot August Friday nights and band parents don't want to do laundry before Saturday competitions. Also available for purchase by band parents for their own use so other band parents can identify each other in a crowd and show their UP spirit at competitions.

Trombone Suicide – Some things are better to see in person. A good reason to come to a football game.

Viking Classic – Band competition hosted by the Union Pines Marching Vikings. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need help from everyone to make it a success. Volunteer, hang out with fellow band parents, and help us make money to keep band fees as low as possible.

Volunteers – Synonymous with band parents, this is the group of people that keep the band marching on. Volunteers come in a wide variety, including chaperones, water distributors, Viking Classic cooks, parking attendants, and bus drivers... and that doesn't cover everything! You'll hear words like "thank you" from teenagers. A perfect way to meet other band parents.

Water – Also known as "liquid gold," it's a life-giving substance that band parents hover about and force-Marching Vikings to drink during band camp. It's okay, it really is for their own good.

Contact Info & Social Media

Please make sure we have your email address as this is the main communication tool for the Union Pines Band.

E-mails: Informational emails are sent from uphsvikingband@gmail.com.

If you are not receiving informational emails, please email the Band Booster secretary at uphsvikingband@gmail.com to get added to the email list!

Facebook: If you are on Facebook, please join our **Union Pines Marching Vikings** booster page!

Website: Bookmark the Union Pines Marching Viking website www.unionpinesband.org



Congratulations on becoming part of the Union Pines Marching Viking family!

We look forward to getting to know you and your student and witnessing their Marching Viking experience!