

EPHRATA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ephrata High School Marching Unit

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Dear Parents,

On Wednesday, March 10, 2010, a group of high school students and I shared with your son/daughter some of the benefits and rewards of being a part of the Ephrata High School Marching Unit (EHSMU). Please ask your student about what he/she heard at the presentation. If you need something to jog his/her memory, listed below are some of the benefits we mentioned as well as a few more.

- Make new friends, including upperclassmen.
- Learn how to get around the building before the school year even starts.
- Develop time management skills to better balance academics and extracurricular activities.
- Have fun at high school football games.
- Become a better musician as a result of spending more time playing an instrument.
- Feel a sense of belonging to one of the most visible and important groups in the entire student body.
- Experience pride at competitions for a job well done.
- Create wonderful memories during the high school years that will last a lifetime.

Enclosed you will find an information packet about the Ephrata High School Marching Unit. Hopefully, you will find the answers to many of your questions in this packet. If you have further questions, please send me an email or give me a call. I will be more than happy to spend some time talking with you. I look forward to an exciting, rewarding season with your son or daughter.

Sincerely,

Sonia Straley, marching band director
s_straley@easdpa.org
721-1478 ext.13705

Rehearsal and Performance Schedule Summary

Along with the benefits of being in the EHSMU there are naturally some responsibilities. Members are expected to attend all rehearsals with a positive attitude and put forth maximum effort. Below is a summary of the schedule for the 2010 season of the Ephrata High School Marching Unit so that you can make an informed commitment to a very rewarding experience. Specific dates for Saturday competitions will be announced when they are available from the Cavalcade of Bands Association. A complete detailed schedule will be available before the end of this school year.

- Practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning July 6th from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (not mandatory, but recommended)
- SUMMER BAND CAMP – August 2nd – 6th from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm; 6:00 – 9:00 pm. This is a very important week when most of the field show is learned and music is memorized.
- <NEW> Mandatory practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm for the rest of August and then 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm once school starts.
- Meet the Mounts in place of regular practice on the Thursday evening before school starts.
- A Friday afternoon practice on Sept. 3 when we have no school.
- The Ephrata Parade on the fourth Wednesday evening in September. Thursday night practice would be cancelled that week.
- Friday night football games both home and away beginning Sept. 3 for about 10 weeks.
- <NEW> **Saturday rehearsals in September** and on competitions weekends of the season. (Not the weekends of the Ephrata Fair or Homecoming.)
- Cavalcade of Bands Championships at Hershey Park Stadium most likely Saturday, November 13, 2010 if we are in the Liberty class again.

Costs

The costs involved in being a part of the EHSMU are minimal but necessary.

- Marching shoes and gloves - \$30
- Food and Care - \$15 (This money is used by the band parents to provide meals on competition days)
- Uniform dry cleaning - \$8.00 a cleaning x 4 = \$32.00
- Spending money for food and football games and competitions

Academics and Eligibility

Band members are subject to the same rules of academic eligibility as members of any sports team. Please check the student handbook for the details, but basically all grades must be passing with only one exception. If a student is failing two classes on Friday, they will not be allowed to perform the following week beginning on Sunday.

**Ephrata High School Marching Unit
Membership Agreement for 2010-2011 Season**

I, _____, hereby do agree to be a member of the 2010 edition of
(Student's name)
the Ephrata High School Marching Unit. I am aware of the level of commitment expected from each member of this group. I will strive to do my best and to be in attendance at all performances and rehearsals to the best of my ability for the entire season.

Student signature _____ **Date**

I, _____, having read the attached letter and membership
(Parent/Guardian's name)
statement above, do support my son/daughter in this endeavor. I will see that my son/daughter is in attendance at rehearsals and performances to the best of his/her ability. I will encourage my son/daughter to fulfill his/her commitment to the band for the entire season.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ **Date**

Home address: _____
street city state zip

Phone - Home: _____ Parent cell _____ Student cell _____

Email - Parent/Guardian _____ Student _____

Please check one. Class of ___2011___ ___2012___ ___2013___ ___2014___

Instrument _____ Secondary instrument _____

Below is a list of summer rehearsals. These rehearsals are NOT mandatory, but I would like to know who will be coming so that I can plan accordingly. If you will be in town and can make these rehearsals, please indicate which ones you will be able to attend. All summer rehearsals in July and August will be held at the Ephrata High School from 6:00 – 9:00 pm and will include both music and marching rehearsal time. Percussion and Color Guard members should also plan to attend these dates. Information about percussion and colorguard auditions and additional rehearsals will be coming later.

Please circle the dates that you can attend. Thank you!

Tues., July 6	Thurs., July 8	Tues. July 13	Thurs. July 15
Tues., July 20	Thurs., July 22	Tues. July 27	Thurs. July 29

Please note: After Band Camp in August, all rehearsals will be **mandatory**.

Please return this form to Mr. Goss by Wednesday, March 24, 2010.