



Elizabeth HIGH SCHOOL

The Cardinal Pride Marching Band Handbook 2025-2026

Introduction

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Cardinal Pride Marching Band! New members: welcome to a new and rewarding experience; returning members: welcome back! Marching band is a unique activity! Marching band requires athleticism, musicianship, coordination, passion, hard work, and so much more. You have chosen to make beautiful music, work hard, and make life-long friends!

This handbook contains information that is essential to the upcoming marching band season. You will find information regarding policies, fees, calendar dates and volunteer opportunities. Please read the information carefully, and discuss the commitment as a family.

Each year, marching band is a brand new group of students and a unique experience! If you are already dedicated to band as a key part of your life, or have reservations about trying something new, we are excited to have you! The band is growing in quality and numbers, with your help, we can continue to build and make the Cardinal Pride Marching Band the pride of Elizabeth High School and the community!

I am looking forward to an exciting season and getting to know each of you!

Sincerely,

Carson Powell
Director of Instrumental Music
Elizabeth High School

Cardinal Pride Marching Band 2025 Season Schedule

BOLD DATES ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL MEMBERS

The Cardinal Pride Marching Band rehearses every **Monday and Thursday from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm, and Tuesdays from 5-7pm beginning Monday, August 4th, 2025**

Monday, May 5th	Marching Band Info Night 6-7:30pm
Friday, May 16th	REGISTRATION DUE
Tuesday, June 3rd	Leadership Training and Camp Set Up (8am-12pm)
Wed. June 4th-Fri. June 6th	Mini Camp 8am-4pm (Payment #1 Due)
Mon. July 21st-Friday, July 25th	Band Camp 8am-5pm (Payment #2 Due)
Fri. July 25th	Season Kick Off BBQ at 6pm (Potluck)
Sat. August 2nd	Parade Rehearsal 8am-10am
Sun. August 3rd	Elbert County Fair Parade
Rehearsals Begin Mon. August 4th	(see above for regular rehearsal schedule)
Mon. August 11th	District Convocation Pep Rally (time TBD)
Friday, September 12th	Football vs. TCA call time @ 5pm
Saturday, September 13th	March-A-Thon (time tbd)
Saturday, September 20th	Legend Marching Festival
Friday, September 26th	Football vs. Pagosa Springs call time @ 5pm
Friday, October 3rd	Football vs. Strasburg (Homecoming events all day)
Saturday, October 11th	Harrison Marching Festival
Tuesday, October 14th	2A-4A Metro Regional @ Echo Park (Fall Break)
Saturday, October 25th	Pre-State Rehearsal & Mission Impossible 5pm-9pm
Sunday, October 26th	Leave for Grand Junction (leave mid morning)
Monday, October 27th	1A/2A/3A State Championships @ Stocker Stadium
Tuesday, October 28th	Travel back from Pueblo
Friday, October 31st	Football vs. Kent Denver call time @ 5pm
Friday, November 7th	Marching Band Banquet @ 6:30pm (Potluck)

Policies and Procedures

What should I wear?

Marching band is an athletic activity. For the safety of all students, proper dress is important. Examples of proper dress include:

- Athletic shoes with laces securely tied
- Gym shorts or track pants
- T-shirts
- Baseball hat
- Sunglasses

Examples of improper dress

- Sandals, boots, or other shoes without laces
- Jeans, or other tight clothing which restricts movement
- Revealing clothing not permitted by the usual dress code

If a student is inappropriately dressed they will be asked to sit out. These requirements are for the entire season. Please plan to bring appropriate clothing to school so you can change out if needed. Rehearsals can be quite cold in October, check the weather and plan to bring coats, gloves, hats, etc.

What should I bring?

- Instrument and necessary equipment: valve oil, lyre, rifle gloves, flag, rifle, etc.
- Music binder & Flip Book
- Drill sheet and Dot book
- Pencil
- Sunscreen
- WATER

Attendance Policy

All rehearsals and performances throughout the season are mandatory. **The schedule is provided in advance so that you may plan accordingly.** Exceptions to this policy are made on an individual basis for emergencies, school commitments and other major family functions. Please make every effort to plan summer vacations around our summer schedule, as it is critical that we have the entire band committed throughout the season. Additionally, work or transportation related absences are never excused. If transportation issues do arise, please let the director know so that accommodations can be made. If you miss the last rehearsal before a performance, you may be held out of that performance at the discretion of the director/staff. Students who miss any part of the school day are unable to rehearse unless it is a pre-arranged documented absence such as a doctor's appointment. Documentation must be provided to the attendance office. **Marching band is no longer a course, you MUST be enrolled in Concert**

Band to participate. Color Guard members are exempt from this policy. 8th graders must be enrolled in band at EMS or Legacy.

Planned absences (Family functions/school activities)

An email should be sent to the director no later than 7 days prior to the absence. Absences from performances (football games, competitions, etc.) should be communicated at the beginning of the season. Absences that are not communicated in a timely manner will be considered unexcused.

Sudden absence (sickness, family emergency)

An email needs to be sent to Mrs. Powell and their section leader by the beginning of rehearsal. If the email is late, in most cases the absence is unexcused unless an emergency prevents prompt notification of the absence. When students are not at rehearsal we worry about them! We will have students call/text the student to try and figure out the reason for their absence if we do not have prior notice of the absence.

Excessive absences

If a student has excessive absences (5 or more in most cases) they may be removed from the ensemble without refund. **Students with more than one unexcused absence will be removed from the ensemble without refund.**

Eligibility

Students must remain eligible to compete with the band. If a student has one F in a class they are placed on warning. If they have 2 or more Fs they are deemed ineligible. Students deemed ineligible are expected to attend rehearsals. If you are ineligible you will not have the opportunity to perform for that week. You are still expected to attend football games and competitions if it does not take from the school day.

Due to the intricate nature of marching band, we cannot have students in and out with eligibility issues. Consistency is key for this ensemble, so habitually ineligible students (3 weeks, not necessarily consecutive) will be removed from the ensemble. If a student is ineligible for Regionals, they will not be allowed to attend the State Championships.

Fees and Fundraising

Marching band is a competitive and involved activity, therefore we must require a fee. The Marching Band receives no funding from the district. All funding is from student fees and fundraising. A single season of marching band costs about \$32,000. This fee helps cover the cost of music, drill, equipment, uniforms, festival registration fees, food etc. Fees are due to the EHS Band Boosters Inc. in payments. **\$100 is due by Friday, June 6th. Your first fee payment must be paid for you to be written into the show. The remaining \$100 is due Friday, July 25th.** There is a fundraising requirement of \$250. What is not fundraised by the end of the season is billed and due before Winter Break. It is imperative that students participate in fundraisers even beyond their \$250 requirement! Up to \$100 of fundraising can be carried over to the next season. The Boosters will keep track of amounts fundraised for each family. Alternative payment plans are also available. Please contact our treasurer Vanessa Savage with financial questions/concerns. ehs.bb.treas@gmail.com.

No student will ever be turned away because of inability to pay. Please contact Vanessa Savage if these fees cause hardship so we may make accommodations!

The Uniform

Each instrumentalist will be provided with a uniform jacket, pants, and hat. They will be responsible for this uniform the entire season. The uniform is a symbol of Elizabeth High School and should be respected and worn with pride. It is the responsibility of the student to keep their uniform clean and in good condition at all times. **Should a student damage or dirty their uniform, it will be the student's responsibility to repair, replace and/or clean the uniform.**

Replacement costs: Pants: \$60, Jacket: \$175, Gauntlets: \$44, Hat: \$38, Plume: \$18 (Total Uniform: \$342)

In addition, each instrumentalist is responsible for purchasing long black socks, black marching shoes (\$35) and black marching gloves (\$5). We place the order for shoes and gloves during the June camp. If cared for, these shoes last the entire career of the student.

Each color guard member will be provided with a parade uniform top and a show uniform. It is their responsibility to maintain the uniform throughout the season. If any damage comes to the uniforms it is their responsibility to replace, repair or clean them. Replacement costs: Parade tops: \$100 Show uniform prices vary.

In addition each guard member is responsible for the purchase of a uniform jacket (\$25), guard shoes (\$30), black jazz pants, and rifle gloves (\$10). Guard members may also be asked to provide an undershirt or tights as part of their show uniform. We will order jackets, guard shoes, and rifle gloves during the June band camp. The jacket, shoes, pants and gloves can all last the student for their entire guard career if well cared for.

Social Media and Bullying Policy

Unfortunately abuse of social media has become an issue throughout society. More and more it seems that students are using texting and social media to harass classmates during and outside of school. This is behavior that absolutely will not be tolerated within the EHS Music program. Students in the music program are expected to treat each other, and all other members of the school and community, with respect and kindness. Not everyone has to like each other and be best friends, but you do have to treat each individual you encounter with the same kindness and respect that you would expect from them. Conflicts do arise, but when the boundary is crossed into harassment or bullying the behavior becomes unacceptable.

Any student found to be involved in harassment, bullying or inappropriate social media behavior will be immediately removed from the program for the period of at least one year. There are no exceptions to this policy. Whether or not the behavior is considered to be inappropriate or bullying will be determined by the district policy and the director, administration and counselors.

We have a fantastic counseling team here at EHS and I encourage students and parents to work with counselors to resolve issues. Though I know the students well and always have an open door policy about conflicts and issues, I do not have training or expertise to help students solve personal and interpersonal problems. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or our counseling department at any time.

Communications

The Band App and email will be the primary forms of communication throughout the season. The parent/guardian email used for registration will be added to the email list. The Band App will contain the most updated information throughout the season.

Please keep in mind that the Band app is for communication that is pertinent to the marching band activities and is not a personal social media platform. Please avoid posting or commenting

unless it is necessary and helpful. We want to avoid spamming our membership. Thank you for your diligence with this.

Our Booster Organization

The Elizabeth High School Instrumental Music Booster Organization is a non-profit volunteer organization in place to support all aspects of the instrumental music program at EHS, both financially and otherwise. This organization is composed of parents of students who are involved in the instrumental program at EHS. There are no fees or dues to be a member of the group, and your involvement in this organization will only benefit your child's music education, as well as the experience of all students involved in music.

The primary function of the booster organization is to support the music program and the staff in all administrative and logistical aspects that make this program run smoothly so that we, as instructors, can do what we do best, teach. Being involved in this organization is a great way to get to know other parents and support your student in the art that they have become so passionate about. Parental support is the single most important key to the success of any student. The EHS Instrumental Booster Organization is a great way to show your support for your student and their school.

Regardless of how busy our lives are, the EHS Instrumental Music program always welcomes whatever help, in whatever capacity, you are willing to give! Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs. Powell or any of the board members to get involved!

The Booster Organization meets the first Monday of every month in the band room at 7:00 pm. Meetings discuss budgets, purchases, pit crew, prop creation, fundraisers and much more.

****Scan the QR code to complete the Registration and Policy Acknowledgement Form****

