

Ferndale High School
‘Golden Eagle’ Marching Band 2010

Welcome to the Ferndale High School Marching Band program. The ‘Golden Eagle’ Marching Band has a long and proud history of providing students with a wonderful opportunity to enrich their lives through participation in this activity. As you may know, our most recent achievements include the 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, AND 2009 Michigan Competing Bands Association (MCBA) ‘Flight III’ State Championships. We also earned a Third Place finish in 2003 and 2008. We are very proud of this, and we hope that our past achievements can lead us to continued and even greater success, but we cannot do that without the class of 2014!

The marching band is the Ferndale HS Music Department’s most high-profile organization. We are a competitive marching band, which means we travel around the state during the fall to compete at various invitational competitions, finishing the season at Ford Field for the MCBA State Championships (this year on November 6).

This year’s show is titled “Interstellar Suite”, and is an exploration of what one might see and experience in the night sky. The music this year is “Wild Nights” by John Adams, “Asphalt Cocktail” by John Mackey, and “Song for Lyndsay” by Andrew Boysen. Our design staff is already hard at work creating a unique and exciting musical and visual program for the band.

This will be the Marching Band’s 57th summer attending the world-famous Interlochen Music Camp (August 16-23). Since this is where we learn the vast majority of the drill to our show, attendance is mandatory for all members of the band. During June and August, we rehearse most Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-9 pm. In the fall, we rehearse every Monday and Wednesday from 6-9 pm. The band also performs at selected home football games, which usually take place Friday evenings. Most Saturdays during the fall are spent rehearsing or competing. A detailed rehearsal schedule for the remainder of this school year, summer rehearsal dates and the fall show schedule will be handed out at our mandatory **Parent/Student Meeting, Monday, May 17 at 6:30 pm in the FHS Media Center.**

The base fee to participate in the Marching Band program is \$415.00. This includes the cost of attending Interlochen Band Camp, transportation, room and board, instructional staff, most uniform costs (except a one-time new member fee of \$30), the cost of purchasing and writing the show, and other activities throughout the season. This can be paid in installments between now and Band Camp – more information will follow. Multiple fund-raising opportunities will be provided during the course of the year to off-set the cost of marching band.

We know the prospect of joining the marching band may be intimidating, BUT it has been our experience that while this is a demanding activity and schedule, the rewards are tremendous. Through the fantastic support of the Ferndale Schools Fine Arts Boosters (FAB), we boast an instructional staff of 16. There is an instructor for each wind section in the band, as well as a marching instructor, and multiple instructors for the guard and percussion sections. We also have a support team of volunteer parents who travel with us and chaperone the cabins at band camp (at least one parent in every cabin). This allows us to achieve a great deal of individual attention and keep all activities well-supervised (24 hours a day at Interlochen Band Camp).

Being involved in the marching band also makes the transition to high school easier. Our upperclassmen pride themselves on creating a safe and supportive environment throughout this new experience. They go out of their way to make new students feel at ease and to insure they have ample opportunity to be successful in the band. It is the relationships that are made between the members of the band that are most powerful, and what keeps students, parents, and staff coming back season after season. ***Being in the marching band gives you an instant 120 friends who all believe in you and your contribution to our "family"***.

Keep in mind also that while we certainly hope that most, if not all, students choose to participate in marching band, it is an extracurricular activity. It is possible to participate in our top-notch concert band program during the school day and not be in the marching band. Further, it is also possible to participate in fall sports AND marching band – we have a great relationship with the athletic department, and have many students do both every year (including football, cheerleading, boy's soccer, girl's volleyball, boy's tennis, cross-country, and girl's swimming). It does take a lot of time to do both and requires careful time management, but we find that students who take on the challenge gain much maturity from the experience.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the music program in Ferndale. We believe that the benefits of membership in the band or color guard far exceed the skills required to play an instrument or spin a flag. Please feel free to contact us at FHS to discuss our program in detail. We are looking forward to working with your child. We all feel the class of 2014 will bring a new level of excellence to our performing ensembles at Ferndale High School.

Musically yours,

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Important Upcoming Dates

Color Guard Auditions / Rehearsals	Monday/Wednesday starting May 3: 6 pm
Rehearsals for New Wind/Brass Players	Wed, May 12: 6-9 pm Mon, May 17: 6-9 pm
<i>Mandatory Parent/Student Meeting</i>	<i>Monday, May 17: 6:30 pm</i>
First FULL Marching Band Rehearsal	Monday, June 7: 6-9 pm
First Payment Due	Monday, June 7
	<i>\$115 returning wind / brass / guard members</i>
	<i>\$125 new wind / brass / guard members</i>
	<i>\$120 returning pit / battery</i>
	<i>\$135 new pit / battery</i>