

YORK CATHOLIC



Marching Band
Handbook
2026-2027

General Rules

1. Gum is NEVER PERMITTED. (It is not safe while playing an instrument and it has been found in the carpet.)
2. Do not play or handle someone else's instrument. If instruments are broken due to not following this rule the cost of repair is your responsibility.
3. Each person is responsible for his/her own property. Do not leave expensive personal items at school overnight.
4. Everything in the band room is in a certain place for a reason. Make sure all instruments, music, and equipment are put in the exact places where they belong. Do not leave items lying around.
5. Tobacco, drugs, alcohol, and profane language are prohibited by York Catholic Middle & High School. The band is a reflection of the school and the same policies apply.
6. The York Catholic dress code is always in effect.
7. Even though band camp starts before school resumes and is after school hours; detention will still be given if the need arises. Any detention given during band camp will be served within the first two weeks of the school year.
8. Everyone participating in Marching Band is to be respectful, courteous, responsible, helpful, and positive.
9. We strongly advise that band students take some level of private lessons. Lessons make our group better and are a great investment in the quality of our band and your musical future.
10. Practice is a must. All students are to practice their music at least 20 minutes a day. Work on problem spots at home. Section leaders will hold you accountable. The Band is counting on you!
11. Severe personality problems between students and/or between staff and students may result in removal of that student from the band.
12. No one is permitted to leave the campus at any time during rehearsal.
13. Parents should drop off and pick up students in the main parking lot. Please do not drive around to the back of the school. In many cases, the driveway is used as a practice area.

YOU PRACTICE AT HOME, REHEARSE AT SCHOOL,
AND PERFORM FOR THE AUDIENCE.

Rehearsal Policy

1. Band camp will start a few weeks before school begins and will run from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. You will need to bring a bag lunch and plenty of fluids. Dress cool and comfortable with appropriate shoes for marching. Don't forget sunscreen and bug spray.
2. No matter what the weather may be, the show must go on. This goes for rehearsals also.
3. **If a student is late, he/she will be instructed to arrive earlier the next day.**
- 4.

Attendance Policy

1. Attendance at practice and performances of the York Catholic Middle & High School Band is probably the most important aspect of the success of the season. **Conflicts with the schedule must be eliminated.** Your spot on the field is crucial. In the case of an emergency, send an email message to the director ASAP.
2. **All performances are mandatory.**
3. Any desperate need of absence must be presented in writing, signed by a parent, and APPROVED by the director. This must be done **before** the time of absence in order to be excused. If it is not presented and approved before the date involved, it will be considered unexcused. Having homework is not cause for an absence; everyone on the field has homework. Time management is crucial.
4. On the second unexcused absence you will not receive your Varsity letter and the third unexcused absence will result in removal from the band program.
5. If a student is on academic ineligibility they will not be allowed to practice or perform with the band for a week. After missing three performances due to ineligibility, you are dismissed from marching band. If you are struggling in a class, tell the director. As a band, we will do our best to help you keep your grades up.
6. A copy of the band rehearsal and performance schedule must be given to employers and parents to avoid any conflicts. Work is not an excuse for absence. This includes post-season events (ex. St. Patrick's Day Parade).
7. Your personal commitment to the band is the most important part of everything we do. The band is involved with many performances which include more than one school group at a time, therefore, the band will take precedence over the other student groups. The only exception to this is Student Council meetings.
8. SPORTS and BAND - Band members are allowed to participate in sports and band. Conflict of schedules can almost always be worked out between the band director and coaches. The key is for the student to communicate the conflict so a decision can be made. We currently have band members in almost every sport offered and are proud of that tradition. The earlier these conflicts are resolved the better the result.

9. Open Band Rehearsals - Band members are **required to attend at least three** of the open band rehearsals over the summer. These rehearsals are intended for students to learn the music and skills necessary to be ready for band camp.
10. If the football team performs well and plays in county, district, and state games, the marching band will travel and perform at the games. The band members will be given as much notice as possible as to the dates of post-season games. It is expected that band members will attend post-season performances.

Performance Rules

1. To keep the band looking sharp, make sure your uniform is clean, fully buttoned and zipped, your hair is tucked tightly under your hat, and no jewelry whatsoever. Fingernails must be unpolished. Shoes should be cleaned after each game and competition. Appearance reflects on our respect for ourselves and our band.
2. If the weather is appropriate, you may be allowed to take your jacket off in the stands. To keep the band's image as a unified group, the entire band will remove their jackets. Everyone needs their 2025-2026 band shirt under their jackets. If someone is not wearing their 2025-2026 band shirt, all members will keep their jackets on.
3. During cold weather everyone will wear their raincoats in the stands. Other band/school apparel will also be permitted to be worn in the stands during colder performances.
4. In order to keep the uniforms looking their best for performances, you will change into bibbers in the band room and put jackets on when we arrive at the destination. Before home games you will change in the band room. Once everyone is in uniform, the uniforms will remain on the entire time; this includes during the 3rd quarter break.
5. Displays of affection are not permitted; they are inappropriate and do not reflect well on the group. This includes holding hands and cuddling.
6. A band needs unity. We play selections as a group or a section. Individual playing does not foster the concept of unity unless as a designated solo during the show.
7. To show proper respect during the National Anthem, you will need to stand at attention facing the flag while remaining ABSOLUTELY SILENT.
8. For the safety of all members (and the instruments), only those individuals who are part of the band are permitted in the "bandstands." This includes your friends visiting from other schools, or other students from YC who are not in the band.
9. To keep the uniforms clean and ready for performance, food and drink are not permitted in the stands.
10. ALL HIGH SCHOOL MEMBERS of the band must ride the bus back to York Catholic after all football games for the purpose of clean-up and for the return of all band equipment and uniforms. Do not make plans until after these duties are completed at the high school. Middle School students may be picked up early with a note from a parent.
11. Each section has responsibilities and duties related to the loading and unloading equipment. Each member of the band is required to complete these tasks throughout the season.

Bus Rules

1. **All parents are asked to chaperone at least once.**
2. Respect the other members of the band. Hair spray, spray deodorants, perfumes/colognes, etc., should not be used on the bus.
3. Females and males will not be seated together on the bus.
4. You are permitted to take food and drink to away games; however, food and drink are not permitted in the stands. All trash needs to be discarded properly. If this is not followed, this privilege will be revoked.
5. Your safety is of the utmost importance. Distraction to the bus driver may be fatal. The volume level of your voice needs to be kept at a minimum. Nothing, including body parts, will be placed outside of the windows. All electronic devices must have headphones.

Uniform Care

1. Responsibility is a large part of maturity. Your responsibility in the band includes the maintenance of your uniform. Uniforms need to be carried in the garment bag provided. Do not put your shoes in the garment bag. Avoid damage to the uniform bag itself.
2. The uniform consists of many parts: jacket, pants, garment bag, hat box, hat, plume, shoes, shoe box, and hanger. If any part of your uniform gets lost or damaged, the Music Association will be reimbursed by the student.
3. To keep the uniform looking its best while not in use, the pants need to be folded on the crease and placed over the hanger neatly. The jacket needs to be hung on the hanger. Keeping the uniforms stored properly will prevent wrinkling and damage. An inspection of uniforms will be conducted before and after every performance. Shoes are not to be stored in the uniform bag. Shoes are stored in the shoe box with your name on it after you have wiped them clean.
4. Proper foot attire is required of all members. All members must wear black shoes. These are covered in the band camp fee. There will be a shoe fitting during band camp for ALL members.
5. All band members will need black gloves. These will be covered in the band camp fee.
6. All band members must wear black socks. These are NOT provided. It is suggested that each member put a "spare" pair in their garment bag just in case.
7. All uniforms are to be kept at school.
8. If you need new dinkles, gloves and/or guard items, there will be a fee to order them. The order form will be handed out at band camp.
9. Uniforms will be altered at band camp. If any other alteration is needed you must get permission from the band director to do so. If there is any destruction to your band uniform, you must alert the band director AS SOON AS IT HAPPENS.

School Instruments

If you are using a school instrument, it is imperative that you treat the instrument with care. If an instrument is broken due to not following a rule or normal care guidelines, the cost of the repair is your responsibility.

Fundraisers

Fundraisers are held to raise money for the music department. We cannot support the cost of the marching band without everyone's contribution to the fundraisers.

One of the fundraisers for the York Catholic Music Association is the concession stand at football games. The concessions will raise most of our money for the band. **All parents are to volunteer at least twice at the concession stand.** A schedule will be emailed to parents at the beginning of the season for you to select your dates. Families will also be asked to donate a case of candy and/or soda to the concession stand.

Sign-up

In order to sign-up for Marching Band, the following forms must be signed and returned to the school office.

Forms Due by June 30, 2026

- ✓ Marching Band Agreement form (last page of the handbook)

Marching Band T-shirts and Apparel

Marching band t-shirts and other apparel items will be purchased online through the York Catholic Spirit Store. Dates will be announced when available. Each member is required to order at least one t-shirt.

Online Form Due by July 30, 2026

- ✓ "2026/2027 York Catholic Athletic Registration" form found at www.familyID.com.
No student may participate without this form being completed.

YORK CATHOLIC MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND
AGREEMENT

I have completely read and fully understand the information in the York Catholic Middle & High School Marching Band Handbook. Our family (student band member and parent) agree to participate in its enforcement.

Band Member's Name: _____

Band Member's Grade: _____

Section or Instrument (Trumpet, Colorguard, etc.): _____

Band Member's E-mail (optional): _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent E-mail: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Please detach and return to the YC Main Office by
June 30, 2026

Please complete the
"2026/2027 York Catholic Athletic Registration" form found at www.familyID.com by
July 30, 2026