

2026 RHS Marching Band Registration Packet

Thank you for your interest in joining the tradition of the RHS Marching Band! Please read this packet carefully, as it will provide you with a variety of information about the marching band program, along with important dates from now until the end of the season. We realize that this is a LOT of information and can be overwhelming to process. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Mr. Luckenbill (Director) if you have any questions (jluckenbill@rpsnj.us).

We look forward to you joining the RHS Marching Band family!



2026 Season Highlights

Overnight Trip to Annapolis

The 2026 RHSMB is headed back to Annapolis, MD to perform at a competition inside the Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium! This will be an OVERNIGHT trip (separate expense will be discussed) and will be an incredibly exciting trip. More details, along with a tentative itinerary, will be announced at the May 11 Kick-Off & Organizational Meeting!



Salute to Independence Day Parade

The 2026 RHSMB is excited to be marching in Philadelphia, PA on July 3, 2026 in celebration of the 250th Birthday of the USA. This is a nationally televised parade. All returning and NEW members to the 2026 RHSMB will be participating in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

The OFFICIAL RSVP for the parade is inside of the 2026 GroupSpot group. There will be a \$25 fee for this parade (required by the parade committee). Details are available on the GroupSpot main feed. Please RSVP and submit payment via GroupSpot!

Common Marching Band Questions

Doesn't Marching Band consume your life because of the time commitment?

You're right, the Marching Band is a big commitment, but it is far less of a commitment than many of the sports programs! Also, the RHSMB DOES NOT practice every day. Students learn time management skills as part of being in the band, which is an important life skill that students carry with them for the rest of their life. While the calendar does look overwhelming at first, know that most of the season is during September/October, and is not much different than a fall sport. The schedule lightens up greatly by November!

I'm way too involved in other activities (clubs or dance, etc.); I'm involved in something different all year long! Can I still do other activities and be in the Marching Band?

Other activities and Marching Band are actually a great mix. There are many students who participate in the New Players theater company, take private lessons, or are involved other school activities. It is true that if a student plans to participate in a RHS Fall Sport, Marching Band is not an option, unfortunately. Most other activities are compatible with the Marching Band schedule. Feel free to reach out and ask about your particular activity and how it would balance with the Marching Band schedule.



What if I play an instrument that's not offered in the RHSMB?

There are many opportunities within the marching band. Opportunities included playing in the sideline percussion section (the stationary percussion section), Color Guard (see below), as well as learning a new instrument. We'll teach you everything you need to know and no experience is needed! You can continue to play your primary instrument as part of a curricular ensemble (band, orchestra, choir during the school day).

What is Color Guard?

Color Guard is an attached unit of the RHS Marching Band whose members represent the music visually. Members interpret the music by using various flags, sabers, rifles, or other props, as well as dance and movement. The marching "season" lasts from August to November, with many Saturdays committed to band activities. After November, students may continue by participating in our award-winning Winter Guard. The Winter Guard activity runs from mid-November to mid-April, and is an indoor color guard activity where they perform in a gym! Winter Guard is an optional, separate activity.



How does participating in the marching band affect my grades?

Like all arts, music has a profound effect on the academic success of the student. The network of experienced students one meets in the band can help with other academic classes. Students who learn to balance and prioritize their time commitments end up being more successful later in life. Band should not be the only reason grades suffer, if a student takes the time to get organized. Being in an active group gives the students the opportunity to learn how to balance school, extra-curricular activities, and other interests. Most RHSMB members find that their grades are actually higher during the season than at any other time during the year.



What will I get out of Marching Band?

Every person's contribution is vital to the success of the RHSMB. In Marching Band, it is the one "team" that NO ONE sits on the bench, and whether a 9th or 12th grader, the band is strong because of all participants. Because of this, band members often become a tightly knit group of friends regardless of grade. Musicians improve their playing abilities at an accelerated rate while color guard members learn the art of dance and movement.

RHSMB Registration Checklist

How do I register???

We utilize GroupSpot as our main communication hub for EVERYTHING, including notifications & reminders, calendar events, volunteer signups, PAYMENTS, and more! **ALL** students and parents are required to join the group. **Registration and payments for the 2026 RHSMB will happen entirely through GroupSpot.**



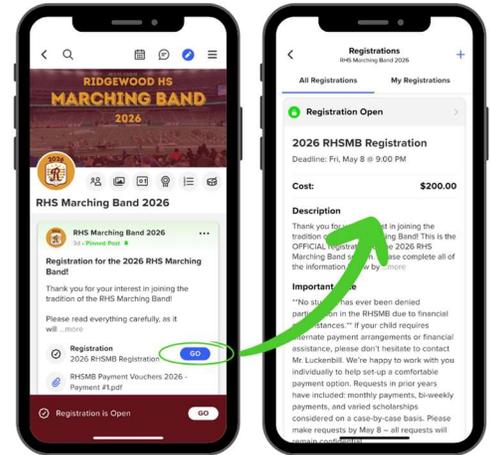
Please use the **QR Code** ---> to join the 2026 RHSMB GroupSpot and register today!



GroupSpot Invite Code: XZ5FYE

Friday, May 8

- ALL** Prospective Members must **FIRST join** the 2026 GroupSpot and complete the **registration form + payment #1**. Screenshots ----->
 - Want to pay by check? You may choose “Pay Later” during registration and pay by check. Bring to address listed below.
 - NEW MEMBERS receive a \$50 DISCOUNT on Payment #1 (by May 1)
 - **GroupSpot Discount Code:** RHSMBRookie2026
- Complete the **July 3 Philadelphia Parade** Registration on GroupSpot
 - Everyone must complete this, if you are participating!



Monday, May 11

- ALL** Members must attend a **MANDATORY KICK-OFF & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** for ALL marching band members and at least one parent or guardian on **MONDAY, MAY 11**, beginning at **7:00 PM in the RHS Campus Center**.
- Complete and bring the **Overnight Permission Form** for Band Camp & Annapolis (on GroupSpot – May 11 Calendar Event)
- NEW Members ONLY:** Complete and bring the Uniform Measurement Form (on GroupSpot – May 11 Calendar Event)

School Physical Forms

To be completed **SEPARATELY** and returned to the RHS Nurse’s Office by **August 10** (do NOT give these to us)

- RHS School Athletic Physical, completed by a parent and physician (**required**) OR Health History Update Questionnaire (forms located in the Vault in GroupSpot)



Registration Questions???

Sara and Drew Wilson

(646) 279-7498

saraywilson@gmail.com

Address: 128 West End Ave.

(for Payments)

Lynne Dewhurst–McBurney

(415) 305-0315

Lynnedm@gmail.com

Address: 176 W Glen Ave.

(for Paperwork)

There is a **MANDATORY KICK-OFF & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING** for ALL marching band members and at least one parent or guardian on **MONDAY, MAY 11**, beginning at **7:00 PM in the RHS Campus Center**. **NEW** materials, schedules & paperwork will be distributed/discussed at the meeting.

Ridgewood HS Marching Band

2026 Registration Payment Information

TOTAL FEE is \$950 and is divided into 3 payments. See **below** for a breakdown of the payments.

- * **Payment #1** (\$200) is due by **Fri., May 8** – Credit Card via GroupSpot or Check (*RHS Band Association*)
- * **Payment #2** (\$350) is due by **Thurs., May 28** – Credit Card via GroupSpot or Check (*RHS Band Association*)
- * **Payment #3** (\$400) is due by **Wed., June 10** – Check (REQUIRED) made out to RHS Association

*****No student has ever been denied participation in the RHSMB due to financial circumstances.*****

If your child requires alternate payment arrangements or financial assistance, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Luckenbill. We're happy to work with you individually to help set-up a comfortable payment option. Requests in prior years have included: monthly payments, bi-weekly payments, and varied scholarships considered on a case-by-case basis. **Please make requests by May 8** – all requests will remain confidential.

****SIBLINGS:** If you have more than 1 child currently in the band, please contact Mr. Luckenbill BEFORE May 8 and ask about our sibling discount CODE for the GroupSpot payment!**

Payment / Refund / Cancellation Information: Since music, materials, props, costumes, flags, & drill are custom designed, written, built, sewn, and purchased prior to **June 30, NO MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED AFTER THAT DATE.** If a student chooses not to participate after the registration has been received, Mr. Luckenbill must be notified IMMEDIATELY.

What do your registration fees help supplement?

Payment #1 (\$200)

Due by **May 8**

Secures your spot and covers
Initial Show Design Expenses

Payment #3 (\$400) helps supplement:

Due by **June 10**

Band Camp Fee @ Timberlake Camp
End-of-the-Year Dinner Banquet
(Tides Restaurant)

Payment #2 (\$350) helps supplement:

Due by **Thursday, May 28**

Meals and Snacks for Season
Band Camp Snacks & Supplies
Band Camp Staff & Nurse
Show T-Shirt
Show Equipment, Props & Supplies

Musicians: Uniform Dry Cleaning

Color Guard: \$50 towards Costume Fee

Donation for RHSMB Registration Scholarship Fund

Each year, we have students who face financial hardship who would like to participate in the marching band. We are looking for donations to build up funds to help these students participate in the RHSMB. If you can make a donation, please turn in this payment slip, along with your donation, to Mr. Luckenbill at RHS.

Name _____ Donation Amount \$ _____

Name on check _____ Check # _____

Ridgewood HS Marching Band

2026 Uniform Distribution & Additional Expenses

MUSICIANS

Keeping the RHSMB looking their best in the Marching Band Uniforms takes lots of time and effort by many volunteers on the Uniform Committee. Your adherence to following the instructions below will help those volunteers keep the uniforms looking great and to ensure the band members always look their best!

NEW MEMBERS of the Brass, Percussion, Woodwind sections must complete the *Uniform Measurement Form* (located on GroupSpot) which is used to assign a uniform to each member of the band. Please bring this form with you to the **May 11 Organizational Meeting**.

- * Uniforms, shakos, garment bags and uniform instructions will be distributed on the following dates:
 - * **All Returning Members:** Wednesday, May 20 | 3:30-6:30 PM (sign up for a time on GroupSpot)
 - * **NEW Members:** Thursday, May 21 | 3:30-6:30 PM (sign up for a time on GroupSpot)

Your child will be given **2 pairs** of white gloves for use during the ENTIRE season. **Gloves can be washed as they become soiled.** You will be charged an additional \$5.00 for every extra pair of gloves given to your child.

To be purchased separately:

More information will be given at the May 11 Organizational Meeting.

- * All MEMBERS must purchase a ½ gallon water bottle (specific link will be given)
- * All musicians must purchase the MTX Marching Band Shoe in **WHITE**: approx. \$50.00
- * All musicians must wear **WHITE** athletic socks, **crew length or higher**, with the uniform
- * All musicians must wear **WHITE** shorts or similar underneath their uniform pants
- * All musicians must wear a **WHITE** shirt underneath the uniform jacket (*2026 show shirt will be provided*)

Questions? Musicians Contact: Lisa Faris | lfaris729@yahoo.com

COLOR GUARD

- * All color guard members will be fitted for costumes on May 18, at the first spring rehearsal.
- * Assorted Color guard apparel will also be available. More information will follow.

To be purchased separately:

- * All color guard members must purchase the required shoes, est. \$50.
- * **Costume Fee:** est. \$150 (*\$50 is included in Payment #2 and will be deducted from final costume fee*)
- * Any required undergarments and accessories (to be determined by costume design)

Questions? Color Guard Contact: Jake Montanaro | rhscolorguard@ridgewood.k12.nj.us



2026 RHS Marching Band Spring/Summer Calendar

Spring and summer rehearsals/performances are listed below. Any additional percussion and color guard rehearsals will be communicated to students in those sections at the interest meeting. All rehearsals will take place at the RHS Band Room, unless otherwise noted. **Please note: EVERYONE is expected to attend the dates listed below (including rookie members). Please communicate any absences with Mr. Luckenbill!**

April

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Thursday, April 9 | 6:15 – 7:30 PM | Open House & Show Announcement Pizza Party (Campus Center) |
| Monday, April 13 | 5:00 – 6:00 PM | Color Guard Interest Meeting (Meet @ RHS Band Room 150) (More dates will be shared during this meeting) |
| Friday, April 17 | 3:30 – 5:00 PM | Percussion Interest Meeting (RHS Band Room 150) (Bring sticks...More dates will be shared during this meeting) |

May

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Friday, May 1 | ----- | NEW MEMBER EARLY REGISTRATION Deadline \$50 Discount on Payment #1 if paid by May 1 |
| Friday, May 8 | ----- | REGISTRATION & PAYMENT #1 DUE on GroupSpot |
| Monday, May 11 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM | 2026 Kick-Off & Organizational Meeting RHS Campus Center ***MANDATORY for student and a parent/guardian*** |
| Thursday, May 14 | 3:45 – 5:45 PM | Parade Rehearsal #1 RHS (for parade participants only) |
| Monday, May 18 | 3:45 – 6:15 PM | Full Band Spring Rehearsal #1 RHS |
| Wednesday, May 20 | 3:30 – 6:30 PM | Returning Member Uniform Fitting (Time sign up on GroupSpot) |
| Thursday, May 21 | 3:30 – 6:30 PM | NEW Member Uniform Fitting (Time sign up on GroupSpot) |
| Thursday, May 28 | 3:45 – 6:15 PM | Full Band Spring Rehearsal #2 RHS |

June

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---|
| Wednesday, June 10 | 3:45 – 6:15 PM | Full Band Spring Rehearsal #3 RHS |
| Friday, June 12 | 3:45 – 5:45 PM | Parade Rehearsal #2 RHS (for parade participants only) |
| Thursday, June 25 | 3:45 – 5:45 PM | Parade Rehearsal #3 RHS (for parade participants only) |

July

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| Thursday, July 2 | 3:00 – 6:00 PM 6:00 – 8:00 PM | Parade Dress Rehearsal RHS (for parade participants only) RHSMB Family BBQ (location TBD) |
| Friday, July 3 | 11:00 AM | Philadelphia Salute to Independence Day Parade |
| Saturday, July 4 | 9:00-11:00 AM | Ridgewood July 4 th Parade |

Band Camp Schedule

Band Camp is vital to the success of our season and are where we learn the basic fundamentals of marching band! ALL students are expected to attend ALL weeks of camp. **Note:** the second week is a sleep-away camp.

Band Camp @ RHS

Monday, August 10 – Friday, August 14

Exact Daily Schedule available on GroupSpot

Band Camp @ TLC (Timber Lake Camp)

Sunday, August 16 – Friday, August 21

Post Camp @ RHS

Tuesday, August 25 – Thursday, August 27 (4-7 PM)



2026 RHS Marching Band FALL TENTATIVE Calendar

This page contains **TENTATIVE** Marching Band Calendar info for the 2026 Fall Season. Students are required to attend ALL rehearsals, performances and activities. Any conflicts for the season should be communicated ASAP.

Our **full season calendar** can be viewed in the 2026 RHSMB GroupSpot group! Join the group (instructions on page 3 of this packet) and check out the FULL calendar from start to finish.

TYPICAL WEEKLY SCHEDULE

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Full Band Rehearsal 3:45-6:15pm | Sectionals 3:45-6:15pm | Full Band Rehearsal 3:45-6:15pm | OFF | Full Band Rehearsal 3:45-6:15pm OR Football Game | Full Band Rehearsal 9AM-4PM OR Competition (Timing dictated by performance time and location) |

* Saturdays are an important day for the RHSMB. Please block out the ENTIRE day! *

Rehearsals take place at two locations: (1) Kenilworth Field is located across from Somerville School on South Pleasant Ave (2) The RHS Main Football field is the main turf field at RHS. **In the event of inclement weather**, rehearsal will be held in an indoor facility (band room/campus center), which will be announced that day by email and GroupSpot notification. **We will ALWAYS have rehearsal!**

2026 Performance Calendar Ridgewood HS Marching Band

Friday, September 4: Home Football Game vs Hackensack HS
 Wednesday, September 16: Band Association Preview Performance
 Friday, September 18: Home Football Game vs Eastside HS
 Friday, September 25: Home Football Game vs Northern Highlands HS (7/8 Gr MB Night!)
 Saturday, September 26: USBands Competition at Ramsey HS
 Saturday, October 3: Marine Corps Invitational Competition at Navy-Marine Corps Stadium
 Friday, October 9: Home Football Game vs Teaneck HS (Senior Night)
 Saturday, October 17: USBands Competition at Old Bridge HS
 Saturday, October 24: USBands Competition at Northern Highlands HS
 Saturday, October 31: USBands NJ State Championships Competition at TBD
 Saturday, November 7: USBands National Championships at MetLife Stadium
 Friday, December 4: Ridgewood Downtown for the Holidays



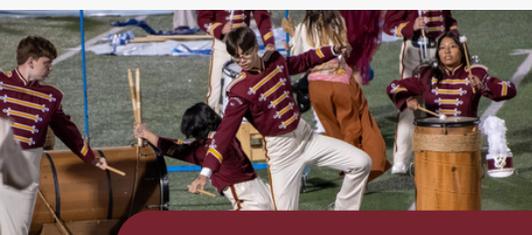
IMPORTANT – REGARDING FOOTBALL GAMES: The RHSMB performs at all home football games during the regular season **and playoffs**. Tentative playoff games are noted on the full calendar.

* ANY CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE WILL BE MADE WITH AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE!!! *

PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE ANY APPOINTMENTS OR COLLEGE VISITS, ETC. THAT WILL CONFLICT WITH REHEARSALS OR PERFORMANCES!!! YOU HAVE MADE A COMMITMENT TO THE RHS MARCHING BAND, AND HAVE THEREFORE AGREED TO ADHERE TO THIS CALENDAR.

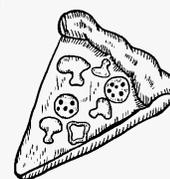


RHS Marching Band



2026 RHSMB Open House & Show Announcement Pizza Party

Thursday, April 9 | 6:15-7:30PM
RHS Campus Center



- Meet the students, parents and staff of the RHSMB
- Learn about the sections of the RHSMB
 - Brass, Woodwinds, Percussion & Color Guard
- Ask ALL of your questions about the RHSMB
- **Find out what the 2026 RHSMB show will be!**
- Eat pizza & win some prizes!

Current and NEW members and families
are ALL INVITED!

RSVP @ www.rhsbands.org





RHS MARCHING BAND PERCUSSION

2026 INTEREST MEETING

Meet the RHSMB Percussion staff | Receive Placement Audition
Materials | Find out HOW to be a part of the 2026 Percussion Section

Friday, April 17 – 3:30–5:00pm

Location: Ridgewood HS Band Room (150)

Email Mr. Fink (Perc Director) with questions: gfink@rpsnj.us

Visit us at www.rhsbands.org
[@ridgewoodhsband](https://www.instagram.com/ridgewoodhsband)



RIDGEWOOD HS MARCHING BAND COLOR GUARD



Learn to Spin Flag, Rifle, Sabre...and Dance!

Monday, April 13

5:00 – 6:00 PM
RHS Band Room

Questions? Email:

rhscolorguard@ridgewood.k12.nj.us

Instagram: [rhs_color_guard](#)

2026 Interest Meeting

Come meet the staff and learn how you can be a part of the 2026 RHS Color Guard!

**BEST COLOR GUARD
2024 USBANDS NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIPS**



Visit us at www.rhsbands.org