



SKG BANDS

FAQs/Common Concerns

Who can join the Seckinger Bands?

Any current Seckinger High School student that participated in band at the middle school level is welcome to participate in the Seckinger Bands! Students without previous band experience should reach out directly to the high school band directors for more information.

How can I participate in the Seckinger Band Program?

Concert Bands - Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band
Jaguar Marching Band (fall)
Color Guard (fall, with marching band)
Winterguard (winter)
Small Ensembles
Jazz Band (spring)

What Band Classes are there?

Concert band is the central focus of the Seckinger Bands. Our primary goal is to provide students with a quality music education and a lifelong love for music and learning that in turn helps them to become great members of their community. We have several concert band classes offered for Seckinger students. In band class, we focus on improving instrument fundamentals and musicianship at the individual level while performing quality literature in each class.

Classes Offered:

Concert Band (Beginning Band) *There is nothing beginning about it!

- Brass Class
- Woodwinds Class
- Percussion Class

Symphonic Band (Intermediate Band)

Wind Symphony (Mastery Band)

How do I sign up for band class?

Registering for band class is simple - students will select "Band" as one of their top three choices when selecting electives. The band directors will make sure each student is placed in the correct level ensemble. All students must have prior band experience in middle school to join high school band. If a student did not take middle school band but has experience playing a band instrument, they should reach out directly to the band director via email at hannah.cavender@gcpsk12.org.

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Rising 10th-12 graders will complete a placement audition in January each year to determine which class they will be in the following year. This audition is not to “get in” but only to be placed correctly.

Rising 9th graders will automatically be placed in the Concert Band. If they are interested in being placed in a higher level ensemble, students can complete the optional placement audition. These auditions will typically be due by the end of January. Information will be passed out through the Jones MS band directors.

Do you have an instrument for me to play?

The Seckinger Bands provide the following instrument rentals directly from the school: oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, bari saxophone, french horn, euphonium, tuba, and percussion instruments. If your instrument is not listed, the band directors can help you find an instrument rental through a local music store.

Do I have to provide my own mouthpiece and instrument accessories?

All students are expected to provide their own accessories for their instrument: mouthpiece, ligature, reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc. Recommended brands and stores to purchase from can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1C-oIR0KxDSNkBHV7LPPF52Ay5aEE4GpKnDQP5MlxGVP4/edit?usp=sharing>

I don't think I have room for band class in my schedule.

In almost all cases, there is a way to make it work! If you are having trouble fitting band into your class schedule, please reach out to the band directors and we will be happy to help! Seckinger High School allows students to take 7 classes during the day (one more than most other high schools), so there is space to continue in band class while also trying new electives. If you are not currently registered for band, email us and we can get band back on your schedule.

What is the Jaguar Marching Band?

The Jaguar Marching Band, also referred to as JMB, is the most visible part of the band program at Seckinger. JMB performs regularly at school functions and community events such as all football games (both in the stands and during halftime), school pep rallies, and sometimes local events. JMB also competes in local marching band competitions.

Why should I join band/marching band?

The number one reason why students join band/marching band and stay in is because of the **friendships** they form with their peers. Band (especially marching band) eases a student's transition into high school and guarantees that they have a

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supportive and positive peer group to depend on when they walk in for their first day of school. Students will develop important life skills such as **time management**, prioritization, team building, and work ethic. There are many opportunities for leadership development and community service that all look great on college applications and resumes!

Who can join the marching band?

Any woodwind, brass, or percussion student enrolled in a band class at Seckinger may join the marching band! The Guard is open to all high school students. Guard students do not have to be registered for a band class.

How do I register for marching Band?

Registration for marching band will begin in April each year. Information will be posted on the band website and passed along through the Jones Middle School band directors.

I'm not sure I can do what they do on the field.

Don't worry! Everyone was a beginner at some point. Playing while marching or moving while spinning equipment is something that comes much quicker than you'd realize. We spend a great deal of time working on fundamentals each year, giving the new members an opportunity to learn while the returning members refine their skills.

If I am in a band class, do I have to do marching band?

Students are not required to be in the marching band, but all students are highly encouraged to join the marching band because of the numerous benefits. Students will play more in one marching band season than an entire year in middle school, which makes them better and stronger musicians! The marching band also provides students with a wonderful community and helps ease their transition into high school over the summer during band camp.

How long is the marching band season?

We officially begin our marching band season with a few rehearsals at Spring Training in May. Students who wish to participate in percussion or color guard need to attend clinics/auditions in April. Band Camp occurs for two weeks in mid-July. Our competitive marching season runs through the month of October. The band continues to support the football team through the remainder of their regular season and state playoffs.

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What is Marching Band Camp?

Students will learn how to march, play while marching, play in the outdoor environment, and the importance of team membership to create a musical experience. Students will receive instruction from staff members in marching and playing in both individual and ensemble settings. Many bonds are formed in marching band camp. In addition to marching and playing, ideals of trust, responsibility, teamwork, goal setting and achievement, and character are all components of the camp experience.

Band Camp typically takes place for two weeks in mid-July and is held on the campus of Seckinger High School. All rehearsals at band camp are mandatory for all members. In addition to forming strong bonds, students will learn over 50% of their show during camp and it is extremely difficult to get caught up from absences. Please plan Summer vacations and doctor visits around the dates of band camp. Students who are employed should submit these dates as soon as possible to ensure time off.

I don't think I have time for marching band because I am involved in many activities.

Many current members participate in many other clubs, sports, and community groups while still participating in marching band. In fact, several students hold leadership positions in band and other activities.

What is Color Guard?

The Seckinger Guard is an integral visual component of the Jaguar Marching Band. Guard members use many skill sets such as dancing and spinning equipment (flags, rifles, sabre). Any high school student is eligible to audition for the Color Guard. No prior experience is necessary (but a background in dance helps tremendously!). Auditions are held at the end of April each year.

What is the Winterguard?

Winterguard was created to provide guard students with a year-round experience to refine their skills and perform. While the band students have concert band classes all year, the guard students have the winterguard season to continue to grow. The winterguard season begins in late November with auditions and runs through the beginning of April each year. The winterguard performs to a recorded track indoors. They attend 3-5 local competitions each season. No prior experience is necessary (but a background in dance helps tremendously!). Auditions are held at the end of April each year.

Does the band travel?

The Jaguar Marching Band will travel to various competitions and away football games. Additional trips, for both marching band and the concert bands, will be coming in the future!

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Can you “Letter” in band?

Yes! Students who participate in one marching band season “letter” in band and are eligible to buy a letterman jacket.

Are there any Graduation Honor Cords for band?

Yes! Students can receive honor cords by making All-State Band or Governor’s Honors Program, being a member of the Jaguar Marching Band Leadership Team, or joining the music honor society Tri M.

Is there a cost to participate in band?

The cost of running a band program and giving the students a quality experience can be very high at times. In order to keep the band program running smoothly, we do have some fees associated with band class, marching band, and winterguard. Financial hardships will never keep a student from participating in the Seckinger Bands. Our Band Booster treasurer and president will work with families to ensure all students have the opportunity to participate in the band program. We offer several fundraising opportunities to offset the cost of band dues. Some of our families never make a payment out of pocket because they participate in all our fundraisers!

Contact Information

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