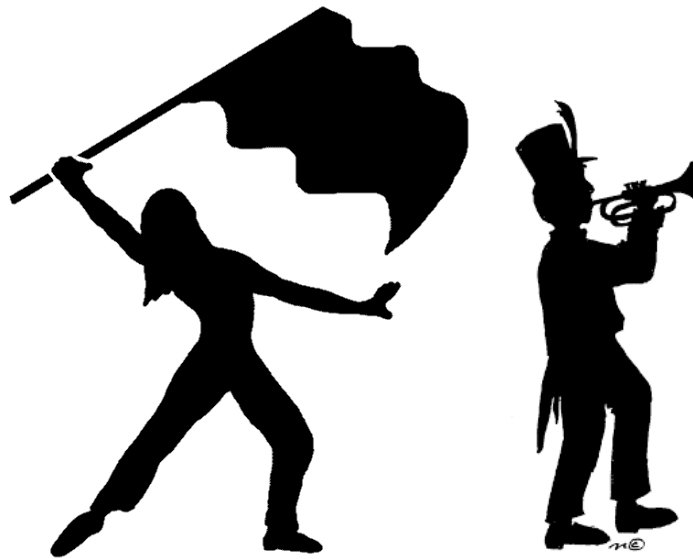


RANDOLPH **MARCHING RAMS**



Randolph Marching Rams Handbook

Welcome to the Randolph Marching Rams! Our program is founded on the belief that with proper instruction and encouragement, our band can learn, enjoy, and benefit from participation in marching band. The Marching Rams believe that through practice, performance, and competition, our students benefit physically, mentally and socially; life skills are strengthened; and the community at large, both through participation and observation, is united in the art of marching pageantry. The Marching Rams do not limit participation by skill level, therefore, we are all inclusive and one of the biggest organizations in the school. We strive to provide an environment that focuses on education and social development. Our goal is to have fun while staying musically and physically active!

Purpose of the Marching Rams

- Support the football team; rally the school and community during varsity games
- Provide an outlet for band students to regularly perform on a unique outdoor stage
- Implement and reinforce the band curriculum through the idiom of the Marching Arts
- Achieve musical and visual excellence through the idiom of the Marching Arts
- Learn life skills through the commitment, dedication, and hard work required in Marching Band
- Develop a life-long love of music in our students

MARCHING SEASON: The marching band season is from August to November, from summer rehearsals to the last football playoff. For colorguard and percussion, there are earlier spring practices that are beneficial to attend but are not part of the official marching band calendar.

REHEARSALS: Practices are held Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm-9pm for colorguard only, on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm-9:15pm for the full marching band, and Thursday evenings from 7pm-9pm for percussion only. Any changes in the rehearsal schedule due to holidays are listed in the schedule which can be found on www.bandsofrandolph.com. Students are expected to attend 100% of scheduled practices unless there is an excused absence and an email has been sent to the Director by a parent. Students are expected to wear appropriate athletic attire for rehearsal as we will be doing physical activity.

FOOTBALL GAMES/PERFORMANCES: Football games are Friday evenings and occasionally on Saturdays. Students are expected to attend 100% of scheduled games/performances unless there is an excused absence and an email has been sent to the Director by a parent. All pieces of equipment and uniform parts are expected to be brought to games/performances.

COMPETITIONS: The Marching Rams compete in about 5-6 competitions per season. They occur on Saturdays and occasionally Sundays. We will be rehearsing before the competitions

and traveling together to the competition site, therefore these are usually an all day affair. Students are expected to attend 100% of scheduled competitions unless there is an excused absence and an email has been sent to the Director by a parent.

REGISTRATION: The initial Marching Band Registration goes out with the electronic “May Mailing” that is sent to all 8-11th grade band members. You will select the students participation in Marching Band on the yearly Directory Form. It is important that you get these forms submitted by the due date as we have to finalize numbers to order/size uniforms and set our drill numbers for the show. All forms, including the medical forms, must be completed before you can participate with the MRAMS at the start of the season.

Once all paperwork has been completed, the student will be added to the marching band roster. Please make sure to let us know when e-mails or phone numbers change. Any changes can be sent to: nfantazzi@rtnj.org. We cannot stress enough that students are not allowed to practice or compete until all paperwork is current and on file with the school – NO EXCEPTIONS!

Colorguard

What Should We Expect?

Marching Band is a physical activity. You will be constantly moving around the field in drill and with colorguard you are adding dance and aerobic movements with your equipment. This takes a lot of physical stamina. Therefore, our practices include a lot of physical conditioning. You will have to participate in:

- Running
- Speed Drills
- Arm Strengthening (Push Ups, Lifting, etc.)
- Any other conditioning that may be helpful for the intensity of the show
- Individual practice and stretching outside of rehearsals

The Marching Rams relies on a mix of school budget, fundraising, and self funding to support our operations. Typical costs to support our team in any given year include:

- Uniform practice clothes
- Uniforms and equipment
- Celebration events to honor our students
- Miscellaneous social activities, etc.

The cost for participation with the Marching Rams season varies by season. Most costs are covered by the school budget and fundraising. Most self funding is done during the first year of participation as shoes and practice gear are used throughout your time with the Marching Rams.

Required Uniform & Practice Gear

- Uniform Shoes (*See July mailing for order form; ~\$40*)
- Required practice gear
 - 2 tops (t-shirts, tanks or mix of both), 1 bottom (shorts or pants), backpack or cinch bag (est ~\$120 total).
 - If you would like to bring things to the stands during a football game or on the bus for a competition, the team backpack or cinch bag will be required depending on how much space you will need. For competition days, the backpack is recommended.
 - These items can be purchased during the student's initial season and replaced as needed.
 - Any additional pieces are optional, but recommended for the different temperatures.
- To purchase the required colorguard practice gear, please order from the band's SpiritWear store. The link to this store will be emailed out in July and also posted on our website!

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Volunteers play a unique and indispensable role with The Marching Rams in a variety of capacities. Our volunteers provide support to our program beyond what the school and staff can provide.

Each family is expected to volunteer in support of the marching band. It is asked of you to commit to one of the following each calendar year:

- Provide snack or water donations for the marching band
- Serve as a Roadie (actively support the band at game performances and/or competitions)
- Serve on the BPA board
- Volunteer at Under the Stars (our home marching band competition)

Please note: No experience is necessary to serve as a volunteer. Each family is encouraged to participate in at least one event per year.

Student Responsibilities/Attendance Policy

All Students are expected to conduct themselves at practices and competitions as outlined in the Student code of conduct. As appropriate, students are expected to support fundraising activities and take an active role in supporting team activities.

All members of our co-curricular and extra-curricular ensembles and group are expected to attend all scheduled rehearsals, practices, camps, games, and performances. We strive for excellence in our groups, which can only be maintained by total commitment of all the members.

One unexcused absence may result in a reduction of performance opportunities for the individual involved. Two unexcused absences may result in removal from the group.

The following reasons will be accepted as excused absences:

- A. Personal illness.
- B. Death in the immediate family.
- C. Weddings involving the immediate family.
- D. Religious observances as approved by NJ State Board of Education
- E. SAT or ACT tests
- F. An RHS sports conflict worked out in advance with the director.

It is particularly important to let your instructor know if you will not be attending any practice, performance, or competition. If you are not attending, a parent or guardian must reach out to the Band Director.

Communications & Contacts

The Marching Rams primary means of communication is via the student's Microsoft Teams account. The Remind App is also used to keep students and parents in the loop of any updates. The Colorguard uses the Discord app for guard specific chats and posts. Be sure to check both of these for any updates and announcements.

If a student or parent/guardian has any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the staff directly. For the latest news and information, please follow The Bands of Randolph on any of the following:

Website: bandsorandolph.com

FaceBook: facebook.com/bandsorandolph

Twitter: twitter.com/bandsorandolph

Marching Rams Contacts

Director of Bands	Nick Fantazzi	nfantazzi@rtnj.org
Associate Marching Band Director	Sam Piepoli	spaszkiel@rtnj.org
Assistant Marching Band Director	Phil Martin	pmartin@rtnj.org
Percussion Coordinator	Anthony Eskin	aeskin@rtnj.org
Head Colorguard Instructor	Stephanie Montoya	stephanie.montoya92@gmail.com
Supervisor of Visual and Performing Arts	John Di Egidio	jdiegidio@rtnj.org

Marching Member Code of Conduct

The Randolph Marching Rams are committed to the highest ideals of pageantry and expects the highest standard of student behavior to ensure the safety and well-being of all students involved in training and competition. All students are also expected to abide by the Code of Conduct and standards of behavior as established by the Randolph Board of Education.

SPORTSMANSHIP • I will practice good sportsmanship. • I will act in ways that bring respect to my instructors, team, and me. • I will not use bad language. • I will not swear or say mean things about other persons. • I will not fight (either with a loud voice or hitting) with other students, instructors, officials, volunteers, or other staff. • I will listen to directions given by my instructors. • I will not make inappropriate or unwanted physical, verbal, or sexual advances on others.

PRACTICING AND COMPETITION • I will practice regularly, participating fully in each rehearsal to the best of my ability. • I will let my instructor know when I will not be at rehearsal. • I will learn and follow the rules of my activity. • I will listen to my instructors and ask questions when I do not understand. • I will let the instructors teach and will not attempt to teach my fellow teammates unless asked to do so by the instructors or leadership. • I will always try my best during rehearsals, performances, and competitions.

TEAM EXPECTATIONS • I will have all medical forms submitted to the school and the band director prior to the FIRST day of practice or I will not be able to participate. • I must have my parents email the Director if I know I am not going to be at a rehearsal, a game, or a competition. • I must regularly attend rehearsals in order to participate in the performances or competitions. • I will have all necessary pieces of equipment and uniform parts for practices, performances, and competitions or I may not be allowed to perform or compete. • I understand that it is a privilege to participate and not a right. I also understand that if I do not obey this Code of Conduct, I may not be allowed to participate.

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

The Marching Rams are committed to the highest ideals of musical pageantry and expects all parents and spectators to honor the skill and art. All Marching Rams parents/guardians and spectators agree to observe the following code:

- Remember students are participating for their enjoyment and for the love of the activity.
- Applaud good performances and efforts from all individuals and teams. Congratulate all participants on their performance, regardless of the competition's outcome.
- Focus on the students' effort and performance, rather than whether they win or lose.
- Encourage students to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at students, instructors or other spectators or parents for making a mistake or losing the competition.

- Respect the decisions of officials and teach students to do the same.
- Swearing and/or inappropriate language will not be tolerated at Marching Rams events or practices.
- Inappropriate behaviors during practices, performances, or competitions will not be tolerated and the parent or spectator may be asked to leave the event.
- All medical forms must be submitted to the school and the band director prior to the FIRST day of practice or your child will not be able to participate.
- Students that do not participate regularly in rehearsals will not be able to participate in performances or competitions.
- I must email and let the Director know if my child will not be at practice.