



Developing Lifelong Excellence in Young People Through a Variety of Music Education Experiences.

New Member Information Packet

East Paulding High School

2025-2026 Season

Director: Josh Robichaux

Assistant Director: Dawson Burnes



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Welcome to the East Bands Family!

We are very excited that you will be joining the East Bands Family in the fall. Our band program has had some incredible accomplishments over the past few years and now you can be a part of that. The Raider Brigade was named Class 4A Grand Champions at the Old South Marching Contest and recently perform at the 2024 New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade, both concert bands have repeatedly received superior ratings at the GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluations and the Wind Ensemble is currently recording for submission to the Music for All Concert Band Clinic at Georgia State University. We are constantly pushing the envelope with innovation and exposure to all things music and would love for you to be a part of that experience!

You are about to embark on a journey that is sure to be one of the best experiences of your entire life. You will make new friends and lots of memories while becoming a part of one of the greatest families in the entire Paulding County community. This packet provides some vital information you will need that will allow you to become part of the band program. Feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Prior to beginning the 2025-2026 school year, all students entering the East Paulding High School Band Program will perform a class placement assessment. This will determine which ensemble you will be placed in for the upcoming school year. Students playing a wind instrument who do not perform their placement assessment will be automatically placed in the 1st-period Concert Band. All 8th grade students wanting to be in band in 9th grade must sign up for either 1st period or 2nd period band (wind instruments only), 4th period percussion class, or 4th period color guard class. Upon the spring assessment, schedule adjustments may be made at that time. Clarification on scheduling is found in this packet.

Sincerely,

Josh Robichaux
Director of Bands
East Paulding High School



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About the East Bands Program

The co-curricular band program at East Paulding High School consists of three concert bands, two percussion ensembles, two visual ensembles (Color Guard & Winterguard), marching band, and various small ensembles.

- **Concert Band** (1st period band, tentative): this ensemble is a performance-based ensemble that will perform level 2-3 literature. Students will mainly be 9th graders.
- **Symphonic Band** (2nd period band): this ensemble is a performance-based ensemble that will perform level 3-5 literature. Students may consist of grades 9-12.
- **Wind Ensemble** (3rd period band): Acceptance into this ensemble is by audition only. This ensemble is a performance-based ensemble with a set instrumentation that will perform level 6 literature. Students may consist of grades 9-12. The wind ensemble is considered to be the premier instrumental ensemble at East Paulding High School, with the ensemble's approach to music-making modeled after a collegiate-level program.
- **Percussion Ensemble** (4th period - fall semester): all percussionists accepted into the percussion ensemble are automatically registered for this class. Percussionists are required to be in the marching band in order to perform with the percussion ensemble. A post-audition roster will be given to the counselor to ensure students are placed in the correct class.
- **Color Guard (Marching Band & Winter Guard)** (4th period - fall semester): all guard members accepted into the ensemble are automatically registered for this class. Color guard members are required to be in marching band to perform with the winter guard. A post-audition roster will be given to the counselor to ensure students are placed in the correct class. Members who are instrumentalist will be placed in a concert band 2nd semester.
- **Marching Band**: all students in grades 9-12 are eligible to perform in the Grand Champion, Raider Brigade Marching Band regardless of which ensemble you are in.
- **Small Ensembles**: all students in grades 9-12 are eligible to perform in our small ensemble program. These extracurricular ensembles meet outside of school hours.



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IMPORTANT BAND DATES!

2025-2026 SEASON

New Member Student/Parent Informational Meeting

April 1 @ 6:00 pm - EPHS Band Room

*For all incoming freshmen and new **students and parents** to the EPHS band.*

Class Placement Performance Assessment

Incoming Freshmen will be auditioned at their middle schools

For all incoming freshmen and current band students.

Percussion & Color Guard - Audition Camp

May 12-16 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - EPHS Band Room

ALL percussion students must attend the entire camp.

Marching Band Rookie Camp (Winds Only)

May 12-15 @ 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - EPHS Band Room

ALL rising freshman, new 2024-2025 high school band students, and leadership team.

Band BBQ All Rising Members and HS Members

May 15 @ 5:00 pm - EPHS Gym

ALL rising freshman and High School Members will perform together for our annual BBQ Fundraiser!

Band Sign-Up Night - All Students

Friday, May 16 @ 6:00 pm - EPHS Theater

ALL band students and parents must attend (not just marching band students)

Paperwork is due for ALL Students

Deposit is due to secure your spot for marching band only ONLY!

Marching Band Show Announcement, Trip INformation, and General Information Meeting

Summer Band Camp

*All woodwind, brass, percussion & color guard. **ALL MUST ATTEND!***

Percussion, Color Guard, Rookies, and Leadership Camp: July 9-10 from 9:00 am - 5:00pm

ALL MARCHING MEMBERS July 11 from 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

ALL MARCHING MEMBERS July 14-18 from 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

ALL MARCHING MEMBERS July 21-22 from 9:00 am - 8:00 pm*

There will be a preview performance on Wednesday, **July 22 @ 7:00 pm at EPHS Main Gym**



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Class Placement Performance Assessment Information

2025-2026 SEASON

Brass & Woodwind Class Placement Performance Assessment

- This assessment is NOT for acceptance into the program. This is simply just to identify which band class to put you in for the next school year.
- Your assessment will only take a few minutes.
- Assessments will take place at your middle school
- Requirements:
 - Prepared Etude (etude will be provided)
 - 1/2 octave major scales with arpeggio
 - You will be given **2 minutes** to play as many as possible.
 - Chromatic Scale

Percussion Audition Camp

- Your audition will take place over the course of 5 days.
- You must be present the entire time.
- The audition material will come from the technique book that will be provided to you prior to auditions.
- Your progress over the 5-day audition camp will determine the best instrument for you to play during the fall marching band season.
- All students play all instruments for the concert band.
- Upon acceptance into the percussion section, all marching band percussionists must be signed up for the percussion class (fourth period) in the fall.

Color Guard Audition Camp

- Your audition will take place over the course of 5 days.
- You must be present the entire time.
- There is no prepared audition material.
- Flag, movement, rifle, and saber will be taught.
- Specific equipment assignments will be determined depending on the staging of the show. For example: you do not “make” the rifle line. You make the color guard.
- Your progress over the 5-day audition process will determine your acceptance into the ensemble.
- Upon acceptance into the color guard, all color guard members must be signed up for the color guard class (fourth period) in the fall.



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How To Register For Band in Infinite Campus

2025-2026 SEASON

There are two concert bands during the school day, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. Wind players do not have to audition to be in the East Paulding High School Symphonic Band or Marching Band. To be considered in the wind ensemble you must play your audition during our visit to the middle school. We also have an auditioned color guard and percussion class. To be considered in the color guard or percussion ensemble you must attend the audition camp in May. Please go ahead and register for the class that you prefer. Schedules will then be adjusted upon auditions. Please make sure you are registered for the correct class in Infinite Campus listed below.

Fall Symphonic Band - 2nd Period

Open to any student wanting to be in our band program.

To sign up you must register in Infinite Campus for:

- 9th Grade - BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE I (53.0741)**
- 10th Grade - BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE II (53.0742)**
- 11th Grade - BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE III (53.0743)**
- 12th Grade - BEGINNING INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE IV (53.0744)**

Fall Wind Ensemble - 3rd Period

Participation in this ensemble is by audition only.

If accepted into this ensemble you will need to register Infinite Campus for:

- 9th Grade - ADVANCED BAND I (53.0381)**
- 10th Grade - ADVANCED BAND II (53.0382)**
- 11th Grade - ADVANCED BAND III (53.0383)**
- 12th Grade - ADVANCED BAND IV (53.0384)**

Fall Color Guard - 4th Period

Participation in this ensemble is by audition only.

If accepted into this ensemble you will need to register Infinite Campus for:

- 9th Grade - INTERMEDIATE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE I (53.0751)**
- 10th Grade - INTERMEDIATE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE II (53.0752)**
- 11th Grade - INTERMEDIATE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE III (53.0753)**
- 12th Grade - INTERMEDIATE INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE IV (53.0754)**

Fall Percussion - 4th Period

Participation in this ensemble is by audition only.

If accepted into this ensemble you will need to register Infinite Campus for:

- 9th Grade - ADVANCED INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE I (53.0761)**
- 10th Grade - ADVANCED INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE II (53.0762)**
- 11th Grade - ADVANCED INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE III (53.0763)**
- 12th Grade - ADVANCED INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE IV (53.0764)**



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Frequently Asked Questions

Is high school band hard?

Band requires hard work and commitment. It is also probably the most rewarding thing you will do in your entire high school career. Every student in our program comes away saying that it was worth it to create something so incredibly life-changing with their family and friends.

Does band cost money?

Yes. The EPHS band boosters provide numerous fundraising opportunities each school year to help pay for the costs of running the band program. There are however individual student fees to participate which are covered at the new member meeting and band sign-up night.

Who teaches the band?

The EPHS band program has 2 full-time band directors, 1 full-time percussion director, 1 full-time color guard director, and 10-15 part-time staff members over the course of the school year. We are very fortunate to be able to say that our band staff is one of the best in the activity ranging from college students to college professors, and professional performers.

How big is the band?

The EPHS Band program has many different major ensembles and serves approximately 140 students. In 2023-2024, the largest ensemble was the marching band with approx 125 members. A majority of band members do participate in the marching band!

Is the EPHS Band good?

Yes. The Marching Band has recently named the 2019 Old South Marching Contest Grand Champion and was 2022 & 2023 Reserve Grand Champion while also consistently placing in the top 5 of every contest entered. The Wind Ensemble plays a variety of music including collegiate-level music and was selected and performed a concert at Carnegie Hall, NY. The Winter Guard was named SAPA AA-Champions for the entire Southeast United States! Our Percussion Ensemble was selected to perform at the Lassiter High School Percussion Symposium in April of 2020 and continues to perform a variety of solo and ensemble literature. Each year we have numerous students get accepted into a variety of honor bands and honor events throughout the state of Georgia. Many of our students go to college on music scholarships.

Does the EPHS Band provide instruments?

The EPHS Band provides most percussion and some of the larger brass and woodwind instruments. In most cases, if an instrument was provided in middle school, it would also be provided in high school. If the student is playing on a school-owned instrument there is a \$50 fee that will be added to the student's account for maintenance and repairs.



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Frequently Asked Questions Continued...

Do I have to memorize my music?

Only for marching band... However, you rehearse the music so frequently that this happens without you even realizing it.

Does the EPHS Band travel?

Yes! The EPHS band has been to places such as Walt Disney World, New Orleans, Washington D.C., and even New York City. We travel every 2 years with a BIG Trip every 4.

Does the EPHS Band use trombones?

We use trombones for the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band (all of the inside, "sit-down" bands) and use marching baritones for the marching band (outside band). A marching baritone will be provided for you, and is very easy to learn as a trombone player (IE: It only takes a couple of days.) Almost all of our trombone players prefer baritone once they know how to play both.

Will I be able to keep my grades up and do band?

EPHS Band members are academically some of the highest achieving students in the entire school! It is not a coincidence that the EPHS band students have some of the highest GPAs and are the most college-bound students of any program. Being a part of the EPHS band program ensures that students learn time-management skills and work ethic, and also surrounds them with other high-achieving students.

Can I play a high school sport or JROTC and still do band?

Typically, playing a fall sport, and doing band is simply not possible. However, we will always do our very best to work alongside other activities to allow the students to not have to choose between programs. The EPHS Band program is however full of students who participate in spring sports. The EPHS Band, Chorus, Drama, and JROTC programs work/schedule very well together.

Do I have to come to band camp to be in band?

Yes. Attending Band Camp and ALL rehearsals is required to be in marching band. Every student must attend everything (even if it conflicts with a vacation or other various events). This is non-negotiable.

How often do you rehearse?

The bands rehearse every day during school. The frequency of rehearsal depends on the ensemble you are participating in. You will be provided a full calendar which is available on the band website, www.eastbands.com



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Does band count as a career pathway toward graduation?

Yes! Every student must have a career pathway in order to graduate. As long as you stay in band, you will complete this graduation requirement.

How do I fix my schedule to get in the correct band class?

Mr. Robichaux will sit down and place every band student in the correct class once auditions are completed during post planning. You will be able to get the classes you need as we are prioritized due to the band classes students are locked into.

BRASS & WOODWIND CLASS PLACEMENT PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT!

*All students are required to play.

*Students who do not play will automatically be placed in the 1st or 2nd period, Symphonic/ Concert Band.

This will happen at your middle school based on the schedule that works best for your directors.



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NEW MEMBER STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

*This meeting is for ALL new students/parents that
want to be a part of our program!

Monday, April 1, 2025
6:00 pm
EPHS Band Room



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BAND ROOKIE CAMP!

*All incoming Freshmen and the 2025-2026 Leadership Students must attend all days for the entire time!

Monday - Thursday
May 12-15, 2025
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
EPHS Band Room



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PERCUSSION AUDITIONS!

*Must attend all days for the entire time!

Monday - Friday
May 12-16, 2025
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
EPHS Band Room



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COLOR GUARD AUDITIONS!

*Must attend all days for the entire time!

Monday - Friday
May 12-16, 2025
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
EPHS Band Room



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OFFICIAL BAND SIGN-UP NIGHT!

*ALL Students wishing to be a part of our program must turn in the signed paperwork which will be provided. (Not just marching band)

*A deposit must be paid in order to secure your spot in the marching band only.

Thursday, May 16, 2025
6:00 pm
EPHS Theater