



Irondale ***Marching*** ***Knights***

ABOUT THE MARCHING BAND

The marching band is made up of three sections – the hornline, drumline and color guard.

The Irondale Marching Band is one of the elite marching bands in the United States. They consistently earn high rankings as a result of the hard work and dedication of the students, staff and families.

The band has achieved many top honors in the last few years including Class AA Champions at the Band of America super regional competition in St. Louis in 2010 and over 50 first place and grand champion honors in the past decade.



ABOUT THE COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard creates motion and incorporates traditional equipment such as flags, sabers and rifles. Color Guard members do not need prior experience. Many of our guard members are choir, orchestra, theater, dance or art enthusiasts. Auditions are not necessary.

Everyone is welcome.

“It’s a great place to meet new people and have fun – I met so many kids as a freshman in the band that it was much easier starting high school in the fall.”

“My experience in the Irondale Marching Knights provided me with a full and balanced high school experience. I was able to “do it all” – two sports, marching band, pep band and A’s and B’s in the classroom!”

– Andy Schmidt,
Highview Middle School
Band Director

WHAT IS A FIELD SHOW?

The Marching Knights compete in a field show format. Field shows are band competitions held on a football field. The band performs music while marching intricate movements on a field similar to a half-time performance. It’s exciting to watch and rewarding to march! The schedule consists of approximately eight to ten shows held on Saturdays and Sundays in September and October.

The Irondale Marching Knights also perform in three parades and halftime at home football games.



“Before I became a Knight, I was heading down a path that wasn’t good for me – I now have higher expectations of myself. The program demands much of us – the challenge is ongoing. I think it’s crazy not to be involved with the Marching Knights.”

“This is a once in a lifetime experience – you can’t get these feelings in any other high school activity! It’s amazing how much it changes you – I used to be very shy, but the program has changed that.”

MYTHBUSTERS

Myth #1: We can never take a summer family vacation.

BUSTED!

Marching band takes a month off during June/July and only marches in three parades which are important, but not required. After band camp in August we need YOU!

Myth #2: Marching band takes over your life.

BUSTED!

Marching band practice begins at 5:30 p.m. during the school year with approximately two practices a week. That leaves time after school for plays, clubs, sports, church activities and dinner with the family. Band students participate in nearly every athletic team in our school. You CAN do sports and band!

Myth #3: I can't take AP or Honors classes and be in the marching band.

BUSTED!

As a matter of fact, the collective GPA in marching band is second highest of all activities at Irondale. Many of our students are AP and Honor Students.

Myth #4: I can't be in the band unless I go to Irondale.

BUSTED!

All students in District 621 high schools are welcome to join, including incoming freshmen and home-schooled kids.

Myth #5: Marching Band is expensive.

BUSTED!

There is a cost to being in the marching band, but we have many opportunities to fund raise to help offset those costs. Band camp and travel expenses are included.

Myth #6: I can't play in the band because I don't play a marching band instrument.

BUSTED!

If you play the piano, guitar, oboe, bassoon, etc., don't let that stop you from considering marching band. The staff will help you find an instrument where you can be successful.

www.irondalebands.org

For questions contact John Sales at president@irondalebands.org

PARENTS TAKE NOTE

- Studies indicate that music education dramatically improves a student's ability to solve complex math and science problems.
- Students who participate in music programs score significantly higher on standardized tests.
- Secondary students who participated in band, orchestra or choir reported the lowest lifetime use of all chemical/tobacco substances – *Texas School Survey of Substance Abuse Among Students*.
- Music participants, on average, receive more academic honors and higher grades.
- **THERE ARE SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLEGE!**

“We're extremely fortunate to have a program of this size in our school. Irondale has a first class reputation throughout Minnesota and the U.S. It's a great opportunity you should not miss out on.”



STUFF FOR STUDENTS

- Everyone has a chance to earn a varsity letter since everyone is a starter – there is no bench!
- There are leadership opportunities.
- You will meet great people and make long-lasting friendships.
- Incoming freshmen are comfortable right away since you will already know over 100 people.
- Color Guard members don't need to be current band members and don't need any previous experience with dance or flags.
- We win a lot of trophies.
- You get to travel with your friends and eat fantastic food!

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The Marching Knights have an active parent booster club that provides support in many ways to the band. The band boosters serve food, help raise money, build props, sew flags, hem uniforms, etc., and have a lot of fun working on it together!