

Ramsey Marching Band & Guard New Parent Information

<https://www.ramseyhighschoolbands.com/>
Ramseybigblue@ramsey.k12.nj.us

Ramsey Band and Guard Parents Association

Michèle McGovern, President

Dori Mendel, Vice President

Carolyn Barrett, Treasurer

Joshua Jenkins, Band Director

- Financial:
 - Required fees:
 - To be in the band there is a yearly fee that helps offset the cost of Band Camp, uniforms, uniform cleanings, competition fees, busses, visiting musicians, etc. (\$375 for regular band members and \$300 for guard)
 - Financial Hardship:
 - If you are unable to pay the required fees due to certain circumstances, please contact Carolyn Barrett for an application. This will be reviewed and full or partial scholarships can be awarded.

- **Practices & Band Competitions:**
 - Marching Band Practice: Wednesday nights from August - November from 6-9 pm.
 - Percussion & Guard Rehearsals: Monday and Thursday nights August - November from 6-9 pm.
 - Jazz Band: (extracurricular ensemble by audition only) Tuesday & Thursday nights November - June from 5-7 pm. There are competitions and performances throughout the season.
 - Wind Ensemble: (audition only) meets during the school day.
 - Concert Band meets during the school day.
 - Competitions are typically Saturdays from September through November. Transportation from the high school is included in the band fees.
 - After Competitions, Band Parents/Guardians (typically senior or junior) volunteer to host a Band Party at their houses where the students eat, watch the recorded competition, and go over how the competition went.
 - Live schedule is located on the website.

- **Holidays & Home Football Games:**
 - The band marches in a few holiday parades each year, including the Ramsey Day Parade, Home for the Holidays, and Memorial Day.
 - The band plays in the Ramsey Football Team's home football games (typically on Friday nights.)

- **Band Camp: August 12-16, 2024**
 - Mandatory for all band members (new and returning)
 - One week during the summer when students learn the music and choreography for the competition season. This is a very fun and busy week and we do not recommend scheduling anything else for your student that week. There are practice and activities during the day and additional events most evenings.
 - Parents are needed to volunteer and/or donate food items to make the physically challenging week easier for the students.
 - The week is divided into 5 days, and each day a few lead volunteers (Day Captains) will be needed to 'run' the day, i.e., ordering the food, making sure there are enough supplies like paper products, etc.
 - In addition, volunteers will be needed to help set up and serve the food each day.
 - We will email a SignUp in advance for volunteers and donations.

- **Hoagie Sales:**
 - To offset some of the fees that the Band Parents Association has to pay for various things, each year all band students sell hoagies.
 - Parents are needed to run hoagies and secure the meat and cheese donations from supermarkets and also ensure there are enough parent volunteers to assist the students to make the hoagies.
 - All parents/guardians are needed the day that hoagies are made and also delivered locally. We will email a SignUp in advance.

- **Home Show: September 28, 2024**
 - A Saturday competition hosted by Ramsey with approximately 10 bands attending.
 - Parents are needed to volunteer on the day of the Home Show to sell tickets, food, 50/50's, etc. We will email a SignUp in advance.

- **Travel:**
 - Throughout the year there may be optional trips/travel opportunities at an additional cost. Please refer to the financial section with any concerns.

- **Volunteer Opportunities - We Need You!**
 - Being a part of the band is a full family effort, and is rewarding for both students and parents! We are excited for you to be a part of this high school community.
 - We would not be able to run our fundraisers without your help! We will send Sign Ups for each event for day volunteers, and we are in need of several Captains and Captain Shadows for our events! We will be sending out a Google Form for these positions.

Please feel free to contact us anytime at ramseybigblue@ramsey.k12.nj.us. We look forward to working together!