

# Patriots Marching Band: What? Who? You!!!

## What is the Patriots Marching Band?

The Patriots Marching Band is a summer marching band that combines band members from St. Anthony Village High School and Spring Lake Park High School. We perform in 6 to 8 competitive parades during the month of June and rehearse approximately 15 times from February-June. We also take a trip to a significant July 4<sup>th</sup> (or similar scale) parade each year.

## Who can join?

All current 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade Band students at St. Anthony Village & Spring Lake Park are eligible to be in Patriots. Choir & non-music students in grades 9-12 are eligible to be in the guard or band front. Note: The majority Patriots members go on the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> trip. However, the trip, while always encouraged, is not required.

## Who deals with all these kids?

**Chris Ravndal**, Executive Director & Music/Brass. St. Anthony Village band teacher

**Brent Turner**, Marching Instructor. U of MN & Madison Scouts Drum Major; runs Youth In Music show

**Caitlin Icart**, Guard Instructor. Veteran color guard/winter guard instructor; St. Anthony band parent

**Kyle Hendren**, Band Director & Music/Woodwinds. band teacher in Buffalo

**(to be named)**, Drumline Instructor. (Mr. Wenkel is in semi-retirement but will help a bit “around the edges.”)

**Andy Erickson**, Trip Coordinator & behind-the-scenes tech help. St. Anthony Village band teacher

## What does it cost to be in Patriots?

### Activity fee

The activity fee is \$262 for both schools (\$250 school activity fee + \$12 for the season t-shirt).

### Trip

The annual trip cost varies yearly. We will march in the 2026 Gatlinburg (Tennessee) July 4<sup>th</sup> parade – a **midnight** parade & thus the first July 4<sup>th</sup> parade in the country each year. A ballpark guess for this year’s trip is \$1200 but will hopefully be less. Cost becomes clearer as trip planning progresses & the trip roster finalizes.

### Fundraising

Several student account fundraisers take place at each school over the course of the year. The directors at each school communicate with their students/parents regularly about their school’s fundraising opportunities.

## Commitment – Tradition - Excellence

Participating in the Patriots Marching Band is a significant but very do-able commitment. Many kids work nearly-full-time summer jobs and never miss Patriots. Many other Patriots participate in school sports or activities, as well as summer sports. The Patriots Marching Band is regarded by many as one of the finest groups of young people at both schools. The commitment, hard work, and passion of Patriots members over the years have established a tradition of high achievement and a first-class reputation for excellence. Patriots alumni look back with pride on their Patriots experience as being extremely worthwhile, memorable, and fun.

## In summary, Patriots Marching Band . . .

- is a high-level Arts-based performance experience which also teaches much about life beyond the Arts;
- teaches students to strive for excellence;
- represents the ultimate in "team" concept because everyone is always contributing: no one sits out;
- stresses individuals' character development and instills a sense of family: commitment & responsibility, discipline, selflessness, pride, dignity of all members, motivation, leadership, self-esteem, & care for others
- teaches students to represent both their individual schools and the Patriots organization with pride, dignity, and class.