
Incoming 9th Grader FAQ

Is Marching Band required for 9th graders?

No, 9th graders are encouraged to be a part of the Davenport Central Marching Blue Devils, but this is not required. Marching band offers many wonderful opportunities for students. The band works as a team to develop a unique musical and visual show to be performed at home football games and regional competitions. Students who participate in marching band improve not only their instrument proficiency and physical conditioning but become better team members and leaders.

9th graders choosing not to participate in marching band are still required to enroll in band all four terms. During marching band season, students choosing not to participate in marching band will begin playing and preparing concert band music.

Are instrument rentals available to incoming 9th graders?

Yes, Central has a limited inventory of larger instruments to rent. Please contact the directors before the end of the school year to check availability. Rental fee is \$40 for the school year.

Are lessons required for 9th graders?

Yes, all 9th grade students are required to have a weekly individual lesson. Mr. Hatcher and Mr. Wilga conduct lessons during the school day. Students taking a private weekly lesson on their band instrument are exempt from this requirement.

Can students enroll in band and choir or band and orchestra?

Yes, students at Davenport Central can enroll in one, two, or all three music ensembles. Students who are in more than one ensemble split time equally between each group. Interested students are encouraged to participate in multiple ensembles, as a diverse music education enriches all school programs. To enroll in more than one group, please contact your guidance counselor.

What other performing opportunities are available to band students?

Along with marching band and concert band, Central band students have many other opportunities to perform. The jazz bands perform year-round at venues and festivals throughout Iowa and the region. Pep band provides entertainment at all varsity home basketball games. The percussion ensembles meet once a week and perform at concerts and festivals, as does our newest ensemble, Steel Drums. Along with performance in these ensembles, there is the opportunity to audition for the All-State and SEIBA Honor Bands, or perform a solo or ensemble in the IHSMA State Solo/Ensemble Festival.

Does Marching Band conflict with Show Choir?

No, the band and vocal departments at Central High School work together to assure that students involved in both will not have rehearsal or performance conflicts. The marching band season is primarily in the fall, while show choir is in the winter.

Can I still perform in Marching Band if I am involved with a fall sport?

Yes and no. Due to the nature of the schedule, it is easier to manage some sports conflicts over others. There are more schedule conflicts with football, volleyball, and girl's swimming, which make it harder to participate in both. Cross country and boy's golf schedules are much easier to manage against marching band. As a matter of fact, many students in marching band are involved in these sports.

Do the bands at Central High School take trips?

The marching band typically takes an overnight trip every year to perform at a premier marching band festival. (Recent trips include Indianapolis, IN and Minneapolis, MN) Finally, once every three years, all 10th-12th graders enrolled in band take a trip to Orlando, FL.