

# Viking Marching Band 2025 – Season & Registration Information

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*\*Thank you for your interest in the 2025 VMB!*

## Why join the Fremd Viking Marching Band?

- The opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and relationships. An activity that reaches beyond grade levels. One band, one sound!
- An activity where every single performer matters for the greater good of the team. There is no bench, all players are in the game.
- Development of skills and characteristics that exist in all future plans, such as leadership, collaboration, persistence, and creativity.
- A completely volunteer group full of incredible, hard-working, and fun students!
- A fun, physical, social, outdoor experience, all essential contributions to a healthy lifestyle and positive well-being.
- The joy of making music for our community and with schools throughout the state of Illinois.
- The indescribable experience of working towards a shared artistic goal with a large, dedicated group of student performers.
- Additional time making music and improving at your instrumental craft.

**1. The Viking Marching Band is an extra-curricular ensemble (20th year) at FHS and rehearses outside of the school day.** The VMB is optional for Fremd Band students and not part of their curricular band grade. The band is made up of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors at FHS. Band students must be enrolled in one of the four curricular bands to participate in the VMB. Fall rehearsals are one or twice a week (Tuesday-Thursday) from 5:30-8:00 pm. The 2025 season will consist of approximately 12 evening rehearsals, one home “Fall Marching Showcase”, two non-competitive festivals (one Tuesday night, one Saturday), and five Friday night evening home football games. The VMB’s total enrollment usually consists of 105-115 Band and Guard students.

**2. What does the VMB play?** The VMB season consists of an eight-minute half-time show and a pre-game show of four songs (two popular/familiar songs, “National Anthem”, and “Fremd Fight Song”). During home football games the band also performs 10-15 different “Stand Tunes” in the stands during the game.

## **3. Viking Marching Band Philosophy:**

- The Viking Marching Band is an extra-curricular marching band that serves Fremd High School, as well as performing at non-competitive marching festivals for the experience, atmosphere, and opportunity of each event. The focus is on Friday night varsity home football game performances. We offer an outstanding extra-curricular marching band, which also allows the students to participate in other commitments during the fall months. The VMB stresses individual, section, and total band growth as the primary goals for the season.

**4. VMB 2025 Season Calendar** - Please refer to the tentative 2025 fall season schedule (August, September, and October) for all season rehearsal and performance commitments. The calendar includes rehearsals, home football games, and marching festivals. **Some rehearsals are tentative and will change pending the school schedule or stadium field availability.** The final fall schedule will be announced over the summer.

#### **5. VMB 2025 Student/Parent Registration Meeting and Info:**

- **Wednesday May 14 - VMB Registration Meeting** – 6:30-7:45 pm, Kolze Auditorium. This meeting is required for all students participating in the VMB Fall 2025 season. One parent and each student should attend.
- **Thursday May 22 - VMB 2025 Commitment Form deadline** – Please drop it off at FHS by 4:00 pm at the latest.
- **Fundraising** - Each student will be asked to fundraise an amount for the 2025 season to assist with costs (food, uniform cleaning, etc.). The total amount is currently being determined and will be discussed at the student/parent meeting. First time marchers will have additional expenses for marching gloves, dry-fit t-shirt, and shoes. Additional information on fundraising will be explained at the meeting.
- Please refer to the Fremd Bands homepage ([www.fremdbands.weebly.com](http://www.fremdbands.weebly.com)) for the VMB 2025 “Hype-Up Video”, recordings from our “Shuffle Mode” 2025 half-time show, and other information.

#### **6. VMB 2025 “Band Camp” Week**

- **Students participating in the fall 2025 Viking Marching Band must be able to attend the VMB Band Camp** – Monday July 28 to Friday May 1.
- **Band Camp for each day will run from 12:00-4:00 pm, hour dinner break, and 5:00-8:00 pm.**
- The week will conclude with our “Parent Preview Performance” in the FHS Stadium at 7:00 pm on May 1st.
- About 80-85% of all music and marching for the entire season will be taught during this very important five-day Band Camp!

**7. Full VMB rehearsals in July (three total)** - These rehearsals are required for all VMB members unless out of town or family conflict/commitment. These important rehearsals focus on the half-time and pre-game show music prior to Band Camp. Marching fundamentals are also taught at the rehearsals. Students are also expected to attend 2-3 instrument summer sectionals run by VMB Leadership Team members. Percussionists – Please note that the drumline and front ensemble both rehearse additionally in June and July after summer school hours.

**8. School year evening practices and performances** - It is imperative that all students/parents understand the importance of each student attending all scheduled evening rehearsals and performances.

- Students cannot miss rehearsals or performances due to job commitments, doctor’s appointments, or other non-school related reasons. If a student is sick from school, then they are excused from the evening practice and should not attend. When a student is absent from a practice it affects the entire section and numerous positions around the missing person. Please work with your child to resolve potential conflicts and ensure attendance at VMB rehearsals.
- Evening rehearsals will start promptly at 5:30 pm and end at 8:00 pm, with a few exceptions.
- Students can perform in the VMB and a fall FHS sport, however this is a demanding schedule for the student. Once or twice per week the student will be required to go from their sports practice straight to the VMB rehearsal or performance with a very short break in between.
- Students planning to participate in the VMB and a fall sport must inform the band directors by the student/parent meeting.