

Wyoming High School Activities Association and the
Wyoming Music Educators Association
presents



WYOMING STATE MARCHING BAND FESTIVAL 2026

October 17, 2026

2:30PM

Ford Wyoming Center - Casper, Wyoming



WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
6571 EAST 2ND STREET
CASPER, WY 82609
(307) 577-0614 (Phone) / (307) 577-0637 (FAX)
www.whsaa.org



Dear Wyoming Marching Band Students, Directors, Family, and Friends,

On behalf of the Wyoming High School Activities Association Staff and the City of Casper, I want to welcome you to the 2026 Wyoming State Marching Band Festival. Thank you for supporting this wonderfully educational and culturally significant moment for these students.

We would like to congratulate all the students for the hard work and dedication that has gone into their performance this weekend. We hope this performance brings about a profound musical experience where you are able to successfully demonstrate the high level of skill your educators have instilled in you.

Interscholastic activities are essential to the total educational experience of our students. The experience and lifelong lessons provided by participation in these events help instill pride, build character and self-esteem, and develop self-discipline. Participation in these activities provide the opportunity to build strong minds and bodies, and the self-satisfaction of accomplishing goals. We congratulate each musician for having the courage to challenge themselves in working toward meeting their individual goals and dreams.

For all our music educators, we hope your students have a successful event and we are confident that the dedication you have shown to your students and program will be worth the effort when you see their faces as they walk off the field.

Enjoy the Wyoming State Marching Band Festival experience and best of luck to everyone involved.

Trevor Wilson

Commissioner
WHSAA

Brent Rose

Assistant Commissioner
WHSAA

-- EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH ACTIVITIES --

Wyoming State Marching Band Festival

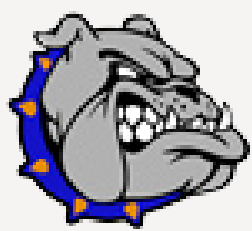
Saturday, October 17, 2026

Program

National Anthem Performed by
Wyoming Marching Band "All-Star Choir"
Directed by: Leah Hoblitt

3A Scholastic Division

2:30PM



Wheatland High School "Wheatland Marching Bulldogs"

Punk Rock Memories

arr. Michael Sweeney, Ishbah Cox, Brian Scott

1. All the Small Things
2. Centuries
3. Wake Me Up When September Ends/Homecoming

Director: Gavin Knowles

Staff: Kim Mixson (Guard) / Elizabeth Roark (Guard)

2:45PM



Evanston High School "Red Devil Marching Band"

Songs from "Shrek"

Published by Hal Leonard

1. All-Star arr Conaway
2. Hallelujah arr Brown
3. I'm a Believer arr Wasson

Director: Richard Zigweid

Color Guard Instructor: Raven Rees

3:00 PM



Rawlins High School "Outlaw Marching Band"

Save the World

arr. Toby Fox & Josh Trentadue

- I. Once Upon a Time
- II. Nyeh heh heh/Megalovania
- III. Bergentrückung/Hopes and Dreams
- IV. Spear of Justine

Director: Andrew Salzman

Assistant Director: Stephanie Trimble

3:15 PM



Worland High School "Black Thunder Marching Band"

Planetary Collisions

arr. Jason K. Nitsch

Director: Loren Laurdson

Assistant Director: Henry Sipples / Heather Aagard (Staff)

3:30 PM



Douglas High School "Marching Bearcats"

"X"

by Matt Hightower, John Fannin, Josh Powell, & Jeremy Thompson

- Mvt. 1
- Mvt. 2
- Mvt. 3
- Mvt. 4

Director: Troy Brown

Assistant Director: Tyna Bennett

Color Guard Instructor: Celine Kopplemann

4A Scholastic Division

3:45 PM



Campbell County High School "Camel Marching Band" (Gillette)

Taste of Rock

arr. Various

1. Living on a Prayer by Bon Jovi
2. American Idiot/Boulevard of Broken Dreams by Greenday
3. Vehicle by Ides of March

Director: Steve Oakley

Staff: Estela Torres-Guernsey (Visual), Ashley Burns (Guard), Rhea Martin (Assistant)

4:00 PM



Central High School Marching Band (Cheyenne)

The Land I Love

arr. Bocook, Conaway, Neumann, Lopez

- I. Troopers Salute
- II. Take Me Home Country Roads
- III. American the Beautiful
- IV. Party in the USA

Director: Zamboni Brown

Assistant Director: Brendan Inkster

Staff: Morgan Glennan (Guard), Shyanne Howes (Percussion), Shyla Christian (Staff)
Riley Miller (Staff)

4:15 PM



East High School "Thunderbird Marching Band" (Cheyenne)

Finding Yourself, the Music of Billy Joel

arr. Jay Dawon & Jim Reed

- I. We Didn't Start the Fire/Piano Man
- II. My Life / Only the Good Die Young
- III. Air (Dublinesque)
- IV. Only the Good Die Young

Directors: A'emalemalo Seui and Aric Hageman

Color Guard Instructor: Kayla Schmidt / Percussion Staff: Zach Caraballo & Lex Fermelia

Visual Staff: Marcus Gallizzi, Sam Parks, Max McAdams, Vincent Gallizzi & Ian Scruggs

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION



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3A Open Division

4:45 PM



Pinedale High School “Wrangler Marching Band”

We Came to Rock

arr. Sweeney, Dawson, & Reed

- I. All the Small Things
- II. Creep
- III. Holiday

Director: Justin Smith

Color Guard Instructor: Katie Smith / Cheyenne Sterk (Assistant)

5:00 PM



Green River High School “Marching Wolves”

Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band

arr. Tom Wallace & John Wasson

Director: Quinn Kalinski

Assistant Director: Drew Gramlich

Percussion Instructor: Mikayla Kozlowski

Color Guard Instructor: Tammy Johnson

5:15 PM



Lander Valley High School “Roaring Tiger Marching Band”

Groovitude

arr. Randall Standridge

Director: Tevya Robbins

5:30 PM



Buffalo High School “Bison Marching Band”

Van Helsing and the Legion of the Night

arr. Harding & Hartzog

- I. Meet Van Helsing
- II. Count Dracula
- III. Frankenstein’s Monster
- IV. Dance of the Werewolves/Finale

Director: Frank Harding

Assistant Director: Betsy Peterson / Color Guard Instructor: Zoeyanne Decapria

Staff: Jackson Richard (Brass) Brock Huntington (Percussion)

5:45 PM



Riverton High School Marching Band

Metalpocalypse

arr. Randall Standridge

- I. The Metal Warriors
- II. The Prophecy
- III. RagnaROCK!

Director: Andy Peeks

Assistant Director: Shelby Kisling

Color Guard Instructor: Kim Shelly

6:00 PM



Star Valley High School “Marching Braves”

Desert Winds

arr. Gary P. Gilroy

- I. The Haunting
- II. One Voice
- III. Arabian Nights

Director: Kurt Sand

Color Guard Instructor: Lindsey Kallgren

15 MINUTE INTERMISSION

4A Open Division

6:30 PM



Rock Springs High School "Tiger Marching Band"

Prince of Egypt

arr. Ono & Fujimoto

- I. Deliver us
- II. Through Heaven's Eyes
- III. The Plagues
- IV. When you Believe

Director: Konner Hafner

Assistant Directors: Josh Knudsen & Liz Merrit

Color Guard Instructor: Cheyenna Johnson

6:45 PM



Laramie High School Marching Band

In the Shadow of the Pyramids

arr. Jordan Roberts

Director: Brian Redmond

Assistant Director: Leah Rose / Drumline Instructor: Julian Zamora

Color Guard Instructor: Lori Dockter / Front Ensemble Instructor: Lauren Hult-White

7:00 PM



Cody High School "Bronc Marching Band"

Desperado

arr. Fred Smith & John Mapes

Director: Wade French

Assistant Director: Drew Brown / Color Guard Instructor: Windy Willis

7:15 PM



Thunder Basin High School Marching Band (Gillette)

Phantom of the Opera 40th Anniversary

arr. Cooper Phillips

1. The Haunting
2. One Voice
3. Darkness Rise / The Revelation

Director: Steve Schofield

Staff: Karia Schofield (Guard), Paul Jensen Zeleski (Percussion)

Cameron Elder (Percussion Volunteer)

7:30 PM



Sheridan High School Marching Band

Love, Ellie

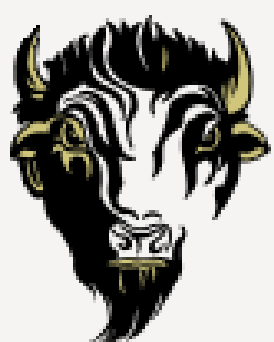
arr. Jeff Chambers

Director: Chad Rose

Assistant Director: Suzie Ahrens

Color Guard Instructor: Amanda Bridges / Field Assistant: Jaren Martin

7:45 PM



South High School Marching Band (Cheyenne)

Olympus

arr. Gary P. Gilroy, Shawn Glyde, & Nate Bourg

- I. Poseidon
- II. Aphrodite
- III. Zeus

Director: Gino Hernandez / Assistant Director & Percussion: Brandon Schumacher

Color Guard Instructor: Christy VanHorn

Staff: Nick Simons (Winds), Kirsten Caskey (Marching), Julian Bustos (Marching)

Lex Fermelia (Percussion), Jeremy Buss (Guard), Jayden Parrill (Marching)

8:00 PM



Kelly Walsh High School "Trojan Marching Band" (Casper)

Cosmic Frontier

arr. Paul Martin at On the Field Productions

Director: Sarah Hanson

Assistant Director: Michael Broyles

Color Guard Instructor: Tori Misak / Field Technician: Nick Green & Zuke Baker

8:15 PM



Special Performance - University of Wyoming "Western Thunder Marching Band"

Director: Dr. Joe Carver

Awards

Captions will be awarded to bands for outstanding performances in the following area: music, marching, winds, percussion, and Color Guard. A caption will be awarded to any band scoring 85% of the total score in that category. Additionally, the top scoring band in each division will receive a caption regardless of score.

Caption scores are decided by the following criteria:

- Percussion - Percussion Judge Score + the percussion score from the music judges
- Color Guard - Color Guard Judge Score + the guard score from the marching judges
- Winds - Combination of the Woodwind and Brass Scores from both Music Judges
- Outstanding Music - Percussion Judge Score + both music judge's score
- Marching - Combination of the Marching Judges Score

Schools	Percussion	Color Guard	Winds	Music	Marching

Scoring Totals & Caption Target Score (85%)

Percussion	Winds	Color Guard	Marching	Marching (no guard)	Music
160/136	160/136	160/136	300/255	240/204	460/391

About State Marching Band

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Beginning in 2025, Wyoming marching bands have the option to compete at the State Marching Band Festival. Bands are divided into classifications based on school enrollment. Last year was the first time a State Championship had been awarded since 1985! Over 1,700 students are participating in the 21 bands represented at tonight's event. These performances reflect countless hours of dedication, rehearsal, and teamwork.

SCHOLASTIC VS. OPEN DIVISIONS

Scholastic Division - Bands in this division perform for a festival rating and judges commentary, focusing on growth, feedback, and educational experiences.

Open Division - Bands in this division compete for scores and placement within their classification.

CLASSIFICATIONS (3A & 4A)

Classifications are determined by the number of participating bands and the enrollment size of each school.

MARCHING BAND COMPETITION ETIQUETTE

Please refrain from entering or exiting the seating area while a band is performing. Applaud and cheer enthusiastically when you see or hear something you enjoy! Support all performers with positive energy and respect throughout the evening.

FAN FAVORITE

Vote for your favorite performance of the day
by scanning the QR code below!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks goes out to:

Sarah Hanson (WMEA Marching Band Chair), Michael Jaycox (Field Official), Kurt Gilbert (Floor Manager), Mike Munari (Announcer), Leah Hoblitt (National Anthem Conductor), Trevor Wilson (WHSAA Commissioner), Chad Whitworth (WHSAA Associate Commissioner), Brent Rose (WHSAA Assistant Commissioner), Cody Lawson & Ford Wyoming Center Staff, Jon Bizzell & Luke Gilliam (WYO Sports Ranch), Casper Troopers Drum & Bugle Corp

Our Volunteers: Jackson Chitwood, Zach Tolman, Tyson Misak, Stacy Baker, Jeff Stephan, Shawn Galles, Tyler Kessel, Mallory Galles, Garth Moline, Marie Puryear, Alex McCafferty, and Gene Monterestelli

Adjudicators

MUSIC JUDGE 1

BRYCE MELARAGNO



Bryce Melaragno began teaching at Lakewood High school in 2015, where he teaches three orchestras, two concert bands, and the marching band. Prior to teaching at Lakewood, he taught at Creighton Middle School and the Lakewood Area Elementary Schools. Mr. Melaragno has had three ensembles selected to perform at the Colorado Music Educators Association - the 2015 Creighton MS Symphonic Band, and the 2018 & 2023 Lakewood Chamber Orchestra. The Chamber Orchestra was selected to perform at the Music for All Orchestra America National Festival in 2025. Under Melaragno's direction the Lakewood Bengal Regiment has been an 9-time CBA State Finalist, and the Wind Symphony has been selected to perform at the CBA State Concert Band Festival multiple times.

In 2014, Mr. Melaragno received the inaugural Outstanding Young Music Educator Award from the Colorado Music Educators Association. He has also received the received the Jeffco Values Award three times for Exemplary Performance, a faculty nominated award presented by Jeffco Public Schools. Mr. Melaragno has served on the Board of the Colorado Bandmasters Association as Metro Area Representative and the CBA Marching Committee. Mr. Melaragno is the President of the Colorado Bandmasters Association. He is also a member of the Jeffco Music Advisory Team and the coordinator of the Jeffco Honor Band and Orchestras.

Mr. Melaragno earned a Bachelor of Music Education from Metropolitan State University of Denver and a Master of Music Education from the University of Colorado Boulder. Mr. Melaragno is a member of the Colorado Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, Colorado Bandmasters Association, American String Teachers Association, and Phi Beta Mu.

MUSIC JUDGE 2

BECKY PASCHKE



Becky Paschke is the Principal at Mt. Blue Sky Outdoor Lab School in Evergreen, CO, and a CMEA Honored Administrator. As the former Director of Instrumental Music at D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School, she led her ensembles to multiple state titles, a Bands of America regional class championship, and a performance in the 2021 Presidential Inaugural Parade. Honored as one of Yamaha's inaugural "40 Under 40" Music Educators, Paschke is also a Past President of the Colorado Bandmasters Association, a Blue Knights Drum Corps Hall of Fame inductee, and an active clinician, adjudicator, and performer with the Denver Broncos Stampede pep band.

COLOR GUARD JUDGE

MICHELLE OTTOES



Michelle Ottoes has recently moved from Cheyenne, where she was an elementary school librarian, to Laramie, where she is a new grandma and an elementary literacy specialist. She is a Wyoming native and a graduate of the University of Wyoming. Michelle was the colorguard director for the Wyoming All State Marching Band for 30 years, from 1994-2024. She has been involved with the marching arts since she was in band and colorguard at Cheyenne Central High School 40 years ago. She went on to tour with the Troopers Drum and Bugle Corps in the 1990's, where she met her husband. Michelle was inducted into the Troopers Hall of Fame in 2024 for her work managing and working on the mobile food truck used to feed 200 people four meals a day during the corps' spring training and summer tour from the end of May through mid August. She toured with the corps from 2021-2025.

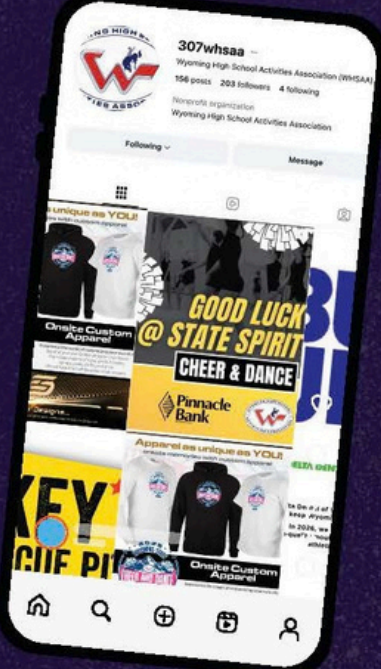


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Adjudicators

VISUAL JUDGE 1

LEON SIEVE



Leon Sieve has been a member of the Rosemount High School faculty in Rosemount, Minnesota, since 2002 and is currently in his 34th year of teaching instrumental music. He holds a Bachelor of Music Education from South Dakota State University (1993) and a master's degree from the American Band College at Southern Oregon University (2005). At Rosemount High School, Mr. Sieve conducts the Symphonic Band and serves as a woodwind specialist for the band program. His responsibilities also include co-directing the fall marching band, leading the woodwind chamber ensemble, winter pep band, solo and ensemble program and coordinating the award-winning Color Guard. Additionally, he directs the pit orchestra for RHS Drama Department musicals and has served as department coordinator for music, art, and dance.

Mr. Sieve's ensembles have earned significant recognition, performing three times at the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic: the Milaca High School Symphonic Band in 2002, and the Rosemount High School Wind Ensemble in 2021 and 2024, the latter presenting works by Copley, Day, Danyew, Giroux, Llanias, and Williams at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

A graduate of Adrian High School (MN), Mr. Sieve performed with the South Dakota State University "Pride of the Dakotas" Marching Band, Symphonic Band, and jazz ensembles. He was a member of the Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps color guard (1989, 1991) and served on staff with the Black Gold Drum and Bugle Corps in 1992. His drum corps experience laid the foundation for over 30 years of work in visual design and choreography, writing for nearly forty high school marching programs across Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, and Oklahoma. Notable collaborations include Rosemount, Litchfield, Grand Rapids, Park Center, Milaca, and Sioux Falls Lincoln High Schools. In 1995, he re-established the marching band program at Milaca High School after its discontinuation in the 1980s. For more than three decades, Mr. Sieve has served as a member of the Tri-State Judging Association, adjudicating field shows and parade performances throughout Minnesota and the upper Midwest.

His professional accolades include the "Leadership in Educational Excellence" award, the 2001 "Minnesota Distinguished Young Band Director Award," induction into Phi Beta Mu (2003), and the Youth in Music Hall of Fame (2021). He is listed in Who's Who Among America's Teachers and maintains memberships in the National Band Association (NBA), Music Educators National Conference (MENC), Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA), and Minnesota Band Directors Association (MBDA), where he served as Metro High School Representative on the Board of Directors. He is also a past president of the North Star Color Guard Circuit.

VISUAL JUDGE 2

TAYLOR ELIASON



Eliason resides in Lakeville, Minnesota, just outside of the Twin Cities. He is currently employed as a band director at Rosemount High School. Eliason holds a Bachelor of Music Education from St. Cloud State University and a Masters in curriculum development from Western Governors University. Eliason has been involved in the marching and pageantry arts for over twenty years as a performer, instructor, designer, choreographer, and administrator. He was a member of the Madison Scouts drum and bugle corps, and has been a visual instructor for numerous drum corps. At Rosemount High School, Eliason manages the visual program and serves as visual caption head. In his free time, Eliason enjoys spending time with his wife Jessica, and his children Ewan and Shiloh.

PERCUSSION JUDGE

DANA SLABAUGH



Dana is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, where he studied percussion under James B. Campbell and received his bachelor's degree in Music Education. Dana was also a member and instructor of the World Champion Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps for a total of 5 seasons. Currently, he has spent the last 13 years as the Director of Percussion at American Fork High School and Junior High, where he also teaches the intermediate jazz band and co-teaches the concert band. American Fork percussion sections have received numerous awards under Dana's direction, including best 6A marching band percussion section, best 6A large percussion ensemble, best 6A chamber ensemble, and best Junior High ensemble at Utah PAS Day of Percussion. Numerous American Fork percussion students under his direction have also placed 1st in solo categories at Utah PAS, PASIC, and many have made the Utah All-State Band. Previously, he spent 14 years as a freelance teacher, performer, and arranger in the metropolitan Denver area where he was the head percussion instructor and arranger for several area schools. During his time in Denver, his ensembles won a total of 9 state championships in marching band and RMPA indoor percussion. Dana was on staff with the Blue Knights indoor percussion ensemble when they received the Bronze medal at WGI world championships. He has also appeared as a guest clinician and adjudicator numerous times throughout his career and has served as member of the Board of Directors for RMPA in Colorado, and InterMountain Percussion Association (IMPA) in Utah. Dana is the past President of the Utah Percussive Arts Society and is proud to be an Innovative Percussion Artist and also an endorser of Evans Heads.

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