



# Ocala Marching Band Festival



Scotty Vance, Event Coordinator

West Port High School Band  
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**Performance Date: OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Dear Band Directors,

We would like to take this opportunity to invite your band to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual “Ocala Marching Band Festival” at West Port High School in Ocala, Florida. This is an FMBC Florida Marching Band Tournament Regional Event. **At OMBF we feature a DOUBLE Competition. The first session is the “Small Band” competition, followed by the larger and separate 4A & 5A Big Band Competition. This will make for two separate Grand Champions!**

The Ocala Marching Band Festival was started in 2004 for the “smaller” high school band programs. For many of the “smaller” bands it is sometimes difficult to feel that you are being adjudicated as fairly or in the same manner as the larger or more experienced bands. For this reason the Small Band category will remain separate. After we conclude with the “smaller band” portion we will take a break followed by the separate “Big Band” competition. At the conclusion of the last band performance we will have a Drum Major retreat for all of the bands involved from both categories where we will award over 220 trophies and declare two separate 2<sup>nd</sup> runner ups, two 1<sup>st</sup> runner ups and two Grand Champions.

The Ocala Marching Band Festival has a great staff and support group as well as outstanding facilities to handle such large events. We have hosted the FBA District Middle School Concert MPA for nine years as well as The High School Concert MPA. We hosted the FBA State Solo & Ensemble Festival for many years as well. We have held many outstanding events with as many as 12,000 participants. These events have been very successful due in part to the parent, student, and administrative support given to the West Port Band.

We give large trophies for all of the bands (No “Thanks for coming” plaques here). We pride ourselves in having very clean facilities, great food, reasonable prices, and a well-organized and helpful staff to help you with your needs.

For the smaller bands please know that we have adjudicators that are current or former band directors that are familiar with smaller band situations themselves and are sensitive to the needs and concerns of these programs. For the bigger bands we also try to include judges that are affiliated with a State Finals panel and/or DCI. This truly is a win-win for both size categories.

We have a modern stadium, a large high school complex with three isolated warm-up areas AND a separate pit warm-up area. We have plenty of parking close to the stadium and our concessions work very hard to generate the ability for us to award grand trophies for your performances.

**AWARDS** were streamlined many years ago making for a very smooth and fast awards ceremony (Under 30 minutes). **Trophies** will be given for each of the six competing captions with each band’s rating (music, percussion, auxiliary, marching & maneuvering, general effect, and drum major). **Placement trophies** will be given to each band with their rating and placement within their respective class. **Best in class trophies** for each competing caption will be awarded. **Overall** the Small Band AND Big Band classes will both have second runner up, first runner up and Grand Champion trophies. Parking is \$5 and includes a \$5 program, and General admission is \$15.

We look forward to providing a high-quality educational experience for your students that is very rewarding.

Classes for the 2024 Ocala Marching Band Festival will be as follows:  
**(Class Size may be altered to even out the classes)**

<b><u>Smaller Band Competition</u></b>			<b><u>Big Band Competition</u></b>		
Class A	1 – 45	Total Members	Class AAAA	102-120	Total Members
Class AA	46 – 70	Total Members			
Class AAA	71 – 101	Total Members	Class AAAAA	121 or more	Total Members

**All entries must be received by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 or up to 30 bands entered. Please take the time and mail the enclosed application back along with the \$200 application fee while slots are still available. After the deadline, if room is available there will be a \$50 late fee.**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Scotty Vance at West Port High School: 352-291-4030. We are looking forward to seeing you and your band here on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual “Ocala Marching Band Festival”.

Sincerely,

*Scotty Vance*

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