

2024 Lake Region Marching Festival Script

Welcome to the Lake Region Marching Band Festival! This year's lineup will include 16 marching bands along with our very own Groton HS and Groton MS Bands. Some bands are making their first appearance in this festival today!

1-Groton Area HS Marching Band (Exhibition) 10:00

Our first band is our very own Groton Area HS Marching Band under the direction of Desiree Yeigh. They will be marching in exhibition this morning. This is Desiree's 10th year teaching in Groton out of her 17-year teaching career. Desiree has been the head HS Band Director for 4 years.

The Groton Tigers will be performing "Fireball" led by drum major Gavin Kroll

There are 40 students in this marching band.

The Groton High School Band has a well-known history of receiving Gold Ratings at the Gypsy Days Parade- including this year! The band marched in their Homecoming Parade, the Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Festival, the East Central Marching Festival in Arlington, and NSU's Gypsy Days Parade.

The color guard team is coached by Mrs. Yeigh with choreography and assistance by senior captains: Gretchen Dinger and Kayla Lehr.

On behalf of Mrs. Yeigh and both Groton bands, they want to wish everyone good luck today. A big thank you is extended to all the band directors for bringing their bands to the festival. Without your help this wouldn't have been possible.

Here is our Groton Area Marching Tiger Band!

2- Sully Buttes High School (Combined) 10:06

We will now be starting our Combined Division. This means these bands are using students in MS and HS in their marching band. Our first band will be the Sully Buttes Marching Chargers under the direction of Erica Paxton.

Erica has directed and taught this band for 13 years.

They will be performing "Bad Romance" led by Drum Major Madison Bradberry

There are 48 6-12th grade students in this marching band.

Erica says, “This is the second year we have had 6th graders in our combined Middle School/High School band. The Marching Chargers had an early Homecoming in August and marched in their parade, along with marching in Gypsy Days last weekend where they received a gold rating. The Chargers are excited to be back at the Lake Region Marching Festival and would like to thank Desiree, the Groton school, and the Groton community for all their work in organizing this festival.

Here are the Sully Buttes Marching Chargers!

3- Frederick Area (Combined)

10:12

Our next band is the Frederick Area School Band under the direction of Sharon Langley. Sharon has been Frederick’s director for 5 years out of her 17-year teaching career.

There are 27 students in this band. 6 are 8th graders and the rest are 9-12th graders.

They will be performing Danger Zone

This band is a hard-working group. They rehearse only 2 times a week and play at every home volleyball, football and basketball game. They also participate at contest in the spring. This band marched at their Homecoming parade in Frederick, and has attended this festival for 8 years.

Please enjoy the Frederick School Band!

4- Hoven (Combined)

10:18

Next up we have the Hoven Marching Greyhounds under the direction of Elizabeth Bengs and Flag Corp Advisor Lori Sautner. Liz has directed and taught the Hoven Band for 14 years!

They will be playing Funkytown led by drum major Ava Griese.

There are 44 students from grades 6-12 in this band.

The Hoven Marching band is excited for the opportunity to return to the Lake Region Marching Festival! There is a very rich marching tradition in Hoven as most parents and many grandparents have proudly worn a Hoven marching uniform during their years at HHS. -Even Groton Area’s own Mrs. Sarah Hanten, grew up as a Marching Greyhound. Though small in size, the Greyhounds march with a great sense of pride

for the band, the school, and the community. We are very happy to be here—it is a great day for marching band!

Please welcome the Hoven Marching Greyhounds!

Aberdeen Roncalli (Combined)

10:24

Our next combined band is the Aberdeen Roncalli Marching Cavaliers led under the direction of Kimberly Carda and Molly Royals. Kim has directed and taught the Cavaliers for 28 years and Molly has assisted for 6.

They will be playing Stronger led by drum major Gianna Madsen

There are 75 Students/Grades 7-12 in this band.

The Roncalli Band has marched in the Lake Region Marching Festival since the very beginning of the event, and they are excited to be back. Thank you, Mrs. Yeigh and the Groton Area Schools, for sponsoring the event.

Over the years, the Roncalli Band has worked to establish a tradition of excellence. In 2023, the Roncalli Band earned high rankings at the Lake Region Marching Festival, the Roncalli Marching Band Festival, as well as the Gypsy Day Parade. This year, the band has competed at those same three events and tomorrow will finish out their season by traveling to Mitchell to march and compete in the Dakota Wesleyan University Homecoming Parade.

The flag routine was choreographed by Roncalli student Leah Carda as well as Erica Carda, and Amanda Lynch, all Roncalli graduates and former flag members.

Here are the Roncalli Marching Cavaliers!

Ipswich (Combined)

10:30

Our 5th Combined Band is the Ipswich Tigers Marching Band under the direction of Becky Nierman. Becky has directed and taught in Ipswich for 20 years.

They will be playing Super Bass led by Drum Major Madisyn Gellhaus

There are 65 students in this marching band

The Ipswich Tiger Marching Band is proud to participate in the Roncalli Marching Festival, showcasing the dedication, talent and spirit of their student musicians. The Band has earned numerous marching band awards consistently demonstrating a high level of musicianship and precision marching. The Lake Region Marching Band Festival is our third and final competition of the marching band season. Thank you, Groton Area School and community for hosting this event. Thank you to everyone who came out to watch the marching bands today!

Here is the Ipswich Tigers Marching Band!

Lake Preston (Combined)

10:36

Our next band marching for the first time in this festival is the Lake Preston Marching Band under the direction of Kayla Vockrodt. Kayla has been directing this band for 5 years in her 8-year teaching career.

They will be performing The Horse

There are 29 students in grades 8-12 in this band (plus 1 7th grader that has been working on marching band outside of class)

Lake Preston's school mascot is the Divers, but they are co-oped for sports with Iroquois as the Sharks. This is the second year with their new marching band uniforms and the first year with their new marching percussion that was generously donated by Adrienne Olson Buel - Class of 1964 - South Dakota Foundation and partially funded by our school. Lake Preston is excited to be in Groton for the first time. Go divers!

Please welcome the Lake Preston Marching Band

Leola (Combined)

10:42

Our next band is the Leola School Marching Band under the direction of Nancy Kindelspire and Flag Corp Coach Brenda Merkel. Nancy has been teaching in Leola for 23 years out of her 24-year teaching career.

They will be performing Shut Up and Dance with Me led by Drum Major Lucas Gulbranson

There are 45 students in grades 7-12 in this band.

The Leola School Marching Band is excited to participate annually in the Lake Region Marching Band Festival. Additionally, they march in their own homecoming parade and Gypsy Days. They have received numerous gold awards including the Band of Merit and Band of Distinction in previous years. Thank you, Groton Area, for continuing to host such an excellent event for area bands!

Here is the Leola School Marching Band!

Langford (Combined)

10:48

Our final band marching in the combined division is the Langford Area Marching Lions under the direction of Kelly Wieser. Kelly has taught in Langford for 28 years out of her impressive 34-year teaching career.

They will be performing Boogie Shoes led by drum majors Eliana Darling and Emily Olson.

There are 60 students in grades 6-12 in this band.

The Lions are excited to show off their moves today to this 70's disco standard tune. They have had a lot of fun learning their routine this year. We hope you enjoy it as well. Mrs. Wieser is assisted by Laurie Darling and Anna Marie Sachs. Flag Co-captains are Jordis Jenner and Cassy Nelson.

Here is the Langford Area Marching Lions

Now we will start our High School Division

Britton-Hecla (High School)

10:54

Our first band is the Britton High School Marching Band under the direction of Jakob Walden. This is Jakob's first year teaching and directing the Britton-Hecla Band.

They will be performing the popular song "Sweet Caroline" with their school song "Fight On"

There are 33 students in grades 9-12 in this band

Here is the Britton High School Marching Band!

Redfield (High School)

11:00

Our next high school band is another group making their first appearance in this festival... the Redfield High School Marching Band under the direction of Justin Desens. This is Justin's first year directing this band. He started his teaching career last Spring.

They will be playing Barbie Girl led by drum major MaKayla Shulz

There are 36 9-12 students in this band.

This is Redfield's first appearance at the Lake Region Marching Band Festival. This year, the band performed at their homecoming parade, the Roncalli Marching Band Festival, and Northern State University's "Gypsy Days" Parade. They are ending their season here today in Groton.

Please welcome the Redfield High School Marching Band!

Great Plains Lutheran (High School)

11:06

Next we have, the Great Plains Lutheran High School Marching Band. They are led under the direction of Eric Martens and Color Guard Coach Linda Guthmiller. Mr. Martens has been teaching and directing this band for a total of 19 years!

They will be performing "Crazy Train" led by drum majors Alaina Bruemmer and Donna Abrahamson.

There are 82 students in grades 9-12 in this band.

The GPLHS Band is in its 16th year marching and is excited to be in Groton. Great Plains Lutheran is located in Watertown, SD. Mr. Martens and the band would like to thank Mrs Yeigh, the Groton School, and the many people of Groton who support the Lake Region Marching Band Festival and make it possible.

Please welcome the Great Plains Lutheran High School Marching Band!

Warner (High School)

11:12

Please welcome the Marching Monarchs from Warner led under the direction of Sophie Olson. Mrs. Olson has been teaching and directing this band for 5 years.

They will be performing “Some Nights” led by drum major Abby Cooper.

There are 50 students in grades 9-12 in this band.

Last year the Monarchs received 5th at the Roncalli Marching Festival, a Gold Rating at Gypsy Days, and 1st in the HS Division at the Lake Region Marching Festival.

This year the Monarchs attended the East Central Marching Festival in Arlington, the Roncalli Marching Festival, and the Gypsy Days Parade.

Please welcome the Warner Marching Monarchs!

Pierre T.F. Riggs (High School)

11:18

Our next band is the Emerald Regiment from T.F. Riggs High School in Pierre. They are led under the direction of Gage Ruhlman. This is Mr. Ruhlman’s second year directing and teaching this band.

They will be performing Basket Case led by drum majors Nathan Kist and Megan Rose

There are 64 students (9-12) in this band.

“The T.F. Riggs Emerald Regiment is proud to continue their rich history of energizing audiences this year with their 2024 show, the high-energy punk anthem 'Basket Case' by Green Day. Under the direction of Gage Ruhlman, the Emerald Regiment is ready to rock the street and deliver a performance you won’t forget.”

Please welcome the Emerald Regiment!

Northwestern (High School)

11:24

Our final band in the high school division are the Northwestern Marching Wildcats led under the direction of Wendy Thorson. This is Mrs. Thorson's 25th year teaching in Northwestern out of her 27-year teaching career.

They will be performing the song Tank! And led by drum major Ana Ratigan

There are 49 students in grades 9-12 in this band.

The Northwestern Marching Wildcats would like to thank the Groton School for hosting this marching event and inviting us here today. They enjoy being able to march, but also the chance to cheer on our fellow marching bands! They are also finally enjoying their newly remodeled band room this year. At this time last year, they did not have a classroom. They would also like to extend a special thank you to Sharon Schwan and Dr. Travis Netzer for coming and helping the band this fall. They will be playing one of the hardest marching band songs that they have ever done which is full of jazz rhythms and licks. We hope you enjoy!

Here are the Northwestern Marching Wildcats!

Our next division of bands is the Middle School Division

Holgate/Simmons (Middle School)

11:30

Our first band in the middle school division is the Simmons & Holgate Middle School Combined 8th Grade Band under the direction of Jim Panerio & Sara Weischedel. Mr. Panerio has been directing this band for 31 years out of his impressive 35-year teaching career and Mrs. Weischedel has been directing this band for 15 years out of her 21 year teaching career.

They will be performing the song El Gato

There are 70 students in this marching band.

This band is a combination of the two 8th grade bands from the Aberdeen Public School District. Their song selection is “El Gato” by Alan Keown. The Holgate & Simmons marching band recently performed in the Gypsy Day Parade & the Roncalli Marching Festival. This is their 12th year competing in the Lake Region Marching Festival. The band would like to thank the Groton Band Program for hosting this event!

Please welcome the Simmons/Holgate Middle School Marching Band!

Milbank (Middle School)

11:36

Next is the band from Milbank Middle School under the direction of Susan Karels. Susan has taught and directed this band for an impressive 33 years!

They will be performing Paint It Black led by drum major Paisley Ericsson

There are 58 students in this marching band

The Milbank Middle School bands are glad to be a part of the annual marching band festival. Their 2024 marching performances were the Milbank Homecoming Parade on September 13 and October 4 they presented a short show during Band Night at the home football game. Thank you to Groton for hosting this event!

Groton Area (Middle School-Exhibition)

11:42

Our final Middle School Band is our very own Groton Area Middle School Band under the direction of Desiree Yeigh. They will also be marching in Exhibition this morning.

They will be performing “Timber” led by Mrs. Yeigh and drum major Novalea Warrington.

The band kicked off their marching season at the Homecoming Parade. Mrs. Yeigh would like to give a special thanks to Novalea and Aspen Beto for volunteering to march with the HS Band this year and helping direct the MS Band.

Once again Mrs. Yeigh would like thank everyone for attending the festival and a special thanks to our 3 judges for your expertise and help in making today a success. Let’s hear it for our own Groton Area Tiger MS Marching Band!