THE NORMAL MARCHING BAND

Magnificent Mile Lights Festival Parade

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026

Parents/guardians who wish to **ride the bus as chaperones** or **pick up their student in Chicago** following the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival Parade must complete **THIS FORM** by **Monday, November 16, at 10:00 AM**. *No late submissions, please.*

Parents picking up students after the parade must meet them at the buses on Randolph Street by 6:45 PM. Students not picked up before the band's departure for Navy Pier will remain with the NMB and will continue following the band's itinerary. Students will not be left in Chicago unattended or released to find their parents on their own.

Be sure to eat a healthy breakfast/lunch and drink plenty of water throughout the day.

What to pack

Remember your white socks, white gloves, white marching shoes, and appropriate garments for under your uniform. Consider the temperature when selecting undergarments, though the previous undergarment guidelines remain, with regard to fit and color. We will change into uniforms on the buses, so please plan accordingly. Students will take their uniforms on the buses, in garment bags, on the day of the performance. You will also be responsible for your hat box and shoe bag. (The truck is not traveling.) Remember battery packs, if needed!

Bring snacks for the bus trip, as dinner will be very late, after the parade. Bring money and a change of weather-appropriate clothing for dinner/sightseeing at Navy Pier after the parade.

Note: we will polish silver instruments at the end of rehearsal on Tuesday, November 17.

Watch it on TV!

Can't make it to the parade? Watch the holiday magic from home! Join hosts Cheryl Burton and Ryan Chiaverini for a special broadcast of the 35th Annual Wintrust Magnificent Mile Lights Festival on Sunday, November 22, at 6:00 PM CST. Tune in to ABC 7 Chicago, stream live on abc7chicago.com or Disney+ under the Live tab, or watch through ABC 7's connected TV apps on Amazon Fire TV, Android TV, Apple TV, and Roku.

The program will also be available nationwide throughout the holiday season. Check your local listings for broadcast details.

Emergency Contacts

Mr. Budzinski (815) 370-8730 | Mr. Carter (215) 749-2673

Itinerary

We plan to depart from Normal West, because the uniform racks are housed there, and because that will allow those at the West Bands Craft Show to depart without traveling. That said, if Normal West should host a home playoff football game that day, the departure location is subject to change. Please park in the back (northwest) lot. As long as there is no game, you may park along the fence near the soccer field. Enter the building through the band hallway, Door H.

11:15 AM	Hair help is available on stage. Please shampoo your hair before arrival.
11:30 AM	Arrival, enter through the band hallway, proceed to the stage to gather your instrument and hat box, then load your bus
~12:00 PM	Depart for Chicago (we will make a restroom stop as we approach the city)
~3:15 PM	Arrival in the staging area: the intersection of W. Walton Street and Clark Street *Vehicles arrive via southbound Clark Street and unload on both sides between Walton and Delaware*

Unload buses fully dressed, and prepare for the performance. Return cases/covers to the buses, and get a plume before the buses depart. (Do not turn on LEDs yet.) Warm up.

Chaperones are not permitted to walk the parade route with the band. We recommend remaining on the bus and riding it to the end of the parade route, then walking up the route backwards, to find a viewing position. Once parked, follow E. Randolph Street to Michigan Avenue and head north.

Once the band has unloaded, buses will continue south on Clark Street, then turn left on Washington Street. Continue east on Washington Street, then turn left on Michigan Avenue. Drive one block north on Michigan Avenue, then turn right on Randolph, where a parade team member will provide parking instructions.

by 4:40 PM — The NMB will walk to W. Oak Street and line up behind the NMB sign. We will not spread out to the full parade block until we step off.

~5:00 PM — Pre-step off! Parade elements will feed into position and proceed to the beginning of the parade route. We are Element #35 out of about 70 entries in the parade.

Remember to turn on LEDs right before we go!

5:30 PM — **NMB Performance in the Magnificent Mile Lights Festival Parade: Go, Team, Go!**

The magic begins as Grand Marshals Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse step off from Oak Street and Michigan Avenue, illuminating one million lights on more than 200 trees, block by block, as they lead the parade south along The Magnificent Mile. The spectacular procession features nearly 40 brightly lit floats, giant helium balloons, marching bands, and musical performances, bringing holiday magic to the heart of Chicago.

after parade — Return to the buses and change out of uniform. Depending on where we are, keep an eye out for the Wintrust Fireworks Spectacular, which launch over the Chicago River at 7:30 PM.

Parents who are picking up their student must meet them at the buses by 6:45 PM. Students should keep their Sugarplum Dreams uniform top, shoes, and shoe bag, but please send the white pants, hanger, and hat box back on the bus.

when ready — Depart for Navy Pier to enjoy a meal, shopping, sightseeing, and a second fireworks display at 8:30 PM. *At Navy Pier, students must remain in groups, follow all posted rules, and monitor the BAND App for updates. Be safe! Remember that your behavior is a reflection of our group.*
Navy Pier has an unaccompanied minors policy. The NMB has been given permission for you to visit, but if there is any question, please call one of the band directors using the phone numbers above.

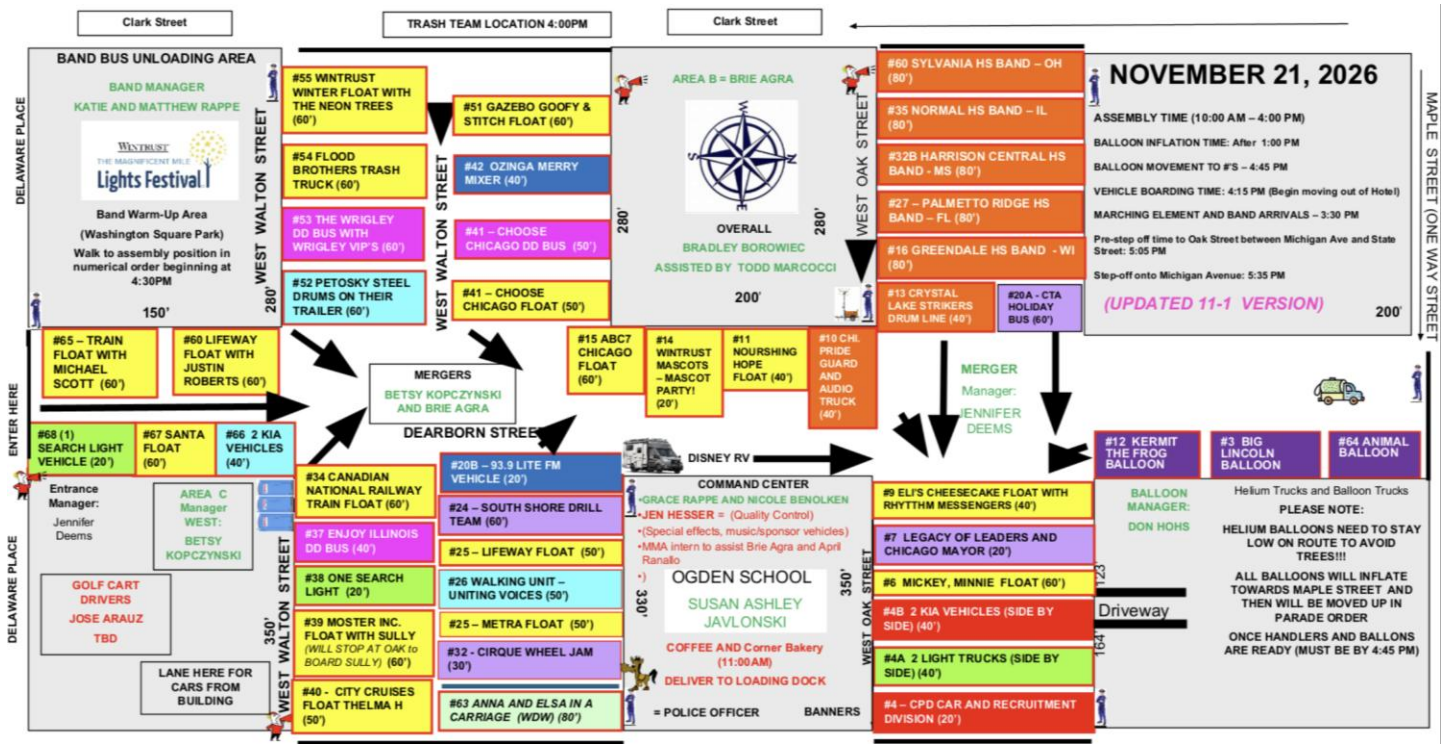
9:45 PM — Meet at the designated motorcoach loading area near the Family Pavilion, at the west end of Navy Pier (near Streeter Drive and Illinois Street). All students must be present before the buses arrive, as buses are not permitted to park or wait at Navy Pier. Watch the BAND App for any changes to our pickup location. *We will make one restroom stop on the way home.*

~1:00 AM — Arrive at NCWHS

A Note from the NMB Directors

What a wonderful season it has been for the NMB! We are incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished, the hard work you have put in, and the way you have represented our schools and community. Now we have one final opportunity to share our music and bring some holiday cheer to a HUGE audience! We can't wait to see the NMB marching down Michigan Avenue, performing for thousands of spectators, appearing on television, and sharing the spotlight with Mickey Mouse and Santa Claus! Enjoy every moment of this special experience, thank our volunteers and chaperones who make it possible, and remember that you represent the NMB both on and off the parade route. Let's celebrate an amazing season with one final, unforgettable performance. Have fun, make some memories, and GO TEAM!

Arrival and Assembly Map



End of the Parade, Dispersal Map

