All-City Marching Festival Performance – Parent information

Friday, Sept. 26th 2025

# Valley Stadium

(7:30 kickoff schedule)

6:15 Arrival, 6:30 pm rehearsal, 7:15pm “pregame” performance

Valley Stadium is located at the corner of Fuller Road and George M. Mills Civic Parkway in West Des Moines.

1. Students/parents can dropoff and park at either Jordan Creek Elementary, City Hall, or Valley Southwoods, and students should proceed to the NE corner of the stadium via Sidewalk. The lot directly north of the stadium will be restricted and access will not be available. Please plan ahead and arrive well ahead of the 6:00 rehearsal. The walk from Jordan Creek will take about 10 minutes.
2. Instrument cases should be left in cars or with parents attending the game. All-City Band Members should avoid placing cases or possessions with the Dowling equipment as

The dressing and equipment area used by Dowling is very small, crowded, and unsecured.

1. Parents wishing to view the performance must enter through the North West ticketing gate and sit on the home (west) side in the upper deck. Tickets for the game are $10 for adults. The North East gate will be available for band members, Diocesan Band Staff, and Dowling Band Chaperone Committee Members only. For best seating (near the 50 yard-line) parents are advised to enter the stadium no later than 6:30.
2. All-City Band Members should proceed to the area inside the visitor stadium bleachers for sectional rehearsals with the Dowling Band. We will assemble the combined bands at 6:45, practice, pray, and move to the performance field at 7:10. Entry into the field for band members will be through the North East Gate. The band will assemble and set up on the visitors sideline and wait for the field to clear.
3. At 7:15 or when the field is clear, the combined band will move to the center of the field and toward the home (west sideline). Students will perform “A Salute to Freedom”, “Star Spangled Banner”, and “Dowling Victors” to the home side. At the conclusion of “Victors” the combined bands will turn to face South (left) and will march off to the South End-zone and then around behind the visitors stands. Students may be picked up outside the North East gate following the performance. All-City students wishing to return to the game should re-enter through the northeast gate. Be certain not to leave instruments in the stadium. *This year we are inviting all 8th graders to sit with the Dowling Vanguard in the stands during 1st quarter to play pep riffs and Dowling Victors after touchdowns*
4. Dress for the performance is School Sweat Shirt or t-shirt.
5. Thank you for having your student join us for this event. Please encourage your band student to stay to watch the Dowling Vanguard’s halftime performance. We hope you enjoy the show!!!!