

Wheaton Warrenville South High School Tiger Marching Band

New Parent Guide to Marching Band

Frequently Asked Questions - August Band Camp

What is Band Camp?

Band Camp takes place for one full week in August before school begins. During the week of August 13-17, the band rehearses from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. with extended rehearsals on Tuesday and Thursday until 5 p.m. to rehearse the football game's half-time show. They will practice rain or shine, so dressing appropriately is important. Pack a lunch, snack and a big jug of water or Gatorade. **(Students do not leave camp for lunch)** The band also will have coolers of water and some fruit available to the kids. Make sure to wear sunscreen! A hat and sunglasses also are appropriate.

Band camp is where the band will learn the drill (movement during the show) and begin putting drill and music together. It is an amazing week where the band bonds and a show is born!

Band Camp is both exciting and overwhelming for a new marcher. Help them to be organized and prepared for the experience, and be extra supportive during the Camp. Once they get through Camp, they'll be veterans!

Is my child expected to be at every rehearsal?

Yes! Each child is an important part of the band and a vital part of the show and is expected to attend every rehearsal. Work, family vacations or non-emergency appointments are not a reason to miss any part of band camp.

What happens if my child misses a rehearsal?

When one person is missing during marching practice, the problem is amplified many times over. It is simply impossible to learn to march a show if there are "holes" instead of bodies on the practice field. Those students who are at practice can't figure out where to go because the people their drill relates to are missing and the people who are missing don't know where to go when they return. Everybody loses.

If your child MUST miss rehearsal or part of a rehearsal, have your child explain the situation in advance to Mr. Madonia. All absences must be reported to Mr. Madonia at 784-7009 or mmadonia@cusd200.org Your student also will need to connect with his or her section leader or a drum major to make up what was missed during the absence.

How does weather affect the rehearsal schedule?

Rehearsals are never canceled due to inclement weather. The band usually will not rehearse outdoors in the rain, unless it is just drizzle or intermittent light rain. In the event of steady rain, they will rehearse indoors and go out at the first opportunity. Students should dress for the weather, whether hot or cold. Not having the proper attire is not a satisfactory reason for having a poor rehearsal. Students should wear sturdy athletic shoes, preferably cross-trainers or running shoes and socks for rehearsals. (No loose fitting shoes.) Again, caps, sunglasses and sun block are recommended. There will always be water at rehearsal, and in extreme cases of cold or heat the rehearsal format may be altered, but the rehearsals are never canceled.

UNIFORMS

What is included in “the uniform” and when/how do we get one?

Marching uniforms consist of the following:

- Black bibber pants
- Jacket
- Gauntlets when new uniforms are in
- Gloves (except for pit and percussion)
- Shakos and plumes (kept at the school)
- Raincoats (kept at the school)

Parent volunteers will fit your student for bibbers and a jacket. These are loaned to you for the season and you are responsible for the dry cleaning. **Your child will be fitted with a uniform during the week of band camp (*may be done before camp this year due to tight timing*).** (Please check with your child to make sure they have signed up for a fitting time. Sign-up sheets will be made available during camp.)

Your student will be fitted for a hat (called a “shako”) which will be kept at school in a specific cubby hole in the hat racks. The plumes are kept with the shakos.

Parent volunteers will also measure your student for a set of “blacks”, these items are required at extra cost:

- Black marching band T-shirt (*they may opt to use their black Heroes Fallen, Not Forgotten t-shirt, one distributed to each TMB member, included in their dues*)
- Black shorts
- Black marching shoes

“Blacks” include the marching band t-shirt and shorts listed above. They will also fit him or her for marching gloves. These items will be ordered for you and delivered to your child to keep forever. The cost of the “blacks” for the 2006 season was around \$45. Your child will also be fitted with black marching shoes. Unless your child outgrows the blacks or shoes, this is a one-time expense.

You will need to provide your child with black socks. They should be good, well-padded, supportive socks. Think black athletic sock, not black dress hose. Please make sure they cover the ankles.

Anything else I need to know about the uniform?

Any alterations will need to be made before the first performance. Bibber pants will need to be hemmed. They should be hemmed at an angle (longer in the back) with no break in the front. There are specific hemming instructions on the TMB website. The pants also need to have black elastic stirrups attached that go under the feet, inside the shoe.

If you are a non-sewer, never fear! Sewing volunteers will be available on specific rehearsal evenings that will be announced. They will hem and sew on elastic for a small fee that will be given back to the Band.

PICTURES

How can I get pictures of the band?

Yearbook pictures for the marching band will be taken at school on August 17th at 3:40 p.m. TMB members should bring their full uniforms that day. An order form will be sent home with your student prior to the picture.

Band parents should be aware that at local and state competitions professional quality pictures of the entire marching band and individual sections are taken and made available for purchase. Many families find that these pictures are better quality than the yearbook photo and often purchase these instead of, or in addition to, the regular yearbook picture. Even if you are unable to attend a particular competition, pictures may be viewed and orders may be placed online after the competition. Photographer website information will be made available.

FINAL PAYMENT DUE

If you have not already done so, please remember to turn your 2nd and final payment of \$150 into our finance coordinator, Mary Burge. An envelope addressed to Mary was included in your registration packet.

SPIRIT WEAR

Each year there is an opportunity to purchase shirts and sweatshirts with either WWS Tiger Marching Band logos or the season's show logo. Family members enjoy wearing these to the band's performances. An order form is available at tigermb.com, complete and turn in no later than 8/24/07.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Drum Major Hosted Band Picnic This annual event will be held the Saturday before the start of band camp, on August 11th at Abbey Lange's house. More information will be provided.

Parent Meeting Tuesday August 21st at 7:30 P.M. in WWS Auditorium

Each band member should have at least one parent or guardian in attendance. Updated information on the fall rehearsal, competition and travel schedule will be distributed. There will be an opportunity to see samples of spirit wear available for ordering, purchase a Tiger Marching Band yard sign, and sign up for volunteer needs.

Tiger Marching Band Family Picnic Come out to meet other band families at a potluck-style picnic at WWS on Saturday afternoon, September 8th. More details to follow.

CONTACT INFO

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

If you or your student have specific questions or concerns that might best be answered by a veteran marcher, check with one of the drum majors listed below or their section leader:

Drum major	Eric Hjellming	462-3963
Drum major	Abbey Lange	668-6596

OTHER IMPORTANT 2007 TMB CONTACTS

To Up-date Food Allergy Information or Medication Use Information	KATHY HERBACH 668-5451 kathleen.herbach@gmail.com
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To Report a Change of Address, Phone or E-mail	LINDA RIEMER 653-5504 lindajriemer@ameritech.net
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To Inquire About Volunteer Needs	KATHY HERBACH 668-5451 kathleen.herbach@gmail.com
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Questions about the TMB Parent Association or any other General Concerns or Questions	JIM FLEMING 933-8618 early_reading_init@yahoo.com
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To Make a Fee Payment or Arrange a Payment Plan	MARY BURGE 665-7623 m.burge@verizon.net 1305 Foothill Drive Wheaton, IL 60187
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Questions about WWSHS Policies or Financial Considerations	PHIL BRITTON 784-7207 pbritton@cusd200.org
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Absences are to be reported directly to:	MIKE MADONIA 784-7009 mmadonia@cusd200.org
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