



**WHEATON WARRENVILLE SOUTH
TIGER MARCHING BAND
2011 HANDBOOK**

**There is a blend of commitment, integrity, scholarship and tradition
unmatched by any group anywhere – we call this the
“Spirit of the Tiger!”**

1993 Tiger Trail Wheaton, Illinois 60189

**refer to www.tigermb.com
for updates throughout the season**

COMMITMENT □ INTEGRITY □ SCHOLARSHIP □ TRADITION

**Mr. Vic Scimeca, Marching Band Director
vscimeca@cusd200.org**

Dear Parents and Students,

On behalf of Wheaton Warrenville South High School I would like to welcome you to a new season of our Tiger Marching Band. The band has one of the finest reputations in the State of Illinois with a long tradition of excellence.

Being in band will afford every student the opportunity to enter an advanced level of instruction with a group of talented friends who share a similar interest and a familiar language – MUSIC. Our upperclassmen will serve as a safe and supportive family in the introduction to this new learning climate.

Now is the time when artistic investments begin to pay measurable dividends. The seeds of success are about to produce a harvest of exciting opportunities for your son or daughter as they take that all important step as a member of our organization.

The heart and soul of the Marching Band lies within each and every parent. Making sure your child is in attendance at practices and performances, having equipment in working order, and instilling in your child the character of treating each other with a level of dignity and respect in all aspects of our learning process.

Our focus is in our performance, not in a trophy or score. We will keep your child's focus on the goal which you will undoubtedly hear repeated over and over....***It if it is worth doing.....It is worth doing well.***

Please take the time to read this handbook from cover to cover with your child. If you have any concerns or questions you may contact me either by email at vscimeca@cusd200.org or at my school phone number of 630-784-7287.

Musically,

Vic Scimeca
Tiger Marching Band Director
Wheaton Warrenville South High School

1. Tiger Marching Band Philosophy

The Wheaton Warrenville South High School Tiger Marching Band (TMB) is a musically and athletically challenging activity where young people can express themselves through the art of musical performance. You can expect that your student will achieve significant personal growth in the following areas: 1) musicianship, 2) social, emotional, and intellectual development, 3) teamwork, 4) individual work ethic, 5) personal responsibility, 6) self esteem, 7) self discipline, 8) school spirit and pride, 9) time management, 10) physical coordination and fitness and 11) lifelong friendships.

2. Membership

- A. Any student eligible to enroll at Wheaton Warrenville South High School is eligible for membership in the TMB provided they have a minimum of instrumental music education on a band/percussion instrument. (Preferably 2-3 years.) Students who study piano are also eligible for membership in the marching band. All TMB students are encouraged to enroll in the curricular band program. The WWSHS bands have won numerous music awards and students will find it a very rewarding experience. If a student is not yet enrolled in the curricular band for the fall, contact Mr. Scimeca at vsctimeca@cusd200.org as soon as possible. An audition may be requested for participation in the band, along with occasional testing throughout the season.
- B. Auditions are required for the color guard. Color guard members may be accepted in the TMB without prior musical experience subject to their level of dance expertise.

3. Calendar of Events

- A. A performance and rehearsal schedule for the TMB is provided so all members can make these dates and time a priority. Please refer to www.tigermb.com
- B. The marching band calendar is subject to occasional changes during the year. Every effort will be made to give at least two weeks notice of any change. Please be flexible if changes occur during the season.
- C. The primary means of communicating changes will be email and posting on the TMB website. Please ensure that the TMB has your current email address. If you do not have email, please arrange to get copies of communications from another band member on a regular basis.
- D. From time to time, students may be requested to arrive earlier or remain later than the scheduled rehearsal times.
- E. Section leaders may schedule special rehearsals as needed for their respective sections to assist with marching and music. This is valuable time for more individualized attention. All TMB members should make these a priority.
- F. The TMB rehearses and performs under most weather conditions. Rehearsals are not canceled due to inclement weather. Students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather. In the event of unexpected weather changes, members are issued thermal raincoats which are extremely warm and protective. In case of lightning, torrential rain, extreme cold and extreme wind, practice will be moved indoors.

4. Attendance Policies

To ensure the quality of the program and the safety of the students, band members are expected to attend all rehearsal and performances.

- A. Excused absences may include illness, death in the family, or sudden emergency. Notify TMB director Vic Scimeca as soon as possible of any such absence. vsctimeca@cusd200.org

- B. Parents may request a scheduled absence from a practice by communicating with Mr. Scimeca in advance. A decision as to whether the absence will be excused is at the discretion of the TMB Director.
- C. Students will not be excused from practice for homework, work, transportation, forgetfulness, non-school activities, or family travel without the express permission of the TMB director.
- D. Any anticipated conflict with a competition date on the schedule must be discussed with the TMB director immediately. There are few, if any, non-emergency reasons to not attend a competition. Family vacations, college testing or college visits are not valid reasons.
- E. To ensure the safety of other band members, the TMB director and staff, at their discretion, may remove any student from a performance for reasons of insufficient preparation or lack of attendance at rehearsals. Parents will be notified in advance of such removal.
- F. The individual student is responsible for making up any work missed during an absence. Absentees should schedule time with their section leaders or drum majors immediately upon their return.
- G. Note that abuse of the attendance/absence policy or general disregard of handbook policies may result in student's loss of Athletic Letter or Number Award.

5. Punctuality

- A. Start time means students are **in place on the field and ready to play**. In order to do this, each TMB member should arrive at least fifteen minutes prior to the established time and be in place for rehearsal five minutes early. If it takes a student additional time to be ready, then he/she needs to arrive at school earlier to prepare themselves for rehearsal. Excessive tardiness will be handled as an unexcused absence.
- B. End time is the time musical rehearsal ends. Members then attend an on field review of the rehearsal, gather all instruments, equipment and belongings and proceed back to the school where everything must be put away properly. This typically takes 15-20 minutes when all students participate.
- C. Excessive tardiness will result in the student being subject to giving back that time in the form of cleaning the department after the rehearsal. Be sure to plan rides accordingly.

6. Rehearsal Illness/Injury

Due to the incredible physical demand inherent in the marching band activity, some students may face athletic related illness or injuries. If a student feels it necessary to remove himself/herself from rehearsal to this type of difficulty, we will ask the student to call a parent or guardian and arrange to be picked up as soon as possible in order to receive the appropriate medical attention. Conditions such as asthma and muscle strains/sprains are some of the more common issues students face. Parents are best qualified to assess the specific needs in these situations. Each student should have a current emergency contact number on file where parents can be reached in case the need arises. Please be certain to contact us if up-dates need to be made to your student's medical information or if phone numbers have changed.

7. Athletics and Other Activities

Participation in the TMB precludes successful participation in a fall sport or other major extra curricular activity because of the intensity of the schedule. The TMB scheduled commitment runs through the month of October, thus allowing members to participate in extra-curriculars and athletics that begin after October 31. Members may participate in winter and spring sports or activities.

8. Attitude

Regardless of their ability, members who have a positive cooperative attitude coupled with a strong work ethic will always have a place in the TMB. Since teamwork is essential, those members with exceptional

musical and marching ability will be expected to assist other students in addition to performing at their individual best. The TMB director has the discretion to withhold a student from performance for exhibiting a negative or uncooperative attitude. The TMB director may request a student to withdraw from the TMB in the case of repeated events of this nature.

9. Band Camp

Each season the TMB holds a mandatory band camp at the school in August prior to the start of the school year. The 2011 season camp will be held August 16 thru 20. Members are expected to schedule vacations around marching band camp. In order to avoid scheduling conflicts, the exact dates and time of band camp are published as early as possible in the second semester of the previous school year. Camp is held regardless of the weather, so please be sure students dress appropriately. Additional information about band camp will be distributed in early August.

10. Instrument Rental

- A. The use of certain district-owned instruments is included in the marching band fee; however, the fee does not cover the cost of maintenance or repair to any of the district-owned instruments. Any member using a school instrument or equipment will be held responsible for that equipment and its repair/replacement.
- B. Parents and students renting a district instrument for marching band use must sign an “Instrument Rental Agreement” before being issued the instrument. This includes all percussion students.
- C. Students should provide their own mouthpieces for rental instruments.
- D. Percussionists should provide their own sticks, general mallets, and stick bag. The marching band will provide bass drum and other specialty mallets. Percussionists will be responsible for replacement cost of school mallets.

11. Uniforms

- A. Attire for the Warrenville and Wheaton 4th of July Parades will be white t-shirts, khaki shorts and gym shoes (no flip-flops). The possibility of purchasing denim shirts continues in discussions. You will be notified prior to parades and other special performances as to what you will be expected to wear.
- B. Uniforms will be fitted and distributed to each TMB student during times to be established over the summer or during band camp. Typically these fitting times are either right before or after scheduled practices. Students and parents will sign a form indicating receipt of a uniform and responsibility for keeping the uniform in good condition. Written instructions and tips for keeping the uniform looking sharp will be handed out at the time a uniform is checked out to your student.
- C. The TMB fee includes the use of a uniform for the year. Students are required to wear a black shirt and shorts under their uniform for ease of changing on buses before and after performances. These “blacks” and a uniform shoe are required to be purchased through the TMB for approximately \$50 at the time a uniform is issued to your student. This is a one time expense for new TMB students. Returning students, unless their sizes have changed, will use the same “blacks” and shoes for all four years.

12. Financial Obligations & Fund Raising

- A. The participation fee for the TMB is \$350.00. This fee includes uniform dry cleaning and photo DVD. A deposit payment of at least \$150 was due by June 1st (you may have opted to pay your entire fee by June 1st.) The remainder was due by August 1st. Any unpaid balances are now due. Checks should be made payable to WWSHS Marching Band, and returned to our TMB Financial

Coordinator Renee Ismail 3S128 Lakeview Drive, Warrenville, IL 60555. If you need to make arrangements for a payment plan, please contact Renee at 630-780-2517 or renee@raevenx.com. If the participation fee presents a financial hardship for your family, please contact Phil Britton, Assistant Principal for Fine and Performing Arts at 630-784-7207 or pbritton@cusd200.org. Your contact with Renee or Phil will be held in strict confidence and will be met with understanding. No student will be denied the opportunity to participate in the TMB because of financial considerations.

- B. As with other WWS athletic programs, the Tiger Marching Band requires that initial deposit to secure your student's placement in the program. In the event you decline to participate after having indicated membership, you will need to contact Phil Britton, Assistant Principal for Fine and Performing Arts at 630-784-7207 or pbritton@cusd200.org to discuss any refund or forfeiture of monies collected.
- C. A high quality program requires more money than is typically generated by District support and student fees. The balance is provided through fund raising activities. The TMB holds a series of car washes and a Holiday Pops concert along with smaller, effortless events such as "Shop 'n' Share" and a 50/50 raffle at home football games. Every TMB family is expected to participate in fund raising activities in order to cover their student's fair share of the expenses. Parents may elect to make a cash contribution for certain fundraisers in lieu of participation.

13. Tiger Marching Band Parents Association

All parents of registered TMB members are automatically part of the Tiger Marching Band Parents Association and have a vital role in helping our students reach their potential! Please visit www.tigermb.com for more information and to choose a team where you would like to serve to support our organization and our students!

14. Letters, Numbers, and Awards

All members in good standing will earn class numerals or a letter for their participation in the TMB. Typically, numerals are given for the first year of participation and letters are awarded each succeeding year. It is an honor to wear letters and numerals on the school jacket.

15. School Rules: Eligibility/Code of Conduct

The TMB will follow the established WWSHS and CUSD 200 academic eligibility and conduct policies as stated in the Co-Curricular Code posted on the www.tigermb.com website. Please read this information carefully. Student grades will be monitored weekly to remedy problems as early as possible. TMB members are expected to adhere to the code of conduct established by WWSHS and CUSD 200.

16. Physical Education Exemption

All members of the competitive marching band, grades 9-12, are eligible to request a P.E. Exemption for the duration of the season (August-October). Students taking a PE exemption may receive a Pass/Fail rather than a letter grade in their PE course. Please check with your counselor to understand current policy in this area. Students will need to see their counselor during the first week of school in order to file the appropriate form for the exemption. The form will need to be signed by a parent and the band director before the exemption will be granted.

17. WWSHS Marching Band Registration Forms & Fees

Every form your student needs to complete in order to participate in the TMB (other than the Instrument Rental Agreement, please see Mr. Scimeca) have been posted on TMB website at www.tigermb.com. You

will receive a general school registration packet from the high school that is specific for their school registration. In addition to that WWS school registration, TMB members must complete the forms posted on www.tigermb.com in order to participate in the Tiger Marching Band.

WWSHS and CUSD 200 require the completion of these TMB forms and payment of the TMB fee in order to be eligible to rehearse and perform. **Because many of our competitions are all day events where meals are provided through our TMB organization, it is important that you inform us of all medical information and of any food or other allergies or medical conditions that apply to your student, including prescription medications.** All medical information is kept strictly confidential.

18. Travel

Detailed information sheets, showing reporting, departing and estimated arrival times are distributed prior to any trip. Please arrange to have transportation available for your students at the designated estimated arrival times. Students must return back to WWSHS with the TMB unless special circumstances require your student to return home with you. In this case, your student must present a signed Travel Release Form to his/her assigned parent chaperone. This form can be found on the TMB website at www.tigermb.com

19. Reclamation Fees

Personal responsibility is of paramount importance for all TMB members. All students are responsible for their personal, school-owned or distributed items. Recovered items will be kept in the office. If a student wishes to claim an item, they may do so by paying a \$1.00 reclamation fee per item.

20. Code of Honor

All TMB members have the privilege to represent WWSHS with pride. With this privilege comes individual accountability and responsibility to display conduct becoming of a mature young adult. Students should follow the directions of chaperones and staff at all times. There Shall BE NO Action for Which an Explanation is Necessary. (*Translation: If you think someone might ask you, "Why did you do that?", then don't do it.*)

21. Final Note

Anything not specifically covered in this handbook will be addressed according to the District 200 extracurricular code of conduct.

Visit www.tigermb.com for pictures, videos, calendar updates, and all TMB forms!

Vic Scimeca, Director vsctimeca@cusd200.org