

Wheaton Warrenville South High School Tiger Marching Band

New Parent Guide to Marching Band Frequently Asked Questions -2009 Season

Does the band perform at football games?

The marching band along with any interested additional band members will perform a crowd pleasing half-time show for all home football games. This year's selections will include some Beatles tunes. You may want to come early to the game – there is nothing quite like hearing the drum line coming down to the stadium and lining the field as the team runs on. The band then plays pre-game music and performs as a pep band during the game.

In addition to regular season home games, the band may also perform as a pep band for home playoff games. They may even travel to away games as the playoffs progress. Playing at post season playoff games is at the director's discretion.

What do I need to know about marching band competitions?

This year the marching band will compete in local and state competitions. This season's competitions will be the Wheaton North's Falcon Marching Band Festival, the Prospect Knight of Champions in Mount Prospect, the Naperville Central Marching Festival held in Lisle's Benedictine University stadium, and the State Championship competition at Illinois State University in Normal.

Parents play a huge role on competition days. There is so much to be done that there is no way the band performs successfully without tremendous support from the parents. Making certain everything needed gets to the performance, equipment set-up, students fed at the right time, water made available before and after performances – these and many other tasks are accomplished by very supportive parents.

Even if you are not on duty in those ways, a prime responsibility is to take your place in the audience. Our parents have a reputation for being some of the most supportive of any at a competition – not just of our own band, but also of the other bands performing.

If you're attending the competition make sure you bring money to buy a ticket and for concessions. Sometimes a ticket is a flat fee for the whole day, and sometimes there are separate fees for the preliminaries and the finals (tip... buy the combo prelim/finals ticket). When ticket information is available to us before a competition, it will be emailed and posted on the TMB web site.

If the schedule says the WWS band is to compete at 12:16pm, do not expect 12:20pm to be a safe time to show up! The bands are very punctual and if the schedule says 12:16pm, they will be performing at 12:16pm.

What is a competition day like?

It's a long day. The students report early in the morning (between 7 and 8 am), rehearse for a while, load up the buses and head to the competition. Once at the competition, they warm up and then perform their show. Their main meal will be served by the hospitality servers at some point during the day. The format of each competition is different, but generally in the late afternoon finalists are announced. If the band makes it to the finals, they get back into uniform, warm up again, perform, and wait for the final presentations. Once they load up and get home, it's late in the evening (or early the next morning).

What should students wear when they come to school the morning of a competition?

They should wear their blacks with whatever they'd like to wear over them. The morning rehearsals can be pretty chilly. Band members should not wear their marching shoes to early morning practice before a

competition because they tend to get wet and grassy in the morning and need to be re-polished before the competition.

Where do the kids change?

The kids all change on the bus. That's one of the reasons they wear the blacks, so that when they change, there's something other than underwear under those uniforms.

What do you send with a student to a competition? What is provided for them?

A complete checklist of what your student needs to bring with them on the day of a competition is sent out during the week prior to the competition and will be posted on the website

Although the hospitality team provides the main meal of the day, you may need to provide a sack lunch for the ride, and you'll be notified if this is the case. Water is provided and maybe snacks for the ride home.

Your child may want to bring a little pocket money if they want an extra snack while they're watching the other bands, or if they're interested in purchasing a program or competition trinket. They may also want to bring another pair of comfortable shoes/pants to wear while they are not competing.

What if my child has specific food allergies or is a vegetarian?

Please note this information on the registration materials. The sheet on the website is an ideal place to note all allergies to foods and medications. It is also a good idea to send the information to the parent in charge of hospitality (Karen Catena at 630-665-2454, rcatena@aol.com). They will accommodate vegetarian preferences, and they will work to avoid food allergies in the meals provided to the band, so be as descriptive as possible regarding what your child cannot consume. With severe allergies you might be better off to send a few "safe" items with your student if the risk of trusting 40 different cookie bakers is too high.

Who will be taking care of my child if they become ill during a competition?

Your student should make sure they know who their chaperone is when they board the bus for each competition. Their chaperone is their point person if they need anything or if they should start feeling ill.

The medical information you provide on the sheet downloaded from the TMB website at the beginning of the season is used in the event that your student needs medical treatment. Please list daily medications and any allergies to medicines. In addition, any relevant health history information should be included.

If medications, medical history or medical insurance information changes during the season, please let the health information volunteer know (MaryBeth Collins at mebmik@yahoo.com), or 630-393-4332 very important that the band leave for every competition with an up-to-date knowledge of each child's medical status. If your child has been placed on a medication that hasn't been communicated, mistakes could be made if additional treatment is sought at a competition. Any information you provide will be kept in strictest confidence by the health volunteer as well as the director.

How are marching band competitions scored? What should I be look for as an audience member?

Bands are generally evaluated in the following six categories:

MUSIC

- 1) Music Performance Individual (woodwinds, brass, percussion). On-field judges walk around the field as the band performs to make comments and give a score based on how well each individual plays.
- 2) Music Performance Ensemble (tone quality, intonation, accuracy and definition, musicality)

VISUAL

- 3) Visual Performance Individual (accuracy and definition, quality of technique)
- 4) Visual Performance Ensemble (evaluating "what" is being performed and "how" it is being performed)

GENERAL EFFECT

- 5) Music General Effect (judges rate the effectiveness of musical repertoire and musical performance)
- 6) Visual General Effect (effectiveness and performance of the visual repertoire)

I particularly find it useful to look at examples. Here are the raw scores from ISU in 2005. You can see how they match up with the categories described above as well as how they come together in the final score. In some competitions, there will also be awards for Best Winds, Best Guard, Best Percussion, Best Overall Effect, and so forth.

BAND	MUS PER	MUS PER	MUS PER	VIS PER	VIS PER	VIS PER	MUS GE	MUS GE	MUS GE	MUS GE	MUS GE AVE.	VIS. GE	VIS. GE	VIS. GE AVE.	SUB TOTAL	FINAL SCORE	RANK
Class 5A	IND.	ENS.	AVG.	IND.	ENS.	AVG.	GE 1	GE 2	GE 3	GE 4	AVE.	GE 1	GE 2	AVE.	TOTAL	SCORE	
Wheaton North	14.00	11.80	12.90	15.20	12.80	14.00	9.70	9.80	10.00	11.80	20.65	10.60	14.60	12.60	60.15	60.15	6
WWS	14.80	16.20	15.50	17.40	15.30	16.35	16.50	16.40	14.90	17.20	32.50	11.00	15.50	13.25	77.60	77.60	2
Joliet West	14.70	15.40	15.05	16.30	10.70	13.50	15.20	17.40	15.30	16.70	32.30	9.80	15.00	12.40	73.25	73.25	4
United Township	14.70	14.80	14.75	16.10	16.50	16.30	16.30	17.00	14.70	16.70	32.35	15.80	14.10	14.95	78.35	78.35	1
Collinsville	14.60	14.60	14.60	15.60	12.40	14.00	17.00	16.70	13.20	16.50	31.70	12.20	13.60	12.90	73.20	73.20	5
Victor J. Andrew	14.70	15.50	15.10	17.30	11.60	14.45	16.10	16.80	13.30	17.10	31.65	14.60	13.30	13.95	75.15	75.15	3

Why doesn't the band always compete against the same schools?

We do not always compete against the same schools from weekend to weekend because each competition classifies the bands slightly different. Some competitions classify by size of school, and others classify by size of band. Those that classify by size of band may classify by the actual size of the band or an estimated size that was submitted months earlier. Consequently, everyone's classification changes and we compete against different schools as the season progresses.

What is Awards Night?

At the conclusion of each season, an awards night is held at the school for all TMB students and their families. A video highlighting the season is shown and often graduating seniors present their own special tribute to the band.

Each band member will receive patches on Awards Night. Freshmen receive their numerals, while sophomores, juniors and seniors receive letters in increasing size increments each year they are in the band.

The marching band will be purchasing patches at the ISU Marching Band Championship for all first-time marchers. They will receive these patches on awards night. So, please don't purchase them on your own. (This is a good piece of information to pass along to your student!) This patch is a pentagonal red, black, and white patch. ISU is written in red across the back of the pentagon, and MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP is written in black across the front. Each band member also will receive a state patch with the band's class and overall rank.

A letterman jacket is a personal choice. As a freshman, your child will have plenty to proudly display on a letter jacket if they should choose to purchase one. Letter jackets can be purchased at Sports Fan in Danada. Girl's jackets run around \$150 and boy's jackets approx. \$170. The Wheaton Warrenville South patch comes on the jacket, but you will need to order the Marching Band patch from Sports Fan. It is \$2 per letter (\$24). The Sports Fan can advise you as to tailors in the area who will sew the patches on the jackets.