

Westerville North

Marching Band

*Unofficial
Parent Handbook*

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Introduction

Welcome to Marching Band!

You have joined one of the largest teams at WNHS. The WNHS Marching Band (MB) is an organization with a history rich in tradition and success. Even though your son or daughter will be the one on the field, MB is for the whole family.

Over the next few months, your child will spend many hours in practice, fine tuning the skills needed to be a thriving MB member. He or she will also be making friends, making memories and having fun, lots of fun. You can get in on the fun too by going to the events, volunteering and supporting the MB in a variety of ways.

Getting started with a new endeavor can be intimidating. This “unofficial” handbook is a tool to assist you in making the most of this experience. It is a compilation of answers to typical first year questions and input from seasoned veterans. Many thanks to those who contributed.

When you need additional or official information, contact the MB Director, Jordi Villanova at VilanovJ@wsoh.org

Another important source of information is the MB Website: www.westervillenorthband.org. Here you will find the MB calendar, driving directions to games and contests, half-sheet information, pictures, additional contacts and more.

Definitions/Terms

Half sheet—information posted a few days before a performance (either game or contest) that outlines the plan for the event. Included will be times, what to wear, where to meet, what to bring, etc.

Show—the band's performance. The show will have a theme and a name. Contest rules specify that a band has 15 minutes for preset, warm-up and performance.

Contest—where your child disappears to on Saturdays during the fall. This is a competition for the MB and a great opportunity for parents and families to show their support. It is also a fun time to get to know other band parents as contests allows you to spend lots of time together. See page 9 for more information about contests.

Band Camp

Band Camp is a not-to-be missed experience. Some things about camp remain a mystery—“if you don’t go, you don’t know”. In general, parents drop off sons and daughters on Sunday afternoon and return on Friday evening to pick up a Marching Band. The transformation is amazing.

The camp schedule looks something like this:

Breakfast

Practice

Practice

Practice

Lunch

Practice

Practice

Practice

Dinner

Free time (very short)

Group activity (campfire, dance, etc.)

Bed and light’s out

Kids stay in dorm rooms—generally by grade (of course by gender). Chaperones are on the floors. A thorough list of things to bring will be provided as well as a list of rules, emergency contact info etc. Snacks for sharing are always welcome.

On Friday (or the last day of camp) the band will perform their show for the parent audience. This is the first opportunity to see the show they will be performing for the contest season. And, the first chance to see on the field results of the magic of band camp.

Often, band members will receive t-shirts that promote their show. These shirts will also be available for parents and family members to purchase. Wearing one to a football game or contest shows your support and WNHS MB spirit.

Band Traditions

Tag Day—a door-to-door solicitation of financial support for the band. Groups of kids are assigned to parent drivers and neighborhoods. The kids go to each house and ask for a donation, giving a “tag,” with tax information and the band schedule, given in return.

3rd Quarter Cookies—during the 3rd quarter of home football games, the MB invites the opposing team band to join them for a snack of cookies and drinks. It is a great time for band members to meet kids from other schools. MB members are assigned to bring cookies by playing section. Parent volunteers serve the cookies and drinks.

Band Spread—a tradition new to WNHS. A host family organizes dinner for the band prior to a home football game. (Several band families contribute.) Band members go to the house for dinner and socializing. After eating, the band forms on the lawn, warms up and then practices their music for that night’s performance. Everyone in the neighborhood gets a free concert!

8th Grade Night—during one home football game, members of 8th grade bands will be invited to join the WN MB on the field to perform at half time. The band will perform a portion of their show. The 8th graders then will go out and they will all play a song or two together. After halftime, the 8th graders are also invited to share in cookies and drinks. This is a great chance to recruit the 8th graders and their parents to join the band the following year.

Band Room Decorating—prior a band contest it is a tradition to decorate the Band Room. Freshman are in charge of decorating before the first contest, followed by Sophomores for the second, Juniors for the third and Seniors for the fourth. Creativity and Warrior colors are encouraged.

Band Banquet—held after the MB season, the banquet is a time for celebrating accomplishments and recognizing important achievements. The pot luck dinner is held in the WN Commons and will include a slide show and performance by the band in the gymnasium.

Senior night—during the final home football game, Senior MB members and their parents are honored and recognized.

Uniforms

Uniforms will be fitted and assigned to students at the beginning of the MB season. It costs over \$100 to replace a uniform and it is impossible to match the burgundy color of the baldric (the fancy sash.) Uniforms need to be treated with respect and care so that they will last many more years. Students (and parents) are responsible for having their complete uniform, clean and in good repair, at all games and contests.

The uniform includes:

Jacket	Gloves
Baldric	Pants
Gauntlets	Gloves
Hat	Black socks (calf length)
Plain white t-shirt	Marching shoes

T-shirts, socks, gloves and shoes are purchased by each student with the other parts of the uniform provided. Gloves and shoes will be available for purchase at the beginning of the season.

Uniforms should be washed after each wearing. Any type of laundry detergent (without bleach) may be used. Use cold water, and make sure the detergent is completely dissolved before adding the uniform. Use a gentle cycle if possible. The uniform can be hung up to dry and will dry in just a few hours. Or, you may use an air cycle or fluff cycle on your dryer for a few minutes.

Uniforms will be returned to the band room before the December holiday break.

Complete information for uniform care can be found on the MB website.

Uniforms are maintained by parent volunteers, so if you are handy with sewing, this may be a job for you to consider.

Football Games

Half-sheet information will be posted early in the week before each football game. Included will be time schedule, uniform for the night and any other important information.

The MB will generally meet a few hours before football games for practice. After rehearsing, members will change and either board buses to away games or take the field for home games.

There will be a MB pre-game performance before each home game, usually starting around 7:00 pm. (All football games start at 7:30 unless otherwise announced.) During pre-game, the MB will play the WNHS fight song, Alma Mater and Star Spangled Banner. The MB will then form a tunnel on the field for the football players to run through. Once the team has taken the field, the MB will march in formation to their seats in the stands. They will support the team by playing “stand songs” until early in the second quarter. Then, the MB will leave the stands for warm up and half-time preparation.

At half-time, the visiting team’s band performs first. For WN MB, the half-time show will vary. Often the performance will be a part of the show, or they may play for special groups such as the Westerville Dance Crew. Occasionally there will be joint programs with the other band.

After the half-time show, band members are free for the 3rd quarter. They can eat the provided cookies or get something from the concession stand, relax and socialize. They need to be back in their seats, ready to play by the start of the 4th quarter.

During the 4th quarter, the band will continue to play fight songs, drum cadences, and join the WN student section to cheer on the team. Post-game performances occur after some games, home or away. Post-game shows provide the band with the opportunity to practice their entire show. Once the performance is over, the band will march in formation back to either the band room or the buses.

Games are a great chance for band parents to get to know each other and support the MB by sitting together and cheering on both the band and the football team. Wear your school colors and or the band t-shirt and have fun!

Contests

Band contests occur on Saturdays during the fall. Contest is a time for the band to shine and show off all that they have worked for. During a contest, the band will perform their entire show. Contests are scripted, with bands following a set sequence for warm up, rehearsal and performance. The schedule for performances will be available a few days prior to the contest. Judging is based on criteria of the contest and awards are presented in several categories.

Although the MB show remains the same, there are two types of contests in which they may participate; OMEA (Ohio Music Education Association) and MSBA (Mid-States Band Association). The basic format for the contests is the same, but each association operates and judges with different rules and criteria. The following is a generalized comparison of the two contest types.

	OMEA	MSBA
Mission Statement	Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) is the principal organization in Ohio promoting music education in elementary and secondary schools as well as colleges and universities. One of the largest state music education associations in the United States, OMEA is a federated state affiliate of MENC, The National Association for Music Education.	MSBA is a consortium of High School band organizations in and around the Dayton Ohio area. There are no "official" membership requirements: MSBA supports many High School band and guard units through sanctioned invitational competitions and a championship show at the end of the marching season.
Competing Class	Based on size of school.	Based on size of band. WNHS is AA (based on 36-54 playing members)
Website for more info	www.omea-ohio2.org	www.midstatesba.org

Going to watch the band compete can be fun for parents too. You may want to consider volunteering as a pit crew member or a chaperone. Contests are held outdoors in football stadiums. Admission fees are around \$6.00 to \$7.00 (chaperones and pit crew members get in free.) Warrior parents and supporters sit together and in the spirit of supporting the band, wear Show T-shirts or WNHS colors. Most contests have concession stands available, or, small coolers or lunch boxes are usually permitted.

Volunteering

Parents are an integral part of making the WNHS Marching Band a success. Volunteering opportunities both large and small are available and everyone can contribute. Whether you are chairing an event or working for one hour at a football game, your contribution makes a difference.

If being in charge is not your preference, start small. Begin by chaperoning a football game or contest, serve cookies, or be a tag day driver. No experience is necessary for any of these jobs. Then, talk to other volunteers and find something that suits you best. Get involved. The rewards are tremendous.

The following is a list of some of the volunteer tasks needed. Please consider how you can help. To learn more about volunteering, contact the event chair or ask the Band Booster President.

Event	Description	Estimated time commitment
Cookie serving at football games	During the 3 rd Quarter of home football games, WNHS band “hosts” the opposing team band for cookies and drinks. Band members bring cookies as assigned, based on instrument section.	Chair: Several hours over the season to coordinate volunteers, attend games for set up, clean up, etc. Volunteers: 30 to 45 minutes—the 3 rd quarter of the game to set up and serve.
Pit Crew *Pit Crew members are admitted free to both games and contests.	Help with front ensemble and props entering and leaving the field. For a complete list of pit crew responsibilities, see the WNHS MB website	For football games between 5:30 to 10:30 pm (11:30 for away games). Active time is in set up, before and after half time and then following the game. For contest schedule will vary but closely follows schedule of band. In general, active time to load equipment, travel to contest, move equipment as band moves and then following performance, re-load equipment and travel back to school. (Several hours)
Tag Day	Tag Day is a door to door solicitation for donations to support the MB.	Chair: Several hours organizing volunteers, assigning neighborhoods and preparing materials. Following the event, counting money and keeping records. Volunteers: Drivers (students may not drive themselves) 2-3 hours the day of the event.

Concessions	Major fund-raiser for MB is operating concession stands for WN basketball games.	Co-Chairs: Several hours organizing operation of concession including worker assignments, food preparation and purchase, etc. Volunteers: 3-4 hours during the basketball games.
Chaperones *Chaperones are admitted free to games or contests	Chaperones are needed to ride buses with students Chaperones needed for band camp	Same as MB schedule Same as camp schedule, generally 6 days (sometimes can be split with another chaperone)

In addition to the opportunities outlined, the band also can benefit from assistance with the following:

- MB Banquet Coordinator
- Senior Night Coordinator
- Uniform Coordinator
- Hosting a band spread
- Sewing (uniforms and/or flags)
- Making props
- Equipment repair
- Fund raising
- Videographer
- Nurse/EMT for band camp
- Newsletter and/or website Coordinator
- Clerical tasks
- Grant writing
- Other talents and/or skills you think will be beneficial

Westerville North High School
Alma Mater

Hail to thee, our Alma Mater.
Learning, growing, let it be told.
Hail to thee, our Alma Mater.
Strong and faithful ever bold.
Warriors from the start. Warriors with a heart.
Warriors loyal, though we part.
North High, dear to us. In this place we trust.
Praise to our banner of Cardinal and Gold.

Westerville North High School
Fight Song

The Warriors will win this game tonight.
We've got the spirit and the pride.
With sword and shield and courage to defend our name and win the game.
The Warriors will win this game tonight.
We've got the spirit and the pride...
to fight, fight, fight with all our might
to bring the victory to North High!