



Gold Brigade Marching Band

Frequently Asked Questions

I am concerned about my child's academic performance during his/her freshman year of high school. Will participation in the marching band have a negative effect on their classroom performance?

This is a very common concern for incoming freshman and their parents. It has been our experience that most of our students' academic achievement is actually higher during the fall marching season. Students participating in the marching band understand the time constraints placed upon them and learn to budget their time more effectively. A large majority of the present marching band students routinely participate in honors courses at the high school level. Another benefit to your child is their association with high achieving individuals. High school students are strongly influenced by the friends with whom they associate on a daily basis. We are proud that many of our marching band and color guard students are the organizational and academic leaders in Warren Central High School.

My child is concerned about the amount of practice time associated with the marching band and color guard activity. Can my child have a life outside of this activity?

With any high achieving organization, whether it is marching band, football, soccer, basketball, swimming, gymnastics, or volleyball, a commitment is required of the students. The marching band practice schedule is very similar to a fall sports schedule. We begin our "season" with a few rehearsals in late June and continue throughout the fall. As directors, we understand the importance of family time and are somewhat flexible with you and your child's schedule. The main key is early communication regarding major family events and situations. Your child's attendance is crucial for the success of the organization. Many students have time to take on a part time job. The students in marching band and color guard have very typical high school lives and are able to participate in most activities that the high school has to offer.

My child is very nervous about committing to the marching band activity. Is it normal for the kids to be apprehensive about this decision?

Participating in the marching band is a big decision. Many of our present marching band students would not have initiated their participation without strong encouragement from their parents. But, once the children become involved in the marching band activity, very few drop out. We have found that many 8th grade students are nervous and have the misconception that they cannot function in a high caliber organization with their limited musical abilities. This is completely false! We work meticulously with the students to ensure that they will be successful in the marching band activity. It is very challenging to be a member of the Warren Central Marching Band, but, the benefits to the development of the "whole" child are unparalleled.

Can my child participate in a sport and do marching band?

Many of our marching band students are actively involved in the sports programs at Warren Central High School. Our practice schedule requires students to make a choice between marching band and a FALL sport (Boys Football, Cheerleading, Boys & Girls Soccer, Girls Volleyball, Boys Tennis, Girls Golf, and Cross Country.) But, many of our marching band students are actively involved in winter and spring sports at Warren Central.

Is there a parent organization associated with the bands at Warren Central?

Warren Central Band Boosters organization is one of the most active parent organizations in the school. Our organization is truly committed to helping every child succeed and have the financial and emotional support needed to participate in the activity. One of the major benefits of your child's participation in marching band and color guard is the involvement that you and your family will have in the organization. Our parents routinely express the thrill of working with other parents to support the kids in the group. As one parent stated recently, "I get to know the kids my children associate with and have contact with their parents as well." The Band Booster organization meets once per month to discuss upcoming events and activities.

Are there fees associated with participation in the marching band? What do the band fees cover?

The fee for participation in the Gold Brigade Marching Band is approximately \$350.00. Payments are due at various dates throughout the summer and fall. A few financial aid scholarships are also available. Many of our students are able to earn a large portion of this fee with their participation in a variety of fundraisers throughout the year that earn credits toward the student's account. The band fees are used to cover many of the expenses related to the marching activity. Funds are used to cover contest trip expenses, uniform expenses, and many of the meals for students throughout the summer and fall marching season.

Do the students have to be in band/orchestra to be in the Gold Brigade Marching Band?

Every member of the WCHS Marching Band participates in Band or Orchestra. The Warren Central Marching Band is a co-curricular activity, but, during the school day students learn important musical basics that are essential to outstanding performance on stage as well as the marching field. In band/orchestra class, students develop musical skills and learn the importance of teamwork and commitment to achieve performance excellence.

Marching Band 2010

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

*Visit www.WCPerfromingArts.com for schedules, forms, handouts, and other information, including fundraising opportunities.

Booster Information

- Band booster meetings take place regularly on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM in the band room. Our first meeting for the 2010-2011 school year will be Monday, August 9, 2010.
- All family members and friends of band members are encouraged to attend and find out how to get more involved in the Warren Central band program.

Football game procedures

- There will be after-school rehearsals prior to Friday night HOME football game performances.
- Dinner will be provided for students before games. Students are not to leave school.

Grades

- As participants in a co-curricular activity, band members are required by WCHS to maintain a 5.0 GPA and have fewer than two F's per report card. Students who fail to meet this requirement will be required to attend tutoring sessions to maintain eligibility for marching band.
- Most students in band achieve well academically thanks to the hard-working and dedicated atmosphere.

Instrument rental

- Instruments are available for rent for students who play larger instruments or who have rented instruments in the past. There is small rental fee for students using school instruments.

Lockers

- All marching band members will be issued a band locker in which to keep their instruments and music. These will be assigned at the beginning of the season.

Membership Fees

- Membership fees are necessary to help pay for the many expenses of the season including transportation, staff, meals, and other needs. However, students are often able to help defray these costs through participating in the several fundraisers that we offer.
- Membership fees are \$350.00. You may pay the entire fee all at once or in installments according to a schedule that will come out soon. (FYI: This fee is among the lowest of all the marching bands in the area!)

Saturdays

- During the marching band season (September and October), Saturdays will consist of either rehearsals or competitions.
- On contest Saturdays, students will need to make sure they are free the entire day.
- 2010 Contest days are as follows: September 18, September 25, October 2, October 9, October 16, October 23, and October 30.
- Specific itineraries will be made available shortly before each Saturday contest, usually on the preceding Tuesday.

Show T-shirt

- All students will receive a special show t-shirt.
- Students will be required to wear this shirt on designated Fridays and Saturdays.
- The t-shirt is part of the uniform and should not be altered in any way.

Student leadership

- Student leaders have been appointed by the directors. Developing leadership is an important facet of the marching band experience.
- All discipline matters will be handled by directors and staff.
- Traditionally, students voluntarily do push-ups or run laps for mistakes or minor infractions during rehearsals.

Uniforms , Gloves and Marching Shoes

- Every wind player needs to purchase his/her own long black uniform gloves. They are available in the WCHS bookstore.
- Uniforms will be cleaned periodically at the discretion of the uniform committee.
- Uniforms are never to be taken home.
- Students are required to purchase marching shoes to go with the uniform. The cost of these shoes is about \$30.00.
- Students need to wear their own long, plain, black socks with the marching shoes. Students failing to comply with the uniform will not be allowed to perform.