



WHEATON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
FALCON BANDS
JON S. NOWORYTA, *DIRECTOR OF BANDS*

January 2008

Dear Eighth-grade Band Students and Parents,

With high school course registration scheduled for your eighth-grade band student at the beginning of February, the **Band Department at Wheaton North High School** would like to encourage you to take advantage of the excellent musical opportunities at Wheaton North and also provide you with some important information as you consider continuing in band during your freshman year. Enclosed, please find a letter describing these opportunities, as well as a copy of the brochure detailing the **Wheaton North High School Band Program**. In addition, the following information should help to answer your student's questions about registering for band at Wheaton North.

Registration for Band: If you are currently in band, you should register for band next year! Registration is simple: when you register for high school band, ALL woodwind or brass students should select "**Concert Band**," and percussionists should choose "**Percussion Ensemble**." These are the entry level groups and there is no audition for them.

Auditions for Symphonic Band and Percussion Ensemble: If you want to try-out for a more challenging group, you will have the opportunity to audition for Symphonic Band. All eighth-grade band students can audition for Symphonic Band and Percussion Studies. Although not all incoming freshmen will be selected, the audition process itself is a valuable experience. If you are enthusiastic about taking private lessons, practicing your instrument regularly, playing challenging music, and pushing yourself to progress musically, then you should give Symphonic Band or Percussion Studies auditions a try! It is a worthwhile experience! Auditions will be held on **Thursday, February 21, 2008**. If you play at the level of the group, I will change your schedule for you and put you into Symphonic Band. Percussionists who wish to perform in Symphonic Band concerts must also audition in the spring, but after passing the audition you will be assigned to "**Percussion Studies**" as your class (this is a different class from "**Percussion Ensemble**"). All of these classes also meet during the school day for credit. The audition dates are as follows:

Symphonic Band / Percussion Studies Auditions February 21 @ Wheaton North

These are "anonymous" auditions (you will not know your judge), and students will be placed in either a Band or Percussion class based on them. Please see your director to sign up for an audition. If you miss this sign up time, e-mail Mr. Noworyta at jnoworyt@cusd200.org to register for the audition. Remember: **Students who wish to be in Concert Band do not have to audition**. Again, individual student schedules will be adjusted after the selection process has been completed.

Audition Music: Audition material for Symphonic Band and Percussion Studies is available now. Please see either your director or Mr. Noworyta at the high school to get copies of all

required music. The audition music consists of “Cycle 1” of the IMEA (Illinois Music Educator Association) music rotation, which are also used for fall local and state IMEA auditions. The fall auditions for these IMEA honors ensembles, which include orchestra, concert band, and several jazz bands, as well as chorus and vocal jazz ensembles, are usually held in mid-October at an area high school and are always posted on the WNHS Band website at www.wnband.org.

Marching Band and Color Guard Participation: No auditions are required to participate in the Wheaton North Marching Band or in the Color Guard (which is an auxiliary unit that complements the music performance of the band using flags, rifles, sabers, and dance to enhance the visual aspect of performances). Participation information for this extra-curricular drum and bugle corps-style marching band will be sent home to band students in May. If you have friends who do not play instruments but might be interested in participating in Color Guard, have them pick up the marching band information packet from the Wheaton North Band Department in May. The registration forms and half of the participation fee (approx \$200) should be returned to the high school in June before the end of the school year, because the competitive show for the marching band is written over the course of the summer and based on each individual player’s participation. The show is learned during marching band camp, which is held the first two weeks of August and which every marching band participant (instrumentalists, color guard, the pit percussionists, and the drum line) is required to attend.

Drum Line Clinics: Percussionists who would like to participate in the Drum Line of the marching band (snare, tenor, and bass drums) must attend audition workshops beginning in February 2008. Drum Line auditions will consist of several workshops in which students will work on various percussion instruments under the direction of the fall percussion staff. All music, exercises, and audition materials will be handed out at the workshops. Please e-mail Mr. Noworyta at jnoworyt@cusd200.org to register for the audition workshops.

Auditions for Wheaton North Jazz Bands and Combos: All instrumentalists, including guitar, piano, and string bass players, may audition for selection into several extra-curricular large jazz bands and small combo groups. Auditions are usually held in mid-November (check our website, listed below), and auditioning students try out with the IMEA Jazz music (provided) and some improvisation. Audition music will be available in advance.

Please make note of the **Spring 2008 Schedule of Events** we have provided along with this letter. Make a point of visiting us at the performance of your choice. We would love to have you as our guest! **Call us at 630 784-7470** if you have questions, and check out our **website at www.wnband.org** for more information! We look forward to building new relationships with your student in the Wheaton North Falcon Band Program, providing opportunities to play great music for maximum musical growth, and best of all, sharing a sense of belonging and camaraderie that permeates the whole high school experience!

Welcome to the Wheaton North Band program,

Mr. Jon Noworyta, *Director*

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