

Parent Info for First (or any other) Year Marching Falcon:

- My child needs a **BIG** container of water for Band Camp not just a 16 oz. water bottle.
- There is a Family Preview Night **Friday, August 5th** at 7:30 pm where the band performs the show for family members and friends. At Family Preview Night, parents can sign up to volunteer to help out with one or more of the many behind the scenes activities that enable the show to go on.
- The band gets back from competitions **late** in the evenings – sometimes 11:30 pm and possibly as late as 2:00 am. Car pooling with other band families would be very helpful.
- How much **FUN** it is to watch the competitions! If parents wish to attend local competitions, plan on paying an entrance fee such as \$10 - \$15 per person
- How much **FUN** it is to help out with the competitions, the Falcon Band Contest, and other band performances! Also, consider volunteering to chaperone a competition.
- **The show goes on, rain or shine.**
- Students usually need money for food/concessions at competitions
- How approachable and friendly the Falcon Band Parent volunteer group is! Everyone is welcome and appreciated. This is something the whole family can belong to!

WHEATON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL FALCON BANDS



Commit to the Legacy, Commit to the Falcon

Marching Falcon Member Handbook 2011
Jon Noworyta, *Director of Bands*

Falcon Bands Student-Written Mission Statement

We are a family of Wheaton North students and leaders unified by music. Through music, we grow and discover ourselves. The power and emotions we experience as musicians compel us to strive for excellence and continue the Wheaton North Band legacy. We all have one thing in common – passion. Our passion for the music and desire for success is what shapes us into who we are; when words and actions fail, music speaks.

Marching Falcons Philosophy

The focus of the Falcon Marching Band is to work together to create a show that is artistic and rewarding for performers and entertaining for the audience. We accomplish this by striving for excellence musically, visually, in work ethic, behavior, and performance. In other words:

How are your ... Feet?	TOGETHER
Shoulders?	BACK
Head?	UP
EYES?	WITH PRIDE!

Marching Falcons Band Staff

The staff of the marching band is made up of talented and experienced musicians and marchers with years of experience. This year we will have several new faces joining us in various capacities, in addition to our returning staff members Patrick Verhalen, Anders Hagen, and Tara Miaorello.

Welcome

WELCOME MARCHING FALCONS! The Marching Band at Wheaton North High School is rich in tradition. The kind of marching we do is a form of art which uses music and field marching to entertain the audience and impress adjudicators. You are joining a very special team and will create lifelong memories with them.

The Show Concept

KAI Music of Cirque du Soleil Music by Rene Dupere We have purchased this year's show from Marching Show Concepts. Cirque du Soleil describes KA as "the unprecedented, gravity-defying production ... that takes adventure to an all new level. KA is a heroic journey of love and conflict, set within a dynamic theatrical landscape, as an entire empire appears on KA's colossal stage and a captivating display of acrobatics envelops the audience." And we're going to do *that* on the field!

Competitions: One thing that attracts many young people to marching band is the feeling that you get when in competition. Our goal is to out-perform ourselves each time we take the field, with the mindset of striving to win – if we don't at least reach for the stars we will never achieve them! The pride that comes with those excellent performances and the thrill you receive from the crowd is unbelievable and cannot be measured. Competitions are athletic concerts held in a football stadium and are governed by specific rules. Bands are classified by either band size or school size. Awards are given in various captions.

Competition Schedule: We will attend 4 away competitions (day-long events) as well as host our own Falcon Marching Band Festival. We will always rehearse the day of a competition, travel to the contest, perform at our assigned time, watch other bands, await results, and hopefully perform in the evening finals at Lake Park and State.

Marching Band Banquet: This will take place on Monday, November 7th at 6:00 pm in the Commons, so we can get together with our families and celebrate a successful season! More info TBA.

Student/Family Cost, Forms: Marching Band is a fee-based activity. This fee is \$200.00 per student for the season, which covers a variety of expenses. Checks can be made out to "Falcon Band Parent Organization". Students using school owned instruments (including all percussion and color guard) also owe an additional \$35.00 fee. This fee covers rental for the entire school year. Other family expenses may include marching shoes, gloves, etc. These last items will be sized, ordered, and further explained at or after band camp. An additional trip fee for Band s of America buses and hotel will be announced at Band Camp, when we have a final number from that organization.

This packet contains the following forms: medical information form, Marching Band Commitment form, and parent volunteer form, and fee schedule. **PLEASE SEND THE FORMS IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.** Fees need to be paid according to the schedule on the form enclosed. The marching band drill is written based on the *exact* number of participants. We need to know this number ASAP so that our visual designer can begin writing.

DO NOT SEND PAYMENTS OR FORMS TO SCHOOL!!!!!! Send them to:

Dave Manschot (Band Parents Treasurer)
2038 N. Summit St.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Band Camp Schedule

Daily, August 1 – 5

8:00am: Field: Stretching, Basics. No instruments or equipment.

9:00 am: Field: Drill (choreography) rehearsal

12:00pm: Lunch – you may leave campus but you may NOT be late for the next session

1:30 pm: Sectionals (this is a full rehearsal on Monday)

3:00 pm: Parking Lot: Full Ensemble Rehearsal

4:15 pm: DINNER BREAK - GO HOME, relax for a little bit!

6:00 pm: On the field: stretching, basics with instruments, integrating music with drill.

9:00 pm: Dismissal Go home and sleep

****ALL FEES ARE DUE MONDAY! Mr. Manschot will accept payments****

Saturday, August 6 - CAR WASH!!

Wheaton Bowl – you will be assigned to one of the 2 shifts: 11 am to 3 PM or 1 to 5 PM. Everyone is expected to participate. It's pure \$\$ and a TON of fun...

Post-camp practices:

There is one evening rehearsal before the school year begins: Thursday August 18th.

Fall Rehearsal Schedule: The regular rehearsal schedule is

Tuesday and Thursday nights 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Please check the attached schedule for any changes in day.

Football and Pep Band: High school marching bands existed for the sole purpose of entertaining the football crowd for a very long time. So, entertaining our football crowd is VERY important. We will perform a different (shorter and easier) field show during football games which will be chosen by our section leaders and Seniors. This music will be given out at camp and the show will be learned at the post-camp rehearsals.

Football Game Schedule: We have five home games scheduled this year, not including playoffs. We will meet at 6:00 pm, dress, perform pre-game, play tunes in the stands, perform our show at halftime, return to the stands for the second half, and play exit music at the end of the game.

Expectations

Marching Band at WNHS is a voluntary, *extra-curricular* musical activity. In other words it is not a part of our band classes and meets outside the school day. By joining you agree to the following expectations:

Attendance: Attendance is required for ALL rehearsals, games, and competitions. You are expected to attend and to be early. This is the same policy that Varsity athletic coaches hold their teams to at Wheaton North. Commitment is never a question until conflict arises

- Illness or family emergencies are excused absences. A detailed parental note or email explaining specific reason of the absence is required any time you miss rehearsal. Without these details, you might not be allowed to march the next performance.
- The last rehearsal before a performance is required. If you miss that rehearsal, you will not march the performance (no exceptions), but you WILL be required to attend it.
- Unavoidable preplanned absences (family weddings, etc) require one-month-advance detailed written notice from a parent or guardian. Please try to keep these absences to a minimum.
- WORK and HOMEWORK (specifically, projects or group projects) are not acceptable reasons to miss rehearsals. Please do not come to me the day of or the day before to tell me you can't be at rehearsal. If you miss for these reasons, you will not march the next performance.
- Excessive tardiness to rehearsals will result in not being allowed to march performances. ("Early" is "On Time", "On Time" is "Late".)

Behavior: The members of the Marching Band at Wheaton North High School are expected to strive for excellence in behavior as well as in performance. The rule is simple – be good kids at all times!! You are therefore expected to act with class, maturity, and professionalism. GUM is not allowed on the field or at rehearsal – this includes color guard and percussion. Unacceptable behavior can result in permanent removal from the Falcon Marching Band. *Our goal – to be people of high integrity and admirable character at all times.*

Musical Expectations: The music is the life of the show. It is more important for us to play the music well than it is to march well. The expectations for musical performance are extremely high:

- It is preferred and highly encouraged that all members of the Marching band be enrolled in a curricular music class or band.

You learn more in daily classes than you will on your own or in marching band rehearsal.

- All members of the marching band are expected to spend at least 30 to 60 minutes a day practicing their instrument or music. This is your *responsibility*. Technical problems need to be worked out individually prior to rehearsal
- All show music must be memorized.
- Anyone who does not perform up to expectations can (and probably will) be "benched".

Care and Treatment of Equipment: All instruments must be kept in excellent playing condition. Valves and slides should be oiled and greased regularly. Woodwinds should be swabbed after every performance, drum sticks should be taped and not cracked, pit mallets should not be worn out, etc. Brass instruments should be polished prior to all competitions. Wood instruments should not be used in marching band.

Care of Your Uniform: You will be issued a WNHS Marching Band Uniform and Shako (hat). The uniform is a symbol of the legacy of the Marching Falcons. The uniforms should be in EXCELLENT condition. They need to last a long time and are quite expensive. Treat them well.

- You may not wear any jewelry, chew gum, eat, or drink "sticky" beverages in uniform.
- All uniforms are to be hung neatly in uniform bags in the Uniform Storage Room in the band room. Your Shako will be kept in the storage room as well.
- Black marching shoes need to be polished prior to ALL performances. All students must have 2 pairs of BLACK socks in their uniform bag.
- All students will receive a season t-shirt and a pep band t-shirt at camp. The pep band t-shirt is worn under the uniform for ALL performances. The season shirt is worn publicly at competitions.

Marching Season

The Marching band season goes from August through the end of the football season. It is a big time-commitment. We rehearse *considerably* less than other bands that we compete against, so we need to make *every* minute of rehearsal count! Prioritize your schedule and please mark your calendars now. If there are any potential conflicts, you should note them on the form provided. This schedule is as complete as possible at this time. I will try to provide at least a month notice if any changes need to be made to the schedule.

Rookie Clinic Sessions: It is important that all of the rookies are comfortable on the first day of camp. So, the section leaders and I will work with rookies several times before camp to help you learn our style of marching. These clinics are for your benefit, you need to be at 2 of the following 3 sessions – please dress comfortably:

July 18th (10am – 12 pm)
July 19th (2 – 4 pm), OR
July 21st (6 – 8 pm)

Band Camp: Band Camp the preseason conditioning for marching band and is **required** for all members, similar to the way that all fall sports teams have summer pre-season practices. Camp does not go all summer, it is only 1 week long. During this time we will learn fundamental music and movement skills and learn our field shows. If you miss camp, you almost always feel behind for the rest of the season, it's hard to make up that time. It's intense – but it's VERY fun. Be physically active *throughout the summer!* **EAT, EAT, EAT!** Load up on the carbs and liquids at every meal, **INCLUDING BREAKFAST!**

General Items that all Band Members Need to Bring to Band Camp (non-negotiable)

- Instrument & music or Flags/equipment
- *Large water jug or bottle (FILLED WITH COLD WATER or GATORADE, but NOT soda!)
- Sneakers & socks – No sandals! No bare feet! No exceptions!
- Hat – not visors! NO exceptions!
- Sunglasses and Sunscreen – HUGELY important for morning and afternoon rehearsals.
- Shoestring or lanyard
- Pencil
- The Guard should also bring: Guard gloves and black electrical tape