

About Marching Band and Color Guard:

Marching band is a musical ensemble that portrays its musical selections through the use of motion and visual concepts such as drill moves and the use of Color Guard. It combines music, athleticism, and choreography to generate entertainment.

The Lions stand for excellence on and off the field. We look to bring out the best in each individual, and we strive to develop outstanding people through the pursuit of “pride in personal excellence”. We believe that within every individual the potential for greatness exists.

Every person in our organization is essential to its success, regardless of the position they hold. There are no performers who “sit on the bench”. Everyone is a “varsity starter” at every rehearsal and performance. All of us (students, staff, and parents) **must work together** to achieve our goals.

We strive to create memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. We will work unselfishly in rehearsal and performance through mutual respect, a commitment to one another, honesty, and dedication.

Who Can Join?

EVERYONE! Marching band and color guard is open to all interested participants. Many musicians find that marching band helps further develop their personal instrumental training and the rewards of hard work pay off far after the competitive season is over. Generally, some prior musical experience is required, but exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

Musicians are just one part of marching band. The Color Guard is also an integral part of the visual side of our program. Many Color Guard members are also musicians who would rather dance, spin, and toss equipment. Unlike the musician members of the marching band, no prior experience is required to join the Color Guard.

Requirements, Expectations, and Behavior

1. **BE PUNCTUAL!** To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is to be left. The set schedule time is when rehearsal/performance beings. Arrive at the school before this scheduled time to allow you to:
 - a. Get your instrument
 - b. Prepare/move any equipment to rehearsal site (yard line markers, etc.)
2. Learn a demanding list of repertoire over the course of the year.
3. Practice all assigned repertoire as well as assignments outside of rehearsal.
4. Come prepared to rehearse at each rehearsal. (Music, pencil, instruments, mutes, valve oil, reeds, water, etc.)
5. Behave appropriately at all rehearsals and performances. Remember, you not only represent yourself, but you are representing your school and your music department. At the Director's discretions, inappropriate behavior may lead to dismissal from the ensemble.
6. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory! **THIS INCLUDES POST SEASON FOOTBALL AND OTHER PERFORMANCES!** Please refer to the "Attendance" section of this packet and the Commitment form you filled out.
7. Maintain a high level of academic excellence. Manage time efficiently so that schoolwork and The Marching Lions do not conflict.
8. Practice teamwork and good sportsmanship at all times:
 - a. Try your best at every practice and during performances; learn from mistakes, accept constructive criticism, and don't get angry with yourself or others for making a mistake.
 - b. Pay attention to and respect all instructors and parents.
 - c. Accept parts that the staff assign and give your best effort at all times.
 - d. Be positive and encourage fellow members.
 - e. Take pride in our team regardless of score or placement.
9. Work hard and have a great show!
10. The WJCC School District Student Code of Conduct is in effect at all times. This includes rehearsals, competitions, bus rides to and from performances, and the band trip.
11. Remember, in and out of uniform, you represent the Warhill High School Music Program. Be sure to conduct yourself in a manner that is becoming of a young professional.

Communication

We send emails and post on social media to disseminate information. It is imperative that we have your correct email address on file.

Attendance

In order to ensure full participation in rehearsals and performances, the WHS Marching Lion Staff, have established the following list of attendance requirements.

Your schedule is included in this handbook and in the calendar section of our website, www.warhillband.com. All attendance requirements are based on the expectation that you will commit to these dates at this time. In other words, if something else “comes up”, you are already committed to your performing ensemble.

If you have anything on your schedule that may conflict with our schedule, please discuss it with the director BEFORE you commit to the activity. We will be as flexible as possible, but you must communicate.

Once the season begins, attendance is mandatory at all functions.

An unexcused absence from a performance may result in your dismissal from your performing group at the discretion of the director.

For student leaders, 1 **unexcused** absence from rehearsal may result in loss of student leader status.

For parents: while we recognize the importance of discipline, we ask that you do not punish your child by not allowing them to attend a practice or a performance. Doing so punishes the entire group and hurts the group’s chances for success. We would request that you please choose disciplinary measures that limit the punishment to your child only. A practice missed because of punishment will be

considered unexcused. We ask that you please take this into consideration before allowing your child to join this activity.

The band director will deal with emergency situations that arrive on an individual basis.

Every member of the Warhill Marching Lions is expected to attend all rehearsals and performances including football games, competitions, and parades. Failure to attend rehearsals may result in removal from the group. Absences from rehearsals will only be excused with the direct permission of the DIRECTOR prior to the rehearsal being missed. Sending notice in with another student that you will not be attending rehearsal will NOT be considered an excused absence. Expect for extenuating circumstances, excuses submitted AFTER an absence will not be excused.

NOTIFICATIONS OF ABSENCES FROM A REHEARSAL:

YOU (the student) must CALL or present WRITTEN NOTICE (email preferred) stating the specific reason for any absences or tardiness from a rehearsal or sectional **at least** 24 hours before the rehearsal or sectional (please communicate sooner if possible!). My email address is _____

Illness, school functions, or special problems may be excused provided notification is given in a timely manner.

Avoidable conflicts are **unexcused** (work, babysitting, lack of planning)

A follow up may be conducted with a parent should the absence be in question.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCES FROM A PERFORMANCE:

Marching band performances (including football games and parades) are required. All of these are equivalent to a major test in band.

An absence from a **performance** requires communication for the student and parent **at least two weeks prior** to the event (please communicate sooner if possible!)

It is the parent's and student's responsibility to ensure events that conflict with band rehearsals and performances are avoided. Please try to schedule flexible events such as doctor and dentist appointments to avoid conflicts with band events.

Excused Absences will be granted as follows:

Death in the family – Student contacts director by phone, email, or in person as soon as possible before the absence.

Student Illness – Students contact the director by phone, email, or in person **BEFORE** the absence. If a student is sick during the school day, a parent may call.

Participation in any other WHS events – All students must communicate with the director for each event for approval. Please do not assume that the director knows your schedule.

Other reasons for absences will be handled on an individual basis. Parents may contact the director when problems arise but **STUDENTS** should be the **PRIMARY contact**. Help us to teach individual responsibility!

Unexcused Absences from events resulting in possible dismissal:

BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT: No communication = automatic unexcused absence.

Work conflicts are **UNEXCUSED**. Communicate with your employer well in advance so work and band are not a conflict. You have been given the first semester band schedule in August so you have plenty of time to make your employer aware of your band schedule.

Visiting relatives, special parties and dinners for birthdays, etc. . . . are unexcused.

Band and Guard Camp

Band and Guard Camp is where we first come together for the season to learn our show. It is the most work and most fun you will have! Attendance is mandatory and unexcused absences may result in removal from the group.

Camp begins the first week in August and will continue the entire month. We will also have a full day Saturday practice. Please finish all vacations in July to avoid conflicts with camp.

Absences will only be excused with the direct permission of the DIRECTOR prior to the rehearsal. Sending notice in with another student will NOT be considered an excused absence. You must call or email stating the reason for absence or tardiness at least 24 hours before a rehearsal and 2 weeks prior to a performance.

Members should bring their instruments and all supplies, music, dot sheet, binder, plastic page protectors, and a pencil. It is recommended that you also bring sunscreen, lip balm with sunscreen, water (a gallon jug!), weather and school appropriate clothing, hat, sunglasses, and sneakers with socks. **NO SANDALS!** Inappropriate attire may result in dismissal from band camp. The Booster's will provide water and snacks as needed.

Marching Band Fees

ALL Marching Lions must pay a participation/uniform rental fee of \$80 to Warhill High School. This fee covers the members competition costs, transportation, marching uniform rental, and show t-shirt. The fee also covers dry cleaning for each uniform.

Students who use WJCC instruments are assessed an additional \$50 fee. This includes percussion and sousaphones. Fees for all of the above items should be paid by check to Warhill High School.

ALL Marching Lions must also purchase Dinkle marching uniform shoes. Shoes are \$30 per pair and will be sized during band camp. All new members and returning members who need replacements will order shoes.

ALL Marching Lions (with the exception of the percussion section) must purchase 2 pair of white marching gloves. Gloves are \$5 for 2 pair. All new members and returning members who need replacements will order gloves.

Fees for shoes and gloves must be paid by check to the Warhill Band Boosters.

Uniforms include a Shako hat and plume, jacket, bibber pants and a show t-shirt to wear under the bibbers. You must purchase the marching shoes and gloves from the Boosters. You must also purchase on your own knee length, plain black socks, plain black crew neck t-shirt for competitions, and plain black athletic shorts to wear under the bibbers. Most members buy the shorts from our merchandise sale at the beginning of the year.

Band uniforms are owned by the school. Color Guard uniforms are owned by guard members. While a student is in possession of a band or guard uniform, responsible care will be exhibited while wearing and storing it. Students are prohibited from wearing the uniform anywhere that is not a band activity. They may not allow others to wear any parts of the uniform.

Color Guard Fees

ALL Marching Lions must pay a participation fee of \$80 to Warhill High School. This fee covers the members competition costs, transportation, and show t-shirt. Fees for all of the above items should be paid by check to Warhill High School.

ALL Marching Lions in the Color Guard must also pay a fee of \$80 for custom uniforms and flags. This can be paid by check to the Warhill Band Boosters. Color Guard uniforms are themed and custom made for our show each year. Guard members will keep their uniforms each year.

Color guard will also need shoes, gloves, and undergarments. The price is \$40. All new members and returning members who need replacements will order shoes.

The Color Guard is a section of the Marching Band that uses flags, rifles, and sabres along with dance to visualize the music played by the band. In marching

band competitions, the guard is an essential component of the band and their performance is influential in the overall score.

Auditions are typically held in spring for the upcoming school year. Any current or rising Warhill High School student with an interest is invited to audition. You don't need previous performance, dance, or music experience. Technique in dance, flag, rifle, and sabre work can be taught to anyone with a desire to perform. Color Guard is open to ALL students, male and female.

In August, Color Guard members attend band camp with the marching band. The camp is a wonderful bonding experience where you will make life-long friends as you learn to perform with the marching band.

During the Fall Season, the Color Guard will perform with the band at the half time show during home football games and travel with the band to competitions on Saturdays. The color guard, and all members not actively playing an instrument, dance during football game stand tunes. The student section usually joins in.

NO STUDENT WILL BE DENIED MEMBERSHIP FOR FINANCIAL REASONS. Please contact Mr. Fary at Timothy.Fary@wjccschools.org or 757-566-4615 x 11617 to discuss options such as payment plans.

Uniforms

1. ALL parts of the uniform must be worn at ALL times unless otherwise indicated by the director. No individual variation in uniform wear will be allowed. An exception is during spirit nights (ex. Neon, red, white and blue) when members may wear bandanas IN THE STANDS.
2. No chewing gum in uniform.
3. No jewelry or nail polish while in uniform. Exception for guard make-up.
4. No bandanas, skullcaps, etc. are to be worn under the Shako hat. Long hair must be tied back and tucked underneath the Shako hat.

5. Uniform pants and jackets must be hemmed appropriately. There are snaps in the pants and jacket sleeves to help you do this.
6. No hugging painted students in the student section while in uniform. The paint will mess up the uniform.
7. Dinkle marching shoes should be free of dirt, mud, dust, etc. and maintain a shiny appearance at all times. This can be accomplished with a wet cloth and black KIWI shoe polish. Shoes will be inspected before a performance.
8. Use of a garment bag is required to store and transport your uniform. It is provided for you. Do not place items such as books in your garment bag. The only exception is if you uniform is being worn, you may store you change of clothes in the garment bag and exchanged at the end of the performance.
9. Uniforms should be folded, hung, and kept clean for each performance. This includes gloves. It is your responsibility to maintain the uniform's appearance between performances.
10. Once you have properly hung you uniform in the garment bag, return it to the correct rack in the correct place. The band room and storage areas are NOT your personal clothing closets.
11. Examine your uniform after each use. Report any rips, etc. to Mr. Fary or one of the chaperones **immediately. Any uniform ruined due to improper care shall become the student's financial obligation.** Uniforms are approximately \$600 each.

If you fail to comply with these rules or your uniform is not up to the established standards, you **will not** be allowed to perform.

Warhill Football Games and Pep Rallies

The band plays at all home football games and Pep Rallies. If we play Lafayette or Jamestown and are the “away” team, our band will still play. Members will be excused from their last class for the pep rallies via emails from the Director to the other teachers. We also play at postseason games. The band does not travel to away games. Games start at 7:00 and admission is \$6. You will have to pay admission, unless you are a performing band/guard member, volunteer with the Boosters in the concession stand, as a chaperone, or work on the Pit Crew.

On game day, members can stay after school. There will be a pizza ordered (usually \$1/slice). A sign-up sheet will be in the band room to order pizza. Place money in an envelope with your name and slice count on it on Thursday. Members can go home after school, but they must be back at the school by a predetermined time decided on by the Director for rehearsal. Call times are announced based on the performance date.

Members should bring their uniform clothes to school and change into their black athletic shorts (basketball shorts), black t-shirts, black socks, Dinkles, and will rehearse at the school. Members will then gather all instruments and uniform bags and ride buses or walk to Wanner Stadium. Members unload instruments, with the help of our pit crew, and place cases under the bleachers. They will then change into the performance uniform. Members will warm up again and head to the bleachers. Each instrument will sit with their section. Stand tunes are played at all games as well as the fight song when a touchdown is scored. You will receive this music from you section leaders and also practice it at band camp. The band plays the first two quarters and then the halftime show. The third quarter is break time and members can go to the concession stand to eat and relax. Please use our concession stand order form to pre-order your food and avoid long lines. The fourth quarter the band will play again. The color guard, and all members not actively playing an instrument, shall dance during football game stand tunes. The student section usually joins in and cheers with rally towels. After the game, students will gather all belongings and clean their areas in the bleachers. Students are not permitted to leave the stadium with their parents. They must ride the bus back to Warhill High School. They will return to the school via the bus to unload, change out of uniforms, and pack up clothes and backpacks. Please be prompt in picking up your child as game days are long for everyone. Park in parking spaces at Warhill. Do not park along the sidewalk. This is where the buses park to unload the band.

Marching Competitions

The band usually has 3-5 marching competitions per season. We have traveled to Chesapeake, Newport News, Hampton, and Liberty University. Depending on how far we are traveling, we may stop on the way and eat or eat at the concession stand at the competition. Please send money with your child.

On competition days, members will meet at Warhill in the band room. We will load all equipment and uniforms onto the buses and trailers with the help of the Pit Crew. Members will board the bus to the competition. Only members and chaperones may ride the bus. Parents wishing to attend competitions must drive themselves and pay the entrance fees. Students will be bused back to Warhill to be picked up by parents. Please be prompt in picking up your kids. Competition days are extremely long and everyone will come home exhausted. Please attend competitions as we need a big cheering section to wave the rally towel and show our Warhill PRIDE! Park in parking spaces at Warhill. Do not park along the sidewalk. This is where the buses park to unload the band.

Competitions are usually held on Saturdays in October, and November.

Warhill Classic

The Warhill Classic is our own marching competition. We host approximately 20 bands in early October. **This is an all day, all hands on deck event.** We need volunteers to help with parking, the pit crew, runners, the concession stand, a bake sale, set up, hospitality, registrations, stand hushers, working the ticket booth and shout out table, and clean up. This event is a major fundraiser for the band.

WJCC Band Night

WJCC Band Night is a performance at Wanner Stadium that brings together the Warhill, Jamestown, and Lafayette Marching Bands as well as the WJCC Middle School Bands. The high school bands perform their half time shows. Middle school bands are invited to join as a way to promote marching band. Usually in October.

State Marching Assessment (VBODA)

Warhill hosts the state marching assessment every year in October. Think of this as the SOL for Marching Band. Bands will perform for judges and be scored. Warhill Marching Band students may be excused from class to lead other bands and help ensure everything runs smoothly. Volunteers are needed to help set up, run the concession stand, ensure the judges get food, and clean up. The assessment runs from approximately 2 PM – 10 PM.

Spring Trip

The spring trip is open to ALL band members, not just marching band. Our most recent trip occurred over the school holiday at the end of January. We have taken the spring trip as late as April. All members are encouraged to participate in fundraisers to bring their cost down. If a student chooses not to participate in fundraisers, that student will need to find alternative means for contributions toward the trip. In the past, we have gone to New York City, Myrtle Beach, Charlotte, and Disney World. Students travel with Mr. Fary, and various parent chaperone volunteers.

Concert Band

Concert Bands have a uniform rental fee of \$80. This fee covers the uniform rental and dry cleaning for each uniform. Females will have a black dress and males will have a tuxedo. You must provide your own dress shoes and socks.

Students who use WJCC instruments are assessed an additional \$50 fee. This includes percussion and tubas. Fees for all of the above items should be paid by check to Warhill High School.

Concert bands are made up of the Symphonic (aka Advanced Band) Band, Wind Ensemble (aka Honors Band), and Percussion Ensemble band classes.

A symphonic band is a much larger group with more diverse instruments, while the wind ensemble's small numbers make it better for small concert halls and more complex pieces. The concert bands consist of woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Students will learn band and ensemble literature as well as individual concentration on tone production, technique, musicianship, sight-reading, expanded repertoire,

and listening skills. Honors band students will also participate in individualized course work such as compositional projects and solo performances. Students will prepare solo and ensemble literature for recital, will audition for All-District events, and will complete theory and compositional assignments.

All students will be required to attend rehearsals and performances with the concert band outside of school hours. Students will have the opportunity to participate and audition for sanctioned VBODA (Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association) band activities such as All-District Band, District Concert Band Assessment, District Jazz Ensemble Assessment, Regional and State Auditions/Events.

The concert bands usually performs a winter concert in December and a spring concert in May in the auditorium at Warhill High School.

Please visit VBODA for dates, music and more info on auditioning for Senior Regional Orchestra (SRO), District Band, and All State Band. These auditions are done outside of normal band activities and are a way for students to progress. They audition against students from other districts and eventually all over the state.

Auditions for Senior Regional Orchestra are usually in October with practice and a performance held in November. Anyone can audition for Senior Regional Orchestra. You DO NOT have to be a senior. If you make the top half of your section in SRO, you automatically are eligible to audition for the All State Band.

All District Band auditions are usually held in January. If you make All District Band, you will leave school on Thursday and Friday to practice. You will also practice Saturday and Sunday for the concert that is on Sunday. The performance is usually the first Sunday in February. If you place high enough in your audition, you are eligible to audition for All State Band.

All State Band auditions are usually held in February and are normally at James Madison University in Harrisonburg. All State Band practices and the performance are in April. This occurs at the Richmond. Competition is extremely high for All State Band as they only take a certain number of instruments, i.e. 3 flutes, 5 percussion, etc. from the entire state.

Advanced students may also consider auditioning for local ensembles such as the Williamsburg Youth Orchestra and the Chesapeake Bay Wind Ensemble.

Warhill Lions Roar Theatre Group's Spring Play

Select students may be asked to perform in the pit of the school musical. The band will practice after school and with the cast according to Mr. Fary and Mx. Noble's schedule. Their school musical usually takes place in March.

Graduation

All students, including seniors, will play at graduation in June every year.

Spring Trip

The spring trip is open to ALL band members, not just marching band. All members are encouraged to participate in fundraisers to bring their cost down. In the past, we have gone to New York City, Myrtle Beach, Charlotte, and Disney World. Students travel with Mr. Fary and various parent chaperone volunteers.

WJCC Jazz Band

This newly formed Jazz Ensemble, is the brainchild of the three WJCC high school music directors and is made up of the best instrumentalists from each of the high schools. Although the group is newly formed, it has set a very lofty goal for itself and that is to compete in the Essentially Ellington competition held annually in New York. Participation in the Jazz Band is voluntary. Please see Mr. Fary for more details. Jazz Band assessment takes place in April and WJCC Jazz night is held in June.

Band Boosters / Parents

CONGRATULATIONS!!

When your child became a part of the Warhill Bands, so did you!! You do not have to sign up or pay to be a member of the Band Boosters. You can be a parent, step-parent, grandparent, guardian, or sibling. We will gladly accept your help! We will need help with snacks and uniforms at band camp, chaperoning all events, volunteering in the concession stand, moving equipment with the pit crew, and hosting the Warhill Classic band competition. **We need parents to be active contributors. The success of our program directly correlates with the support of our parents.** Volunteering your time with the Band Boosters is a fantastic way to be involved with and support your child. You will make memories that will last a lifetime!

The participation of your student in the program will hopefully prove not only to be rewarding for your student but for you, the parents and guardians as well. Please help us in establishing the proper attitude, showing support for your child by attending performances, and encouraging your child to practice at home. Parents are welcome to come at the end of rehearsals to listen. We are proud of what our students accomplish and we know you will be too as there is **POWER IN THE PRIDE!**

We welcome your support at all football games and competitions as part of the **BLUE CREW**. You can purchase your rally towel from our website, www.warhillband.com under the merch tab.

The executive board for the Band Boosters for the 2023-2024 year includes:

President: Matt Osborne

Vice President: Ginny Shreaves

Secretary: Alexis Beverly

Treasurer: Lindsay Bascom

Booster meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month in the band room at 7 PM. Parents are highly encouraged to attend.

In addition to the board members, we have several committees to help with the various ongoing booster activities. A brief description of each committee and chairperson is listed below:

Fundraisers (VACANT)

Gets approval from Central Office, our principal, and organizes all fundraisers for the band. Some examples are pie and cookie sales, car washes, and a golf tournament.

Hospitality (VACANT)

Hosts and organizes social events for the band and band families. A few examples are the spring concert banquet, end of band camp BBQ, ensuring judges and bus drivers are fed at the Warhill Classic, and senior night.

Pit Crew (VACANT)

Helps with loading and unloading of the band trailer as well set-up of equipment at all performances. You will receive free admission to events. A Pit Crew shirt must be purchased.

Trailer Drivers (VACANT)

Transports the band trailers to events. The only requirement is that your vehicle connect to an electric brake system. You must have a valid driver's license and be insured. You will receive free admission to events.

Uniforms (VACANT)

Responsible for measuring students during band camp for proper uniform sizing. Parents will also help students dress in their marching uniforms and concert attire and ensure there is no damage to uniforms.

Concessions (VACANT)

Organizes, purchases food, and staffs the concession stand for all home football games. The concession stand requires a cook and at least 10 volunteers. We will use a Sign Up Genius to reserve work shifts. You will receive free admission to events you are working.

Chaperones (VACANT)

Responsible for chaperoning students on the bus, during football games, performances, and competitions. You will receive free admission to events if you chaperone.

Social Media (Tim Fary and VACANT)

Helps promote band activities and spirit through social media (Facebook, Instagram, etc.)

If you would like more details or information about these committees and the time requirements, please email warhillbandboosters@gmail.com.

Website and Social Media

Our website, www.warhillband.com, is the easiest and most convenient place to find the calendar of events and other important information. Please check back often for updated information. Please follow and like us on our Instagram and Facebook pages at Warhill High School Band and Warhill High School Color Guard.