

WELCOME!

So, your kid wants to be in the marching band...congratulations! They have just made one of the best decisions of their life, and they are poised to grow and develop immensely as musicians, individuals, team members, and leaders. The marching band world can be overwhelming at first, so we have tried to condense some of the important info that you might need to make this the best experience possible. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact any of the board members. Click on links below for answers to some common questions...

Class Description: Is it a real class?

Students do receive .5 credit hours for marching band, but it does not meet during the school day.

94190 Marching Band

Grades: 9-12 0.5 credit Homework: Low

COURSE NOTE: Director's Approval. This ensemble rehearses in the evening.

The marching band is one of the most recognized and acclaimed performance ensembles. This ensemble is made up of four main sections: Brass, Woodwind, Percussion, and Color Guard. This ensemble is highly recommended for all students enrolled in one of the concert bands. All students are expected to attend a marching band camp in August and other summer rehearsals. There are many outside of the school day performances and rehearsals, and attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances. There are fees required for this course. Anyone needing financial assistance should contact the director as soon as possible.

What's it All About: What about the time commitment, cost, scheduling, etc...?

Time Commitment: The WLC Marching Band is a competitive marching band, and they do put in the time to become amazing! Basically, they start the week after school is out with "at home" camp. This is a daily practice held at WLC for one week. Some sections may hold "sectionals" during July. These will be scheduled by the section leader, and students should attempt to attend these if possible. Beginning usually on or near the first week of August, students will have **band every weekday** until school starts (with a couple days off for Labor Day). Specific times will be posted, but plan on a full day. Band Camp is held the 2nd or 3rd week of August, Tues - Fri, at Camp Nlssokone (YMCA Camp) in Oscoda. Once **school starts**, they practice 4 days a week for 2-3 hours a day after school and most Saturdays. The band plays at all home football games. Our **competitive season** starts in September and continues through the beginning of November, with Saturday competitions around the state...mostly the metro-Detroit area. **Click Here** to see this fall's practice schedule,

the summer practice schedule, as well as some important dates.

Band Camp: All Marching Band students attend Band Camp. This is where the bulk of the instruction occurs. They learn to march, begin to learn the music, and bond with each other...this is where the team is built! If there is a major issue attending Band Camp, discuss with Mr. Rogers.

Scheduling: It is possible for students to participate in more than one activity at a time. Mr. Rogers is more than willing to work with students to help them work this out. However, it is usually necessary for some sort of sacrifice to be made on the part of the student, as it is likely that there will be conflicts. This has been successful for many students in the past in many sports and other school activities. Please discuss with Mr. Rogers asap.

School Work: This is a great opportunity for your child to learn important planning skills. WLC Marching Band is competitive and does put in time to perfect its show. Students involved in marching band tend to perform at a very high academic level. Many students have more success during the season because they are "forced" to focus more and schedule their time more efficiently.

Cost: Marching Band costs approximately \$1200 for a regular season, plus students provide their own shoes. This covers basically everything for the season. Each season Mr. Rogers assembles an expert and gifted staff of clinicians and musicians to work with our students. These professionals spend a lot of time with our students and have helped us to reach the state championships for the last 12+ years and WIN the state championship in 2010, 2011, and 2013! Transportation costs, food for the students on competition days, band camp, and Grand Nationals are also included in the cost for each student. The uniform is provided by the band. A deposit is required at the beginning of their marching band career and is refunded at the end if the uniform and parts are returned in good shape.

Size: In 2015, the band was approximately 200 members strong, including musicians and color guard.

Instruments: Students provide their own instruments, except for the front ensemble (pit), battery (drumline), and color guard. Instrument changes are possible if there is an abundance of students on one instruments and shortages elsewhere. This should be discussed with Mr. Rogers before any changes are made. Mr. Rogers has the final say on all placements.

Skills: If our student's music skills are not that high or if they have just learned their current instrument there are several alternatives such as private music lessons, extra help from section leaders or upper classmen, and the classic...practice, practice,

practice. The WLC Marching Band is not audition-based. Mr. Rogers is more than willing to help. In addition, if your child wants to participate in marching band but does not play an instrument, there are a couple of other opportunities for them to be part of the team. The Color Guard is one option for non-instrument playing students and is a major part of the competitive show. Students learn to spin colorful flags, rifles, and sabers, as well as lend an important dramatic flair to the show. In addition, students could choose to be part of the "prop crew" that builds the props and moves them on and off the field for each performance.

Organization: Who's who?

Mr. Rogers is in charge of all bands at WLC. He is the head honcho...the big cheese...the big kahuna...the buck stops with him. davidrogers@wlcsd.org

Nick Pourcho is the assistant director of the marching band, is in charge of the percussion section, and is the director of WLP. pourchon@mac.com

Baron Creutz is in charge of the color guard section and is the director of the WL Winter Guard. blcreutz@gmail.com

In addition, you may hear your child talk about a number of other instructors who are on staff during the marching band season. Part of your child's dues goes to pay for these excellent instructors.

Drum Majors a.k.a. Command Personnel a.k.a. Field

Commanders are the ones who "direct" the marching band on the field. They are senior (and sometime junior) band members and are responsible for making sure the band members are ready to go and are prepared for practice. They are chosen by and report to Mr. Rogers.

Section Leaders are student band members responsible for the students in their section. Basically, each type of instrument is a "section" and has its own section leader, voted in by sophomore/junior/senior members of that section. The section leaders are responsible for making sure the students in their section know the music and the marching, and they report to the drum majors. The color guard is a section and is part of the marching band. They are chosen by popular vote of the section members.

Squad Leaders are student band members who are responsible for assisting the section leaders in leading their section. They are chosen by popular vote of the section members.

Parents: What do parents have to do with all this?

Running a group this size (generally between 170 and 200 members), takes a lot of hard work from everyone: members, directors, instructors, staff, etc. The WLC Viking Marching Band has much to be proud of, on and off the field. We are so proud of our involved and active parents, who make this possible. Parents' roles and responsibilities...*in order to support your child(ren)*:

1. STAY INFORMED

- Read the weekly Band Buzz / all-important info is shared via email in this weekly newsletter!
- Attend monthly meetings / 7:00 pm first Wednesday of each month in the WLC cafeteria (unless otherwise noted) / generally under 1 hour
- Refer often to the band calendar at <http://www.wlcbands.com/calendar.html>
- Ask questions! please don't hesitate to contact a board member if you have any questions: <http://www.wlcbands.com/band-boosters.html>
- Check the website for updates, information, forms, photos, etc.

2. GET INVOLVED *Remember why we're all here...we love our kids and want them to have the best possible experience. All board members, chairpersons, etc. are volunteers and are not perfect, just passionate! It takes everyone to make this team work*

- Join a committee! There is something for everyone...we hold a "Volunteer Fair" in the spring & it's a great time to see where you can jump in!
- Help with a one-time event or fundraiser / these are updated throughout the season at www.charmsoffice.com / school code **wlcmb**
- Just show up...we'll find something fun for you to do!

3. MEET DEADLINES *Throughout the season, you will have opportunities to order certain items (spirit wear, show shirts, DVD's, patches, photos, etc.). By turning in orders and payments on time, you are modeling responsibility to your child and also saving the volunteers the hassle of tracking you down...thank you!*

- Make payments on time / these are listed in the registration packet and on our website at <http://www.wlcbands.com/pay-your-bill-online.html>
- Turn in all forms / orders on time

4. BE PREPARED *Our kids work hard on the field, and it's our responsibility to support them off the field. We can do this by helping to:*

- Make sure they arrive at and are picked up from rehearsals on time
- Make sure they have everything they need / Details on competition days can be found at "The Big Day"
- Make sure their uniform is complete & clean and that the bibbers (pants) are properly hemmed for every performance / competition. Details on uniform care can be found at "Looking Good"



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT COMPETITION DAYS

TEAM MOTTO:

“Do your best...forget the rest! GO BAND!”

- Uniforms need to be in **tip-top shape**.

See attached sheet or go to:

<http://www.wlcbands.com/looking-good.html> for details on uniform care.



- **Extra** gloves can always be purchased in the uniform room for \$3 a pair.
- Competition days are **long days** for the kids...please make sure they get plenty of **sleep**, have a healthy **breakfast**, and please pack some healthy **snacks** that will not stain their uniforms. Also, they may need food for dinner or cash for concessions.
- Make sure to think about the **weather**...it gets chilly by the evening & kids will start to need some kind of under armor wear to keep them warm.

- You are not expected to go to the whole competition!
- Arrive early...sometimes you have to park some distance from the field
- Pack for the weather...blankets, coats, etc.
- You will need to **buy tickets** at each location...generally between \$5 and \$7 per person. They will usually have a program available for an extra \$2 - \$5.
- Most locations will have **concessions** available, which benefit their boosters, so consider supporting them.
- You will notice that they usually will not allow people to enter / exit the stands during a performance. If you are approaching the field during a performance and notice a traffic jam of people, just be patient, as soon as the performance is over, they will open it up to enter / exit before the next band. It is a courtesy to the performers and their spectators.
- **BE A GOOD SPORT!** No matter what you see...please refrain from any negative comments in the stands...you never know whose grandma is sitting right behind you. We have always **prided ourselves** on giving **EACH TEAM** a standing ovation following their performance. These kids ALL work hard and deserve our **support & respect!**

If you haven't had a chance, check out

Marching Band 101 on our website:

<http://www.wlcbands.com/marching-band-101.html>

There is a lot of info about competition days , including information about how bands are judged!

www.wlcbands.com



The Winner is...: How are we scored?

MCBA (Michigan Competing Bands Association...these are the competitions between Michigan bands) currently utilizes MCBA constructed judging sheets and criteria. Seven adjudicators are utilized in the scoring system. You will see people walking on the field during the performance. Don't be alarmed! They are judges...you will notice them speaking into little recorders.

Music Field Judge - 10% of total score
Music Ensemble Judge - 20% of total score
Visual Field Judge - 10% of total score
Visual Ensemble Judge - 20% of total score
Music General Effect 1 Judge - 20% of total score
Visual General Effect Judge - 20% of total score
Total possible score = 100

At each competition, in addition to the overall winner, there is a winner selected in each of three categories a.k.a. **captions: Music, Visual, & General Effect.**

BOA (Bands of America...these are the Regional and Nationals competitions) utilizes a different scoring system.

20 points* Music Performance (Individual)
20 points* Music Performance (Ensemble)
20 points* Visual Performance (Individual)
20 points* Visual Performance (Ensemble)
20 points Visual General Effect
40 points Music General Effect Timing & Penalties Judge
*Averaged

See their rule book below for details:

Looking Good: How about those uniforms?

Our uniforms help define our performance. We lose points if our uniforms are not in tip-top shape, so please help your child keep their uniform looking great! Some of the pieces have strange names...check out the list:

- **bibbers:** pants w/ straps - make sure you hand-hem them to the proper length
- **MTX's a.k.a. dinkles:** shoes - keep 'em clean & shiny
- **gauntlets:** those white "cuffs" that wrap around their wrists with velcro...keep them clean...they wash easily
- **shako:** hat...yeah, hat...keep it in your personal bucket
- **plume:** feathery thing on top of the hat...these get distributed & turned in before &

- after each performance / you should never see one at home
- **socks:** black, black, black & plenty of them...band supplies one pair & you supply extras
- **t-shirt:** each student will receive 1 band t-shirt @ the beginning of the season...good idea to purchase an extra...they wear these a lot & they're white!
- **jacket:** check the white parts especially for dirt...they wash easily...don't be intimidated
- **gloves:** each student will receive 1 pair of gloves @ the beginning of the season...wash them, wash them, wash them. You may purchase extras for \$3 if needed

2016 WLC Marching Band Uniform Information

Each band member will be issued a uniform in good condition with as comfortable a fit as possible. The school requires a one-time \$50.00 deposit paid at high school registration in August. This deposit also applies to Concert Attire for Concert Band students and is treated just like the book deposit: Refundable at the end of the member's participation, upon return of all items, with damages deducted. Each piece of the uniform is numbered, and these will be recorded when checked-out to the band member. The value of the uniform is over \$450.00 and the student is responsible for keeping and maintaining the uniform once it is issued. Any lost or damaged items will be charged to your account.

Uniform fittings will be scheduled before the end of the school year. You will receive information about the dates and times by email. Uniform cleaning instructions are available on the wlcbands.com website.

The WLC Marching Band uniform consists of a waist jacket, gauntlets, trousers called "bibbers," hat, a navy garment bag, and bucket (for most members) for transport. White gloves are required for most students with the first pair included in your fees. Most students need to purchase additional gloves during the season for \$3/pair. Students will be provided with one WLC Viking Marching Band white t-shirt, which is included in their band fees. This must be worn under the uniform for all performances (football games, etc.) and competitions. It is recommended that you purchase an extra t-shirt to have on hand (\$10). One pair of black socks is also provided. If you wish to buy additional pairs the style and brand will be provided.

Incoming band members will also be fitted for black marching shoes. Please do not go out and buy these on your own. The band director has chosen a specific type of shoe, and we place a large order with a company that specializes in band accessories. Last season we were able to provide new shoes for \$35 a pair. A notice about the shoes and when the payment is needed will be sent out before the end of the school year.

Questions about color guard uniforms should be directed to the parent volunteers for Color Guard.

Questions...our amazing uniform coordinators will be happy to help:

Jennifer Crusan 248.231.7819 jcrusan1476@gmail.com
 Lori Goodman 248.978.7934 l11b11g@aol.com

The “Care and Keeping” of our uniforms

Uniform Cleaning

The uniforms are washable and should not be dry cleaned. We strongly encourage that the Jacket and Gauntlets are washed in mesh laundry bags (like a lingerie bag), a zippered pillowcase or turned inside-out. This works great and helps preserve the uniform by protecting the brass buttons from being scratched.

- Wash jacket and bibbers separately on delicate cycle. Pour liquid Tide (detergent with no additives) in washer, add cold water, then add the garment and set on permanent press cycle. Pre-treat collar, sleeve or front stains with Spray and Wash stain stick/spray or Oxi Clean spray.
- Dry jacket and bibbers separately on permanent press setting.
- Remove jacket from dryer after 5 minutes and hang to dry overnight. Remove bibbers after 5 minutes in the dryer and hang with seams together, folded over hanger, to dry overnight.
- Gauntlets can be spot cleaned as needed with a product like Spray and Wash. They also can be washed on the delicate cycle in a mesh laundry bag or a zipped pillow case with cold water and Tide. Do not place in dryer, it is best to Velcro them together over a hanger and allow them to dry. Store flat, Velcroed together, when dry, store in the pouch of the garment bag.
- Use wooden or plastic hangers.
- Do not use bleach or bleach alternative of any kind. Do not dry clean.

Uniform Adjustments

- The Bibbers (pants) must be hemmed before their first use. Some bibbers have snaps along both seams but still may need to be tacked in order for the hem to not sag. Do not cut the fabric, fold it up. You can open the seams at the sides to allow the hem to lay flat. Do not use hem tape. The pant leg should just touch the top of the marching shoe.
- Jacket Sleeve length can be adjusted by utilizing the snaps sewn inside at each wrist.
- Do not make permanent alterations to the uniform. Consult with the Uniform Chair, if needed.

Our Viking Band practices many hours to deliver their incredible performances. Please remember to take time to make sure your uniform looks incredible too! It is important to look as good as we sound and march!

Contact our Uniform Chairpersons with any concerns:

Jennifer Crusan 248.231.7819 jcrusan1476@gmail.com

Lori Goodman 248.978.7934 l11b11g@aol.com

Those Crazy Acronyms and Flight vs. Class: What's a BOA?

WLCMB.....Walled Lake Central Music Boosters (not WLC Marching Band...who knew?)

-The WLCMB is made up of parents of the band, choir, and orchestra. The WLC Bands Boosters are a group under the WLCMB.

-The WLCMB also officially includes all music groups at WLC

MCBA.....Michigan Competing Bands Association

This is the governing body for our regular marching band season competitions in Michigan. In the spring of each year, MCBA member bands are divided into four flights of competition based upon MHSAA High School enrollment numbers that are based upon the State of Michigan second semester count. The flights are equalized in size (number of bands) as much as possible per MCBA rules.

2015 MCBA Flights of Competition:

Flight I 1704 - higher

Flight II 1123 - 1703

Flight III 680 - 1122

Flight IV 679 - lower

BOA.....Bands of America

This is the governing body for the regionals and Grand National competitions in which the marching band competes.

Per BOA's commitment to re-evaluate the classification numbers of 2A-4A, **classification numbers have been updated for 2015**. Bands are classified by school enrollment, grades 10-12 only. Under BOA's four-class system:

- Class A is up to 600 students
- Class AA is 601-1200
- Class AAA is 1201-1700
- Class AAAA is 1701 and above

MSBOA.....Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association

- This is the organization that sponsors the competitive "festivals" and solo and ensemble competitions in which many of our musicians participate.

WLP.....Walled Lake Percussion

- This is the winter drumline which is comprised of students from all 3 Walled Lake high schools, playing drums and other percussion instruments.
- Season starts after marching band is over.
- They compete inside a gym on within a strict area.
- There is an A-Line and a more competitive World Line (audition only).

Winter Guard.....not really an acronym, but what is it?

- This group competes during the winter months (concurrently with WLP)
- They perform inside a gym within a strict area.
- They use pre-recorded or live music and perform with sabers, flags, and rifles or other props.
- They have 2 lines (teams).

MCGC.....Michigan Competitive Guard Circuit

- WLP & Winter Guard compete in this circuit during their regular season.

WGI.....Winter Guard International

- WLP & Winter Guard compete in this circuit at the Regional & World Competitions.

DCI.....Drum Corps International

- League for competitive drum corps (professional marching bands).

Many of our alumni continue on to these programs.

Other Interesting Terms: What's a Pit?

PIT: This the group that plays [usually] stationary percussion instruments, such as marimbas and the rack.

BATTERY: These are the marching drummers. (think Energizer bunny...battery...get it?) a.k.a. drumline

SECTIONAL: Refers to a practice held with one section of the band.

SHOW SHIRT: Each season, there is a "show shirt" designed, which is specific to that year's show. In addition to general WLCMB merchandise a.k.a. "spirit wear," you can also order merchandise with this "show shirt" design.

MTX: The official marching band shoes (a.k.a. dinkles)

GAUNTLET: The lovely white cuff that members wear over their uniforms...keep them clean!

Varsity Letters: Can my kid earn their varsity letter?

Members of the marching band are eligible to earn their varsity letter after 2 years of participation in the marching band. There is no official ordering of jackets. Each family is responsible for ordering a varsity jacket for their child if they wish.