
WLS Competitive Marching Band - ANNOUNCEMENT**From Dave Rogers, Director of Bands:**

Since the cat is pretty much out of the bag I figured I better speak on this. We will be combining with WLW from now into the foreseeable future to form the Walled Lake Schools Competitive Marching Band. This is not only an exciting new venture, it is essential. Our school population has declined and with that so has the band population. We simply cannot offer the same program we have in the past without doing this. Likewise, WLW is going through similar population decrease. So our motto moving forward is "Thank goodness we have each other", because if we didn't we would all have to witness the massive decline in numbers and the quality we would be able to offer. It is ESSENTIAL that everyone realizes this is a blessing and that we are NOT absorbing WLW and they are not absorbing us. This is a true collaboration. It is a new band with unbelievable potential. So many of you performed together in middle school, I think it will be great rekindling those relationships. Further, this takes away a lot of the stress the middle school band teachers feel trying to keep our programs populated with far less kids to draw from. It is so rare that you would have so many people willing to set aside personal egos to do what will truly be the best thing for all of our kids. Here are the frequently asked questions that are going out tonight. I apologize this did not get announced as planned, however, that is of small consequence compared to how beneficial this will be for both programs and all the students. If you have any comments or concerns please call or email right away. I will get back with you right away. Go Band!!!

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why are the bands combining?

A: The bands are combining because it will allow us to continue to provide excellent opportunities and instruction for our students despite declining enrollment at each school and in each band program. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Dudzinski have worked hard to make sure that all of our students will get the most tremendous experience possible and for many reasons, when the enrollment declines the ability for either school to provide what we have in the past and what we will continue to do together in the future, would not be possible. Our attitude and motto moving forward is "Thank goodness we have each other!" as it will allow for the best possible experiences for our students.

Q: How will football games work?

A: Students will only perform at football games with their home schools, wearing their home school's uniform or uniform designated by the band director.

Q: Which uniform will we wear for competitions?

A: We will wear a customized uniform shirt to coordinate with the competition show theme, navy blue bib pants, navy blue hat, white plume.

Q: What is the fee and what does it cover?

A: The fee is \$950. While it might sound like a lot, it covers many things. We will participate in 6 total competitions, including a regional competition in Toledo and a state championship at Ford Field. It covers charter buses to 2 competitions, school buses for the remaining 4, uniforms, meals on game days and all competition days (approximately 9-11 meals in total), band camp, extravagant props, top notch instruction, drill design and music arrangements. Also included is field rental when out of town and Legacy Center rental in preparation for the state championship.

Q: What don't the fees cover?

A: Shoes, socks, extra t-shirts, beverage donations.

Q: Will we be performing the same music for football games and competitions?

A: No. Each school will have a spirit based/pop music show for football games. The competition show will be entirely different.

Q: What is the name of the competition show?

A: This year's show is called "Fortune Hunter". Think Indiana Jones, the Uncharted Games, Tomb Raider, that type of thing. This show is created in collaboration with both band directors and expresses the real adventure we're all embarking on.

Q: What if my child is really active in sports or other activities?

A: Ask Mr. Rogers or Mr. Dudzinski about your specific situation for advice on what bands to sign up for. They will be honest. It will be best for both parties that way.

Q: What if my child takes all honors classes? Will they have time for homework?

A: Many of our students take honors/AP/IB classes. Being in the marching band is not only doable, it enhances a student's resume.

Q: Where will practices be held?

A: Practices for the competitive band will be held at WLC. Practices for the football game bands will be held at the respective home schools.