

WALLED LAKE WINTER GUARDS 2017-2018 SEASON INFORMATION PACKET

CONTACT INFO:

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WHAT IS WINTER GUARD?

Winter guard is an indoor performing arts activity involving only color guard. There are no wind instruments or percussion involved in the productions. Music is played over a sound system. Like the marching band, we put together a production, perfect it, and travel around the state and the country competing against other groups. Performances occur in high school gymnasiums or college arenas. The season typically runs from the end of November until the middle of April, with competitions starting in February.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The Walled Lake Winter Guard is a district-wide program. Students in 9th-12th grade that attend Central, Western, and Northern are invited to audition. No experience is necessary! You do not need to have anything prepared for the audition. We will teach you everything. We are looking for hard-working individuals with great attitudes.

With that said, all students must be committed to the attendance and financial obligations outlined in this information packet in order to participate.

AUDITION DATES:

Monday, November 20th & Tuesday, November 21st
6pm-9pm
Walnut Creek Middle School Auxiliary Gym

ENSEMBLES:

There will be two winter guard ensembles — AA and Open. For those who don't know, both ensembles are the 2017 Michigan Color Guard Circuit State Champions!

AA Winter Guard — Think of this as the JV team. Will compete at local Michigan Color Guard Circuit (MCGC) shows. Last competition is MCGC State Championships on April 7th. Fewer rehearsals/competitions.

Open Winter Guard — Think of this as the Varsity team. Will compete at local MCGC shows as well as Winter Guard International (WGI) Regionals and World Championships out of state. Last competition is WGI World Championships in Dayton, OH on April 12th-14th. More rehearsals/competitions than the AA guard. Major camps over school/holiday breaks.

AUDITION PROCESS & CASTING:

Please wear dancewear/athletic clothing. It should be tight and form-fitting. Nothing loose and baggy. No jeans or restrictive clothing. Tennis shoes should be brought. Hair should be pulled back out of your face into a bun or pony tail.

Students will learn movement and equipment exercises/skills, as well as a combination of choreography. Students don't need to have anything prepared. We may group students based on experience level to learn more advanced skills or choreography.

Over the course of the audition process, students will be evaluated on work ethic, attitude, determination, team-focused mentality, attention to detail, ability to take critique, achievement of skills/choreography, and performance expression. Within 2 days of the final audition date, members and parents will be sent an email regarding their position in the winter guard program.

We will be offering the following spots:

- Open Winter Guard Member
- AA Winter Guard Member
- AA Winter Guard Alternate — not guaranteed a spot in the competitive production. Expected to attend all rehearsals/competitions and develop their skills.
- *Not making the ensemble* — It is not the intention of the program to "cut" anyone. However, if a student does not display the attributes of a committed, contributing member of our ensemble, they will not be accepted into the program.

ATTENDANCE POLICY & OBLIGATION:

Winter guard is a competitive, ensemble cast activity. The production doesn't just involve members doing their own thing. It relies on members working as a team. And then, the team gets scored on their team effort. The way the productions are staged or choreographed require a lot of partner and group choreography. It is impossible to learn, run, or clean parts of a production when members are missing. There are no backups or "stand-ins" when a member is absent.

Think of winter guard like a theater production of a play or musical — The directors of those productions wouldn't cast people in roles if they knew they couldn't be at all of the rehearsals or public performances. The show relies on EVERYONE.

It is our expectation that when a student chooses to participate in our program, he or she will fulfill the meeting, practice and competition requirements of our activity. Attendance at all practices and performances is mandatory. Simply stated, you get to choose to be in the group, but you don't get to choose the schedule.

Because the nature of our activity is a process—continually adjusting, adding and fixing parts of our show—depending on what we do during missed rehearsals, a student may or may not be able to participate during the next performance if the work is not learned and performed up to the level of the other students. This is for the good of the group AND the student. If you miss a rehearsal, you **MUST** get together with someone **BEFORE** the next rehearsal (and not 15 minutes before practice) to learn what is missed. If you can't, you need to discuss it with the Director **before** the next practice.

Consistent lack of responsibility and commitment to our group will result in removal of the program. We will track all attendance (absences, arriving late, leaving early, etc.) and if they become an issue, we will act according to the best interest of the team

** Each student is **REQUIRED** to give the Director an outlined schedule of potential conflicts in order to be considered for the ensemble. We do need to act in the best interest of the entire team in regards to attendance and conflicts. The staff will act in a fair and professional way doing what is best for the overall group's success, which may or may not be what an individual wants.

** In addition, should potential conflicts arise, the director should be notified at least **2 weeks** prior to the date.

***Unexcused Absences**

An unexcused absence is one that is not communicated in advance.

- * 2 = removal from a performance
- * 3 = removal from the ensemble

These include, but are not limited to:

- Not having a ride to rehearsal
- Missing for work
- Missing for homework
- Non-emergency appointments
- Not having a doctor's note for an absence
- Social engagements (handled on a case-by-case basis)
- Calling in sick if: you went to school and aren't seriously ill – you are required to come to rehearsal and watch

***Excused Absences**

An excused absence is one that is communicated in advance AND has a legitimate reason.

- * 4 = a brief, in-person meeting with the student and parents
- * 6 = potential removal from the ensemble at the Director's discretion

These include, but are not limited to:

- Being sick or injured (handled on a case-by-case basis)
- Unavoidable academic reason (SAT Test or similar)
- Family emergencies
- Pre-approved absences

You **MUST CONTACT THE DIRECTOR** if you are going to be late for any reason.

ATTENDANCE COMMUNICATION POLICY:

- 1) An email (not a text or phone call) must be sent to the Director with BOTH the parents and student copied on it. Transparency is extremely important.
- 2) If either parent or student is left off the email, it will not be considered.
- 3) Director email: jeffreyvcash@gmail.com

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION:

- \$1,200 for all Open Winter Guard Members (non-refundable after each payment is made)
- \$750 for all AA Winter Guard Members (non-refundable after each payment is made)
- Payment Schedule

Open Guard

November 27th — \$200 due
December 11th — \$250 due
January 3rd — \$250 due
February 5th — \$250 due
March 5th — \$250 due

AA Guard

November 28th — \$150 due
December 12th — \$150 due
January 4th — \$150 due
February 6th — \$150 due
March 6th — \$150 due

- The member dues, in addition to fundraising, cover the many costs for the season including tarps, costumes, flags, equipment, props, teacher salaries, show design elements, competition entry fees, hotels, food for out-of-state trips, etc. Our activity costs a lot of money to compete at a high level and we provide the students with the absolute best so they can reach that high level of success!

- The member dues do not cover your member jacket, t-shirt, spirit wear/warmup pants, gloves, undergarments, shoes (if required), makeup, and food before or during local competitions.
- Checks made out to WLCMB
- You can also pay using PayPal through the band website — www.wlcbands.com. I will be working on setting that up correctly on the website and providing the link to everyone. There is a 3% charge for using this service.

FUNDRAISERS:

While the members pay dues, that doesn't nearly cover all of the costs required in our budget. We will be doing a number of fundraisers throughout the season and participation is necessary.

- Show T-Shirt Sponsorship
- Raffle with WLP held on April 6th at the Friends & Family Performance (@ WLW)
- Possible Bowling Alley Fundraiser — more information to come
- Java Joe's Coffee, Fudge, Cookie Dough Fundraiser
- Other fundraiser ideas welcome!!

Other minimal effort fundraisers that will help the program:

- Kroger Plus Card — Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com, register your Kroger Rewards card with our organization number 82850 or Walled Lake Central Music Boosters. All participants must have a valid online account at kroger.com and must sign up online to participate.
- Amazon Smile — Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-34606027>. This will take you to the Walled Lake Central HS Music Booster's page on Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.
- SCRIP — Scrip cards are gift cards from retailers that rebate a % of the face value of the card to the WLCMB and Winter Guard organization. To buy cards, email Peggy at wlcmbscrip@gmail.com for a list of her current inventory of cards or let her know what cards you want and when you can get cash/check to her. You can also pre-order cards to be added to a group order at the end of the month — go to www.shopwithscrip.com (click on "Shop") for a list of cards/values, then email Peggy with your order and when you can get cash/check to her. The cards will be shipped to Peggy, who will deliver cards to a meeting or you can arrange a time where you can pick up the cards at WLC.

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PERSONAL FUNDRAISERS:

There are a number of fundraisers you can do on your own to help reduce the cost of the winter guard dues.

- Personal Bottle Drive
- Sponsorship Letters
- Working Bingo — \$30 for a 5 hour shift
- Online fundraisers such as gofundme.com, giveforward.com, and gogetfunding.com

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

The success of the winter guard season relies heavily on volunteer help. Without volunteers, the winter guard would not be able to travel to the competitions and compete at a high level. Please consider volunteering this season!

Some positions to look into are:

- Drivers for competitions
- Trailer drivers for competitions and rehearsals
- Loading coordinator/helpers
- Prop coordinators and builders
- Transportation coordinator
- Spirit wear coordinator
- Fundraiser coordinators
- Food organizer
- Banquet organizer and helpers
- Sewing/Alteration helpers