

**WESTMINSTER HIGH
SCHOOL
Marching Band Handbook
2019-2020**



Mr. Brian Frazier – Westminster High School Instrumental Music Educator

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A Word From Mr. Frazier

Dear WHS Marching Band Student and Parent(s):

I would like to welcome you to the Westminster High School Marching Band! By joining the WHS Marching Band, you have joined a network of friends who share a common interest and are working together to achieve a common goal of excellence in musical performance. You will learn musical skills, discipline, leadership, and excellence – all while having lots of fun.

The WHS Marching Band is scheduled to perform 14-16 times this season – at school events, community events, MMBA competitions, and local parades. The current schedule is included in this handbook; it is also available on owlband.org as well as from Mr. Frazier directly. The schedule is adjusted and updated regularly and changes are communicated in rehearsals and via email and are updated on the owlband.org calendar page. Please make sure to check your email regularly for updates. Many of the event details are not known until just two weeks away from the performance, so it is important to keep up-to-date.

The staff has been working hard preparing our show for this upcoming season and we hope that you will be challenged by the show while still having fun producing it. As a staff, we will strive to make progress at each and every rehearsal by pushing you to reach your full potential and pushing the band to achieve a higher level of excellence. I challenge you to do the same with yourself and others on and off the field. The WHS Marching Band is far more than music or drill on the field and that is all thanks to the attitude, energy, and enthusiasm you bring with you.

Please read this handbook from beginning to end as a family. There is a wealth of information about all aspects of the WHS Marching Band included. Many aspects of the WHS Marching Band will remain the same as or similar to the past; however, a great number of things are changing as well. I have tried to be as thorough as possible to make this activity as enjoyable as it should be. In addition, knowing the information in this handbook will make you a responsible member of the group and you will come to know the expectations of a member of the WHS Marching Band.

Personally, I am very excited about this year's show as it really lets us show our school spirit, new performance opportunities and locations, and the great group of students who will be this year's marching band. I can't wait to see what we can accomplish. It is my greatest hope that at the end of the school year, you can look back and say how proud you are to have been a part of the 2019-2020 WHS Marching Band. Go Owls!

Sincerely,

Brian Frazier
Marching Band Director
Westminster High School

Philosophy

Marching band exists to provide students the opportunity to understand and enjoy music through instructional activities that lead to the performance of music for outdoor events. It stresses the basic musical elements common to all sound instrumental music instructional programs and is one component of a well-balanced secondary level instrumental music program.

Although the main reason for its existence is to promote musical growth and understanding, the marching band also serves a valuable role in meeting the needs of the school and community through extracurricular activities that strengthen public relations, provide entertainment for outdoor functions, and encourage parental involvement in school activities.

Competition in the marching band setting can be an effective motivational experience for students if it is used as a means for teaching and reinforcing a positive learning process. Marching band competitions should be approached as one of the many learning opportunities available to students in the marching band, but not the primary reason for the marching band's existence.

Staff

Director – Brian Frazier
Assistant Director – Christopher Bruce
Arrangers – Brian Frazier, Casey Isanogle, and Curtis Wharton
Drill Writer – Gilles Ouellette
Brass/Drill Tech – Gary Williams
Brass/Drill Tech – TBA
Woodwind/Drill Tech – Betsy Turner
Woodwind Tech – Jocelyn Abrahamzon
Guard Arranger/Tech – TBA
Guard Tech – TBA
Battery Tech – Casey Isanogle
Battery Tech – Joseph Dennis
Pit Tech – Curtis Wharton
Pit Tech – Deven Saelens

Student Leaders

Student leadership lesson and auditions will take place during the month of April at Westminster High School. Detailed information about student leadership will be available in late March and students who are interested in a leadership position should see Mr. Frazier for details at that time.

2019 Show Information

This year's show will be titled "CODE BLUE" and will be celebrating all things blue. It will feature music from the following musical selections:

La Mer by Claude Debussy
 Blue in Green by Miles Davis
 Mr. Blue Sky by ELO

Summer Marching Band Camp Information

Summer Marching Band rehearsals are when we prepare our show for the full season. By the end of the June rehearsal dates, all musicians will have the complete music for our show so that they can work toward learning and memorizing the music in preparation for rehearsals in July and August.

Details of each day of Marching Band Rehearsal are listed below. Students need to bring a lunch for each day with two sessions except August 9. Students are NOT allowed to leave campus during lunch break. When students have an evening session, they are allowed to leave campus for dinner, but must notify a staff member that they are leaving.

Marching Band Spring and Summer Activities:

- March 28, Thu – 6pm-9pm
- April 1, Mon – 6pm-9pm
- April 15, Mon – 6pm-9pm
- May 2, Thu – 6pm-9pm
- May 23, Thu – 6pm-9pm
- *May 25, Sat – CAR WASH at WHS – raise \$\$ toward fees!*
- June 3, Mon – 6pm-9pm, uniform measurement
- June 10, Mon – 6pm-9pm, uniform fitting
- June 13, Thu – 6pm-9pm
- *June 15, Sat – CAR WASH at WHS – raise \$\$ toward fees!*
- *July 6, Sat – CAR WASH at location TBA – raise \$\$ toward fees!*
- July 30, Tue – possible optional activity (DCI trip)
- *August 3, Sat – CAR WASH at WHS – raise \$\$ toward fees!*
- August 5, Mon – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 5, Mon – 5pm, FREE treat for members AND parents (provided by IMB)
- August 6, Tue – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 7, Wed – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 8, Thu – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- *August 8, Thu – IMB Restaurant Night (tentatively – Buffalo Wild Wings)*
- August 9, Fri – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 9, Fri – 11:45am Marching Band Picnic, free lunch for members (provided by IMB)
- August 12, Mon – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 13, Tue – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 14, Wed – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- *August 14, Wed – IMB Restaurant Night (tentatively Classico)*
- August 15, Thu – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 16, Fri – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 16, Fri – 6:30-9pm Kill Drill event (full band)
- August 16, Fri – IMB Parent Social – look for information from IMB
- August 26, Mon – 6pm-9pm
- August 29, Thu – 6pm-9pm
- **August 29, Thu – 7-9pm Preview Show and Reception, post-show dinner provided**

Fall Schedule

September 5, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 6, Fri	5:30-9:30pm	Home Football Game
September 9, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 12, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 14, Sat	TBA	Show (competition at Urbana HS)
September 16, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 19, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 21, Sat	TBA	Show (competition at Chopticon HS)
September 23, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
TBA		Westminster Fall Fest Parade
September 26, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 27, Fri	5:30-9:30pm	Home Football Game
September 28, Sat	TBA	Show (competition at Old Mill HS)
October 3, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
TBA		Homecoming Football Parade
October 4, Fri	5:30-10pm	Homecoming Football Game
October 7, Mon	TBA	Tentative Rehearsal
October 10, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 12, Sat	ALL DAY	WHS HOME SHOW!!
October 14, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 17, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 18, Fri	5:30-10pm	Home Football Game
October 19, Sat	TBA	Show (competition at Linganore HS)
October 21, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 24, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 26, Sat	TBA	Show (MD State Championships at Towson University)
October 28, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
November 1, Fri	5:30-9:30pm	Home Football Game
November 4, Mon	6pm	End-of-Season Banquet
November 11, Mon	6pm	Senior Dinner
November 30, Sat	TBA	Westminster Main Street Electrical Parade
May 25, 2020, Mon	TBA	Westminster Memorial Day Parade

Please keep an eye on the owlband.org website for calendar updates and additions.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory unless prior arrangements have been negotiated. Exceptions may be made based on specific circumstances. If a band member misses a rehearsal, they are expected to make up any material that was covered in that rehearsal.

The start time listed for each activity is the time that band members should be prepared to begin. For most marching band members, there are 5-10 minutes of preparation that needs to happen at WHS. Band members should NOT be arriving at the activity start time, but should arrive early enough to be ready at the activity start time.

Notification of an absence (other than illness) must be submitted to Mr. Frazier at least one week prior to the rehearsal or performance.

The following reasons are excusable absences from band rehearsals or performances: weddings, funerals, religious observances, close family graduations, illnesses, school approved excused absences for vacation, or conflicts with a school activity that have been documented in advance and approved by Mr. Frazier.

The following reasons are not excusable absences from band rehearsals or performances: part time jobs, birthdays or birthday parties, non-school related sporting events, concerts or other entertainment events, packing or cleaning for vacations, homework, studying for tests, being tired, or having a busy week.

If you think that there may be a conflict with a scheduled rehearsal or performance, please contact Mr. Frazier as early as possible so that the matter can be resolved in the best interests of the band member and the ensemble. If transportation to a performance is a problem, please let Mr. Frazier know so that alternate transportation arrangements can be made.

Required Materials for Rehearsals (Ready Bag) (in addition to musical instrument/equipment)

- Iced Water (1/2 or 1 gal jug suggested, write your name on it)
- Meals (lunch and/or dinner)
- Snacks
- Hat or bandana for head protection
- Sunscreen/bug spray
- Sunglasses
- Pencil
- Music binder/Dot book/ Flip Folder (details will be given at early rehearsals)
- Light rain jacket
- Change of clothes in case of bad weather

What to Wear for Rehearsals

- Comfortable athletic style t-shirts and shorts (or sweats when colder – not jeans!)
- Socks and athletic shoes – make sure shoes are already broken in and provide support
- ALL ATTIRE MUST COMPLY WITH CCPS DRESS CODE REGULATIONS

Performance Information

Generally, the WHS Marching Band will perform in three different types of settings – competitions, home football games, and community parades. For any activity not in the Westminster area, WHS will provide bus transportation to and from the events. For football games and community parades, band members will need their own transportation to the event.

Competitions are an opportunity for the WHS Marching Band to perform in a specialized marching band event with other schools from the region and around the country. Competitions allow the WHS Marching Band to be adjudicated by highly trained judges who will provide feedback to help band members continue their musical growth.

Typical Schedule for competition day:

- Report to Westminster High School with all materials
- 1-2 hours of rehearsal, followed by change into uniform and load equipment
- Travel to show location, warm-up and performance
- Watch other bands perform/purchase food and souvenirs, followed by awards ceremony
- Return to Westminster High School

Football games are an opportunity to perform for the WHS community and the general public. This is an excellent opportunity for us to have a positive impact on our school and community. We perform to support our team and entertain the audience, with pep tunes and our field show.

Typical Schedule for Football Games:

- 5:30 – 6pm Change into uniform/load pit
- 6-6:30pm Line up and uniform check
- 6:30pm March to field, perform as part of pre-game activities
- 7pm Game time – we perform ‘pep’ tunes during the first quarter and to start the second quarter. We then move to warm-up for halftime during the second quarter. Following our halftime performance band members are given a short 10-15 minute break to use the restroom/get water/meet with friends. We then perform ‘pep’ tunes for the end of the third quarter and through the end of the game.
- ~9:30pm Game over

Community parades give the WHS Marching Band their greatest exposure to the Westminster community. These events are the most public activity at which we perform.

Typical Schedule for Community Parades:

- Report to line-up location (usually West Middle or McDaniel College) in full uniform with all necessary equipment – NO INSTRUMENT CASES!
- Warm-up at line-up location and line-up as directed by organizing group for the parade Performance
- Dismissal from disbanding location (usually East Middle or other parking lot)

What to bring to a performance (band members need these items by 8/16):

All Members – show shirt, blue jeans, and athletic shoes to change into post-performance
Winds/Percussion – black socks, black gloves, marching shoes (ordered by IMB), dark biker shorts/spandex to be worn under uniform
Color Guard – guard gloves/shoes/socks as prescribed with uniform, line-less undergarments, unitard/spandex as prescribed with uniform

Travel

Traveling is a privilege. It is the responsibility of band members to properly conduct themselves and represent Westminster High School in a positive manner at all times. Failure to do so may result in the loss of travel privileges, in addition to normal disciplinary consequences as described in the WHS student handbook.

EVERY trip that we take will have a separate permission slip. Permission slips must be completed and turned in at least 3 days prior to travelling with the marching band.

Travel Procedures

- Each student is responsible for being on time. Tardiness can have a major impact on our preparations and performance. Every member of the band has a responsibility to the ensemble to arrive on time and be ready for every performance.
- Stay in a group of at least four band members at all times. Never leave the performance site.
- All policies in the WHS student handbook apply at every event in which the band participates.
- Students may check out from an event only with their own parent/guardian following the performance. Siblings, grandparents, aunts and uncles do not apply. In accordance with district policy, riding with a friend's parents is also not permitted. The parent and student should see the director or chaperone in charge of their bus to be marked off the attendance list.

Bus Procedures:

- Bus seating is divided by section. In general, one bus will have percussion and guard and the other will have winds.
- Treat chaperones with respect and follow their directions. With bus drivers and parent chaperones, make an extra effort to be courteous and respectful.
- No talking or laughing above the normal conversation level. Headphones must be used if listening to music.
- Leave the front seat open for chaperones.
- No bottles without caps or glass containers. Properly dispose of all trash.
- Assist with the loading and unloading of equipment. We cannot go anywhere until all of our equipment is unloaded, nor go home until everything is back in the instrumental music room.

Costs

All students are required to pay an activity fee in order to help cover the costs of the marching program - including staffing, drill design, music, equipment, and transportation. The fees do not cover all of the expenses of the Marching Band; however, they greatly defray the costs covered by the Westminster High School Instrumental Music Boosters.

Universal Fees: All members of the WHS Marching Band will pay a \$350.00 participation fee. This fee includes the above-mentioned aspects of the program in addition to the 'show shirt' for this season (additional show shirts are available for purchase).

First Year Member Purchases: All first year members of the WHS Marching Band are required to purchase a WHS Band Jacket (\$40 – required for all trips) and black marching band shoes and gloves (\$35 – required for all performances). New members will be measured/fitted on June 20th during the afternoon rehearsal. The payments for these items are due at the end of summer rehearsals (8/29). We will have a VERY limited supply of used shoes that will be available for at a \$25 discount (\$10 total cost for used shoes) – please contact Mr. Frazier if you are interested.

Trip Fees: While we are not planning an independent overnight trip, members of the marching band who are part of the Instrumental Music trip to Disney World in January will be performing in a parade down Main Street of the Magic Kingdom. See separate packet for Disney trip info (and cost)!

Fee Payment: All fees are to be paid by check to “WHS” or online at owlband.org (convenience charge will be applied). Checks for fees can be given directly to Mr. Frazier or mailed to the school (attention Marching Band) or given directly to Mr. Frazier.

Universal Fees 1st Installment - \$100, due 6/13

Universal Fees 3rd Installment - \$100, due 8/16

Universal Fees 2nd Installment - \$100, due 7/30

Universal Fees 4th Installment - \$50, due 9/5

First Year Purchases - \$75, due 8/29

If you have any concerns, or need to set up a different payment plan, please contact Mr. Frazier. After 8/16 we cannot refund any fees.

Student Accounts and Fund Raising:

All student fees, as well as a portion of fund raising efforts, are tracked through student accounts. Many students cover all their Marching Band fees via fundraising. Band member families are highly encouraged to begin using the Scrip program regularly. Information on both this and other other fundraising programs is available on the owlband.org website. Other fund raisers (pizza sales, candle sales, car washes, etc.) can also help to defray student fees. Any money earned is credited to the student account and statements are regularly issued.

Additional individual costs:

-Under uniform garments as listed above in 'What to Bring to a Performance' section.

-**Wind players** need a lyre for their instrument (\$10-15 at local music stores)

-**Percussionists** need their own pair of snare drum sticks (\$10-15 at local music stores)

-**Guard members** need 4 rolls each of black and white electrical tape, (\$10-15 at local stores)

Financial Assistance:

The WHS Instrumental Music Boosters offers financial assistance for partial coverage of Marching Band fees. If you are interested in more information about these scholarships, please let Mr. Frazier know.

Uniform

Each student will be fitted to and assigned a uniform, uniform bag, uniform number, and shako. All parts of the uniform **MUST** be stored correctly between performances. In general, uniforms are taken home following each performance for cleaning and must be returned at the next rehearsal. You are responsible for any damage done to the uniform. The full uniform consists of:

- Pants (bibbers), Jacket, and Shako
- Plume (stored separately and provided at each performance)
- Show shirt (to be provided)
- Black marching shoes and gloves (to be fitted by IMB and purchased via WHS)
- Black socks (to be purchased by student)

While in uniform, there will be no eating of any foods or drinking of any beverages other than water. Remember, any time we are in uniform, we are representing the band, school, and community. We should take pride in that fact. You will always stay in full uniform unless told to do otherwise by a member of the staff or drum major. Make sure that your actions anytime (but especially while in uniform) reflect positively on our band program and school.

Eligibility

Students in the marching band are required to comply with all CCPS academic eligibility, conduct eligibility, and attendance eligibility requirements.

Volunteer!!

Parents are extremely important to this organization – the incredibly high level of success that this program has achieved is built on the hard work of band parents. The best way to support the WHS Marching Band is to get involved. The Instrumental Music Boosters need your help in a variety of ways, including – volunteering at events, pit crew (helping move instruments), prop crew (helping build and/or move props), donating bottled water, donating baked goods or food items, chaperoning at events, helping with uniform alterations/sewing. Please make sure to check areas that you can help with on the commitment contract.

Questions?

Please do not hesitate to ask questions. If any information about WHS Marching Band is ever unclear, or you feel that you are ‘missing something,’ please immediately contact me at bdfrazi@carrollk12.org or call 410-751-3630. I’ll do the best work with you to provide an answer that makes sense for all involved.

WHS Marching Band Commitment Contract

Marching Band is an extra-curricular activity. As such, all marching band rehearsals and performance take place in addition to regular school activities. All marching band members and parents must commit to band members being at rehearsals and performances on time and fully prepared. Unlike a sports team, there is no way to substitute for a band member who does not attend a performance or who has missed instruction from a rehearsal.

Student Commitment:

Schedule and Attendance – I have received the schedule in the Marching Band Handbook and I make a commitment to attend all rehearsals and performances. I have read the attendance policy in the Marching Band Handbook and agree to the terms listed in that policy.

Preparation – I make a commitment to come to all rehearsals fully prepared with my instrument/equipment in good working order and all of the necessary items listed in the Marching Band Handbook.

Student Name

Student Signature

Date

Parent Commitment:

Fees – I understand and agree to pay the required fees (\$350 for all members plus additional purchases for first year members) in order for my child to participate in the WHS Marching Band. This amount will be paid in accordance with the fee due dates listed in the Marching Band Handbook. I understand that failure to pay these fees by the due dates may result in my child's inability to participate.

Transportation – I agree to provide transportation for my student to attend all rehearsals and performances on time and to pick-up my student from all rehearsals and performances at the ending times listed in the Marching Band Handbook.

Service – I agree to assist the WHS Marching Band and the Instrumental Music Boosters to the best of my ability and as my schedule will allow. I will make an effort to assist the IMB in the following areas (please check at least one and ideally three!):

Chaperone an event

Volunteer at an event

Be on pit crew

Prop crew

Donate food/water/supplies

Uniform help

Parent Contract – I support the commitment that my son or daughter has made to the Westminster Marching Band. I understand that this includes the responsibilities on my part listed above. I will also take an active part in the guidance of my son or daughter's time management to guarantee that this commitment is fulfilled.

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date