

**WESTMINSTER HIGH
SCHOOL
Marching Band Handbook
2021-2022**



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 2021-2022 season is likely to still be a bit different from normal as events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic may still have an impact on our rehearsals and performances, but at this time we are not sure what that impact may be. Please rest assured that whatever activities we are involved in this summer and fall we will place student and staff health and well-being at the top of our priority list, followed by creating an educational and enjoyable experience for all our band members.

Additionally, this summer and fall sees continuing renovations to the Tech Center and E Lot that will greatly alter our ability to practice in our usual location. This will result in some changes to our ‘normal’ rehearsal procedures. While this may have some impact on what we are able to do, again, we will do everything we can to make sure that the marching band experience is still the best in the state of Maryland.

In 2019, the WHS Marching Band were the State Champions of the new Maryland Marching Band Association. This year we hope to be able to repeat that feat, but regardless of our success in competition, we are going to have a great season full of rewarding experiences. The WHS Marching Band is scheduled to perform 10-12 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. Our theme is year is Rebirth and we are using the music of the Firebird Suite as an inspiration. 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. 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.

I'm very excited about the possibilities with this year's marching band and can't wait until we know exactly what the season has in store for us! 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 2020-2021 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, Joseph Dennis, and Curtis Wharton

Drill Writer – Gilles Ouellette

Winds Staff – Gary Williams, Jimmy McKenzie, J. Andrew Cerda, Jocelyn Abrahamzon

Guard Staff – Lexie Spertzel, Abby Dvorak, Kelsey Pintzow

Battery Staff – Julien Sherman, Joseph Dennis

Pit Staff – Deven Saelens, Curtis Wharton

Student Leaders

Drum Major and Woodwind Assistant – Peter Oskam

Assistant Drum Major and Percussion – Braeden Devnew

Guard – Sarah Toth

Brass – Justin Livingston

Woodwind – Maddie Frederick

Spring/Summer Schedule

Show music will be emailed to band members/posted on Google Classroom over the summer. Musicians are expected to do as much as possible to learn and begin memorizing show music prior to August rehearsals. Our August Marching Band rehearsals are when we prepare our show for the full season.

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 6. Students are NOT allowed to leave campus during lunch break.

Marching Band Spring and Summer Activities:

- April 19, 6pm-7:30pm rehearsal, Meeting 8-8:30pm
- May 3, Mon – 6pm-8pm
- May 6, Thursday – 6pm-8pm
- May 20, Thursday – 6pm-8pm
- May 24, Monday – 6pm-8pm
- August 2, Mon – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 3, Tue – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 4, Wed – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 5, Thu – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions - 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- *August 5, Thu – IMB Restaurant Night - Tentative*
- August 6, Fri – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 6, Fri – 11:45am, MB Picnic, free lunch for members (provided by IMB)
- August 9, Mon – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 9, Mon – UNIFORM FITTINGS TBA
- August 10, Tue – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 11, Wed – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- *August 11, Wed – IMB Restaurant Night - Tentative*
- August 11, Wed – UNIFORM FITTINGS TBA
- August 12, Thu – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 13, Fri – 8am-5pm, 2 sessions from 8am-11:45am & 12:30pm-5pm
- August 13, Fri – 6:30-9pm Kill Drill event (full band)
- August 13, Fri – IMB Parent Social – look for information from IMB
- August 16, Mon – 6pm-9pm
- August 19, Thu – 6pm-9pm
- August 30, Mon – 5pm-9pm
- September 1, Wed – 5pm-9pm

Fall Schedule

September 9, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 10, Fri	5-9pm	Home Football Game
September 13, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 16, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 18, Sat	TBA	Show (at Damascus HS)
September 20, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 23, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
September 25, Sat	TBA	Show (at Century HS)
September 27, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
TBA		Westminster Fall Fest Parade
September 30, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 1, Fri	5-9pm	Home Football Game (Homecoming)
October 2, Sat	TBA	Show (at Urbana HS – early in the day)
October 4, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 7, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 9, Sat	ALL DAY	HOME SHOW EVENT!!!
October 11, Mon	6-9pm	Tentative Rehearsal
October 14, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 15, Fri	5-9pm	Home Football Game
October 16, Sat	TBA	Slight chance of adding a show
October 18, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 21, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 23, Sat	TBA	Show (MD State Championships at Towson University)
October 25, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 28, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
October 29, Fri	5-9pm	Home Football Game
October 30, Sat	TBA	Show (at Linganore HS)
November 1, Mon	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal/Senior Night Show/8 th Grader Night
November 4, Thu	6-9pm	Full Band Rehearsal
November 6, Sat	TBA	Show (Regional at Severna Park HS)
November 8, Mon	6pm	End-of-Season Banquet
November 15, Mon	6pm	Senior Dinner
November 27, Sat	TBA	Westminster Main Street Electrical Parade
May 30, 2022, 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 for 1-2 hours of rehearsal
 Change into uniform, load equipment, and travel to show location
 Warm-up and performance, watch other bands perform, 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:

5pm – 5:30pm Change into uniform/load pit
 5:30pm Line up and uniform check
 5:45pm March to field, perform as part of pre-game activities
 6pm 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.
 ~9pm 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 8/9):

All Members – show shirt (provided), blue jeans, and athletic shoes (for post-performance)

Winds/Percussion – long black socks, black gloves (provided), 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 (details at August rehearsals)

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 traveling 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 \$400.00 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 (\$50 – required for all trips) and black marching band shoes and gloves (\$25 – required for all performances). New members will be measured/fitted during August camp rehearsals. We will have a VERY limited supply of used shoes that will be available at a \$15 discount (\$10 total cost for used shoes) – please contact Mr. Frazier if you are interested.

Trip Fees: We are not planning any major travel this year, so there should not be any trip fees. All our travel will be relatively local in the state of Maryland.

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).

Universal Fees 1st Installment - \$100, due 8/15

Universal Fees 3rd Installment - \$100, due 8/30

Universal Fees 2nd Installment - \$100, due 9/30

Universal Fees 4th Installment - \$100, due 10/30

First Year Purchases - \$75, due 9/30

If you have any concerns, or need to set up a different payment plan, please contact Mr. Frazier. After 8/30 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)
- Long 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 (\$400 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