

FACTS* ABOUT THE NWHS BAND PROGRAM: EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

(*Gleaned from parents experienced with the program.)

The extra-curricular band programs consist of marching band/colorguard, winter guard, and winter drumline. This handout will pertain particularly to marching band/colorguard. If your student is interested in joining winter guard or winter drumline, please attend the explanatory meeting to be held for those groups later in the school year.

The success of all these extra-curricular band activities correlates directly with parental participation and support.

As students participate in these activities, they will continue to grow musically, will form friendships across all grade levels, and will learn dedication, responsibility and commitment.

1. No class credit is received for any band extra-curricular activity.
2. Marching band begins with summer band camp. This typically runs for two weeks beginning in early August. New marchers, guard, and pit begin practice the week before band camp.
3. Once school begins, rehearsals are held every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday throughout the marching season. Monday rehearsals run from 4:00 - 6:00 pm, Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals run from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. Pickup: Please allow an additional 15 - 20 minutes to put equipment away. Note: *Colorguard often run extra rehearsals.*
4. The competitive marching season usually opens the last weekend of September and continues through the first weekend in November.
5. The marching band/colorguard performs at every home football game for pre-game, halftime, and also bleacher music. Students are required to stay until the end of the game. They march back to the band room as a unit. Watch for the football schedule, and keep these home game dates open.
6. NWHS hosts a marching competition "Fall Festival" in October. Our band performs in exhibition. Students are required to work during the day at this festival. Parental involvement is a must for the success of this major fundraiser. Parents will be asked to volunteer - there is a wide variety of tasks at this event.
7. The marching band/colorguard participates in the Stokesdale Christmas Parade. When you see these events posted in the newspaper, mark your calendar and keep these dates open.
8. Uniforms:
 - A. Band students will be assigned a marching uniform and garment bag. They are responsible for the proper care and cleaning of these items. A care instruction sheet will be sent home with the uniform. All uniforms must be professionally dry-cleaned at the student's expense before turn-in at the end of the season. Students will be responsible for the purchase of marching shoes and gloves. The ordering process is handled by the Band Boosters during summer band camp. Black socks must be worn with the uniform.
 - B. Colorguard uniforms are decided upon by the band director and guard instructor. The band will purchase these uniforms, and they will become the property of the band. Guard members will be responsible for the purchase of guard shoes, gloves, rifles and sabers. Flags, flag bag, and a garment bag will be assigned to the guard members. They will be responsible for the proper care of all uniform parts and equipment. All uniform parts, flags, flag bags, and garment bag will be returned at the end of the season.
9. Theme t-shirts must be worn to competitions and under the uniform jacket (no sleeveless shirts allowed). Guard members will wear theme t-shirts to the competitions and change into uniforms on site.
10. The Band Boosters host a Kick-Off Banquet on the last Friday of band camp. Every family is asked to bring two (2) dishes to share and a 2-liter bottle of soda. Bring the family, ask questions, and get involved! The evening will culminate with a performance of the fall marching show that has been learned during camp.
11. Each marching/colorguard student is responsible for bringing their own water and/or Gatorade, bug spray, hat, sunscreen, etc. to every band camp day and rehearsal. They will regret it if they don't!
12. Any student with asthma or allergic reactions (particularly to stings) should bring the appropriate medications with them to band camp and rehearsals. Keep these medications on your person either in a fanny pack or in a pocket. Let your section leader know that you might need these medications.

www.nwvikingband.org

We have a mass e-mail system with information updates sent out on most Sunday evenings during the school year. It is imperative that we have your correct email address so that you receive regular weekly information about the band – send your address to secretary@nwvikingband.org, and make sure you include your name and your student(s) name(s). Get in the habit of checking the band's website often. Links include: registration, calendar of events, urgent messages, contact information for officers, etc. Check out the website and see pictures of our activities. The site is continually updated.