Northern Lights Home School Marching Band

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What is Marching Band? Marching Band is an exciting opportunity for WMHFA students to let their "light" shine before thousands of people in parades in various cities in the summer. The unit consists of three groups: **Band** (students playing wind and percussion instruments); **Colorguard** (girls swinging flags, sabres, or rifles in choreographed routine with the marching band music); **Banner/Flag Carriers** (younger students ages 7 and up, who are siblings to enrolled band/colorguard students). New carriers each year must pass a small audition to participate, and only fourteen positions are available for banner/flag carriers on a first come basis.

Who may participate? Students currently enrolled in a homeschool band age 10* and up are eligible to try out for Marching Band. (* The age limit does not apply to Jr. Colorguard and Banner/flag carriers).

What is required? Marching Band music must be memorized. All students are required to have *"Magnificent Seven" and "The Ultimate Warm-up"* memorized ***by May 24*** , all students must attend Marching Band Camp, must be able to perform the marching routine by the end of Band camp, attend weekly Wednesday rehearsals and parades.

When are Memorization Tests? Memorization Tests will begin in April and continue each Wednesday until May 24. Many students must return multiple times to be re-tested. ***Do not wait until May 24 to do your first memorization test!***

When can WMHFA Marching instruments be picked up? Mellophones may be picked up on a first come basis by CB & AB students until March 22. On March 29 they will be available to IB & BB students on a first come basis. Baritones and Sousaphones will only be issued to students when they pass the memorization tests.

How long is the Marching Band season? The 20167marching season begins June 5th with Band Camp and our last summer parade is on August 5th, 2017.

What costs are involved?

- Tuition – 2017 Marching Band is $190 per student (maximum of $570 per family)
- Uniform – We will have new uniforms in 2017. Details will be announced as they come available. Families will be responsible for purchasing MB Shoes ($40) and black pants (to go with old uniform until the new uniform arrives). ***Uniform Fitting is March 22 from 9:00AM – 11:45AM in the HSB Gym.***

When is Band Camp?
June 5-9 (Monday through Friday) At the Home School Building - 9:00AM to 3:00PM

When will we meet for rehearsals? Marching Band Practice will be every Wednesday from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Starting June 15th and continue through August 3rd at the Home School Building.

When are the Parades?

June 10	Rockford Start of Summer Parade	11:00 AM
July 4	Grandville Independence Day Parade	11:00 AM
July 8	Traverse City Cherry Festival Parade	11:00 AM
July 15	Ionia Free Fair Parade	11:00 PM
July 29	Byron Days Parade – Byron Center	11:00 AM
August 5	Coast Guard Festival Grand Parade – Grand Haven	12:00 PM

How do we sign up? Enroll Online by April 19! Go to www.wmhfa.org to enroll. Marching Band information is found under the "Bands" or "Registrations" link in the menu at the top of the page.

MARCHING BAND INFORMATION

Band Camp at the Home School Building
June 5-9, 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
(Junior Colorguard will be meeting from 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.)

Auditions to check memorized music will be weekly until May 24

Parents
For Band Camp to be successful, we need your help in the following areas: monitoring students during lunch and break times, serving water during breaks, making food, serving lunches, doing the grilling on Friday, cleaning the building, nursery care if needed, etc. We need 2-3 parents to help coordinate the meals and drinks. We have an opportunity for every family to help during the marching season. Watch the newsletter for the announcement to sign up.

What to Bring:
Bring your instrument, hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a water bottle. Each family will be notified to bring in a snack for one of the days. We will let you know what to bring.

Lunch will be provided for every enrolled band member during Band Camp.

General Rules
As Christians, our goal should be to obey Scripture and, whether in word or deed, to do all to the glory of God. Since the ultimate end of all Bible-centered education is to grow in wisdom and virtue, we require all our students to exhibit the following minimal personal virtues*: Kindness, Truthfulness, Courtesy toward others and respect for their property rights, Punctuality in attendance and work, Respect for and obedience to those in authority, Diligence in effort and attention*

Attendance:
As a committed member, please plan to attend **EVERY** day of Band Camp, all rehearsals and all parades.
⇒ Students **must** attend the rehearsal prior to a performance in order to perform unless absence is excused.
⇒ Excessive tardiness or absences will result in dismissal.
⇒ Indicate on Enrollment Form if you must miss a rehearsal or parade due to family vacation, missions trip, summer camp, etc.

Conduct:
This code of conduct will be enforced before, during, and after band any where on the property in which the band practices or performs. The following behavior will result in immediate disciplinary action:
⇒ Foul language or unwholesome talk (Eph. 4:29)
⇒ Roughhousing, or disrespect for property
⇒ Disruptive or uncooperative behavior during rehearsals
⇒ Physical displays of affection
⇒ All other inappropriate behavior as deemed by the director

Dress Code:
Students must come properly dressed for rehearsals and performances. Your children will be dismissed from a practice or a performance if not dressed properly.
⇒ No earrings, nail polish, or dyed hair on boys
⇒ No crop tops, sleeveless tops, tank tops, spaghetti straps (i.e. visible midriff when arms are lifted over head)
⇒ No low neck lines, sheer clothing, skin tight tops or exposed underwear (bras or under shorts)
⇒ Shorts must be no more than 3 inches above the knee when in a kneeling position.
⇒ No T-shirts with inappropriate language or pictures
⇒ Faddish or unkempt clothing and hair styles are to be avoided
⇒ Tennis shoes are required for marching practice. **No Sandals!!!**

Instrument Code:

⇒ Students must never play another student's instrument.
⇒ Students other than the drummers may **neve**r touch the percussion equipment.
⇒ Students other than Colorguard members may **never** touch the Colorguard equipment.
⇒ Parents are financially responsible for maintenance, repairs or theft of instruments loaned to their child by the band.

Disciplinary Action:

The band directors are free to discipline as deemed fit for each offense, but in most cases will use the following guidelines.
⇒ First offense - Written warning
⇒ Second offense - Dismissal from current and next rehearsal or performance
⇒ Third offense - Dismissal from band for the remainder of the season.

Students may be immediately dismissed without notice for gross infractions such as fighting, using illegal substances, or immoral behavior.

Uniforms

Uniform fittings will take place in April (See attached Uniform Information sheet for full details)

IMPORTANT!

- ***Please drop off your Marching Band & Colorguard students ONLY***. There will be no nursery or facilities available for us to accommodate any other children. When you arrive to pick up your Marching Band student, please do not allow your younger children to run loose, please keep them with you at all times.

- **Please watch the rehearsals from a distance.** To prevent your child from being distracted or confused, we are asking parents to please watch the rehearsals from a distance. If an instructor needs your assistance you will be called upon.

- ***Upon arrival, students are to go directly to their designated areas.*** Except for using the restroom, we are insisting that all students stay in their designated areas. There is to be absolutely no wandering around!

- ***We are here for Band purposes only***. Therefore, do not bring skateboards, roller-blades, or roller-skates.

Performance Information

Please plan to attend **ALL** performances. Because we are a performing band, every member is expected to be at all performances (sickness and emergencies excluded). This is a team effort in which every member is essential to the quality of the band's performance. By signing up for Marching Band you made a commitment to be at every parade possible. Please notify us if you will be missing a performance.

- Parents (or adult in charge) are responsible for accompanying their children to the performance designated check-in area at least 1 hour before a parade**. PLEASE DO NOT BE LATE!**
- **Students must arrive in FULL DRESS with all necessary equipment. Any student not prepared will not be allowed to march. (Extra gloves may be available at a cost of $5 each!)**
- **STUDENTS ARE TO ARRIVE IN FULL UNIFORM & ALWAYS STAY IN FULL DRESS WHILE IN PUBLIC!**
- **Brightly colored nail polish and jewelry will not be allowed.**
- **Uniforms must be clean and pressed or you will not march!**
- **No substitute clothing or you will not march!**
- **Shoes must be clean and polished or you will not march!**
- **Students may not eat or drink anything other than water while wearing their uniforms before performances.**

* ***During parades, we ask that parents do not follow the parade processions in the street or in front of spectators. Parents may wish to view the parade at the end of the route. Also, we ask parents not to talk to performers during a performance. We encourage you to applaud and cheer the band as they perform. When students are done performing, they need to be picked up by parents immediately.***