

Warrior Run Marching Band

2021-2022



STUDENT/ PARENT HANDBOOK

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Greetings from the Director & Staff

Welcome! This handbook has been developed for all members of the Defender Marching Band. Everything you need to know regarding policies and rules is contained here for your information. It is our intention to provide clear guidelines and realistic expectations in order to promote progress and to ensure smooth operation of our fine organization.

As you work with others sharing the same interests, we are sure you will realize how many benefits can come from being a member of this band. Not only will you gain confidence and build potential leadership skills, but you may find that membership in band may bring an upgrade to everything else in your life. Our staff, your friends, and your family have the privilege of sharing in your accomplishments. Most of all, as you strive for excellence, you will always remember the friends you made and the fun you had while reaching your goals. In our group, you'll never walk alone.

As we all know, time is precious- especially when we have so many options with which we can fill our hours. Commitment to this organization is not to be taken lightly. Please spend your time wisely and invest in your greatest commodity- YOU! Remember to keep an open mind, have patience, put forth your best efforts, be positive, and never give up! We look forward to the challenges and rewards that lie ahead!

Mission Statement

The Warrior Run Defender Marching Band is a group of talented and varied individuals with a love for entertaining and performing. We offer this performance to support the football team, ourselves, the community, other bands, and composers. We achieve successful performances through hard work and focus both as individuals and as a group while accepting challenges and respecting others in an atmosphere of good attitudes, fun, and believing in ourselves. By learning and practicing together we can function as a unified group.

Band & Sports

You will be delighted to know that we will work with you so that you are able to participate in Marching Band and play on your team! No one should ever be made to feel like they have to make a choice between music and sports. You also should never be penalized for splitting your time equally among activities. Yes, there will be times when there are direct conflicts- we'll work it out. Please know that we will strive to create a sensitive environment that will allow you to exist happily in music and sports. It is our school's policy that activity advisors and coaches work together to allow all students to participate in music, sports, drama, and other equally meaningful activities. **Keeping both your band director and your coaches informed as far in advance as possible is of critical importance. We will do our best to work with you and help problem solve- but it is difficult and frustrating if you wait until the last minute to inform us of a conflict or problem.**

Officers & Leadership Positions

These leaders play an important role towards a successful and rewarding year. Students who serve in leadership positions must be able to attend ALL marching band events including practices, games, parades, etc. If your attendance is compromised due to sports, work, etc. you will be unable to fulfill your leadership responsibilities and asked to relinquish your position to someone who is able to attend 100% of the time. Replacements to leadership positions, if necessary, are always assigned by the director.

Drum Major- This person is responsible for conducting the marching band in performance. They assist the staff in helping with music, teaching drill, and marching basics, as well as organizing routine events. In the absence of a staff member, they carry the authority of the director and are not to be disobeyed.

President & Vice President (president elect)- This officer shares the responsibility of acting as the liaison between the band majority and the staff. Concerns, ideas and policies will be handled through their representation. Morale and spirit issues will be headed by these leaders. They must be able to work with adults as well as their peers. These officers will also check that the facility is empty and clean after each band function. The Vice President must be willing to assume the President position in the following year.

Secretary/ Historian- This leader will assist the staff with student databases, lists, signs, memos, etc. This person may be helpful in making minor purchasing/financial decisions, and assist with attendance and other record keeping tasks. They will also be in charge of creating displays of the band's activities throughout the year for us to enjoy and to showcase us to the rest of the school.

Librarians- Two people will be responsible for the upkeep and organization of the music library. They will assist with the distribution, collection, and filing of all music for all performing groups.

Property Managers- Two people will be responsible for keeping track of school owned instruments, and for making certain that students keep all instrument storage areas neat and organized. The Property Managers will be responsible for creating a clean-up roster for all games.

Color Guard Captain- Chosen by the staff through leadership interviews, these leaders are ultimately responsible for helping to teach routines and instilling a sense of pride and commitment within the entire visual ensemble. They work well with the staff and other leaders to decide the care and distribution of all props used in parades and field shows. They are responsible for encouraging unity within the visual ensemble and leading by example in a manner that is respected by both peers and staff.

All band officers are expected to report 15 minutes early for every band function and attend a monthly Band Council Meeting during zero period.

Staff and Leaders

Band Director- Ms. Taylor Rhodes

Assistant Band Director- Mr. Ryan Czekaj

Color Guard Instructor- TBA

Drum Major- TBA

Officers

President- Kayleigh Bausinger

Vice-President- TBA

Secretary/Historian- TBA

Treasurer- TBA

Librarians- TBA

Property Manager- TBA

Color Guard Captain- TBA

Color Guard Co-Captian- TBA

Expectations of All Members

Rules are guidelines to be enforced by those in charge and followed by members of any team so that organizations such as band can perform at an optimal level. There are consequences when rules are broken. We hope you all understand that we are preparing you for the ‘real world’ where the ultimate consequence could mean the loss of a job and income for you. The following rules and responsibilities will address areas of preparation, participation, communication, leadership, and responsibility.

Attendance

Please be present for **all** events. Our group cannot perform at our best if we’re not at 100%. Students **must** attend the full rehearsal when there is only one practice during the week. If a student is absent from school on the day of a performance, then they are not allowed to participate per school rules. Students that are injured and cannot perform must still attend all practices and performances.

If you are a soloist you are expected to be at all performances and rehearsals. Failure to attend rehearsal or performances without informing the director at least 1 week prior to the performance or rehearsal will result in your solo being reassigned.

If you must miss a rehearsal you need to submit an absence request at least **1 week** prior to the absence. Illnesses or emergencies are the only exceptions and you must email the director immediately and then submit an absence request. To submit an absence request, please visit the band program website and find the request form under “Marching Band”.

Promptness

Please be properly dressed and on time for all events 15 minutes before the director asks you to be there so that you don’t take a chance of being late. You should be ready for whatever activity is planned at the time that is stated.

“To be on time is to be late”

Academics

It is important to do well in your academic subjects. As musicians, maintaining ‘good grades’ while strengthening your musicianship is a part of being a responsible student. *We want you to succeed in everything that you do!*

If you find yourself struggling in a subject or class, please ask for help!

Instruments/ Equipment

Your instrument or other equipment are to be kept in good working order at all times. If you are using a school instrument please let the director know if anything is not in good working order as soon as possible. Students are responsible for their own instrument being placed on and off the equipment trailer before and after a performance. Please see the section on instruments for more detailed information.

Uniform/ Dress

Uniforms are to be kept neat and clean. When not being worn, uniforms should be kept on a hanger in their garment bags unless drying out. Band members will wear the complete uniform at all times (unless specifically told otherwise by a staff member). More detailed uniform information and procedures are listed separately in this document.

Students are also expected to wear the appropriate clothing under their uniforms: tshirt, shorts (No Jeans!), and long black socks. As the weather gets colder they can also wear black under armor or long underwear to keep warm.

Practice/ Rehearsal Attire

Everyone must attend practice in appropriate clothing and footwear. No member will wear revealing tops or 'short shorts'. ***Sneakers and socks are the appropriate footwear for all members. No exceptions.*** All dress code rules of the school apply during all rehearsals, trips, and performances.

Facilities

In order for us to continue to use the facilities we have students must be in the areas that are designated for our use. When coming to rehearsal or on a break, students should be in the band room and adjacent hallways, the main lobby, or in other areas specifically designated by the director or staff. Students are not permitted to congregate in band offices, or other areas. Furthermore, those people that care for our rehearsal and travel spaces deserve our utmost respect and cooperation, and the care we show for our facilities is a direct reflection on our organization.

Students are expected to clean up after themselves, and to leave any area we make use of as neat or preferably in better condition than when we found it.

Additional "Unplanned" Practice Sessions/ Activities

These sessions may not occur without supervision or knowledge of a staff member. Students who participate in activities or 'impromptu' practices without the consent and presence of a staff member act on their own. Therefore, the action is not considered an official band event.

Attitude

We need positive contributors to our organization for it to run smoothly. Negative actions or conversations have no place in the rehearsal or performance. ***ALWAYS CHOOSE KINDNESS!!!***

Situational Rules/ Specific Circumstances

When traveling with the band, the director may at times feel that some additional reasonable rules need to be put into effect to secure the safety of all students and/or the highest level of performance. Please follow all rules as they are announced to you.

Marching Band Golden Rule: Communicate with Your Director!

As with everything else in life, communication is key!

The director and staff are very willing to work with you if you encounter a conflict in schedules, are having trouble with another member, or are having other problems.

Any conflict in schedule should be communicated with the director immediately. We will do our best to work with you and split your time between band and other activities if necessary, but keep in mind the whole show will look its best when everyone is present.

Ninety-nine percent of problems would be fixed if we just communicated with each other.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND HAZING

The use of drugs or alcohol is strictly prohibited. All school rules with regard to use of drugs or alcohol will be enforced by this organization.

HAZING: an initiation process involving harassment

HARRASSMENT: an annoyance, cause of worry, or fatigue

HAZING OR HARRASSMENT OF ANY KIND WILL NOT TAKE PLACE WITHIN THIS ORGANIZATION. STUDENTS WHO ENGANGE IN HAZING OR HARRASSMENT OF ANY NATURE WILL BE DEALT WITH FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES SETUP IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK.

This organization will promote a SAFE learning environment for ALL of its members regardless of ABILITY, ETHNICITY, GENDER, RACE, RELIGION, OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION.

Costs Associated with Marching Band

As with any activity there are certain costs that are associated with marching band. Looking at it all at once can sometimes be overwhelming but keep in mind that we are willing to put payment plans in place and have you pay off the cost on a schedule that works for your family. Please don't be afraid to let the director know if you need to be put on a payment schedule. All communication about your finances will be kept confidential with the band director.

Every Band Member will need to purchase the following through the school:

- Marching Band Polo (aka. Summer Shirt)- approx. \$30
- Dinkles (aka. Marching shoes)- approx. \$25-30
- Show T-shirt- approx. \$12-15

Color Guard Members will also need to purchase the following through the school:

- A Warm-up Suit- approx. \$50-60
(this warm-up suit will make the guard look uniform while we sit in the stands, and keep them warm when the weather gets colder)

Every Band Member will need to purchase the following on their own:

- Khaki Pants (fall uniform)
- Khaki Shorts (summer uniform)
- Black Long Socks (to be worn with full uniform)

Upfront Costs (per year):

- Meals Cost- \$25
- Dry Cleaning Cost at end of season- \$20

The good news with the cost is that once you have purchased an item you will not need to repurchase an item again unless you outgrow that item. If you do happen to outgrow an item you can purchase a new item at a reduced cost. The trading program works as follows:

Summer Shirt

- A new shirt can be purchased for approximately \$30
- A used shirt (if available) can be purchased for \$15
- A used shirt can be traded for a new shirt for half price
- A used shirt can be traded for a used shirt (if available) for no cost

Dinkles

- A new set of dinkles can be purchased for approximately \$25-30
- A used set of dinkles (if available) can be purchased for \$15
- A used set of dinkles can be traded for a new set for half price
- A used set of dinkles can be traded for a used set of dinkles (if available) for no cost

Anyone who has old summer shirts or dinkles that no longer needs them can donate them back to the program to be used by someone who may need them. We greatly appreciate the donation.

Marching Band Uniforms

Students are responsible for the appearance of the uniform at all times.

All band members should abide by the following guidelines:

- Light-colored t-shirt underneath the uniform jacket unless another shirt is specified
- Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be pulled back and tucked under the hat, no exceptions!
- No excessive makeup is to be worn when in uniform.
- No visible jewelry is to be worn with the uniform. This includes any type of body piercing objects, bracelets, watches, necklaces, etc.
- Black socks are to be worn. These socks must be long enough so that skin is not showing.
- Shoes must be kept clean and polished.
- Color guard members will have a specific hair and makeup scheme as devised by your instructor. All member are expected to abide by this scheme for all performances.
- The **entire** uniform is to be work at all times unless told to do otherwise. You should not be in public wearing part of the uniform only, or have the jacket undone, etc. Our uniform is our presentation to the community and we want to both look and sound professional.
- Raincoats will be provided for all members. Please bring along the raincoats when told. They will be worn for not only the rain, but also for cold weather in the stands.
- Garment bags are supplied and are required for use by everyone in the band. Uniforms are to always be in their garment bags when not being worn and are to be stored neatly on a hanger. Do not place shoes or hat into your garment bag.
- Damage to the uniforms should be reported to the director immediately.
- Members are responsible for the expense of any repairs needed to the uniform due to neglect or misuse. Any member who loses a piece of the uniform or damages it beyond repair through neglect or misuse is responsible for its replacement cost.

Protecting Our Image In Cold Weather

During football season, students should wear multiple layers of clothing underneath the uniform in very cold weather. Compression gear such as 'Under Armor' is a good investment, as it is lightweight and will keep you warmer. Hand and foot warmers (hot hands) are permitted, except for those that require fuel, such as kerosene hand warmers

In cold weather, members are permitted to wear gloves, hats, earmuffs, scarves, etc. While necessary for comfort and safety, this can tend to detract from the uniform image of the band. Please select items in school colors (blue, grey, black) and in a conservative style.

Students may bring blankets for use in the stands. Please avoid brightly colored blankets (red, etc). Any blankets left after the marching season will be placed in the lost and found box.

Music

All marching band music is to be prepared/memorized during the appropriate season. Marching band members must memorize all show music for pre-game/half time including the Star Spangled Banner. Give attention to rhythmic and tonal accuracy, phrasing, style, dynamics, musicality, etc.

Memorized music should be performed by the 3rd football game of the season. Strive for the quickest memorized performance possible!

Music will be distributed throughout the year. Extra copies will be made available by asking the music librarians.

Music Flip Folders & Lyres- Each marching band instrumentalist is responsible for keeping a lyre and flip folder to carry all of the various pieces of music we will play in the stands. Flip folders and lyres are needed at all performances!! Label the back of your flip folder so that it is easy to locate if misplaced.

A school provided flip folder and lyre will be provided to you, but if you damage or break the lyre or flip folder the marching band member is responsible for replacing that item.

Assistance can be obtained at any time! Just ask a drum major, the director, or any other staff member for help. Private lessons are also encouraged to help you learn the music.

We want to perform at our highest level possible!

Rehearsals

The rehearsal calendar will be published and distributed in a timely manner. It will also be available for download on the band's website. A schedule for the football season will be available during band camp, but it is subject to change. Please arrange your schedule accordingly.

Plan on rehearsal rain or shine. The director will develop a schedule that is fair and will make efficient use of your time. Very rarely will rehearsal be canceled due to weather. Official school closings result in automatic cancellation of rehearsal. If you respect your director's time, your director will respect your time.

Be prepared for every rehearsal. Remember to bring your instrument/equipment, music, drill, dot book, pencil and water. Also be prepared for the weather that is expected. Be sure to wear school appropriate clothing with sneakers. No one should be marching in bare feet, sandals, flip flops or crocs. Pit members should be at rehearsal at least 15 minutes early to prepare their equipment for the field.

Please keep talking to a minimum. During rehearsal we get a lot more done with less talking, especially when setting drill. Listen carefully to all announcements, even if you think you know what your director is going to say. Arguing with anyone is non-productive.

Always be sure to use appropriate language. Think before you speak and remember if you have nothing nice to say then say nothing at all.

Football Game Procedures

We are at the football game for the following purposes: to entertain the audiences, to support our football team, and to have fun!

Home Games

- All marching band members should report to the band room with all school materials as well as their marching band items.
- We will have a rehearsal of varying length until it is dinner time
- Students will have filled out a dinner form via classroom for their meals that game
- Food will be provided for the students via the band concession stand
- Time will be allowed for the students to eat, take items to the field, relax, and change into the appropriate uniform before the allotted warm-up time
- Students will meet at the designated spot for warm-up
- We will all march down to the field together for the pre-game show
- Following the pre-game show we will play "Penn State" as the football team takes the field and then we will perform the "Star Spangled Banner"
- We will then take our seats in the stands
 - o When in the stands there should be no random playing
 - o Bathroom breaks are permitted once everyone is seated
- You will get a 3rd quarter break to use the restroom, get something to eat, and relax. You are expected to be back in the stands by the end of the 3rd quarter
- At the end of the game we will clean the stands, and march to the band room as a group
- The band room must be cleaned and inspected by the director before anyone may leave for the night

Away Games

Away games look very similar to home games with these few exceptions:

- Band members report to the band room after school
- We will have a short rehearsal
- Students will load the band truck- you are responsible for seeing your materials get on the truck
- Students will eat a meal as prepared by our band parents
- Time will be allowed to gather personal items for the game, eat, change, and relax
- We will board the bus at the time that will be announced
 - o When on the bus please respect your bus driver, chaperones, and other band members around you. Do not bring speakers onto the bus, be unruly, or be crazy when we are traveling.
- Once we arrive at the school we will all unload the truck, walk to our designated seats, put down seat covers and be seated.
- Remember that while we are at another school for a football game we are representing Warrior Run. We need to uphold the good name of our school.
- We will perform at halftime (or whatever time is decided by the hosting school) and after we have all instruments and gear away students will get their 3rd quarter break. Students are expected to be back by the end of the third quarter.
- After the game is over we will load the truck and board the busses
- When we return to the school everyone is responsible for helping to unload the truck, clean up the band room, and once it has been inspected by the director everyone may leave for the night

Transportation

The busses will not wait for latecomers- BE ON TIME!

If you are early you are on time, if you are on time you are late.

Sign-ups for busses will occur before the first away game. This will be your assigned bus for the entire season. You may only sign up for yourself. If you are not present at that time, you may sign-up when you return for whatever spaces are still available. No student may sign up another student for a bus. Doing so will result in the director assigning a bus for you. You may not switch busses.

You must ride to and from the event on the bus, unless signed out by a parent/guardian. The director must receive a written note in advance that the student will be leaving the event with their parent/guardian and the director must see the student with that parent/guardian before they leave.

Parents may drive their student to an away event under some circumstances with written permission given in advance. This may only be done in the event of a conflicting school-related activity.

Remember your manners when on the bus. Respect the bus driver, directors, and chaperones that are on the bus with you. Excessive noise will not be tolerated. Portable speakers should be left at the school and are not allowed on the bus. Please remember to pick up after yourself- it is not your director's job, your chaperone's job, or the bus driver's job to clean up after you!

Please arrange to have a ride to be at the school no more than 30 minutes after our arrival. The director will announce when we are 20-30 minutes away from the school so that students may use cell phones to contact parents/guardians. If your student does not have a cell phone, directors and chaperones are very generous about letting students use their phones should they need to borrow one.

Instruments & Equipment

Personal instrument should be kept clean and in good playing condition. Regular maintenance also reduces the costly expense of a complete overhaul of your instrument. Report any problems to a director immediately.

School-owned instruments (including percussion equipment) should be treated as if it was your own personal property and should be maintained as such. Please notify the director or a property manager if there is a problem with your instrument. The school will cover general maintenance and repairs, but students are responsible for any repairs (up to the full replacement cost of the instrument) caused by neglect or misuse. Students will be given a reasonable supply of reeds, valve oil, etc. which they can supplement with additional materials as needed.

Be sure you have the necessary supplies in order to keep your instrument in good playing condition. Don't wait until the last minute to take care of a repair problem.

Students may store their instruments in the band storage area at their own risk. Please be sure it is placed in the appropriate area. Students should never touch anyone else's instrument without permission.

Individual Instrument Expectations:

- Clarinet and Saxophone Players: have 5 good reeds, at all times, and rotate them.
- Brass Players: have valve oil, slide grease, and cleaning supplies, etc.
- Percussionists: you are responsible for marching sticks, mallets, and other accessories

Clearly label your instrument with your name and address. See your director for an ID tag at no charge. Your instrument **MUST** have an ID tag before you can travel with the band.

The local music store (Robert M. Sides) carries the supplies that you need. The company has a music representative that can drop/pickup supplies here at the school. Talk to your director if you need this service.

If you or your parents are instrument in upgrading your instrument please speak with your director. Buying a better instrument is a great investment but sometimes music stores are only interested in selling you any instrument and not one that will allow you musical growth past high school.

Color Guard Equipment

The school supplies most color guard equipment. You are responsible for your own practice flag and silver metal pole.

You will be given a reasonable amount of tape and other supplies you might need, but if you need more you are responsible for it.

Contacts

Band Staff

Ms. Taylor Rhodes- Director of Bands

trhodes@wrsd.org

(570)649-5135, ext. 3210

Mr. Ryan Czekaj- Assistant Director of Bands

rczekaj@wrsd.org

TBA- Color Guard Instructor

2021-2022 WR Band Parent Officers

Mrs. Jessica Roberts- President

Mr. Dave Gehrum- Vice-President

Mrs. Susan Gehrum - Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Meule- Treasurer

TBA- Concession Stand

Mrs. Christine Miller- MS Representative

****if you are interested in serving in a WR Band Parents office
please see any officer or the director****

Warrior Run Defender Marching Band



2021-2022 Marching Band Schedule

Summer Parades

Friday, June 11th- Turbotville Carnival Parade (more information TBA)

Saturday, June 19th- Watsontown Fireman's Parade (4pm arrival @ Watsontown Elementary School, Step-off @5pm)

Saturday, July 3rd – Watsontown 4th of July Parade (9:00 am arrival @ Watsontown Elementary School, Step-off @10am)

Band Camp

Tuesday, August 10th- **New Members & Section Leaders 8am-4pm, Everyone Else 1pm-4pm**

Wednesday, August 11th – Band Camp 8am-4pm

Thursday, August 12th – Band Camp **8am- 12pm**

Monday, August 16th thru Thursday, August 19th – Band Camp 8am- 4pm

Tuesday, August 24th – Rehearsal, 6pm-8pm

Wednesday, August 25th- Meet the Defender Night (more information TBA closer to date)

Fall Schedule

Friday, August 27th- Game vs. Muncy (Home)

Wednesday, September 1st - Practice, 6:00-8:30pm

Friday, August 3rd- Game vs. Milton (Home)

Wednesday, September 8th- Practice, 6:00-8:30pm

Friday, September 10th- Game vs. Montgomery (Away)

Saturday, September 11th- Kulpmont First Responder's Parade, details TBA

Wednesday, September 15th- Practice, 6:00-8:30pm

Friday, September 17th- Game vs. Central Columbia (Away)

(Anticipated Date) Saturday, September 18th- Milton Harvest Festival Parade (actual date not yet released)

Wednesday, September 22nd- Practice, 6:00-8:30pm

Friday, September 24th- Game vs. Hughesville (Home)

Wednesday, September 29th- **SVB Marching Band Showcase, details TBA**

Friday, October 1st- Game vs. Central Mountain (Home)

Wednesday, October 6th- Practice, 6:00-8:00pm

Friday, October 8th- Game vs. Northwest (Away)

Wednesday, October 13th- Practice, 6:00-8:00pm

Friday, October 15th- Game vs. Bloomsburg (Home)

Wednesday, October 20th- Practice, 6:00-8:00pm

Friday, October 22nd- Game vs. Mount Carmel (Away)

Wednesday, October 27th- Practice, 6:00-8:00pm

Friday, October 29th- Game vs. Loyalsock (Away)

Saturday, October 30th – Watsontown Halloween Parade (5pm @ Elm Street/ 8th Street Park)

Spring Schedule

TBA- Rehearsal to prepare for Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 30th – Memorial Day Ceremonies (more info in the spring)

Contact Information:

Ms. Taylor Rhodes, Band Director
High School/ Middle School
649- 5135 ext. 3121 / trhodes@wrsd.org

Mr. Ryan Czekaj, Assistant Director
Middle School
649- 5135 ext. 3119 / rczekaj@wrsd.org

Ms. Nancy Mathna, Color Guard
Middle School
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