

WHS Warrior Band



Parent Handbook

Welcome!

We are so happy and excited to have you as part of the Washington Warrior Band program! As its Band Representatives (and proud parents) we know that this program is so successful because of the students, staff and coaches and because of all of their hard work and long hours. But there is an important secret about our program that makes it one of the most outstanding and successful programs in our area.

Our band parents.

You are truly the backbone of this program and while we as band reps help pull all the pieces together, it is the effort of our parent volunteers who are key to making this whole program work. We have the best group of volunteers by far and your generosity in terms of donations and time for your student is truly amazing. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do.

We truly understand how busy, chaotic and exciting your life will be as we enter into a new year of great music and performances. We have put together information on the Washington Warrior Band program to answer questions and provide a little more detail as we all dive into a new year.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We will do our best to keep you updated on the most current and important information. Many of your questions can be answered at our website – www.washppa.com under the tab for the band program.

We encourage you to enjoy the coming year as we feel it will be one of the best ones yet!

Sincerely,

WHS Band Reps

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All of this information is for participants in the WHS Warrior Band program and their parents or guardians. It is possible for any of this information to change at any time, and we intend for it to only be a resource or guide. Please contact the band representatives, the band directors or the website www.washppa.com/band for any additional information or resources.

Washington High School Bands

Marching Band

Marching Band is composed of students in grades 9-12. The season begins 2 weeks before school starts in August with evening marching band rehearsals at Kingston Stadium. This is an important and required introduction to the program and allows the directors to work with all the students as a group. Students will also begin to receive not only instruction but their uniforms during this time. The week after (or before) stadium rehearsals in August, students will be involved in a focused, 3-day band camp in at Camp IO-DIS-E-CA, south of Cedar Rapids in Solon.

The marching band's season performances include football games, parades, and contests. This program enjoys a decades-long history of success and regularly competes against the best bands from all over the region at various marching band contests.

Wind Symphony

The Wind Symphony is composed of advanced band students as determined by auditions conducted during the marching band season. Audition material is available from the directors in the Spring and Fall. The Wind Symphony was featured at the 2014 and 2015 Iowa Bandmasters Association Convention.

Concert Band

The Concert Band is composed of beginning to intermediate band students as determined by auditions conducted after the conclusion of Marching Band.

Revs

The Revolutionists are composed of advanced jazz band students as determined by auditions normally conducted during early September. The Revolutionists meet for practice outside of the normal hours of the school day (traditionally Mondays & Wednesdays from 3-5, and Thursdays from 7-9). The ensemble routinely learns over 20 jazz pieces each year, drawing from traditional and new compositions. The Revolutionists have qualified for eleven State Jazz Band Championships in a row, where they have placed at the top each time. In addition, they are frequent winners at other competitions around the state and were the featured jazz band at the 2006 and 2009 Iowa Bandmasters Association Conventions.

Jazz Also

Jazz Also is composed of intermediate jazz band students as determined by auditions normally conducted during October. Jazz Also meets for practice outside of the normal hours of the school day (traditionally Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-4) and performs and competes at numerous venues in Cedar Rapids and Eastern Iowa. In a chamber group (one person per part) such as jazz band, perfect attendance from every member is crucial to the success of the group.

Band Calendar

General activity by month – some changes could be expected from year to year
(Check www.washppa.com for specific dates and times)

August

- **Stadium Camp:** Mandatory practice held at Kingston Stadium, 2 weeks before school starts; Monday through Thursday, 5:00-9:00 pm.
- **Band Parent Meeting:** (held in the evening one night during Stadium Camp)
- **Measure & Fit Marching Uniforms:** (Help needed. Evenings during Stadium Camp)
- **Band Camp:** Held at Camp IO-DIS-E-CA the week before school starts (3 days, 2 nights) Monday 8:00 am through Wednesday 6:00 pm (*400 volunteer hours needed*)
- **Monday Night Rehearsals:** start the first week of school, 6:00-9:00 pm @ Kingston Stadium; students are responsible for their own transportation
- **Saturday Practice:** Check band calendar for dates and times

September

- **Football Games:** Pit crew and uniform help needed
- **Johnston Show:** The band travels by bus to Johnston, Iowa to perform their show for professional critique. Practice in the morning before boarding the bus (Pit crew & chaperone help needed.)
- **Linn-Mar Contest:** General schedule: Practice 9:00 - noon. Lunch. Around 2:00 load bus and go to Linn-Mar for contest. (Meal planning & service as well as pit & chaperone help needed.)
- **Saturday practice**
- **Auditions for Wind Symphony and Revs**

October

- **Homecoming Parade:** On the Wednesday before homecoming. Students wear the Red Band t-shirt instead of the marching band uniform. The Wash Band t-shirt is considered part of the band uniform and is not to be altered or changed in any way, shape or form.
- **Five Seasons Marching Band Contest** (Wash helps host this each year) Many volunteers are needed. Practice in the morning, Lunch on their own. Perform exhibition at 2:00ish
- **Auditions for Jazz Also**
- **State Marching Band Contest & Valley Contest** (State in the afternoon and Valley in the evening). This is a long day, returning from Valley around 2AM. Help will be needed for pit, serving meals and chaperoning. We host State MB every 3 years. Last hosted in 2013.
- **MMBC:** Metro Marching Band Classic a performance of all area high school bands.
- **Marching Band Uniform Turn In:** Help needed with uniform check in.
- **All State Auditions**

November

- **Fit Tuxes & Dresses:** (for All State students first)
- **Fruit Sales Fundraiser:** Voluntary fundraiser for individuals to help with out of state band trip expenses.
- **“Buy It For A Song” Auction:** *(One of our PPA fundraisers-Lots of help needed)*
- **Java & Jazz:** An annual Jazz concert including Jazz Also, Revs, Coe Jazz band, and a guest artist. Coffee & dessert is served in the band room, which has been transformed into a Jazz Club atmosphere.
- **All State Concert**

December

- **Fruit Sales Delivery:** (4-6 volunteers for the morning delivery, then 4 after school for pick up)
- **Holiday Concert:** Wind Symphony & Concert Band

January

- **Eastside Band Concert:** Wind Symphony performance with Franklin & McKinley middle schools

February

- **Winter Band Concert**
- **Tall Corn Jazz Fest:** All day event at UNI for Jazz Also & Revs
- **Coe Jazz Summit:** (Revs & Jazz Also)
- **Various Honor Bands:** (Individual student participants)
- **State Speech Contests:** A PPA fundraising event hosted by Wash on a rotating basis. Many volunteers are needed. Will host in 2017
- **MoShow:** PPA’s biggest fundraiser! Band parents should volunteer. The band receives approximately half of the proceeds.

March

- **NEIBA Jazz**
- **All City Solo & Ensemble Contests:** Wash hosts every 3rd year. Last hosted in 2014.
- **Drumline audition material may come out. Auditions are held in April or May.**

April

- **Concert of Ensembles:** Not held every year
- **State Solo & Ensemble Contests:** (Wash hosts every 4 years). Last hosted in 2013.
- **Corridor Jazz Project:** Revs
- **Iowa Jazz Championships:** Revs

May

- **Concert:** prior to Large Group Contest
- **Large Group Contest:** Takes place on a Saturday in May, hosted by a local high school. Wind Symphony and Concert Band each perform. (Wash hosts every 3rd year; last hosted in 2016).
- **Concert Band Turn in Tuxes**
- **Band Banquet:** Celebrate the year with a potluck!
- **Frankfurter Fest:** a casual concert in the Washington High School courtyard of all musical performing arts groups.
- **Graduation:** Wind Symphony plays prior to, and during the ceremony.
- **Check in Tuxedos and Gowns:** (last two weeks of school)

Yearly Band Fees

The following is a list of most commonly charged fees for yearly band participation. **Not all costs are included, and they may periodically change.** If a student qualifies for the free and reduced lunch program some of these fees are reduced or waived. Other fees may vary or be included, depending on a student's involvement with the Band Program.

Please contact the band director concerning specific questions or concerns regarding fees.

- Yearly Band Activity Fee (approx. \$100)
- Band Camp (approx. \$100)
- Lunches/Dinners for Marching Band competitions (\$10)
- Shoes for Marching Band
- Color Guard Uniform Fee (approx. \$100)
- Shirt, Tie & Cummerbund: All males in Wind Symphony & Concert Band
- Instrument Rental
- Honor Band & Solo Contest fees
- Case of Water for Marching Band

Football tickets

Punch pass tickets (6 punches that can be used by multiple people one punch per person) are for sale. We sell them during band camp and the first week or two of school. They are good for all Kingston football games excluding playoff games. We get half the proceeds for the band if we sell them, so PLEASE purchase these football tickets from the Band Reps. Please remember you need to pay admission even if you are helping with the band. Sometimes they will let you in free but be prepared to use a ticket.

Volunteer Expectations and Opportunities

Due to the band's number of large-scale activities, events and competitions, we are kindly requiring all families to commit to supporting their students and the program with a minimum of **6 volunteer hours in the fall (Band Camp, 5 Seasons Marching Band, Buy It For a Song, etc.) and 6 hours in the spring (Mo-Show, Frankfurterfest, Large/Small Group Contests, etc.)**

Other volunteer opportunities throughout the year include:

- Pre-Event Assistance (Uniform fitting, concert attire fitting, coordinating water/Gatorade team).
- Home Football Game Assistance (Uniform Assistance, Warrior Wagon load/unload, Pit Crew)
- Competitions (Chaperone, Pit Crew, providing and/or serving food)
- Concert Ticket Sales/Programs
- Fruit Sales Fundraiser (Chair, help unload/sort)
- Band Banquet
- Shirt Sales
- Photography
- PPA Events (including those listed above as well as Java & Jazz and others)

Marching Band Uniform & Tux Fitting

Marching Uniforms

Prior to Marching Band Season:

Each year we must measure and fit all of the students who participate in Marching Band. It is a time-consuming process, but we have several procedures and tools that make it a very streamlined process. We do have records from the previous year, which does make the whole experience less hectic and confusing than you might think! It can be one of the easier tasks we do for the entire band!

Fittings are conducted during Stadium Camp rehearsals in August. To keep the process moving smoothly we would ideally need 7-8 parents assisting during each fitting time. We need people to measure the students, find the appropriate sized clothing for that student, distribute hats, gauntlets and plumes.

After Marching Band Season:

Each uniform was assigned a number and then issued to a particular student before marching band season. That is now checked against our records as the uniforms are being returned. Gloves and shoes are not turned in, as they now belong to the student.

Wind Symphony/Concert Band Attire

All students in Wind Symphony or Concert Band will be fitted for their attire. Again, these items are numbered and will be assigned to students once they are properly fitted. We do have a range of sizes and if necessary will order any additional items.

Band Camp Volunteer Descriptions

Meal Help:

These people assist the camp cook to prepare, serve and clean up after the meal. You could be stirring spaghetti, stocking the salad bar, serving up green beans, or scraping plates. You may need to lift a 20 lb rack of dishes. Health regulations require helpers to wear closed-toe shoes, (no sandals) and a hat/scarf to cover your hair. Please arrive 15 minutes before your shift.

Field/Roaming

Individuals are needed to be on site at the marching field in case the directors or students need assistance. At the beginning of the shift, Gatorade is made in 5 gal. drink coolers. You will need to transport these (in your vehicle) down to the field, along with the first aid kit, and a couple of lawn chairs. The afternoon shift also takes freeze pops for the break time. Once there, you can sit in the shade with a book! You just need to be available should an occasion arise.

Evening Chaperones

Be mobile and visible! Wander and engage students, while enforcing the camp's physical boundaries. This is a school sponsored trip and the guidelines/ parameters for behavior and dress are the same as they would be at Wash. These are good kids, but our presence is necessary to provide accountability during the unstructured time in the evenings. It is our goal to create a safe, healthy, and fun environment for all students.

Overnight Chaperones

There is a bedroom just for chaperones in both the male and female dorms. A room/bed check is performed at curfew, and then again an hour or so later. In the morning, a wake-up call is done at 8:00 to ensure that all students are up.

Football Game Protocol for Students

- 6:00 PM Students should arrive at the southwest entrance of Kinston Stadium with the following:
- In the Red Garment bag***: uniform jacket & pants, 2 gauntlets, plume, **black socks that go over the calf**, & black gloves (gloves are handed out at the first game). Also needed are marching shoes (name on the inside is helpful since 125 people are wearing the same shoes!) hat in box, pep band music, instrument, and any hair bands/ bobbie pins needed to keep hair off collar.
- 6:10 Garment bags should be hung on the rolling racks. Check in with section leader, get dressed. Uniform Assistants (ie. Band Parents) are available to help with anything that comes up. We are NOT ALLOWED to hand the bags on the fence!
- 6:20 Wait for warm up instructions. Remember, you are representing Wash, and are expected to conduct yourself accordingly. *Do not leave the southwest corner!* No one should be in the stands yet.
- 6:30 Warm up/ unload pit
- 6:45 Line up for Pregame/ National Anthem
- 7:00 Show time!
- 7:10 Sit in stands in Band Section and play pep band music for the first half
- 7:45ish Line up for half time show
- 8:00 After half time show take off uniform items and *put them away in red garment bag & hat box!* Hang your garment bag back on the rolling racks!
- Take instrument and music back up to stands and sit with the band. Play pep band music for 2nd half. ***This is not optional!***
- 9:00ish After the game, make sure you take *all of your stuff* home! (Check the label on your garment bag, hat box and shoes!)
- 10:00 When you get home, it is a good idea to take the uniform out of the bag to let it air out, especially if it was a hot evening. You'll be glad you did!

****These are the sections that do not wear all of the items listed above-***

Drumline- no gloves & no gauntlets, (but they use hair bands instead)

Tubas- no hats/plumes

Pit- no gloves, no gauntlets, no hats/plumes

Marching Band Uniform Assistants

Please arrive at 6:00 on your scheduled game date. You will need to buy a ticket, or get your pass punched. The gate guards are not supposed to let you back in if you leave, so you should make sure you have what you need for the whole game.

We (the band parents) help as needed.

Students put uniforms on over their shorts & T-shirt, as follows:

- **Pants** zip in front, **jacket** zips in back.
- **Pants hem** is snapped and pinned so that it just touches the ground when shoes are off. Everyone should be wearing mid-calf length **BLACK SOCKS**, with the required black **marching shoes**.
- **Gauntlets** are velcroed with the stripe to the outside, facing forward. The first game is a little more work because we need to hand out **gloves** (S,M,L,XL) and cut the fingers out of the ones for clarinets and flutes. We also need to help get **hats** (called shakos) placed correctly at eyebrows and chin strap buckled. **Plumes** (feathers) are inserted into the slot at the front of the shako, and should be vertical, not bent.

This can just be a bit tricky for the students who are new to band. It all gets done, it just looks like mass chaos for a while.

These are the sections that do not wear all of the items listed above-

Drumline- no gloves & no gauntlets, (but they use hair bands instead)

Tubas- no hats/plumes

Pit- no gloves, no gauntlets, no hats/plumes

“Extras” Box

Our hope is that each student will bring all of his or her own uniform items. Unfortunately, this is generally not the case. We have a box with extra gauntlets, socks, gloves and hats available for emergencies. Please write down whom you gave what to, so we can keep track of our inventory. Each student may ask for a replacement item one time, after that we will be collecting \$2 for each item requested. The fees will be used to cover the cost of replacement socks and gloves.

Marching Band Pit Crew

During the marching band season, for football games and contests, help is needed to move the frontline instruments on and off the field. These are timpani, marimba, gong, bells, chimes, bass drum, cymbals', various hand percussions, and the drum major's stands.

Ten people is the general number we need. During football games volunteers report to the Warrior Wagon with 10 minutes left in the first half. We help the students assemble the instruments at the gate, so they are ready to move on to the field at the beginning of half time.

When the frontline instruments are set on the field, the pit crew sits on the sideline benches until the performance is over, at which time they help carry things back off the field. Once back in the staging area, students load the pit instruments onto the Warrior Wagon. Volunteers are free to return to their seats.

Band Competitions/Events

Marching Band

Johnston Show: (near Des Moines) Mid-September

Linn Mar Show: Mid to Late September

Five Seasons Show: (We host this along w/ Jefferson & Kennedy) Late in September

State Marching Band: held at Kingston (We host on rotating basis) Early October

West Des Moines Valley: LATE night (same day as State)

Metro Marching Band Classic: October-All area schools and one of the in-state Universities perform

Wind Symphony tryouts

Early October

All State

Individuals prepare all through September and October

Tryouts in late October

Concert: November usually weekend before Thanksgiving

Honor Bands (voluntary participation based on audition)

UNI Honor Band: 1st Weekend in February - (Ask director for tryout times)

ISU Honor Band: 2nd Weekend in February - (Ask director for tryout times)

Coe College Honor Band in April - (Ask director for tryout times)

Solo, Ensemble, Large Group contests (students expected to participate in an ensemble)

City Contest for solos and ensembles in March or early April (we host on rotating basis among other area schools)

State Solo and Ensemble contest in April (we host on rotating basis)

Wind Symphony and Concert Band Large Group Contest in Early May (we host on rotating basis)

Drum Majors and Drumline Tryouts in May

WARRIOR MARCHING BAND

State – Valley Marching Band Shows

Parent / Fan Itinerary

Saturday, October 11, 2014

@ WASHINGTON

12:30: Dress into uniforms and load buses. Must be FULLY DRESSED in uniform before we leave. Bring a WARM change of clothes.

1:00: Buses Leave for Kingston Stadium (from Wash)

@ KINGSTON STADIUM

1:30: Arrive Kingston Stadium: Unload – go to Warm Up

1:40: Warm Up (1 hr.)

2:55: Move to Gate

3:00: Arrive Gate

3:10: STATE PERFORMANCE @ KINGSTON STADIUM

3:25: GROUP BAND PICTURE

4:00: Rehearsal begins in Kingston Stadium **IN UNIFORM**

5:15: Rehearsal Ends: Load – TAKE OFF UNIFORM JACKETS ONLY!
Eat Supper (Provided)

6:15: Leave Kingston Stadium for West Des Moines Valley

@ VALLEY (West Des Moines)

8:15: Arrive Valley: Unload – go to Warm Up

* You must be FULLY DRESSED in uniform by the time we arrive

8:45: Warm Up (50 min.)

9:35: Move to Field

9:45: Arrive Gate

10:00: PERFORMANCE @ VALLEY

10:15: Change out of uniforms / Load

EXCEPT DRUM MAJORS: DO NOT CHANGE!

Get snack (provided)

* Return to the stadium – Watch other bands

* Must stay in the stadium

11:00: Awards Ceremony – Drum Majors on the Field

11:30: Leave Valley

1:30 AM: Buses arrive back @ Wash (Time approximate)

Please have your parents meet you!

Band Concerts

Ticket Sales & Programs

Band concerts (4-5 per year) are listed on the school calendar and at www.washppa.com.

Tickets are sold outside the auditorium 30 minutes before the concert starts. Volunteers are needed to pick up the ticket rolls and cash box from Mr. Miller, and operate the table until the concert begins. Note beginning and ending ticket numbers on each roll. The cash box gets totaled at the end.

Programs are handed out to patrons as they enter the auditorium. Extras are given back to Mr. Miller. Concerts are general admission so people usually seat themselves.

Band Banquet

The end of the year band banquet, held in May, is a potluck that celebrates the achievements of our students. They receive the letters and numerals earned that year.

There are also certificates given out for the “Peoples’ Choice” awards. Voted on solely by the band students, these are often humorous acknowledgements of quirky behavior. Parent volunteers tabulate these the week before the banquet, and make up the certificates.

We also organize a “thank you” gift for the directors. An email goes out to parents, and money is collected at school for this. Part of this gift is generally a framed picture of all the seniors.

Help is needed with planning, gifts, Peoples’ Choice tabulation, potluck set up, serving, and clean up.

Cedar Rapids Washington High School Patrons of the Performing Arts (PPA)

The Patrons of the Performing Arts (PPA) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization at Washington High School (WHS) which provides support for ALL of the performing arts groups: band, dance team, drama/speech, orchestra, and vocal music/show choir. Donations to PPA are 100% tax deductible.

Over the past 3 years, PPA has raised over \$300,000 to help meet the critical needs of WHS performing arts. These have included purchasing uniforms, music, instruments, costumes, travel, musical instruction, and providing financial assistance for students in need. Although we are always grateful for your financial support, please also know that volunteering your time is of equal importance to our programs and events. We invite you to join us at our monthly meetings which feature one of the performing arts programs found at Washington.

While each program has its own specific events or competitions, the PPA also sponsors and promotes different activities to help raise funds during the year. The following is a list of these fund-raising and volunteer opportunities:

Buy It For A Song – Every November

This fundraiser involves all of the performing arts groups at Washington. It is a single day event and features live auctions, silent auctions, food and performances from all musical groups – band, orchestra, and the different show choirs. Many area businesses and individuals donate thousands of dollars of various items for both auctions. Without our dedicated and tireless volunteers, PPA could not make this event the success it has been for so many years.

Java & Jazz – Every November

Every fall the PPA takes an opportunity for the public to hear some of our school's finest jazz players along with a special musical guest. These guests have not only played with our students but have provided some valuable instruction and inspiration as well. Typically, this event is held on a Thursday during the month and features coffee and various desserts provided by our PPA families.

Speech Contest – Every February

This event is rotated among different schools every 3-4 years. There are many volunteer opportunities to help with setup, food, or assistance with the various centers. Washington will host this event in 2017.

Mo-Show – Every February

This is the PPA's biggest fundraiser of the year. It is our show choir extravaganza which Washington hosts every year. It is one that many area and statewide schools look forward to every year. It is a daylong event held on a Saturday all over our campus. There are many opportunities to support this event through donations of food, money or time.

Frankfurterfest – Every May

As our way of finishing off the year, the PPA has sponsored an evening of music, food and fellowship with the WHS community. Performances by the orchestra, show choirs and jazz bands provide another opportunity to hear some of the best instrumental and vocal talents in this area.

Quick Reference Page

Website: www.washppa.com email: crwhswarriorband@gmail.com

Questions: Have your student check with section leader or contact a Band Rep.

Important Dates

<p><u>Rehearsals:</u> Band Camp: Aug 10 – 12 @ IO-DIS-E-CA Stadium: August 13 10 AM to 6 PM Stadium Camp: Aug 15 – 17 5 PM to 9 PM Stadium: August 20 10 AM to 6 PM Stadium: August 22 6 PM to 9 PM Stadium: August 27 10 AM to 6 PM Stadium: August 29 6 PM to 9 PM Stadium: September 6 6 PM to 9 PM Stadium: September 12 6 PM to 9 PM Stadium: September 19 6 PM to 9 PM Stadium: September 26 6 PM to 9 PM Stadium: October 3 6 PM to 9 PM</p>	<p><u>Football Games:</u> September 2 September 22 September 30 October 13</p> <p><u>Contests:</u> Johnston Show September 17 Linn-Mar Show September 24 5 Seasons Show October 1 State Competition October 8 W Des Moines Valley October 8 Metro MB Classic October 10</p>
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Subject to change, please check the website / watch for email messages.

Fees

Yearly Band Activity Fee (approx. \$100 pay to WHS)
Band Camp (approx. \$110 pay to WHS)
Color Guard Uniform Fee (approx. \$100 pay to WHS)
Shoes for Marching Band (approx. \$30 pay to WHS)
Gloves for Marching Band (\$2 pay to WHS)
Instrument Rental (varies pay to WHS)
Lunches/Dinners for Marching Band competitions (\$10 paid to a Band Rep)
Case of Water for Marching Band
Shirt, Tie & Cummerbund: All males in Wind Symphony & Concert Band
Honor Band & Solo Contest fees

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (employment only), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (students/program only) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. District employees with questions or a grievance related to this policy should contact the Executive Director of Human Resources, 319-558-2000. Students and others should contact Ken Morris, Jr., Manager of Student Equity, 319-558-1504; kmorris@cr.k12.ia.us. The District mailing address is 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405-1015.