



# **WCA Marching Eagle Band**

New Parent Welcome Packet 101

Everything you need to know.

# Welcome!!

As a new parent of the WCA marching Eagle band, you may have many unanswered questions as your child enters Band, here we hope to answer those for you!

As with all things worthwhile, membership in our band demands time, energy, discipline, dedication and a small financial commitment from our students and their families.

We hope that this will give insight as to what to expect and how to plan and schedule your time and resources for the upcoming year.

If you have any questions about this guide or anything else during the summer, or in the fall, please feel free to contact Ms. Wesley via phone or e-mail. E-mail [ewesley@ecaeagles.org](mailto:ewesley@ecaeagles.org) or by phone at 419.966.9475.

## **WHO IS IN MARCHING BAND?**

Marching band members include students in grades 7-12 who are enrolled in Band. These students march with instruments to a set of directions on the field called Drill. Students will practice both drill and music separately until we can put them together.

## **WHAT IS BAND CAMP?**

Two weeks before school starts, a time of intense training known as band camp. Band Camp this year will be July 19-30. Rehearsals will be 8am – noon every day. This will help us avoid the very hot part of the day and still allow for family time.

Rehearsals take place outdoors. Students **MUST** wear comfortable, LACE-UP athletic shoes. **Students MUST wear school appropriate athletic shorts and a t-shirt.** Head/eye protection and sunscreen are required. Band members should have a camel pac (sold as a “personal hydration system”), or some sort of water bottle to have on them during the practices outside. Breaks are given every 20-30 minutes depending on the heat. Students are encouraged to bring a few snacks each day such as: granola bars, crackers, pop tarts... etc. Something quick and easy to eat.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Band is a mandatory participation activity. Students are graded based on attendance, as participation requires 100% attendance. This includes ALL practices and performances. The band relies on every student to make the show complete. If a student is going to be absent, I will need a parent e-mail for them to be excused. This must state the date and reason. Please try to schedule any dental or doctor appointments after rehearsals.

## **The Marching Band Uniform**

We are currently working on a new Band logo. Once that is finished, we will have shirts for the students to buy and also a windbreaker type pullover for chilly days. The band pants will be supplied as they were bought brand new last year.

## **MARCHING BAND UNIFORM PARTS:**

### **GARMENT BAGS:**

All members will be issued a garment bag with their uniform. Please use it. Not only will it keep everything together, it will preserve the life and appearance of your uniform parts.

### **BLACK MARCHING UNIFORM PANTS: length is adjustable**

Purchase these items from the band, but they are yours to keep at the end of the year. Items may be used again (in upcoming years, provided they remain in good condition).

- **BLACK MARCHING SHOES**
- **BAND “SHOW” SHIRT** –Worn to school on game days, and under the windbreak for performances.
- **BLACK SOCKS** – REQUIRED, REQUIRED, REQUIRED!! - NO LOGOS ON THE SOCKS – At least calf-length

### **OPTIONAL ITEMS: Please see Ms. Wesley for more info!**

- **Hoodies-Coming soon with new logo!**

### **CARE & CLEANING OF UNIFORM**

Items are machine washable and should be laundered after each use. To prevent fading, we recommend washing in cold water, using Woolite for Darks. Shoes should be cleaned after especially wet or muddy performances. We have found that Vaseline works well to clean AND protect the patent leather shoes.

## **What Can I Expect Once School Starts?**

A complete calendar of all marching season practices and performances will be coming soon!

**AFTER-SCHOOL PRACTICES:** Will be scheduled ASAP as we are trying to avoid conflicts with sports.

### **\*\*\*\*\*FOOTBALL GAMES:**

#### **Home Games –**

*Student come to school wearing their “Show Shirt”.*

*Bring the Garment Bag with ALL uniform Parts.*

*Often, the students perform at a Pep Rally during school hours.*

*Students are to stay after school. They run a field rehearsal of the show.*

*At 5 pm the students are fed a home-cooked meal by the "Home Game Dinner Committee"*

*(parents are encouraged to come help)*

*6:00pm - Students return to the band room and get dressed in the "Marching Uniform"*

*6:30pm - Band makes it way to the stands.*

*Performance at Half-time.*

*Students are allowed to leave the stands during 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter to socialize and buy snacks or drinks at the concession stand. Please make sure your student has a few dollars on Game Nights.*

*At the game, many band parents choose to sit near the band. Sitting together is a wonderful way to make new friends and support your band.*

*Adult admission to home football games is approx. \$6.00.*

#### **Away Games –**

*Depending on the location of the Away Game, departure times will vary.*

*The band will stop along the way for dinner, usually at a mall with a food court. Students must always have money for dinner on Away Game trips.*

*Arrival time at the school after the game can also be unpredictable. While we TRY to let you know what time the band will return, there are many factors that contribute to the uncertainty. Events and bus schedules can have a life of their own!*

***If you are not traveling with the Band:***

*If your student has a cell phone, we encourage them to call their parents as they are getting closer to the school. The Remind App will post the time if it is different from the posted arrival time. Please do your best to pick up your student promptly.*

**TRANSPORTATION: HOW DO WE GET THERE?**

WCA provides buses for away football games and other events we might attend. All students are required to ride the bus to the event.

**WHERE DO I GO FOR INFORMATION?**

Your most valuable source of information is your band or guard member. Communicate with him or her on a daily basis. You will also receive weekly emails during the football season with details on that week's game schedule. Unfortunately, circumstances beyond the band director's control sometimes add, delete or change performance times and schedules. Please be aware of last-minute changes.

**Some other valuable sources of information include:**

**THE BAND'S WHITE BOARD** – Located in the Band Room - The most current and up-to-date information is posted here. Band Members, as well as parents, are encouraged to check this board regularly for event schedules, call times, dress instructions, and other news.

**THE WCA WEBSITE** – <https://www.wcaeagles.org/performing-arts/band/>

**REMIND APP**- Some parents aren't at a computer all day so this is a quick way of letting you all know something's up😊

**MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION**

**Spring Banquet**

The highlight of the year is the Spring Band Awards Banquet, which is held in May. We didn't have one this year, but plan to start this back up next year!

**Spring Concert**

All bands perform that night to showcase their best work during the season.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MARCHING BAND?**

The Marching Band will convert into the Concert band after the season ends.

**CAN I VOLUNTEER FOR BAND EVENTS?** Yes, BUT EVERYONE must have a background check. Forms can be picked up at the school office. You must be cleared through the school prior to working any events with the band.