

**MARCHING
SPARTANS
101**

ROOKIE SURVIVAL GUIDE
2020-2021



○ Overview

This information was put together with input from band parents and marching band students who in their own “*rookie year” went through various stages of confusion and had many questions (we’ve ALL been there).

Our hope is to provide you some answers to commonly asked questions as well as provide some tips to achieving a successful band camp & marching band season!

- Fellow Band Parents

*The term “rookie” has become a commonly used term for new marching band members.



TIME MANAGEMENT/ COMMITMENT



Q: How will marching band students have the time to attend after school rehearsals, perform at Friday nights football games until 10pm, and compete on Saturdays, all within a 3-month period, and keep up their grades?

Time management will be one of the most important tools that your children will acquire when they become members of the WSHS band program. Your student will learn how to keep a schedule, the importance of punctuality and how to set priorities.

❖ A detailed monthly *band calendar* is posted on our website:
www.WSHSspartanband.org

- The calendar lists rehearsals, football games, events, and competitions band students will be required to attend during the marching band season. The schedule does sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances, so checking the calendar every few days is recommended.
- Note, the calendar includes information for both marching band and performance bands (concert, symphonic and wind symphony).

❖ “15 min early is on-time and on-time is late”

- This means for a 6:00 pm rehearsal time on the calendar, a student needs to be at the band room “early” enough to:
 - take care of their set-up responsibilities
 - get their instruments, equipment, and themselves to the rehearsal location by 6pm, in place and ready to go.
- Rehearsals will be finished at the published time and students dismissed. However, students involved with “crew/leadership” may be required to stay after dismissal in order to finish those duties.

❖ *Summer Band Camp*

- Pre-season summer marching band camp rehearsals are required for marching band participation.
- Please arrange family vacations, doctor’s visits, student jobs and family time around these rehearsals. Marching band is the ultimate group activity, and if one member is missing it affects the entire group. That said, if a student cannot attend a rehearsals due to a sickness, or reason out of your control, please notify the Band Director.
- Marching band camp usually starts beginning-mid August and last for three weeks. Please review the calendar at www.WSHSspartanband.org for times, dates and locations.

❖ *Competitions*

- Competitions take place on Saturdays, usually begin in late Oct/early Nov, and last for 4-5 weeks.
- All marching band students are required to attend competitions
- The band will practice prior at the school, prep/load instruments and equipment and be transported by bus to/from the competitions.
- Competition times vary but between practice, travel and actual performance time it is typically an all-day activity.





Band Camp Tips



Get a DRILL BINDER

The Drill Binder holds all the student's warm-ups, music and drill. The student should tie a string (shoestrings work well) through the corner to carry easily. Drill sheets are small pieces of paper that have the marching coordinates/steps (i.e. "drills") on them. Students will learn/memorize these steps for the marching band performance.

Bring and Drink Lots of WATER, WATER, WATER

Students must stay hydrated; they will sweat a lot during marching band. It is hot on the pavement, turf and grass, they are outside, and it is summertime. Remember that caffeine dehydrates. Did we mention... Water?

TIP: Freeze some water in a container that will fit in their water jug. The block of ice will keep it cool for most of the day. There will be water available to refill the jug.

Eat Plenty of FOOD

Please remember to eat a healthy breakfast each day before they come to rehearsal. The body needs fuel to perform at the level necessary for marching band. Students must bring a bag lunch for pre-season apart from the week that hospitality will provide lunch (those dates will be provided shortly prior to the first week of camp).

Checklist

- Gallon water jug filled with ice & water (w/ student's name on it)
- Comfortable clothing. Think of clothing you would exercise in.
- Comfortable athletic shoes or sneakers with socks. No sandals, flip-flops, open toed or backless shoes.
- Lip protection with SPF (i.e. Chapstick)
- Sunglasses AND hat
- Sunscreen
- Bag Lunch for summer daytime rehearsals
- Marching instrument
- Pencil and highlighter
- Drill Book (3-ring binder with 25-30 clear page protectors)





Uniforms

Marching Band Uniform

The marching band uniform is worn at home football games, homecoming parade, competitions, and TAG Day.

The marching band uniform is issued from the uniform room (before each event) – the first three items listed below never go home with students. Items:

- Jacket (provided by the band)
- Bibber Pants (provided by the band)
- Shako with white plume (provided by the band)
- White Gloves (1 pair issued)
- Black shoes - AKA dinkles (1 pair issued)
- Solid black socks (student needs to get)
- Show shirt for under uniform (1-2 issued)

Any/All Marching Spartans with long hair will need to put their hair up in Shako hair. Student with long hair will need to bring their own bobby pins, hair nets or other devices for keep their hair under the shako for the full performance.

GUARD UNIFORM

Students in the Guard will not wear the marching band uniform. They will be provided a costume based on the show theme each year. Guard students will be issued a guard jacket.

Marching Band T-shirt Each student will receive a show themed shirt. There is a new t- shirt design each year. It is recommended that you purchase a second marching band t-shirt when offered. Most students like to have a second to use at a Saturday competition after wearing the first at a Friday night game (no late-night laundry).

Blue Hooded Sweatshirt Rookie marching students will receive 1 sweatshirt their first year at no additional charge. Returning students may purchase a new sweatshirt for a small fee. The hoodie is worn during colder weather over the marching band t- shirts. Both the t-shirt and the sweatshirt are used for quick identification as a band member (band hoodies very popular amongst the band students).

Athletic shorts or “Umbro” type shorts. Provided by each student, required for group changes in open conditions.

Black Socks You will be responsible for obtaining/purchasing a pair of solid black Calf-length socks.

White Gloves 1 set is provided to each student as part of the marching band fee.

Marching Band (Band Camp &/or After School Practice)

Students must wear comfortable shoes/sneakers, usually sneakers (NO flip-flops, open toed or backless shoes allowed). A comfortable t-shirt and shorts. Shirts and shorts must be within FCPS clothing standards. Students may want to bring an extra t-shirt & socks in case of a sudden rain shower. A hat is recommended

Shoes AKA Dinkles The marching shoes are called dinkles. Each student will be issued a pair prior to the first game or competition (which ever occurs first).



REMEMBER WHILE IN UNIFORM

- Hair will be kept off the collar of the uniform jacket. If a student cannot put up their hair up to where it stays in place a hairnet will be provided.
- No jewelry
- No nail polish except for students in the Guard, if required.
- No makeup (transfers to marching uniform) except for students in the Guard.
- Please don't use hair products that could possibly transfer to the uniform.
- Only food provided by chaperones can be eaten while in uniform (the bibber pants and jacket portions). Water is OK and encouraged.



Crews & Leadership

All members have different functions as musicians and performers, but also perform supporting roles. You may not know that just as much work must be done behind the scenes for each successful show, football game, competition or concert.

There is a student leadership structure, beginning with the Band Managers, Drum Majors, Captains, Section leaders, and Crew Chiefs. They help with the logistical and administrative tasks necessary to run the marching band program. We have found that with student involvement comes ownership, growth, pride, and responsibility.

Leadership and Crew Chief positions are “applied for” and selected by the band Director. Crew members are made up of marching band student volunteers.

Each crew requires a different amount of time and effort. Some crews are used much more than others during marching band and may have different requirements during the school year. Students will be given a description of each crew responsibilities towards the beginning of band camp to help them choose a crew.

Although you are not required to be a member of a crew, it is highly encouraged for many reasons. If you are aspiring to be selected for a leadership for the following year, crews are one of the best ways to showcase your dedication and skill as a leader and member of a team.





Crews to Choose From

- Equipment Crew
- Field Crew
- Library Crew
- Room Crew
- Uniform Crew

For a description of each crew responsibilities
visit the website www.WSHSspartanband.org





Parent volunteers provide tasks like driving the equipment truck, fitting uniforms, chaperoning, prepping and serving food. Getting involved in the band program through the WSHS Band Boosters will give you the opportunity to share in the experiences with your student and meet some truly amazing band parents.

For more information about our Band Booster Executive Board or Committee Chair positions please visit the board and committee page on the band website

<http://wshsspartanband.org/>

**If you have any additional questions and/or are interested in volunteering, please contact:
President@WSHSSpartanband.org*



Useful Contacts:

Band Office Phone Number: 703- 913-3931

Band Director (Eric Hoang) emhoang@fcps.edu

Website: www.WSHSspartanband.org

Band Booster President President@WSHSspartanband.org



“Things you might hear...”

“Where’s my Dot?” or “Do we line up on the hash?”
This does not refer to insects or food. These terms indicate how the practice field is marked off. Students use their Drill Books to understand their position on the field.

“Come sit in the band parent section.”

While completely optional, most band parents choose to sit in the self proclaimed “band parent section” of the stadium. Its just right of the band (when facing the field on the home side) which is right around the 30-yard line. It’s a great section to get some photos of your band student and hear the pep-songs.

“If you are early, you’re on time; if you’re on time, you’re late” Students need to have time to get their instrument and get to the practice location by the published time of the practice. Plan for 15-20 minutes before published time.

“Are you working the Pit?”

The “Pit” is a group of percussion instruments that travel on a trailer and are stationary during performances. It is also known as the Front Ensemble. The students need parents to help move this equipment and set up props used for the ½ time show.



YOU KNOW YOU'RE A BAND PARENT WHEN...

- *You make three extra trips from home to the band room to drop off everything your band student forgot but needed.*
- *You carry extra black socks, reeds, hair supplies and other things in your car and in your bag.*
- *Your weekends revolve around the Band schedule, at least until November.*
- *You can't pick your child out of the crowd when they are in uniform because they all look alike at a distance.*
- *You no longer speak of your child as a fourteen-year old daughter/son, but as a "freshman trumpet," freshman flute," etc.*
- *You know you will be wearing something blue/orange every Friday night and on competition Saturdays.*
- *You are cheering with other band parents. (Bring a cowbell to ring!)*



Hey, where'd you get that great shirt?!?!.....

All band family and friends love wearing their “I’m With the Band” shirts @ games and competitions.

Order yours today through our Spirit Wear committee!!!

spirit.wear@WSHSspartanband.org

Additional spirit wear options available for the whole family!



Mark Your Calendars... (events to be on the lookout for)

Spirit Section Week	The students dress according to the theme of the day during band camp
Pool Party	End of marching band camp pool party
Leaf Raking	Fall activity that students can earn money from to go towards band costs
Tag Day	The bands biggest fundraising activity of the year
Chalking	A way to welcome "rookies" to the band
Senior Night	Held prior to a Friday night football game to celebrate our senior band students
Parent Involvement	Parent involvement in competition day
Onesie Night	A band student favorite held on 1 selected evening practice
Ice Cream Social	An event to welcome new parents and students
Competitions	Various locations selected prior to the start of each band season



Spirit Section Week

Movie Monday – Dress like a character from a movie

Wednesday – Spartan Day Show your school spirit by wearing **Orange** and **Blue**

Wacky Tacky Tuesday

Friday - Section Color Day! Each section will wear a specific color

Thursday Twin Day – Dress the same as someone else

Ice Cream Social

Q&A
We have Questions We have Answers

ice cream social

Thursday June 6, 2019
From 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
@ WSHS

Reading Session (Students) – WSHS Auditorium
Parent Meeting (Parents) – WSHS Chorus Room (located in the band hall way)
Ice Cream Social to Follow (Students & Parents) – WSHS Sport Lobby (in front of the auditorium doors)

Tag Day

West Springfield High School Band and Orchestra TAG DAY
Sorry We Missed You!

Members of the West Springfield High School Bands, Chorus and Orchestras, wanted to ask for your support.

Donate Now
VISA, MasterCard, PayPal

Donate By Mail

Schedule a Leaf Raking Job



Senior Night

Onesie Night



Leaf Raking



Chalking

Parent Involvement



Pool Party



Competitions



Goals

1. Have my best year ever
2. Repeat each year

***Welcome Marching Spartans!!!
Make it the BEST YEAR EVER!***

