



Warren Township High School Bands FAQ

Welcome to the Warren Township High School Band program. This is a list of Frequently Asked Questions that experience has shown to be of particular interest to new students and their families. Feel free to contact any of the directors with additional questions – they are listed below by program responsibilities. We look forward to your involvement in the Warren Bands.

Mr. Jenkins – Director of Bands

Director of the Marching Blue Devils
Symphonic Band II
Winter Guard Director, Piano, Guitar
cjenkins@wths.net

Mr. Gros – Associate Band Director

Symphonic Band I, Concert Bands (O'P),
History of Rock, Piano
kgros@wths.net

Mr. Tribley – Associate Band Director

Concert Band (Almond), Jazz Ensemble, Almond
Jazz Lab Band, Concert Band III
dtribley@wths.net

Visit our website at www.wthsbands.org!

MARCHING BLUE DEVILS

I understand that every student is a member of the Marching Blue Devil marching band. How do they practice together and do they get PE credit for the Fall semester?

Yes, marching band is a part of the “band curriculum.” We’re very proud that our program is able to offer every band student the opportunity to not only excel in a concert setting, but also as a part of one of the finest high school marching bands in the state. In order to be successful, we bring all the band members together to rehearse Wednesday evenings in the fall through October. Also, by participating in the marching band and the evening rehearsals, the student is exempted from his physical education requirement for the fall semester.

I understand the importance of band camp in the summer but we've already scheduled a vacation during that time. Will my child still have a spot the marching band? Will he/she have to share a spot in the field show?

Attendance at camp is critical to the continued success of the Marching Blue Devils. Occasionally, there are circumstances that are unavoidable and a student misses part or all of camp. This doesn't necessarily mean they cannot be given their own spot in the field show. Contact Mr. Jenkins to discuss the specifics of your situation.

Does the band play in the rain?

While our first priority will always be the safety of the students and their instruments our band will be faced with inclement weather from time to time. This may force cancellation of some events or move others indoors. But the students must always show up on time and be ready to perform (just as in any other graded course).

I don't want my son using his expensive wooden clarinet outdoors. Are there loaners available? Other options? What about loaners for musicians with over-sized instruments like tubas?

Warren provides students with specific larger instruments for marching band, such as: tubas (Sousaphones), marching baritones, marching French horns, and marching percussion. We have a few clarinets, alto saxes, tenor saxes and bari saxes that

can be checked out for marching season. There is no rental fee for any Warren instruments. Students sign a “care-of-instrument” form, stating they will take care of the instrument.

What if my student has to miss an evening marching rehearsal?

The Wednesday evening rehearsals (6 – 9 pm) are to be considered just like regular classes. Attendance will be taken and absences will affect the student's band grade. Excused absences should be pre-arranged just as they would be for a normal school day. Please remember that this is not only a graded course but is also (optionally) replacing the student's gym class, so we must hold the students accountable. And of course, absence will affect the overall quality of the band performance. Students who have a Warren game or meet that may conflict with a Wednesday night rehearsal can be excused, but are expected to come to the field upon completion of that game or meet, unless it runs past 8:30. If you are coming from an after-school practice, plan to arrive around 6:30.

CONCERT BAND PROGRAM

What are the various concert bands at Warren?

Students are placed into a “Concert” or “Symphonic” band based on the auditions held in January. Symphonic Band I and Symphonic Band II comprise our top two ensembles, which include freshmen through seniors. The Concert bands are site based bands (comprised of students who attend the O'Plaine or Almond campus) and are placed by ability and instrumentation needs into Concert Band I, II or III.

All students, regardless of their concert band placement, are members of the Marching Blue Devils.

How do we audition for placement in one of the bands?

Video auditions are due in mid-February. Your middle school director will pass along links to the audition materials and instructions on how to submit the audition.

Is there a way to move up in seating during the year?

Chair changes are also at the discretion of the director, based on daily performance and/or individual performance exams.

How does Basketball (Pep) Band work?

Students in a Symphonic Band, Almond Concert Band or Concert Band 1 (O'Plaine) perform at 3-4 home basketball games each winter. In the event of a conflict, students are to make it up at another game or find a sub to take their place.

JAZZ BANDS

Any student in the Warren band program is eligible to sign up for a spot in our jazz program. There is an audition component for both Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab bands, anyone not placed into jazz ensemble will be placed in jazz lab band. Register for the class!

My child is only interested in Jazz Band. Must he take concert band if he wishes to participate in jazz?

Students are strongly encouraged be enrolled in a concert or symphonic band to sign up for jazz band. The only exceptions are guitar players, piano players, and bass players. The concert bands are the heart of our program, but special cases can be made due to scheduling issues. We have historically had a jazz lab band meet 0 period at Almond to allow freshmen and sophomores to help potential scheduling issues.

UNIFORMS

How much will the uniforms cost us? I understand there will be marching uniforms and concert attire (tuxedos and dresses). When do we get them? Is there anything that we need to provide?

The uniforms are all owned by the school district and there is no fee for their use as long as they are all returned in the same condition as they were originally received. **Please note that obvious neglect, damage or any unreturned items will result in district fines for uniform repair or replacement.**

Students participating in Color Guard will be required to purchase their costumes which are uniquely designed each year to match the show theme.

During band camp week there will be a "fitting night" when the students will be measured for their marching uniforms which are provided by the school. At that time they will need to purchase marching shoes, gloves, and a Warren Band T-shirt from the band boosters. Any necessary hemming of the uniforms will be the student's responsibility.

After the marching season the students will turn in their marching uniforms and be issued dresses and tuxedos.

The students will have to provide their own black shoes. Boys will need to have their own black socks and bow ties and the girls will need dark hose. Again, any necessary hemming will be the student's responsibility.

Although we cannot assess mandatory cleaning fees we do encourage you to consider making a small (\$15) donation (to the Warren Band Boosters) when you pick up your concert wear. This donation will be used to help cover the cost of cleaning the students' uniforms so they'll be ready for the following year.

INSTRUMENTS AND LESSONS

Does the school provide instruments?

Warren high school has a large inventory of excellent instruments for use by our band members. Instruments available include piccolos, oboes, English horn, alto clarinet, bass clarinet, contra alto clarinet, contra bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, bass trombone, euphonium, tuba, marching French horn, marching baritone, and percussion. These instruments must be signed out by a director prior to student use and there is no charge for the use of these instruments.

Students using school owned instruments are responsible for keeping them in excellent playing condition. Instruments must be kept cleaned, oiled and polished. Students are responsible for damage or loss of school owned instruments through abuse, carelessness or negligence. Students are expected to provide their own mouthpiece for school owned instruments.

My child dropped/broke/lost his instrument - what do we do?

Quinlan and Fabish sends a representative by once a week to pick up or drop off instruments. You will be without your instrument for at least a week and you must pay for your repair directly to the company. The WTHS Band Department may have an instrument available to borrow while yours is being fixed (see above), but availability cannot be guaranteed.

Does the school provide private lessons?

The Warren Band Department strongly encourages private lessons on your specific instrument. The cost per lesson and location is to be coordinated between you and the private teacher. For more information please contact the band office.

How do band fundraisers work?

Every student will have three opportunities to raise money for their own individual band trip account. The band offers a trip every other year. This money in their account is kept in the Band Booster school account and is kept track of by our Booster Treasurer. This money can only be used for band trips. Once or twice a year, the boosters will run a general fundraiser for the benefit of the band program. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the fundraisers.

WARREN BAND BOOSTERS

Who are the Warren Band Boosters?

The Boosters exist to support the students by supporting the Warren band and guard programs. Their fundraising benefits these programs by helping to provide money for uniforms, instruments, registration fees, scholarships and many other expenses. They also coordinate our parent volunteers who help at every band event, whether it's carrying water bottles at a parade or moving sets in a competition. Every parent should plan to support their children by joining the Boosters.

How much does it cost to become a Band Booster? What kind of commitment am I making when I join?

The membership fee for the Warren Band Boosters is \$10 per family. Many members take hundreds of digital pictures of the bands throughout the year. Your \$10 will give you online access to download as many as you like for your own keepsake. Membership will also enable you to receive updates on band events and other information via email.

Your only membership commitment is to try and help where you can. You will receive email updates whenever help is needed, and as a member you are encouraged to attend the bimonthly membership meetings to find out more.

Please visit our website at www.wthsbands.org for ongoing information, event calendars and the latest news.