

The Unofficial Guide for **NEW**

Waukesha Northstar Marching Band

Parents



**The Waukesha Northstar Marching Band was pleased to appear and perform
in the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade**

2010 WSMA STATE AAAA MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONS

Waukesha North High School Band

Mr. Greg Richlin, Director

Mr. Andy Hacker, Assistant Director

www.northstarbands.org

Marching Band 101

A guide for new band members and parents (and veteran's, too) 😊

This booklet is the product of former 'new band parents' who spent a good bit of time in our first year in various stages of confusion. In the many hours watching practices, picking up our kids, and going to competitions we have all felt confused, lost and totally bewildered at one time or another. We hope this document will help ease you through the transition from "new" band parent to "veteran" band parent.

For most of us (parents and students alike), the transition from middle school band programs to high school band programs is huge, especially in marching band. The increased expectations come with greater rewards, in terms of your student's accomplishments and the pride you will have in watching their accomplishments. This document is our attempt to share with you some of the finer points of making the most of your years as a band parent.

The Waukesha Northstar Marching Band program relies on volunteering parents in order to help provide your students with an enjoyable and rewarding band experience. Please join us in meeting this challenge by volunteering your time and talents. The students will reap the benefits. We welcome all new parents and look forward to getting to know you and your students!

ISA's (Individual Student Account) are a necessity for the Northstar band program to run smoothly. These accounts are used to track the personal deposits and fundraising efforts of each student. In 2011 each student is responsible for \$500 to cover the standard costs of the marching band season including but not limited to: uniforms, transportation, staffing, show design, overnight trips, general repair and maintenance expenses. Throughout the year you or your student through personal checks, cash, fundraising and donations will make deposits into the ISA account. The accounts will be tracked on computer and paper, all monies are deposited into our band activities fund and are used for said funds.

Parent meetings are held on usually on Sunday afternoons in the late winter and early spring before practice as well as Monday evening during the season. Meeting times will be listed on www.northstarbands.org website. BE SURE TO SEND AN EMAIL TO Mr. Richlin (grichlin@waukesha.k12.wi.us) and ask to put on the MB UPDATE EMAIL LIST. During the marching band season, Mr. Richlin also tweets as well, so be sure to sign up for an account, @Northstarband.

Be sure to pick up a current schedule today.

Any change in the schedule will be posted on the band website at www.northstarbands.org.

REGARDING THE STUDENTS

BAND CAMP

Band camp this year will be conducted in late July and is a full week with students reporting at 8 AM and finishing at 5 PM. The different sections of the band will meet throughout the summer prior to band camp. Dates and times are available now on the Northstar Band website. The staff and students work **very** hard throughout those days. The scheduled start and stop times may vary and can also be found on the band website at www.northstarbands.org. It is important for the students to attend as many of those sessions as possible because this is when they continue to learn the music for their marching band show.

The kids get quite a workout. Be prepared for plenty of sweating. It's an experience most of the kids "love to hate." Dress appropriately – t-shirts, shorts, comfortable sneakers, hat, and sunscreen. Bring a water container – unlimited refills are available throughout the day – water is your best friend. Depending on the length of practice, there will be a break for lunch, but always have students have some snacks with them.

Band camp culminates with a "show-n-tell" for the band families. It's great fun to come out and see how far the kids have come in just one week.

A major benefit of band camp – when your freshman or new marching band student arrives for the first day of high school, he or she will already be a part of a well respected group and will have a whole new group of friends (across all grades) to help with the transition into high school. Our band students look out for each other and especially for the new members.

Marching Band Season

The Marching Band season starts as band camp ends. Practice continues after school during the week. Mr. Richlin will provide your students with a practice schedule, which is typically after school once or twice a week throughout September and into October. Be sure to check the web site: www.nortstarband.org.

Football games

The band performs their show at half time at all home football games. The band has a roped off section in the stands and many of the band parents sit together – a great opportunity to get to know other parents and see your student perform up close.

Northstar *Bandfest* Field Show Competition

Waukesha North High School Northstar Band is sponsoring its fifth high school marching band field show on Sunday, September 18, 2011 @ 1 PM, held in Waukesha North's stadium. Events like this give marching bands an opportunity to give back to the community through music performance. In addition, this event is the primary fundraiser for Waukesha North's band program.

Several Southeastern Wisconsin area high school bands have been involved over the past years. In addition to Waukesha North, we have had bands from Butler Middle School, Fort Atkinson, Muskego, Cudahy, Greendale, Oak Creek and Whitnall High Schools. Each band that participates will come with a 10-minute performance prepared. The event will be staged with 5 minutes between bands so that students get the opportunity to hear and watch other bands perform. We have also had the ***United States Marine Corp Air Ground Combat Center Band from 2a Palms, CA also known as the "Ambassadors Own,"*** a UW collegiate marching band, and many other local high school bands.

Northstar *Bandfest* Exhibition Show is the primary group fundraiser for the marching band season.

Money will be raised through:

-The nominal stipend that each band pays to participate

The admission fee is - \$6 for adults; \$4 for seniors and children 6 to 12 years old; children under 6 years old get in free (***Sorry, school district IDs and passes are not valid for this event***)

-Concessions – food and beverages will be available throughout the event (You will be able to sign up for food donations later in the summer.)

- Advertising in the event program – the program will include an outline of event activities; information about each band, its leadership and musical selections; advertisements sponsored by local businesses; and "happy ads" sponsored by band student parents

-Revenue from event program sales - \$1 each

***Money remaining after event expenses has been paid
will be applied to the Northstar Band Fund***

We estimate 3,000 people to attend *Bandfest* event annually– 1,200 band students and staff, as well as 1,800 parents and friends in the audience. Supporting this non-profit organization and participation provides a positive activity for young people to engage in. Students pay fees to cover the cost of participation and special events with their ISA. Fund-raising helps to offset the related fees.

Competitions

The marching band competes with other high school bands throughout the fall. The Competitions can be local or out of town. [Please come to as many events as you can.](#) All of the students appreciate hearing the cheering from the stands. It is great to watch the competitions and cheer the kids on. It's also a great way to meet other parents. Just look for and sit by all the purple parents. Veteran parents will *always* make room for new parents.

State Competition – Our culminating competition in the state of Wisconsin is our State Championships in Whitewater. Yearly, over 30 bands gather in Whitewater, WI for the WSMA State Championships where bands compete in four classes based on school size. The Northstar band is a member of the AAAA class, and has totaled nine state championships since 1992. In the past 15 years, Waukesha North has placed in the top 2 in the state each year.

Bands Of America Grand Nationals – For the first time in the history of the Northstar Band we will be continuing our competitive marching season beyond the WSMA State Championships this year. We will join 90 bands from around the country in Indianapolis, IN over the second weekend in November for the Bands Of America Grand National Championships. This experience will allow the students a chance to compete against and watch the top bands in the nation.

Special Performances – The Waukesha North “Northstar” Marching Band is dedicated to providing leadership development through musical training and performance. The Northstar Band is “second to none” in its commitment to the Greater Milwaukee area as evidenced by performances such as community parades, the openings of the Midwest Center and Miller Park, and national conferences held in the area. Moreover, the Northstar Band has performed in “invitation only” events throughout America, including The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade (1995, 2002, 2007); the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade (1997); the Phoenix Fiesta Bowl Parade (1992); and the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade (1999, 2004, 2010); and Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game (2003).

Uniforms

Your student will be issued a marching uniform consisting of jacket, pants, shoes, hat, gauntlets and they will purchase their gloves (as appropriate by section) through the band department for a nominal fee. You will need to provide black socks (at least mid calf). Students are responsible for assuring that they treat their uniform with great care. The uniform and gauntlets are issued to the student on a labeled hanger in late spring. The student is responsible for maintaining and cleaning the uniform properly throughout the season. (Refer to the uniform care at the end of this booklet. Students will NOT have possession of their plumes. Be part of the pluming when you sign up to help with band performances!

Each student will be asked to order a Marching Band T-shirt (details to come) to be worn to school on Friday during Marching Band season. The shirt is also worn under their uniform at all marching events. Additionally, your student should bring a pair of cool, comfortable shorts to be worn under their marching uniform.

It's imperative that your student comes to each event prepared! They should have their instrument, no need for music as it will be memorized 😊, CLEAN shoes, hat, gloves and black socks (at least mid calf). Without these items – they will not be able to participate.

Uniform Laundering

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

It is **imperative** that everyone use the same washing procedure to ensure correct care. All garments are washable, unless otherwise stated. However, this does not mean that careful care and repair are not necessary.

Jackets and Bib Pants:

- **Always wash whites with whites and darks with dark colors.**
- **Avoid washing bib pants and jackets together!**
- **Never wash in hot water!**
- Jackets and bib pants are made of completely washable polyester-gabardine. Machine wash and dry on the gentle / knit cycle.
- **Do not use liquid fabric softener on band uniforms!** If a softener sheet is required, use only one (1) sheet.
- If a stain does occur, sponge with water or treat with an appropriate product before it has time to set and before laundering. You may use "Spray and Wash" and other **non-chlorine** stain removers when washing.
- **Use only non-chlorine detergent!** Many detergents are harsh and have a bleaching ingredient that will cause even colorfast fabric to migrate.
- **The multi-colored jacket must be washed with care!** Please turn jackets in-side out prior to washing. As a precaution, color can be set and bleeding prevented by soaking two-color garments in salt water (1/4 to 1/2 cup per wash load depending on load size) or white vinegar water the **FIRST time the garments are washed**. Or, use Carbona's "Dye Magnet," a dry treated material. This product may be found at most drug stores, fabric centers, and supermarkets. Follow manufacturer's instructions.
- If discoloration should occur, Carbona's "Color Run Remover" or Rit Dye's "Rit Fabric Treatment Color Remover" will help remove migrating color. After using one of these products, wash the garments again and the generally will remedy the problem.
- **Dry garments completely before storing.**
- **DO NOT USE A HOT DRYER SETTING!** A hot dryer setting will remove the press. Use a cool setting. When dried on cool setting, uniforms will require very little touch up. Remove them from the dryer and place on a hanger immediately. Steam pressing shoulders and collars is required to retain their proper shape and appearance to renew the heat bonded interfacings.

Gauntlets:

- Make certain the Velcro is not exposed when laundering. Hook pieces together evenly so the hook side is not exposed. This avoids a “picking” of the fabric.
- Wash poly gabardine gauntlets on a gentle cycle and dry on a cool setting like the jackets and pants.

Hats:

- Hand wash all parts of the hat with a mild liquid cleaner diluted with cold water. There are many products designed for such purposes such as Woolite or mild dishwashing detergents. Frequent washing keeps the hat in good condition and reduces irritation that could lead to blemishes on your skin.
- You may scrub soiled parts gently with a toothbrush to remove dirt particles.
- Allow the hat to drip dry. **Do not place in a dryer or near artificial heat.**
- **DO NOT DRY CLEAN.**
- **DO NOT use any spot-cleaning chemicals.**
- **DO NOT bleach any part of the hat.**

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Richlin at 970-3647.

HELP US HELP THE STUDENTS-

Many hands make lighter work!

During the year, but especially during marching season, the students need many helping hands behind the scenes to make their shows and competitions successful. As your student enters high school, this is one of the few opportunities you may have to stay involved with their activities and get to know the kids they spend a great deal of their time with through the week. The students realize very quickly that Marching Band doesn't happen without a lot of parental support.

The band will be looking for parents to:

- Help with uniform fittings and alterations
- Help “lost and bewildered parents and students” find their way
- Help to pack coolers with water
- Distribute water to band members during football games and competitions
- Help load equipment onto the track as needed or getting the equipment down to the field during home games
- Help wipe down bleachers where students will be seated (we're all about saving those uniform pants!) and rope off band section
- Help sell gloves as needed (\$4 per pair) in uniform room
- Help assist students in the band room/dressing room prior to inspection by responding to uniform emergencies (my zipper won't zip, my gauntlets don't fit, I need a band aid to cover the earrings I'm not supposed to be wearing and do you have any nail polish remover for the fabulous purple polish I'm not supposed to be wearing??)
- Help to assimilate students in line to march to field or board buses
- If buses, assure that Supply bags and medical release forms folders are present and roll is taken prior to departure at each location

- Help getting equipment on and off the field during half-time shows and events (drum major podiums, props, instruments)
- Help chaperone events, including water distribution, concessions, and any as needed bleacher scenarios
- Help new students get their uniforms back in the bag
- Help with any other special talents or skills you have to offer the program!
- Help with planning and creative suggestions

Fundraisers

Bingo Night Fundraiser- It has been a tradition in the NHS Band for us to celebrate our successful year with students, family and faculty for a year-end Bingo Night. The cafeteria is transformed into a bingo hall, with videos, a band performance and award presentations. Bring your friends, family, neighbors!

Fundraising

We conduct several fundraisers throughout the year to support the Band program.

Your Band fees only scratch the surface of the expenses incurred in running WNHS's outstanding music programs. Please try to participate as you can. These fundraisers help students realize what it takes to be part of something as big as the Northstar Marching Band:

Pocket peeler, cookie dough, entertainment books are just a few of the opportunities your student has to raise money for their ISA's.

Band Fest Concessions –We need parents to volunteer to work. This is a great opportunity to get to know other band parents and enjoy the events.

March a thon is a mailer sent to family and friends who prefer to support the student with 100% of the donations going right to the student. This has proven to be very successful in raising money for the students. Info to follow...

Your fundraising ideas are always welcome!!

HELPFUL HINTS TO SAVE YOU TIME, GAS & GRIEF

Mr. Richlin, Mr. Hacker and the staff want this to be a positive experience for all the students and their families. Here are some helpful hints (learned from our own experiences):

- Hold your child responsible for being prepared. The first time they forget something, will likely be the last. They really do learn to be resourceful when they have to be.
- “If you are early, you are on time. If you are on time, you are late. If you are late, get ready for Richlin!” This means that students are expected to arrive for scheduled practice about 15 minutes early so they are in position and ready to rehearse at the scheduled start time.
- When you pick up your child from practice, try to be there a little early: The staff cannot leave the premises until all students have been picked up. This is a safety issue for students as well as the staff.

- Mr. Richlin, Mr. Hacker and the staff try very hard to end practice at the scheduled time. Occasionally practice may run over. Please be patient ... it's usually for a very good reason.
- Check the web site often – <http://www.northstarbands.org>
- Network – Take the opportunity to meet other parents (after practice, at games & competitions, fundraising activities, etc.). This is how we all met each other. If you don't know someone, introduce yourself! It is also the best way to find carpools and get helpful hints on band parenting from others.
- Be prepared to cheer! The band loves it when they have their own cheering section at games and competitions.

Veteran band parents, help keep the band program strong by welcoming the new parents. A huge reason our band is respected and has had so much success is because of the commitment of the parents. Help the new parents feel comfortable. We've all been there and are anxious to keep the band strong. Woo-Hoo! Go North!

- Don't hesitate to ask any of the "veteran" band parents if you are lost and confused.



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

- You make three more trips than expected to drop off your child with everything he or she needs. Shame on you! ☺
- You can't pick your child out of the crowd because they all look alike
- You no longer speak of your child as a fourteen-year-old son/daughter, but as a "freshman flute."
- You prominently display a band calendar in your kitchen and have band dates marked on your work calendar
- You secretly wish you could stand on the podium, be in the drumline or try your hand with the flags or baton.
- You practice whistling when no one is around because you have a job to do in the stands!
- You know that you are expected to embarrass our kids beyond belief by dressing in purple from head to toe!
- Your newest best friends are fellow band parents!

Greg Richlin is currently the Director of Bands at Waukesha North High School. He is now in his second year of instruction in the School District of Waukesha. Prior to working in the district, Mr. Richlin worked as a marching and music instructor with the Waukesha North Marching Band. In the time that Mr. Richlin has been involved with the program the Northstar band has traveled to Pasadena, California for the 2007 Tournament of Roses Parade; Orlando, Florida for the 2008 Macy's Holiday Parade and most recently to New York City for the 2010 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

Mr. Richlin was raised in Waukesha, Wisconsin where he graduated from Waukesha North High School in 2004 and studied band under the direction of Mr. Jim Doepke and Mr. Steve Fisher. Mr. Richlin graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor Degree in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin Whitewater in 2008 where he studied trumpet under Dr. Frank Hanson. During his college career Mr. Richlin was an active participant in the UW-Whitewater Marching Band, Pep Band, Wind Ensemble, Trumpet Ensemble and Brass Choir.

Andrew Hacker, a native of Menomonee Falls, WI currently teaches in the School District of Waukesha at Morgan Butler Middle School and North High School. At North High School, Mr. Hacker is a director with the *Northstar Marching Band* and also conducts the Varsity Band and Symphonic Winds and Percussion. Before teaching in the public schools of Waukesha, Mr. Hacker enjoyed teaching in the Waukesha Catholic System.

Mr. Hacker began playing tuba at the age of eleven and is an active musician in the state of Wisconsin. He frequently performs on tuba, bass trombone and euphonium with a wide range of ensembles. Mr. Hacker has performed as substitute tubist with the *Racine Symphony*, *Milwaukee Festival Brass*, and *Lutheran Brass of Milwaukee*. Mr. Hacker has been a guest soloist on tuba with the *Carroll University Wind Symphony* and also with the European wind ensemble, *Dorf Kapelle*.

Aside from his playing duties, Mr. Hacker enjoys guest conducting and frequently spends time in front of *The Youth Wind Orchestra of Wisconsin*. In 2009, Mr. Hacker was invited to lecture on the topic of *Improvisation Through Folk Wind Music* for the international convention of *Gauverband Nordamerika* in Toledo, Ohio. He has been asked to repeat this clinic at the 2011 conference of *Gauverband Nordamerika* in Orlando, Florida. Mr. Hacker plays an active role in folk wind music in the Midwest and is the founder and musical director of *Blaskapelle Milwaukee*, an 18-piece European-style wind ensemble.

Having studied at Carroll University, Mr. Hacker holds a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. Mr. Hacker studied conducting and music education with Dr. Lawrence Dale Harper, jazz with Rick Kirby, tuba with Dr. David Spies and has previously studied tuba with Dr. John Tuinstra.

Instructors	
<i>Marching and Maneuvering</i>	Roman Blenski JD Cooney David Byrne
<i>Color Guard</i>	Sandy Fugh Mel Carlson Rachel Medal
<i>Percussion</i>	Tony Holm Matt Geisler Alex Arcano Devin Burgess
<i>Musical Arrangements</i>	Craig Andrew Fitzpatrick
<i>Drill Design</i>	Steven Estuilldo
<i>Percussion Arrangements</i>	Tony Holm

CONCLUSION

We hope this has been helpful. Anytime you feel lost, tap a “veteran” parent on the shoulder and ask for help. Our main goal is for each of the students to have a great experience being part of the Waukesha Northstar Marching Band. As stated earlier, so much of the band’s success depends on the parent’s commitment to the band. We look forward to getting to know each family. Each student and their parents contribute to the band programs and make it a great place to be.

The www.northstarbands.org website will also be updated regularly.

Be sure to visit the guestbook section.

Check out all the links on www.northstarband.org

Welcome to the Waukesha Northstar High School Marching Band family!