

## **ENSEMBLES OF THE WCHS INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM**

### **WCHS Marching Patriots (Fall Semester)**

The Marching Patriots are the most visible ensemble of our organization. Whether they are performing at Pep Rallies, Football Games, Parades, or Competitions, our marching band is the visual and musical ambassador of West Carteret High School.

### **WCHS Concert and Symphonic Bands (Spring Semester)**

Concert Band is an ensemble designed to perform Grade IV music at our NC Music Performance Adjudication (MPA), which takes place in March. Occasionally, more advanced students will use this ensemble as an opportunity to “double” on a new instrument.

Symphonic Band students are challenged to perform Grade VI music at MPA, which is the most advanced music. This level of music demands a high intensity of musicality and maturity from each participating student.

### **WCHS Small Ensembles**

Each year several small ensembles are offered to give students more opportunities. Jazz Band, Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, and other various chamber ensembles are offered at WCHS based on student interest. These groups rehearse voluntarily during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, before or after school – depending on the ensemble.

### **WCHS Winter Guard**

Each year Winter Guard is offered to guard students to continue to enhance their skills and performance during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. This team competes in our local circuit and regionally at Winter Guard International events.

### **WCHS Marching Patriots 2018-2019 Season**

**Summer Camps** are a necessary and important part of the process, as we prepare for our performance schedule in the Fall. Each facet of the Marching Patriots (Winds, Percussion, and Color Guard) will hold separate camps throughout the summer, as well as a full marching band camp in August.

Wind Camps take place during June 12-13 and July 24-25 (9am-12pm). These camps allow our brass and woodwind students the opportunity to focus on basic fundamentals of sound, including warm up routines for the marching band season. Attendance is required for all brass and woodwind students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the band directors, as soon as possible.

Percussion Camp takes place during July 22-26 (8am-5pm). Percussionists work on individual technique and endurance needed throughout the season. Attendance is mandatory for all percussion students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the director as soon as possible.

Colorguard Camps takes place during June 18-20 (9am-4pm) and July 15-19 (9am-6pm). Colorguard students will work on individual equipment and dance technique needed for performance throughout the season. Attendance is required for all colorguard students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the directors as soon as possible.

Full Ensemble Marching Band Camp (August 5-9) is one of the most important weeks of the entire marching band season. Attendance is an absolute must for all participating students. With the help of additional staff, students will be able to give a concentrated effort as they learn a good amount of the competition show in one week’s time.

Everyone will rehearse from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day of band camp. Lunch will occur from 12:00-1:00 each day. Dinner is provided by the WCHS Band Boosters each night, which is included in the Summer Camp fee.

Due to the heat and vital rehearsals during this time, the following items are needed for all Summer Camps:  
Required:

- lots of patience with a good, positive attitude
- three-ringed binder with plastic sheet protectors for all music and pencil
- large personal water cooler - with name written in permanent marker.
- tennis shoes with socks, light-weight clothing, rain wear, sunglasses and hat
- sun block, lip balm, bug spray/lotion

**Rehearsals** for the WCHS Marching Patriots are held on Tuesday and Thursday, whenever school is in session throughout August, September, and October. There is a direct link between the amount of quality practice and the success of the band. Attendance to afterschool rehearsals is a must. Open communication is the key. The band director must be notified in advance of any absences. The 2018-2019 calendar is provided in this handbook and on our website, to allow parents and students the opportunity to coordinate personal schedules with the rehearsals.

Mondays are reserved to meet with student leadership from 3:15-4:15. Occasionally, this can also be an opportunity to provide time for sectionals, music instruction with additional staff, and assessments.

Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals are full ensemble rehearsals, which run from 3:00-6:00. Our winds, percussion, and guard students learn how their unique elements influence the overall design (music and drill) of the show.

**School Performances** are a vital facet of the Marching Patriots. All members of the band must attend all home football games, parades, as well as other scheduled events. In the event a student must miss a performance, communication with the director is mandatory and it should be done, when possible, in a timely manner.

**Competition Performances** are an important evaluation tool for the Marching Patriots. These performances reinforce the belief that the process is just as important, or even more important, than the final results. A complete itinerary will be sent home with the band students each Tuesday of the week of the trip. Below is a listing of the competition schedule of the Marching Patriots for 2019:

- September 21, 2019 – Carteret County Schools PREVIEW Performance (East Carteret HS)
- September 28, 2019 – Cleveland HS (Cleveland NC)
- October 12, 2019 – White Oak HS (Jacksonville)
- October 26, 2019 – Sanderson HS (Raleigh)
- November 2, 2019 – Crystal Coast Band Classic (Havelock)
- November 13-17, 2019 – Bands of America Grand National Championships (Indianapolis IN)

## Appearance in Uniform

The Marching Patriot uniform is a symbol of pride for the band. Out of respect for our community, WCHS, and the Marching Patriots all students will follow the same guidelines for appearance while in uniform. Each band member will be instructed on how to wear and care for your uniform.

### Uniform Checklist:

- ✓ Hair up in a bun on the top, center of your head.
- ✓ All jewelry removed. You may wear posts in place of body piercings (nose, ear, etc.).
- ✓ Marching Patriot T-Shirt (\$10) and appropriate athletic shorts for changing in and out of uniform
- ✓ Tall Black Socks
- ✓ Gloves (\$4)
- ✓ Shoes (\$35)

### Please follow these simple rules when wearing band uniforms.

- Never eat or drink while in uniform.
- Uniforms must be worn zipped and fastened completely, unless instructed to wear “halves” (jackets off) by a director. The straps to the bibbed pants should ALWAYS be up across the shoulders.
- Do not remove any of the uniform until you are told to do so by a director.
- You may not wear any other type of cap or sunglasses while in uniform.
- There is never ever any running allowed while in uniform. We must maintain a “classic look” at all times.
- Refrain from shouting, yelling or talking loudly while in uniform except when cheering for our athletic teams. No profanity is ever allowed!
- No nail polish or make up.
- Guys must be clean shaven.
- No piercings other than small studs in ears.
- No “out of the ordinary” hair color.

### Instrumentalist Fees

Although the Board of Education and the Band Boosters pay most of the expenditures incurred by the band program, several personal items are the responsibility of the parents and student. Please see p. 8 for detailed information about how to manage your student’s account with the Marching Patriots.

#### Ensemble Fees (required)

Summer Camps.....	\$150.00
-Brass, WW, & Percussion	
-Band Camp (+Meal)	
“Fair Share”.....	\$225.00

#### Uniform Fees (required)

Marching Patriot T-Shirt.....	\$10.00
Red, Band Polo Shirt.....	\$30.00
Black Gloves.....	\$ 4.00
Black Shoes.....	\$35.00
Uniform Dry Cleaning Fee....	\$15.00
Practice Uniform Fee.....	\$30.00

## **ENSEMBLES OF THE WCHS GUARD PROGRAM**

Congratulations on being selected as part of the 2019 WCHS Guard! We hope that you have a rewarding and memorable experience. The purpose of this team is to provide you with opportunities, experiences, and achievement through competitive community performances.

Guard activities provide physical fitness, as well as basic life-skills of teamwork, dedication, sacrifice, and commitment. We instill in our members that hard work pays off and we offer a structured environment for students to become great in every aspect of life.

### **Overview of the Guard Program**

#### **WCHS Color Guard – Marching Patriots (Fall Semester)**

The Color Guard adds a visual and dramatic element to the Marching Patriots. This auditioned group of students work towards learning the fundamentals and design required for marching band participation. These students are a vital, colorful part of the overall design for the competition show.

#### **WCHS Winter Guard (Spring Semester)**

Similarly, the Winter Guard continues to improve on skills specific to their activity (flags, rifles, etc.), during the spring semester. The Winter Guard classes meet during the school day throughout the Spring semester. They also continue to have after school rehearsals during the spring. These students travel to various competitions throughout February, March, and April.

#### **WCHS Marching Patriots 2019-2020 Season – Color Guard**

**Summer Camps** are a necessary and important part of the process, as we prepare for our performance schedule in the Fall. Each facet of the Marching Patriots (Winds, Percussion, and Color Guard) hold separate camps throughout the summer, as well as a full camp in August.

Color Guard Camp is scheduled for June 18-20 1pm-6pm and July 15-19 9am-5pm. There may be additional rehearsal at the discretion of the guard instructor. As with the instrumental camps, the guard students will work on individual technique and endurance needed throughout the season. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the band directors.

Full Ensemble Marching Band Camp (August 5-9) is one of the most important weeks of the entire marching band season. Attendance is an absolute must for all participating students. With the help of additional staff, students will be able to give a concentrated effort as they learn a good amount of the competition show in one week's time.

Everyone will rehearse from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. each day of band camp. Lunch will occur from 12:00-1:00 each day. Dinner is provided by the WCHS Band Boosters each night, which is included in the Summer Camp fee (\$150).

**Rehearsals** for the WCHS Guard members are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, whenever school is in session throughout August, September, and October. There is a direct link between the amount of quality practice and the success of the band.

Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals are full ensemble rehearsals, which run from 3:00-6:00. Our winds, percussion, and guard students learn how their unique elements influence the overall design (music and

drill) of the show.

**Competition Performances** are an important evaluation tool for the Marching Patriots. These performances reinforce the belief that the process is just as important, or even more important, than the final results. A complete itinerary will be sent home with the band students each Tuesday of the trip week. Below is a listing of the competition schedule of the Marching Patriots for 2019:

- September 21, 2019 – Carteret County Schools PREVIEW Performance (East Carteret HS)
- September 28, 2019 – Cleveland HS (Clayton NC)
- October 12, 2019 – White Oak HS (Jacksonville)
- October 26, 2019 – Sanderson HS (Raleigh)
- November 2, 2019 – Crystal Coast Band Classic (Havelock)
- November 13-17, 2019 – Bands of America Grand National Championships (Indianapolis IN)

### **Appearance in Costume**

The Marching Patriot uniform is a symbol of pride for the band. Out of respect for our community, WCHS, and the Marching Patriots all students will follow the same guidelines for appearance while in costume. Each guard member will be instructed on how to wear and care for your costumes. Shoes, accessories, hair, and make-up will be inspected at each performance.

Each color guard performer will purchase their guard costumes. These costumes are personal in nature and worn for one year only, depending on the theme of the year’s marching band program. Most of these costumes are based on dance attire and are considered the personal property of the performer since clothing of this nature should not be shared. A color guard uniform, which is used for parades, will be provided by the band at no cost.

Summer uniforms are worn often during the first few football games at the beginning of school. The Summer uniform consists of a band embroidered polo shirt, khaki/tan colored above the knee length shorts, white socks and tennis shoes. We also wear this when traveling as a group.

### **Guard Fees**

Although the Board of Education and the Band Boosters pay most of the expenditures incurred by the band program, several personal items are the responsibility of the parents and student. Please see p. 8 for detailed information about how to manage your student’s account.

#### **Ensemble Fees (required)**

Summer Camps.....\$150.00  
-Guard Camp  
-Band Camp (+Meal)  
“Fair Share”.....\$225.00

#### **Costume/Uniform Fees (required)**

Marching Patriot T-Shirt.....\$10.00  
Red, Band Polo Shirt.....\$30.00  
Flag Bag.....\$25.00  
Practice uniforms.....\$30.00  
Average Cost of Guard Costume and Accessories.....\$350.00

## MANAGING STUDENT ACCOUNTS – All Students

### CHARMS Account

In an effort to help the parents and students afford band trips more easily, individual accounts have been set up for each student in a website we use, called CHARMS. Each band student will be given login information. Please review your account regularly.

- Log on to **www.charmsoffice.com**, and click the **“ENTER/LOG IN”** link at upper right.
- Locate the **“PARENT/STUDENT/MEMBERS LOGIN”** section of the web page.
- Login to your child’s program account using the following **School Code: wcarthsband**
- When you enter your child’s **ID NUMBER (first name, last name, graduation year)** as a **Student Area Password**, another detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student’s financial records.

Items billed to the individual CHARMS accounts:

- All students “share” the additional costs that the band incurs to be successful. This is called a “fair share”. The “fair share” (\$225) will be entered in each student’s account September 1.
- All of the “Fair Share” must be paid in full by January 12.
- If the band assessment has been paid before above date by cash, check or PayPal, then any remaining money will stay as a credit in the student’s account.
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Methods of payment to the individual CHARMS account:

- **Cash & Check** payments need to be sealed in an envelope, with the name of your student and designated payment, placed in the band room safe. Checks are made out to “WCHS Band”.
- **PayPal** payments can be made through the CHARMS account. Simply login to your student account and follow the instructions below:
  - Click on Finances
  - There are four sections on this statement: Trip Ledger, Fixed Payment Ledger, Fund Raising Ledger, and Miscellaneous Ledger.
  - If you choose to make either a Trip Payment or Fixed Payment, please be advised that these are set payments and the full amount must be paid. If you choose to make a partial payment, you would need to do that under the Miscellaneous Ledger.
  - If you would like to make a full amount Trip Payment, click on the Down Arrow at the top of the Trip Ledger and choose the Trip to pay. Click on Make Trip Payment. This link will take you to the PayPal screen and you will be prompted to set up a PayPal account, if you do not already have one.
  - PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THERE IS A 3% SERVICE CHARGE FOR USING PAYPAL.

Information concerning your child’s CHARMS account can be obtained by e-mailing **wchsbandcharms@gmail.com**. Student accounts can only be used for uniform requirements, trip expenses, and “fair share” costs. Graduating seniors may use the money to buy their end of year band banquet ticket. Remaining money in a graduated student’s account may be willed to another student in the band if requested.

We know and understand that at times the financial obligation may be heavy, but no member will be denied the opportunities of our organization due to financial difficulties. Communicate privately with the director to work on a plan. Families who have multiple children in band are charged half of the “fair share” (\$125) for each child.

### General Band Account

It is our philosophy, that more individualized instruction is the key to the success of the band. The other money raised is used to purchase materials for props and flags we use during the marching band season. This is a huge commitment by the band boosters. Our band equipment and repairs, semi tractor-trailer maintenance and fuel, and all of our marching band props, and practice field turf expenses are all paid from band booster earnings. The band operates on a budget in excess of \$200,000, above and beyond what is allotted to our band program by the county.

### Gracie Awalt Memorial Scholarship

In 2018, we lost one of our incoming freshmen who was so looking forward to being a part of our band program. We have decided to rename our performing patriot scholarship in her name. Please review our Scholarship Application found on our website at [www.westcarteretbands.com](http://www.westcarteretbands.com). There are 8 scholarships available for the 2019-2020 school year. Please submit your application by August 9. Scholarship winners will be informed at the conclusion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester.

## **GUIDELINES FOR GRADES AND CONDUCT**

### **Grades**

Students will be regularly evaluated on material that is to important to achieve our overall goal of success. The great thing about band is that we are accepting of everyone, regardless of his or her musical ability.

- Daily Participation Grades (30%) - Participation grades reflect the student's attendance and level of preparedness for rehearsal (materials and skills). Points will be deducted for not adhering to these components.
- Performance Participation Grades (30%) – Students are expected to be at all performances. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero for that performance grade. Again, communication with the directors is the key.
- Test Grades (40%) - Performance evaluations of the music or other assigned materials. Students are allowed multiple opportunities to gain full credit on a check off. It is our desire and expectation for students to challenge themselves until they have reached the highest grade of 100.

Students in band class are required to take both semesters of band. Two units of credit are awarded at the end of the second (spring) semester. If a student drops band for second semester, no credit is awarded for first semester.

### **Conduct**

Our level of performance, whether it is at a football game, competition, or concert, is a direct reflection of our rehearsal efforts. A band's performance can only be as good as the best rehearsal. Band members are expected to respect rehearsal time and use it wisely. Everyone must remember that you are not only representing our band, but also our school system, our community, and your family. As goodwill ambassadors for Carteret County, we have an awesome responsibility to conduct ourselves in only the best possible way.

The band will perform at all home **football games** and other athletic events as designated by the director. One function of the band is to demonstrate school spirit at school events, which is done both musically and vocally.

- Remain in your designated area and be aware of what is going on down front.
- There will be no food or drinks (other than water) allowed in the area.
- Be prepared to react quickly and immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- Stand cheers will not be played unless rehearsed and approved by a director.
- Absolutely no gum chewing or inappropriate language by anyone.
- All band members are expected to remain for the entire football game.
- Non-uniformed guests will not be allowed to sit in the band section due to space limitations.

Out of town **trips** offer the students an opportunity to compare themselves with bands from other areas and regions. The primary concern of the student should be to represent the school in the very highest degree.

- Listening devices are only permitted on the buses if headphones are used.
- Food or drinks will only be allowed as long as everyone uses the trash bags that will be located on each bus.
- Only use the front, side door of the bus.

Do not question the chaperones and a kind “thank-you” will go a long way. Remember it is awfully difficult to make all 200+ of us happy at the same time when everyone is both mentally and physically exhausted. Chaperones have specific instructions from the director as to the rules each band member will follow as we travel.

All band members are required to ride the bus to the band performances and competitions. If parents drive separately and wish for their child to return home with them in their private vehicle, a permission slip, obtained from the bus captain and signed by a parent, must be presented to the bus captain supervising his/her bus following the performance.

## **PARENT INFORMATION**

### WCHS Band Boosters

Much of what we do would not be possible without your support and the tremendous work by the band boosters! All parents are automatically members of the Band Boosters. This organization is not one that makes policy, disciplines students, or decides expenditures. Those decisions are the role of the band directors, school principal and the school system’s administration.

Please wear your official band shirts and caps when attending games, whenever possible, to show support for our students. Band boosters that are assisting with moving equipment, distributing band uniforms, or assisting the color guard, should come by the uniform room when you arrive at school before the game to be “stamped” for admission into the football game. The Boosters also serve drinks to the band as they come off the field after half-time shows.



## Communication

Communication is vital to the success of the WCHS Band. There are several different resources for up to date communication: the WCHS Band website, WCHS Band Facebook Page, and Band Blasts.

- **Website:** The most current band information can be found on our band website at: [westcarteretbands.com](http://westcarteretbands.com). The calendar found on the website can sync with your digital calendar.
- **Facebook:** We have two separate pages you can join on Face Book. This will be the quickest way to communicate with all of our band members, their families, boosters, and band/guard alumni. “West Carteret High School Band” and “West Carteret High School Band Boosters” are the two primary pages. We encourage you to “like” this page to stay in touch with the very latest updates in the West Carteret Band World!
- **Band Blasts:** Our goal is to collect email addresses of all band boosters and supporters so that we can communicate electronically! “Band Blasts” go out every Wednesday.
- **Executive Board Email**
  - [wchsbandpresident@gmail.com](mailto:wchsbandpresident@gmail.com)
  - [wchsbandvicepresident@gmail.com](mailto:wchsbandvicepresident@gmail.com)
  - [wchsbandtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:wchsbandtreasurer@gmail.com)
  - [wchsbandfundraiserchair@gmail.com](mailto:wchsbandfundraiserchair@gmail.com)
  - [wchsbandcharms@gmail.com](mailto:wchsbandcharms@gmail.com)

## Trips

Parents are also encouraged to attend the competitions as the Marching Patriots have the opportunity to perform before thousands of people throughout the competition tour. Cheering sections are very important too! Band parents are asked to wear their Marching Patriots apparel and be nice to the band parents from other schools. Please do not be poor sports in the event you do not agree with the judge’s results. We must remember what we are teaching the band members through our example. We feel strongly that the process is as important as the end results. We feel it is more important to teach life skills while we rehearse and perform our music and routines.

All band members must ride to the event on the buses with the band to ensure that we all arrive at the same time. Following a band performance a parent can only take their child from the event. Carteret County Board Policy prohibits students riding with anyone other than a parent or guardian. Copies of this release form will be available from each bus captain on each trip we take. Bus sign-offs cannot be done in advance and must be done in person from only the bus captain of the particular bus the band member rode to the band event on that day. This will ensure we have an accurate bus list so no student is accidentally left behind. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

We always need parent chaperones and volunteers on our trips. We ask that when you sign up to attend an event that you follow through on that commitment. Our directors are required to have a certain number of parents with them when the band travels. If a parent backs out at the last minute our boosters and directors end up scrambling to fill the vacated spot. Again this year, parents must pay in full the entire cost of the trip by the announced date. Failure to do so will forfeit your spot on the trip. In addition, parents who ride the bus will be expected to chaperone rooms and may be assigned other responsibilities. Parents not riding the bus will be responsible for making their own accommodations. The only exceptions will be those parents participating in the pit crew.

**Forms**

**Health/Medical Release Form – provided at parent meetings in May**

Carteret County School Board policies dictate that we have a completed health form on every band member participating. These forms will travel with the band and will be accessible if and when we need them for any reason. **Please fill out both sides of the loose copy of this form and return it to the directors before May 31, 2018.** Be sure all insurance information is completed. **This must be returned before a band student can participate during the entire camps and 2019-2020 school year.**

**Absence from Rehearsals or Performances**

In the event that a student must be absent from a marching band event (rehearsal or performance) this sample form provides advance notice and necessary communication with the band directors. Copies of this form may be found inside the band room.

**Absence Form**

This form must be completed and turned in at least one week in advance of any anticipated absence by a band student excluding extreme emergencies.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today’s Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of anticipated Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Please be specific! The policy is quite simple – if the school will excuse it, we will excuse it. If the school will not, we will not. “Work”, “family matters”, “important matters,” are not usually considered excusable by the school.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All forms will be submitted to Mr. Wright and will remain on file in the band office for a period of one year.

Director’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Calendar**

The **2019-2020 Calendar** can be found on our band webpage at **www.westcarteretbands.com**. Please know that some dates may change, especially those during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.