



July 21, 2021

Hello!

The 2021 marching season has officially begun! It has been great seeing the percussion and color guard back in action this week! Full band rehearsals begin next week. Please take the time to read over the following information and reminders to make sure you are prepared. (I do not want to blast you with a lot of separate emails, so there is a lot here, please make sure you read it thoroughly.)

- **Schedule for the week of 7/26-7/30**
 - Monday 7/26
 - 8am-Noon: NEW woodwinds/brass/percussion and all student leaders
 - 8am-4pm: All Color Guard
 - New members with last names beginning with A-L need to stay after rehearsal to be fitted for uniforms and shoes.
 - Tuesday 7/27
 - 8am-Noon: NEW woodwinds/brass/percussion and all student leaders
 - 8am-4pm: All Color Guard
 - New members with last names beginning with M-Z need to stay after rehearsal to be fitted for uniforms and shoes.
 - Wednesday 7/28
 - 8am-Noon: ALL woodwinds/brass/percussion
 - 8am-4pm: All Color Guard
 - Returning members with last names beginning with A-J need to stay after rehearsal to be fitted for uniforms and shoes.
 - Thursday 7/29
 - 8am-Noon: ALL woodwinds/brass/percussion
 - 8am-4pm: All Color Guard
 - Returning members with last names beginning with L-Z need to stay after rehearsal to be fitted for uniforms and shoes.
 - Friday 7/30
 - 8am-Noon: ALL members
- **Fittings** for uniforms and shoes will take place after rehearsal each day. Please refer to the schedule above for your designated day. We will begin as soon as rehearsal ends and move as quickly as possible, but it may take a while to get through everyone for the day as there will be several items that must be tried on. I would recommend having students call their ride when they are done since we cannot predict exactly how long it



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will take. We **MUST** have everyone fitted this week to get items before we need them. Please communicate with me if you are unable to stay on your designated day.

- **What to wear and bring**

- Each day, you should wear the closest thing you have to a **solid white T-shirt** and **dark-colored (preferably black) athletic shorts**.
- Shoes must be **sturdy athletic type shoes** (i.e., cross-trainers/running shoes). NO hi-tops, slip-on, or open-toed footwear of any kind should be worn. This is for your safety and to prevent injury.
- **Hats** that will shield your eyes from the sun and/or **sunglasses** are required. You can't receive proper instruction or be adequately aware of your surroundings if you are squinting and looking at the ground.
- All students are required to have **water** at every rehearsal. Until you receive your band cooler, you may use any cooler/jug/container you have available. You should arrive with it already filled each day and will be able to refill as necessary (note: the ice machine is currently not working while maintenance is waiting for a part, if you don't want lukewarm water, you should definitely fill your jugs at home).
- Make sure you wear **sunscreen** and have some with you for re-application as needed.
- It is a good idea to have **bug spray**, especially when we start evening rehearsals.
- Make sure you have your **instrument and everything you need to play it** (mouthpiece, reeds, ligature, valve-oil, etc.) If you play a school instrument and didn't get one in the spring, you'll get it the first day of rehearsal.
- Make sure you have your **flip folder and lyre**.

- **Physicals and Rank One forms** must be complete to participate in rehearsal. As of today, 42 students are still missing physicals and 21 more have not completed the forms. Please get these completed as soon as possible. Per UIL rules, we will not be able to allow you to participate in ANY rehearsals until these are completed. If you are missing items, you should have received numerous notifications from me at this point through email and in the google classroom. Bring the completed physical with you to rehearsal unless you have already sent it to me.
- Links to the **band calendar** are posted in the Google Classroom as well as in the update that was sent on May 17th. Additionally, it can be found on the band page of the district website. Go to www.wallerisd.net, then click Departments, then Bands (past updates that have been sent can also be found there). Most events for the fall semester have been added to the calendar, including all summer and after-school rehearsals.
- Make sure you have joined the band **Remind** group for your grade level. This is for parents and students. To join, text the appropriate code from the following list to 81010.
 - Code for freshmen is @wmb2025
 - Code for sophomores is @wmb2024



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- Code for juniors is @wmb2023
 - Code for seniors is @wmb2022
 - **Presto Assistant** has replaced Charms. If you have not already done so, please log in and set up your account using the information in the email you should have received. If you cannot find the email, you can go to the login page found at <https://app.presto-assistant.com/>. Students should try logging in using their school email and password. Parents can use the forgot password option to have a new login link sent to you.
 - Do not forget about the **Fundraiser**. Those who have been actively sharing their link have been successful. Do not limit yourself to just sending the emails through the website. Share your link any way you can. We have several students who have reached or surpassed the \$300 goal. Don't stop there, remember you can use any earned credit beyond what's needed to cover current fees for any future fees or trips. (Pro tip: I've seen it posted on Facebook by some parents. Every single one I've seen posted on a parent's Facebook page reached their goal within 48 hours.)
 - You may begin making **fee** payments by cash, check, or credit/debit card any time. You will soon be able to make payments online through Presto as well, but that is not quite set up yet. **Please plan to pay at least \$20 toward your fees on, or before, the day of your uniform fitting to receive your water cooler.**

As always, if you have any questions, please let me know. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone next week!

Grant McWilliams
Director of Bands