

*What is the best way for students and parents to obtain information about upcoming events?*

Communication regarding upcoming rehearsals, performances, fundraisers, and other events can be found in the following places:

**The Normal West Bands Website** is a great resource that contains calendars and other useful information. It is recommended that you save the site as an internet favorite and frequent it often. It can be found at **www.normalwestbands.org**

**Paper communication** is placed on the music stands located in the main entrance of the band room. Students are encouraged to take materials as needed.

**Flyers** are posted on the walls in the band hallway to serve as a reminder of upcoming events and deadlines.

Some information (like fundraising materials, for example) is **distributed directly to the students during rehearsals.**

*Is Marching Band participation required for all band students?*

No. Marching Band meets outside of the school day as opposed to the four concert bands that meet as classes. Students **are** required to enroll in one of the four concert bands as a class in order to be eligible to participate in marching band.

*How are students placed in a band class that meets during the day?*

All band students play an audition for the band directors and are then placed in one of four ability-based classes. This allows the students to rehearse and perform with students who share comparable skill levels in an environment that nurtures musical growth. The four ensembles are called Concert Winds, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Winds, and Wind Ensemble. When scheduling allows, students may choose to enroll in more than one band class during a semester.

## *Dates to Remember*

**Monday – Wednesday, June 8 – 10**  
Marching Band Rookie Camp, 9 AM until 12 PM

**Tuesday, June 9**  
Marching Band Returning Member Rehearsal,  
6 PM until 9 PM

**Thursday, June 11**  
First Full Marching Band Rehearsal – All Members,  
6 PM until 9 PM

**Summer Band Rehearsals**  
Tuesday and Thursday Evenings  
June 11 – July 2, 6 PM until 9 PM

**Thursday, June 18**  
Parent Meet and Greet Cookout  
outside the Band Room at 6 PM

**Saturday, June 20**  
Car Wash, 9 AM until Noon  
Monical's Pizza (Main St.) and ACE Hardware (College Ave.)

**Thursday, June 25**  
Normal West Marching Band Fee (\$80) Due

**July 27 – 30 and August 3 – 6**  
Marching Band Camp, 1 PM until 9 PM

**Saturday, August 1**  
Band Garage Sale: See Enclosed Information  
8 AM until 3 PM at NCWHS  
Car Wash, 9 AM until Noon

**Monday, August 10**  
Full Band Rehearsal, 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM

**Wednesday, August 12**  
Full Band Rehearsal, 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM

**Thursday, August 13**  
Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade Competition  
All Day/Evening, Springfield, IL

**August 17**  
Fall Rehearsal Schedule Begins, 5:30 PM until 8:30 PM:  
Mondays: Percussion, Color Guard  
Tuesdays: Winds Only  
Thursdays: Full Band (including Guard/Percussion)

**Saturday, August 22**  
Mini-Camp: All Members, 9 AM until 5 PM

**Friday, August 28**  
First Wildcat Home Football Game vs. Champaign Central

**Monday, September 7**  
Labor Day Parade Performance  
(Bloomington: Morning Time, TBA)

**Remember that full monthly calendars are available at school and at [www.normalwestbands.org](http://www.normalwestbands.org)**

# Frequently Asked Questions



We are excited that your son or daughter has chosen to be a part of the Normal West Band Program. Please refer to the enclosed information. We hope you will take an active part in your student's experiences with the Normal West Bands.

**Join us for a Meet and Greet Parent Cookout outside the Band Room on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 6:00 PM.**

**Please feel free to contact the following people for additional information.**

**Lisa Preston**, Director of Bands  
prestols@unit5.org, 452-4983

**Ryan Budzinski**, Associate Director of Bands  
budzinsr@unit5.org, 452-4983

**Kristina Sigler**, President  
Normal West Band Parents Association  
kristina.sigler@countryfinancial.com

**Visit our website at [www.normalwestbands.org](http://www.normalwestbands.org)**

## *Fees and Fundraisers*

**The Unit 5 Activity Fee** is assessed by NCWHS at school registration in the fall. This fee is allocated into a general Unit 5 activities account and is not specifically allocated for the band program.

**The Normal West Marching Band Fee** of \$80 is used to pay for marching band specific needs including band shirts, instructional staff, show design, prop building, etc. The \$80 marching band fee is payable by Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **There are two types of fundraisers:**

**General fundraisers** contribute to the band's general fund. This fund is used to fulfill needs such as instructional staff costs, supplies and equipment, marching band show design costs, prop materials, and travel cost deferment. Throughout the year, these funds benefit all band students, including those in the concert bands, marching band, jazz bands, color guard, and other band ensembles.

Proceeds from **individual fundraisers** are allocated into student-specific individual accounts. This way, students can utilize the funds that they have raised to offset any costs associated with any band activity. For example, students can use their individual accounts to cover band fees, travel costs, some uniform and equipment costs (such as marching band shoes), and other fees.

When a student graduates, individual account balances are transferred to a younger sibling when possible. Otherwise, these funds are absorbed into the band general fund.

Students who are not involved in marching band are encouraged to participate in fundraisers as well. Depending on the year, the concert bands, jazz bands, and color guard may travel independently or have other needs.



Questions regarding student account balances should be directed to Mark Talsma, Treasurer at [mtalsma9@yahoo.com](mailto:mtalsma9@yahoo.com).

## *How can I get involved?*

We recognize that getting involved may seem intimidating at first, but there is a place for everyone!

**The Normal West Band Parents Executive Board** generally meets at school monthly on a Monday or Tuesday evening. (The next meeting date is selected at each meeting, and the dates are emailed to the board as the meeting approaches.) The board is comprised of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other positions as needs arise. Contact Kristina Sigler, President, for additional details.

**The Pit Crew** is a group of approximately 20 parents that help the marching band students transport percussion equipment, props, and other items to and from the practice and performance fields. These parents also build the props, maintain equipment, and provide other behind-the-scenes support that make the marching band season possible. Contact Dave Myers at [cherylmyers@dtnspeed.net](mailto:cherylmyers@dtnspeed.net) for additional information.

**Chaperones** travel with the students to and from performance sites and assist the students while "on the road." It is our hope that each parent will chaperone at least one event each year, though most chaperones are excited to come back for more!

**Committees** help coordinate different endeavors such as uniform fitting, specific fundraisers, concert receptions, and videography. Contact Kristina Sigler or refer to the enclosed Parent Volunteer Form for additional information.

**Do you have a unique skill or interest?** Parents help in a variety of ways throughout the year. Here is a list of additional ways that parents help throughout the year: fitting uniforms, organizing music or paperwork, making photocopies, setting up/tearing down concerts, setting up band camp snacks, organizing fundraisers, hosting concert receptions, sewing, grilling at cookouts, and coordinating special events. There is even a wide variety of ways to get involved after the marching band season draws to a close. If you need help finding your niche, please contact a member of the NCWHS Band Parents Executive Board.

***Remember to return the enclosed Parent Volunteer Form!***

## *What do the performing students wear?*

**Concert Band** Students are issued "concert black" performance attire: tuxedos, dresses, skirts, etc. These uniforms are stored by the student throughout the school year. Male students must obtain the following uniform pieces: black socks, black shoes, tuxedo shirts, and bow ties. Female students in Concert Winds and Symphonic Band must obtain a black long-sleeve top to wear with the school-issued skirt. Female students in Symphonic Winds and Wind Ensemble will be issued a dress. There is not a uniform fee.

**Marching Band** students are issued a marching band uniform which is stored at school on a uniform rack when not in use. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain black socks, marching gloves, marching band shoes, and boxer shorts to be worn under the uniform. Used marching band shoes are available at a discounted rate. There is not a uniform fee.

**Color Guard** uniform requirements vary by year. Specific information will be sent home with the students when it is available. These uniforms are custom-made specifically for the students each year, and a fee is generally associated with their production.

**During rehearsals**, students should dress appropriately. Attire should be school-appropriate and weather appropriate. Remember hats and sunscreen while outdoors!

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## *A Note About Wildcat Football*

Before each Friday night football game, there is a band cookout so that each student can have a good meal before their performance. (Families are encouraged to attend and bring a dish to pass.)

Following the cookout, many parents meet at the northwest side of the building to help move equipment to the football stadium (this happens about thirty minutes prior to kickoff). These pit crew members are admitted to the game free of charge. Any additional help would be appreciated! During half time, these parents also assist in moving the equipment onto the field.

During the game, many band parents sit in the bleachers above the band seating. It is a great way to support the students and meet other band families.