

# *Normal West Winter Guard 2014*

Welcome to the 2014 Normal West Winter Guard program! The winter program at West is heading in an exciting direction. Our team goals include encouraging friendship and teamwork, and improving skill levels both individually and as part of a performing ensemble. These goals will be achieved by paying careful attention to individual skills, working together as a team, having a positive attitude and a good work ethic. Every member will be encouraged to grow and will be challenged to achieve at the highest level. We hope to really focus on movement and our weapon lines throughout this season. Our hopes are that all members' performance skills are enhanced through this season!

To be a successful member of the Normal West Winter Guard, there are a few key expectations.

## **Auditions**

The open clinic/auditions for the 2014-2015 NCWHS Winter Guard are on Saturday Morning – December 6<sup>th</sup> at Parkside Elementary School from 9:00 AM – Noon. We will announce the performing members at that time – who will then attend camp from 1:00 – 5:00 PM. Please make sure to bring your completed Application, Medical Form, and Dues (see below) to the audition that morning. **Dress is dance appropriate – with hair pulled back (no jewelry please!)** **If you are a former guard member – bring you jazz shoes and gloves with you!**

## **Attendance**

Members are required to attend each rehearsal. Unexpected illness the day of rehearsal should be handled by texting, calling, or personally telling Justin as soon as possible as well as Ms. P (309) 310-4435. Extended absences require a doctor's note, and may result in a smaller role in the show. Tardiness is unacceptable without advance notification of directors, and unexplained absences or excessive tardiness will result in the removal from the performing ensemble. Because we are a small group – we are very dependent on each other to make the show work – each person is vital to the group, and missed rehearsals will hinder the process. Please see the attached schedule for all camps, practices and performances. All camps/practices will take place at Parkside Elementary school.

## **SPECIAL ATTENDANCE NOTE**

You must be in school the whole day in order to participate in practice. If you are missing for an appointment, you must show the school a note from the doctor in order to participate in practice/shows. This is a school rule that is followed by all athletes at NCWHS!

## **INJURIES**

We require that each member have a medical release form on file. (Fall marching members already have completed this!) If an injury occurs, we will contact the parent/guardian, and in extreme cases, we will contact the appropriate services (ambulance). If a student is injured outside of guard time, they must bring a doctor's note so we can decide on their participation based on the injury. If a student has ongoing medical concerns (knees, ankles, back, etc.) we would like a medical note at auditions so we can decide on their role in the show (and which activities would be appropriate with that injury.) Please know that this is an extremely physical activity and performers must use the proper care at rehearsal (including knee/ankle braces, wrapping of joints, icing/heat as appropriate before/after rehearsal). If a student suffers a concussion, they may not practice or perform with the group until cleared by a physician.

## **Costs/Dues**

**The cost/dues for this season will be \$150.00 per member.** This will pay for your uniforms and equipment. It will also pay for backdrops, painting of the tarp, and additional staff as needed. **Dues will be payable at your audition on December 6th.** (Make Checks payable to NCWHS.) You may use your band account money for your dues. (Just bring a note saying you want to use your account money.) You will need money for shows for dinner (or bring a sack dinner). Because this is a self-funded group, without school funding, there is no financial assistance available. There are on-going fundraisers that will put money into the student's accounts – please see Mrs. Halsey (Guard sponsor) to work out a financial/fundraising plan.

**Academic Eligibility: Members of this performing group are expected to meet the school's Academic Eligibility requirements. If you are deemed ineligible you will be removed from the performing ensemble. You must currently be eligible in order to audition for this group!**

*Although this program requires hard work, being a member of the winter guard is an amazing experience! You will get to see other great performing ensembles throughout the season and grow as a performer. This will be an experience you will value the rest of your life. We look forward to seeing you on December 6<sup>th</sup> at Parkside Elementary School!*