



# Parent/Student Handbook (25th Edition) 2013-2014

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## MAC is the Musical Arts Conference

Please visit [www.MusicalArtsConference.com](http://www.MusicalArtsConference.com) for detailed schedules, competition results, directions to schools, and other information.

## Welcome to the Norwalk Marching Bears Family!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to both new and returning members of the 2013-2014 Marching Band. Thank you to students and parents alike for choosing to be a part of the Marching Bears family.

Our show this year promises to be an exciting one! All parents should be sure to attend as many competitions as possible, not only to support your children, but also to watch as the show evolves week after week. Being an active band parent is a unique and satisfying way to stay involved in your child's life through high school, and when we wear green Spirit Wear and sit together in the stands, we encourage our children to perform their best.

The success of our band program depends upon the hard work and dedication of not only our band director and our band students, but also us as parents and volunteers. There are many ways to get involved and be a contributing member of the Band Family, starting with attending our regular monthly parents' meetings. This is the best way to stay informed of the band's activities and our fundraising events. **It is necessary for all parents to help out as much as possible in order to keep things running smoothly!** Look through this book for descriptions of all our committees, and decide which ones you would like to help with!

Be sure to arrive at Andrews Field early to watch the band perform their "run-through" and to meet the other band parents. This is where you can order your green spirit wear, sign up for activities, and even plan carpools to competitions. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

*Patsy Gill*

President, Norwalk Marching Bears, Inc.

## Norwalk Marching Bears, Inc. 2013-14 Executive Council

<b>Band Director</b>	Chris Rivera	838-4481 Ext.13275	<a href="mailto:riverac@norwalkps.org">riverac@norwalkps.org</a>
<b>President</b>	Patsy Gill	856-3957	<a href="mailto:PresidentMBI@gmail.com">PresidentMBI@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Carroll Harris	952-8544	<a href="mailto:VicePresidentMBI@gmail.com">VicePresidentMBI@gmail.com</a>
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Katie Blagden	984-7047	<a href="mailto:CorrespondingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com">CorrespondingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com</a>
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Nancy Sciglimpaglia	856-3063	<a href="mailto:RecordingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com">RecordingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Luigi Rauccio	246-3942	<a href="mailto:TreasurerMBI@gmail.com">TreasurerMBI@gmail.com</a>

## 2013-14 Executive Board: Standing Committee Chairs

<b>Can &amp; Bottle Drive</b>	Richard Dominick	722-5206	<a href="mailto:tecengineers@optonline.net">tecengineers@optonline.net</a>
<b>Cavalcade</b>	Ed Abrams	984-7241	<a href="mailto:abrams981@gmail.com">abrams981@gmail.com</a>
	Fred Wilms	856-4773	<a href="mailto:fwilms@websterbank.com">fwilms@websterbank.com</a>
<b>Certificates</b>	Laraine Turlis		<a href="mailto:laraine_turlis@yahoo.com">laraine_turlis@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Corporate Sponsorship</b>	Ed Abrams	984-7241	<a href="mailto:abrams981@gmail.com">abrams981@gmail.com</a>
<b>Head Chaperones</b>	Deirdre Sullivan	434-4187	<a href="mailto:dsullivan999@gmail.com">dsullivan999@gmail.com</a>
	Sam Chiaramonte	984-7153	<a href="mailto:samchiaramonte1@optonline.net">samchiaramonte1@optonline.net</a>
	Gloria Michael	727-6340	<a href="mailto:gem19641997@yahoo.com">gem19641997@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Membership Database</b>	LeighAnne Lewis	856-2626	<a href="mailto:febesnow1@optonline.net">febesnow1@optonline.net</a>
<b>Pennies for the Band</b>	Patsy Gill	856-3957	<a href="mailto:patsygill214@gmail.com">patsygill214@gmail.com</a>
<b>Permits for Events</b>	Patsy Gill	856-3957	<a href="mailto:patsygill214@gmail.com">patsygill214@gmail.com</a>
	Jeff Spahr	822-2121	<a href="mailto:jspahr@norwalkct.org">jspahr@norwalkct.org</a>
<b>Quartermasters</b>	Suzanne Abrams	858-0979	<a href="mailto:staela@hotmail.com">staela@hotmail.com</a>
	Carroll Harris	952-8544	<a href="mailto:crharris62@gmail.com">crharris62@gmail.com</a>
<b>Spirit Wear</b>	Karen O'Connor	223-3392	<a href="mailto:karenoconnor1119@gmail.com">karenoconnor1119@gmail.com</a>
	Eric Rudolf	984-6936	<a href="mailto:erudolf@optonline.net">erudolf@optonline.net</a>
<b>Website</b>	Katie Blagden	984-7047	<a href="mailto:kblagden@optonline.net">kblagden@optonline.net</a>
<b>Welcoming Committee</b>	Susan Pentangelo	668-5842	<a href="mailto:susan.pentangelo@oracle.com">susan.pentangelo@oracle.com</a>
	Brenda Williams	832-6973	<a href="mailto:bwilliams88@optonline.net">bwilliams88@optonline.net</a>

## Other Committee & Event Chairs/Coordinators

<b>Art/Silent Auction</b>	Chuck Goulart Laraine Turlis	943-0961	<a href="mailto:ChuckAnytime@gmail.com">ChuckAnytime@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:laraine_turlis@yahoo.com">laraine_turlis@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Band Banquet</b>	Donna Evans Deirdre Sullivan	246-7494 434-4187	<a href="mailto:dnavns@optonline.net">dnavns@optonline.net</a> <a href="mailto:dsullivan999@gmail.com">dsullivan999@gmail.com</a>
<b>Band Photos</b>	Eric Rudolf	984-6936	<a href="mailto:erudolf@optonline.net">erudolf@optonline.net</a>
<b>Boat Show</b>	Patsy Gill	856-3957	<a href="mailto:patsygill214@gmail.com">patsygill214@gmail.com</a>
<b>Car Wash</b>	Rich Roberts	536-1988	<a href="mailto:rhr53@optonline.net">rhr53@optonline.net</a>
<b>Carnival</b>	Chuck Goulart Laraine Turlis	943-0961	<a href="mailto:ChuckAnytime@gmail.com">ChuckAnytime@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:laraine_turlis@yahoo.com">laraine_turlis@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Comedy Night</b>	Chuck Goulart Laraine Turlis	943-0961	<a href="mailto:ChuckAnytime@gmail.com">ChuckAnytime@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:laraine_turlis@yahoo.com">laraine_turlis@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Eastside Band Concert</b>	Janie Hyatt	847-2380	<a href="mailto:molliehyatt@aol.com">molliehyatt@aol.com</a>
<b>Election Night Reporting</b>	Nancy Sciglimpaglia	856-3063	<a href="mailto:sandnscig@yahoo.com">sandnscig@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Equipment/Trucks</b>	Jay Telesco	943-0168	<a href="mailto:jkdt@optonline.net">jkdt@optonline.net</a>
<b>Fun-a-thon</b>	Donna Evans Denise Allum	246-7494 246-8838	<a href="mailto:dnavns@optonline.net">dnavns@optonline.net</a> <a href="mailto:denise_allum@yahoo.com">denise_allum@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Historian</b>	Carroll Harris	952-8544	<a href="mailto:crharris62@gmail.com">crharris62@gmail.com</a>
<b>NHS Jazz Show</b>	Charlie Harris Carroll Harris	952-8045 952-8544	<a href="mailto:Charris@harrisschmid.com">Charris@harrisschmid.com</a> <a href="mailto:crharris62@gmail.com">crharris62@gmail.com</a>
<b>Oyster Festival</b>	Chuck Goulart Laraine Turlis	943-0961	<a href="mailto:ChuckAnytime@gmail.com">ChuckAnytime@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:laraine_turlis@yahoo.com">laraine_turlis@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Parade Float</b>	Chuck Goulart	943-0961	<a href="mailto:ChuckAnytime@gmail.com">ChuckAnytime@gmail.com</a>
<b>Practice SAT</b>	Nancy Sciglimpaglia	856-3063	<a href="mailto:sandnscig@yahoo.com">sandnscig@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Photographers</b>	Eric Rudolf	984-6936	<a href="mailto:erudolf@optonline.net">erudolf@optonline.net</a>
<b>Round Hill Games</b>	Carroll Harris Patsy Gill	952-8544 856-3957	<a href="mailto:crharris62@gmail.com">crharris62@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:patsygill214@gmail.com">patsygill214@gmail.com</a>
<b>Slide Show</b>			
<b>Spring Musical</b>	Chuck Goulart	943-0961	<a href="mailto:ChuckAnytime@gmail.com">ChuckAnytime@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ushers for Events</b>	Suzanne Abrams	858-0979	<a href="mailto:staela@hotmail.com">staela@hotmail.com</a>

## COMMUNICATION

*Communicating within our organization is the surest way to maximize our resources and assure the most efficient way of achieving success for our students. Check the online calendar often for current schedules.*

### **E-MAIL COMMUNICATION**

MBI sends out regular electronic notification of schedules from Mr. Rivera and periodic electronic messages as notification or reminder of items of interest to Band families, with the approval of either our band director or MBI president. **Be sure we have your email address so that you can stay easily informed.** Please contact [correspondingsecretaryMBI@gmail.com](mailto:correspondingsecretaryMBI@gmail.com) with updates.

### **HISTORIAN**

The Band Historian is responsible for collecting newspaper clippings and photos for our annual Band Scrapbook, which is enjoyed by everyone at the Band Banquet in June. If you take photos, have duplicates made or submit them electronically to the historian.

### **INFOLINE**

This telephone information service is available 24 hours a day: **203-838-4481, ext. 13278**. At the beginning of each week, the head chaperone or band director records the latest band information and upcoming events. Infoline is updated after each competition and reports the scores and how the band placed. Band bus arrival times are included, making it very important that you check it regularly, especially when the band is traveling.

### **MEETINGS**

General meetings of Marching Bears Inc. are held on the **second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.** in the band room at Norwalk High (check the online calendar for firm scheduling). ***It is very important for all parents to attend.*** The Executive Board and Council meet in separate sessions on the first Tuesday of each month.

### **MEMBERSHIP DATABASE**

The database coordinator keeps track of important student and parent information such as home and email addresses, cell phone numbers and parent occupation(s). This information is collected on the band's Emergency Contact and Student Information form, distributed during summer practices. We may forward to appropriate committee chairs information collected regarding parents' talents and/or interests. Distribution of any information regarding members is considered confidential and is limited to those with a need to know. **If you have a change of contact info, it is very important to contact the database manager, and also let our corresponding secretary and head chaperone know.**

### **PARENTS FOR N.H.S. REPRESENTATIVE**

Marching Bears, Inc. sends a representative to the monthly meetings of *Parents for NHS*. As liaison, our representative will inform us of important school and community matters, and keep the rest of the school informed about band activities and accomplishments.

### **WEBSITE**

Visit the band web site at [www.nhsband.com](http://www.nhsband.com) for up to date information and our online calendar all year long. There are sections for marching band, guard/percussion, concert band and jazz ensemble. Schedules, scores, photos and more are posted on the site. There is also much information on fundraising events and schedules. If you have questions or comments about the website, please contact [websiteMBI@gmail.com](mailto:websiteMBI@gmail.com).

### **WELCOMING COMMITTEE**

This committee sees that all new members of Marching Bears, Inc. receive a friendly welcome and the support of a veteran band family, using the Band Buddy program. We help new families get acquainted with the band, and host parent receptions.

## **FUNDRAISING – A LOOK AT OUR YEAR**

*An alphabetical listing with more detailed descriptions of all fundraisers follows this seasonal listing. If you have an idea for a product or service that might be used to promote and support our band, contact the any member of the MBI Council. These fundraisers often provide great opportunities to meet other parents and support the band family without having to make a long-term commitment. If you have any suggestions, please don't hesitate to mention them to any member of the Executive Board.*

### **YEAR-ROUND**

- Can & Bottle Drive
- Grocery Store Gift Certificates
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Pennies for the Band
- Spirit Wear

### **FALL – September, October, November**

- Oyster Festival
- Boat Show
- Photos, Group & Individual
- NHS Cavalcade of Bands
- Election Night Reporting

### **WINTER – December, January, February**

- SAT Practice Test

### **EARLY SPRING – March, April, May**

- Art/Silent Auction
- Jazz Show
- Winter Guard/Percussion Show
- Musical
- Comedy Show

### **SUMMER –June, July, August**

- Car Washes
- Carnival
- Round Hill Highland Games
- Fun-a-thon

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEES

### **BAND PHOTOS**

A professional photograph is taken of the entire band and individual band members or groups, usually during one of our home football games. Photo orders are processed in time for delivery before the December holidays.

### **BOAT SHOW**

Each year band parents direct cars arriving at Calf Pasture Beach for the annual Boat Show, held in mid-September, from Thursday through Sunday. This is a good way to spend a few hours knowing you are helping the band, and getting to know other parents. After your shift, you get free admission to the show – a great deal! Sign-up sheets are at the field at practice and at Band meetings in August and September.

### **CAN & BOTTLE DRIVE**

On the second Saturday of **every month** from 9 am to 1 pm, parent volunteers assemble at Andrews Field to receive and sort thousands of cans and bottles. We collect water bottles and redeemable recyclables; get friends and neighbors to bring theirs. There are no set shifts – volunteer for whatever time you can devote. This is a fun way to get to know other band parents. You give whatever time you have on any given Saturday; no pressure, just good conversation and gratitude! We now also collect non-perishable goods for needy families.

### **CARNIVAL**

MBI sponsored our first Carnival in June of 2012, which turned out to be a big success! Held at Andrews Field, the Carnival rides are brought in and we only need to provide a small number of volunteers to run the ticket booth and help direct parking. Watch for sign-ups in April and May.

### **CAR WASH**

Students and parents run car washes on the second Saturdays of June, July and August. Students and parents have a great time washing cars. Each student must work two shifts over the three month period. First shift is 8:30am–11:00am; second shift is 10:30am–1:00pm

### **CAVALCADE OF BANDS**

**This is our LARGEST fundraiser!** This year Marching Bears, Inc. will host our thirtieth Cavalcade of Bands, our field show competition. Norwalk has a reputation for orchestrating one of the finest shows in the circuit. Approximately 200 adults are needed to ensure our show is the best in the Musical Arts Conference (MAC), so EVERY band family is asked to participate. Parents are invited to sign up for volunteer positions (listed below) prior to the competition. Sign-up will take place during evening practices at Andrews Field. Information about our Cavalcade will be presented General Meetings.

- 50/50 Raffle
- Miscellaneous Sales
- Ad /Program Book Sales
- Ad /Program Book Creation
- Front Gate/Admissions
- Baked Goods
- Equipment
- Escorts
- Food
- AirGrams
- Hospitality
- Announcers
- Logistics
- Security
- Trophies

### **Chairpersons:**

*Ed Abrams* ([abrams981@gmail.com](mailto:abrams981@gmail.com); 984-7241)

*Fred Wilms* ([fwilms@websterbank.com](mailto:fwilms@websterbank.com); 856-4773)

### **Volunteer Coordinators:**

*Carroll and Charlie Harris* ([crharris62@gmail.com](mailto:crharris62@gmail.com); 952-8544)

*Petra Collins* ([spacollins@msn.com](mailto:spacollins@msn.com); 722-7726)

## **CERTIFICATES –GROCERY & RESTAURANT**

*This fundraiser is supported by the generosity of Norwalk grocery merchants and is a “no-brainer”.* Parents and friends purchase gift cards from us and use them, at face value, instead of cash at the participating merchants listed below. Gift cards never expire. They can be used for any purchase or service at any store (except alcohol), including pharmacy, Peapod, and Garden Shop. For every gift card we sell, the merchant donates a percentage to MBI, ranging from 5% to 10%. If you use gift cards for your weekly shopping, you will be giving the Band a great donation without any out-of-pocket cost. Encourage your friends and relatives to buy gift cards, too! If you would like to be one of our distributors, please contact our chairperson.

### **CERTIFICATES CHAIRPERSON:**

**Laraine Turlis** [laraine\\_turlis@yahoo.com](mailto:laraine_turlis@yahoo.com)

### **DISTRIBUTORS:**

<b>Debby Denke</b>	216-1730	<a href="mailto:debbydenke@gmail.com">debbydenke@gmail.com</a>
<b>Daniela O’Callaghan</b>	219-6820	<a href="mailto:danielaoc@optonline.net">danielaoc@optonline.net</a>
<b>Karen O’Connor</b>	223-3392	<a href="mailto:karenoconnor1119@gmail.com">karenoconnor1119@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nancy Sciglimpaglia</b>	856-3063	<a href="mailto:sandnscig@yahoo.com">sandnscig@yahoo.com</a>

<u><b>Merchant</b></u>	<u><b>Location</b></u>	<u><b>Denomination</b></u>	<u><b>Profit</b></u>
Shop Rite	Any	\$25, 50, 100	5%
Stew Leonard’s	Any	\$25, 50, 100	10%
Stop & Shop	Any	\$25, 50, 100	5%
Cranbury Market		\$25, 50, 100	10%
Ash Creek Saloon		\$25, 50	10%

### **CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP**

The Corporate Sponsorship Committee’s mission is to cultivate a corporate sponsorship program. The focus of the committee is to approach local, regional, and national corporations which donate to non-profit organizations. An additional goal of our committee is to take advantage of matching gift programs at the workplace of students’ parents. If your company has a matching funds program, please contact us and we will work with you to gain the matching funds.

### **ELECTION NIGHT REPORTING**

On Election Night in November, we send volunteers to local Polling Places to await specified results and call them in to Channel 12 News. This is an easy way to earn the band some extra money and doesn’t entail a large time commitment. Channel 12 News pays us for each volunteer who calls in results, so the more volunteers the better!

### **FUN-A-THON**

This is a fun way for our band students to both raise funds and build team spirit. Students collect sponsors (minimum \$35) to support them as they play laser tag and arcade games at My Three Sons one evening during band camp. Additional funds beyond the \$35 minimum are split with half going to fund the Band program and half applied toward the student’s assessment. Parents donate baked goods for the students. Pizza and soda is served.

### **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE FLOAT**

This committee meets in early May to design and prepare a trophy float for the parade. It’s a time for fun and creativity.

## **MUSICAL**

Every spring, the Music Department puts on a musical that runs for two consecutive weekends, including evening and matinee performances. MBI works with the Music Department to help with ticket sales, program book, ushers and the concession stand. Those who volunteer get free admission to the show, and the show is always an amazingly professional production. Please watch for signups beginning in early spring!

## **OYSTER FESTIVAL**

We contract with the Seaport Association to handle groundskeeping at the annual Oyster Festival in early September. We work hard, have fun, and certainly take pride in a Marching-Bears-style job well done. Sign up sheets are at Andrews Field each night during the last hour of rehearsals. **All band students must work one shift.** Parents oversee groups of students. In addition, we monitor the bus stop at City Hall during the period the shuttle buses are running to Veteran's Park. **We need all parents and students to help us to staff this effort!** It is a major source of funding for us. For the weekend of the Festival, we help with setup of trash boxes on Thursday, cleanup on Friday thru Sunday, and final cleanup on Monday.

## **PENNIES FOR THE BAND**

We will gladly accept your pennies or other denominations for the "Penny Fund". This ongoing fundraiser provides special items for the band. The penny jar will be at the monthly general meeting and at evening practices at Andrews Field.

## **REFRESHMENTS FOR EVENTS**

MBI holds **Bake Sales** during many of our events. Donations of beverages, refreshments or supplies are welcome. Sign-up sheets will be passed around during parent meetings before each event. The more treats we sell, the more money we make, so please be generous!

## **REFRESHMENTS FOR STUDENTS**

MBI provides refreshments for students during marching band practices. We provide juice and water at Andrews Field at the mid-afternoon break. Donations of cups and powdered juice (Gatorade) mix are necessary. Helpers are always needed.

## **ROUND HILL HIGHLAND GAMES**

We have earned a great reputation for knowing how to clean a park! Each year we maintain the grounds at the Round Hill Highland Games, held on the first Saturday in July at Cranbury Park. The event is interesting to watch and the work is easy.

## **SAT PRACTICE TEST**

In early January, we host an official practice SAT session, conducted by Princeton Review. This is an invaluable experience for the kids and generates money for our band. We need a few volunteers to help check in students as they arrive and make sure they are picked up safely afterward.

## **SPIRIT WEAR**

Display your Marching Bear Pride by wearing green spirit wear at all Marching Band events, practices and competitions. Spirit wear includes shirts, jackets, caps, etc. Orders are collected early in the marching band season to ensure delivery by the first competition. Order forms are available at practices, Band Meetings, on the website, or by contacting the chairperson. Our chairperson collects order forms and money, places orders, and distributes the clothing and accessories at Band Meetings or at the practice field.



## SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

### **CHAPERONES**

Band chaperones provide for the well-being and safety of our children, Chaperones are always with our children when they travel or compete. All chaperones are selected by the Band Director. Following are the chaperones and equipment dads for this season; please contact them with questions or to ask about providing drinks/snacks for your child's bus.

#### **Head Band Chaperones:**

Deirdre Sullivan 434-4184 [dsullivan999@gmail.com](mailto:dsullivan999@gmail.com)  
Sam Chiaramonte 984-7153 [samchiaramonte1@optonline.net](mailto:samchiaramonte1@optonline.net)

#### **Head Guard Chaperone:**

Gloria Michael 727-6340 [gem19641997@yahoo.com](mailto:gem19641997@yahoo.com)

#### **Bus 1 - Guard**

Gloria Michael 727-6340 [gem19641997@yahoo.com](mailto:gem19641997@yahoo.com)  
Brenda Williams 832-6973 [bwilliams88@optonline.net](mailto:bwilliams88@optonline.net)

#### **Bus 2 – Brass**

Kelly Telesco 943-0168 [jkdt@optonline.net](mailto:jkdt@optonline.net)  
Petra Collins 722-7726 [spacollins@msn.com](mailto:spacollins@msn.com)

#### **Bus 3 – Flutes & Clarinets**

Patsy Gill 856-3957 [patsygill214@gmail.com](mailto:patsygill214@gmail.com)  
Robin Genovese 524-2277 [redbreast67@aol.com](mailto:redbreast67@aol.com)

#### **Bus 4 - Saxophones**

Kay Rudolf 984-6937 [krudolf@optonline.net](mailto:krudolf@optonline.net)  
Katie Blagden 984-7047 [kblagden@optonline.net](mailto:kblagden@optonline.net)

#### **Bus 5 – Percussion**

Sam Chiaramonte 984-7153 [samchiaramonte1@optonline.net](mailto:samchiaramonte1@optonline.net)  
Val McElaney 722-9439 [mcelaney80@optimum.net](mailto:mcelaney80@optimum.net)  
Jacqueline Fitton 856-8018 [jafitton@optonline.net](mailto:jafitton@optonline.net)

Each bus's chaperones are responsible for coordinating snacks and beverages for each bus trip. Donations of drinks, water, baked goods, packaged snacks and fruit are necessary! *For the safety of our students with allergies, please do not send snacks with peanut butter or nuts.* Please contact your child's chaperones with donations or questions.

## **BANQUET COMMITTEE**

This committee is formed in early spring to begin planning our annual June Band Banquet. We will be looking for parents to assist with student raffle items, goodie bags, etc. At the end of the evening, there is a DVD presentation prepared by a group of dedicated parents. If you take photos of the band during the course of the year, let us know, and some of your shots may be used in the presentation.

## **EQUIPMENT DADS (and MOMS!)**

Our group of equipment parents constructs band props and equipment and transports the equipment and instruments to performances and onto the competition field. When we return from a performance event, we are most grateful for unloading assistance from all parents who are waiting for our students' return.

Coordinator: Jay Telesco (943-0168; [telecons@optonline.net](mailto:telecons@optonline.net))

## **QUARTERMASTERS**

Our Quartermasters are responsible for fitting, upkeep and distribution of all uniforms. They travel with the band and make sure everyone is properly attired at all times. If a band member is missing part of his or her uniform, a replacement will be issued for a fee. For any information regarding uniforms, contact our quartermasters:

Carroll Harris (952-8544; [crharris62@gmail.com](mailto:crharris62@gmail.com)) and Suzanne Abrams (858-0979; [staela@hotmail.com](mailto:staela@hotmail.com))

***If you would ever like to help with anything, please come forward!  
Don't wait to be asked – your help will be welcome and greatly appreciated.***

## **THE BAND – BASIC INFORMATION**

*Students in the band program are all members of the Marching Band. Following marching season, the groups divide into various concert and jazz bands, guard and percussion ensembles. See below for descriptions of the various groups and related helpful information.*

### **A DESCRIPTION OF OUR PERFORMING GROUPS:**

#### **A. Wind Symphony/Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band**

These are the primary performing organizations in the band portion of the Music Department. All band students are placed of one of these groups. Freshmen are in Symphonic Band; students try out for placement in either the intermediate level Wind Ensemble or the advanced level Wind Symphony.

#### **B. Marching Band**

All students will be in the Marching Band to maintain participation in the band program. Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory, as is attendance at all home football games, competitions and parades.

#### **C. Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo**

Students wishing to participate in jazz try out for placement in either intermediate level Jazz Ensemble or advanced Jazz Orchestra. In addition, students are welcome to form their own self-directed combo if desired.

#### **D. Color Guard and Winter Guard**

Participation in these programs can begin in middle school; color guard members can elect to participate in winter guard.

#### **E. Winter Percussion**

Percussion musicians and any other musicians who are interested can join our award-winning Winter Percussion Ensemble.

**To be early is to be on time!  
To be on time is to be late!  
To be late is unacceptable!**

## **THE MARCHING BAND UNIFORM:**

The uniform of the Norwalk High School Marching Band is one of the most recognized uniforms in marching bands today. Throughout the 100-year history of the Norwalk High School Band organization, the uniform has symbolized respect, responsibility, self-discipline, and unyielding commitment to excellence.

### **Full uniform consists of the following pieces:**

- Black drillmasters (marching shoes)
- Black socks – calf to knee high
- Black uniform bib pants
- Black band t-shirt with show logo (“show shirt”)
- Wind pants
- Uniform jacket
- Percussion - wrist bands (one green, one black)
- Black and green gloves (all but percussion)
- Black spandex shorts
- Shako (hat - all but pit and tuba)
- Plume (feathers for top of shako)
- NHS Band Jacket

### **Half dress uniform consists of the following:**

- Black drillmasters (marching shoes)
- Black socks – calf to knee high
- Black uniform bib pants
- Black spandex shorts
- Black band t-shirt with show logo
- NHS Band Jacket

### **Rehearsal clothing consists of the following:**

- Sturdy sneakers with socks
- Weather appropriate clothing (we practice in rain)
- Sunscreen and hat
- Water jug
- NHS Band Shako (when requested)
- NHS Band Show Shirt (when requested)
- NHS Band Jacket (when requested)

## **CONDUCT GUIDELINES WHILE IN UNIFORM:**

As a member of the Norwalk High School Marching Band, each student accepts responsibility to represent the band in a professional and respectable manner. The following guidelines have been established for this purpose.

1. The uniform is to be worn correctly at all times. There is no modification to either the full uniform or half dress uniform.
2. All male members of the band are expected to be clean-shaven when in uniform. Hair will be neat and not touch ears or uniform collar.
3. No jewelry or watches will be worn in uniform.
4. Never leave any part of the uniform or instrument unattended.
5. No sitting down in full uniform except in the bleachers at football games.
6. No running or smoking in uniform.
7. Eating and drinking while in uniform will be done with utmost care and caution. Gloves must be removed.
8. While in uniform, our only focus is on our performance.
9. At the conclusion of each performance, we will immediately form the block where instructors, drum majors and chaperones will attend to your needs and make pertinent announcements.
10. We will remain in the block through the conclusion of retreat. After retreat, we will march back to the bus area where, after a winning performance, we will form the Circle.
11. At the conclusion of the Circle you will have a few minutes to greet your family and close friends. Parents are **not** to give food or beverages to students. After performances, students will get snacks and drinks before departure as a “band family” on the bus.
12. After greeting your family, follow the directions of the drum majors, instructors and chaperones, quickly returning your instrument to the designated area, turn in uniform to quartermasters as directed, then report back to assigned bus for the return trip to NHS.

## **MARCHING BAND UNIFORM – CARE AND CLEANING**

The Quartermasters assign uniforms to the band students during summer music practices and alter the length as needed. Uniforms remain in the custody of the Quartermasters who issue them to students just before each marching competition, concert and parade, and collect them at the event conclusion. Quartermasters attend each competition, football game, concert and parade to ensure each student is properly dressed. Students who are missing required elements of the uniform (socks, gloves, wrist bands, etc.) will be asked to purchase them. Uniforms issued to students must be returned to the Quartermasters promptly at the conclusion of each event. Students are not to take their uniforms home. If uniform alterations are needed, they will be done by the Quartermasters. All uniform cleaning will be arranged by the Quartermasters. Uniform cleaning fees are included in the annual band assessment.

## **COLOR GUARD UNIFORMS AND FLAGS – CARE AND CLEANING**

Specific instructions will be given by the Color Guard staff regarding uniforms, flags and their care. Please follow these instructions carefully.

## **PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE:**

### **A. Football Games/Marching Competitions/Parades**

1. Full uniform must be worn at all times after leaving the school building until returning following the game unless otherwise specified.
2. No part of the uniform will be removed in public.
3. No one may sit on the ground while in uniform.
4. Uniforms and hatboxes will be picked up from the Quartermasters at the beginning and end of each performance. Students must put away components of the uniform in strict accordance with the quartermasters' instructions following each performance.

### **B. Concert Attire**

1. Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble
  - a. Ladies will wear a black dress or black blouse and black skirt/pants, black stockings and black shoes.
  - b. Gentlemen will wear a dark sports jacket, dark pants, black dress socks, black shoes, white shirt and tie.
2. Wind Symphony
  - a. Ladies will wear a long sleeve black blouse, floor length black skirt (or long sleeve floor length black dress), black stockings and black shoes.
  - b. Gentlemen will wear a black tuxedo, white tux shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black dress socks and black shoes.

### **C. Jazz Performance Attire**

1. Jazz Orchestra
  - a. Gentlemen: Tuxedos, white tux shirt, bow tie, vest, black socks, black shoes.
  - b. Ladies: Floor length black gown, black dress shoes.
2. Jazz Ensemble
  - a. Gentlemen: Black suit, white shirt, tie, black socks, black shoes.
  - b. Ladies: Black dress or shirt and pants; black shoes.

## **MBI SCHOLARSHIPS:**

Marching Bears, Inc. awards four scholarships each year to graduating seniors. Each scholarship has a different focus and is awarded as a one-time grant (first year of college). They are:

1. Band or Guard member in good standing, furthering education in any area, academic excellence.
2. Band or Guard member in good standing, furthering education in music, academic excellence.
3. Musician in the band in good standing, furthering education in any area, demonstrating outstanding leadership within the NHS community.
4. Guard member in good standing, furthering education in any area, demonstrating outstanding leadership within the NHS community.

The following guidelines govern the selection of scholarship winners.

1. No band member shall receive more than one MBI award scholarship.
2. Good standing in band/guard – completed full senior year of marching band up to and including Memorial Day Parade.
3. Outstanding leadership includes, but is not limited to, the following: demonstrates involvement and/or leadership within school and/or community activities.

The amount of each scholarship is subject to change each year, depending on funds available. The Executive Board includes this item in the budget request each year for funding through the general funds and hopes to give four (4) \$1,000 scholarships each year.

The application process and selection of winners is determined by the Norwalk High School Scholarship Committee, based on the criteria set forth by Marching Bears, Inc. Certificates are awarded to each winner at the annual Banquet. No individual from Marching Bears, Inc. is involved in the scholarship selection process. The actual scholarship money is awarded by Marching Bears, Inc. after it receives the transcript of first semester college grades. Each student's college or school transcript must show satisfactory completion of twelve (12) credit hours or the equivalent. At that time, Marching Bears, Inc. disburses the funds to the student. A one-year period will be allowed for scholarship recipients to start further education after graduation from Norwalk High School. After beginning higher education, a one-year leave from the program will be allowed without forfeit of scholarship.

Applications for these scholarships are available through the Norwalk High School Scholarship Committee.

## **THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS**

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

What is Commitment? "Giving up convenience, going the extra mile, inviting personal discomfort, embracing confrontation, sacrificing instant gratification for the mission at hand. There are no miracle solutions. Excellence is achieved through commitment!" - Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

### **TO EXCEL**

*To excel is to continually perform.*

*Not for a moment or moments. Not for a day or days.  
But to perform day after day, month after month after month,  
and to make that uncommon performance  
Look commonplace.*

*To excel is to take the inner drive of competition and not only embrace it, but master it.*

*It is no wonder then, that when one truly excels, one is known for excellence.  
It cannot be taught or legislated, or willed into existence.*

*It must come from the very depth of an individual's desire to be the best.*

- Anonymous

### **A TOUCH OF CLASS: GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS**

The Norwalk High School Marching Band always strives to demonstrate a high degree of excellence and professionalism and courtesy toward other bands. The parents and alumni of Norwalk Marching Bears, Inc have exhibited these same qualities. The NHS Band Director is responsible for the behavior and conduct of the band. Parents, friends and alumni are responsible for their actions during band competitions. Under Musical Arts Conference (MAC) rules, bands will be sanctioned if their fans or parents participate in inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct. Please also remember that in accordance with Connecticut law, drinking of alcoholic beverages and smoking are not allowed at school facilities and events.

The guidelines below have been created to ensure that our attention is on the positive experience we want for all of our band and guard members – namely, a desire to successfully compete; a healthy respect for competitive bands, and an appreciation for their efforts – win or lose!

### **MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SIT TOGETHER!**

- Arrive at the competition as early as possible, preferably before the show is scheduled to begin.
- The band likes to see us all together, and the "sea of green" is impressive. Wear your band clothing!

### **ENTHUSIASM IS CONTAGIOUS!**

- Our band works hard. We need to work equally hard to show our appreciation. Applaud (gloves off), cheer, and yell (at the right times) when Norwalk performs.



## **SHOW RESPECT FOR COMPETING BANDS!**

- Walk to and from bleacher seats only *between* performances.
- Applaud or stand (when the performance is over) for competing bands. The band members from other communities work just as hard as Norwalk.
- Refrain from talking during any band's performance. We wouldn't want talking while Norwalk performs.

## **COMPLIMENT THE OTHER BANDS!**

- Say something positive to two (or more) parents of competitive bands. We know what it feels like when we receive a compliment.

## **TAKE THE "HIGH ROAD"!**

- If criticized or taunted by someone from another community, try this:
  - ♪ Don't respond negatively. Most times, the person doing the "talking" is simply looking to get some kind of a reaction from you. Walk by.
  - ♪ Offer a compliment about their band! Turn a negative situation into a positive one. Say, "Your band did a good job tonight!"

## **UNITY**

**I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One, a parent with a guided hand  
And a gentle loving heart,  
One a music teacher – the tools he used  
Were Instruments and Music and Art.  
Day after day, the teacher toiled  
With a touch that was deft and sure,  
While the parent labored by his side  
And polished and smoothed it pure.  
And when at last their task was done  
They were proud of what they'd wrought  
For the thing they had molded into the child  
Could neither be sold nor bought.  
And each agreed he would have failed  
If he had worked alone  
For behind the parent stood the school,  
And behind the teacher, the home.**

**Please refer to the online calendar for up-to-date schedules,  
including our performances at NHS home football games!**

**ADDRESSES OF OUR 2013 FIELD SHOW COMPETITIONS**

**September 14 - Brookfield HS**

45 Longmeadow Hill Road, Brookfield, CT

**September 21 – Naugatuck High School**

543 Rubber Avenue, Naugatuck, CT

**September 21 - Brien McMahon High School**

300 Highland Avenue, Norwalk, CT

**September 28 - Trumbull High School**

72 Strobel Road, Trumbull, CT

**October 6 – Arlington High School**

1157 Route 55, LaGrangeville, NY

**October 12 – Walt Whitman High School**

301 West Hills Road, Huntington Station, LI, NY

**October 19 - Shelton High School**

120 Meadow Street, Shelton, CT

**October 26 – Carrier Dome, Syracuse University**

900 Irving Avenue, Syracuse, NY

**November 9 – MAC Championships: Kennedy Stadium, Bridgeport Central High School**

1 Lincoln Blvd., Bridgeport, CT

**INFOLINE:**

**(203) 838-4481, ext. 13278**

For Year-Round Band Information,  
Competition Scores and  
Arrival Information