



**MARCHING**  
**NORWALK**  
**BAND**

**Parent/Student Handbook**  
**29<sup>th</sup> Edition**  
**2017-2018**

[www.nhsband.com](http://www.nhsband.com)

## ***Welcome to the Norwalk High School Band Family!***

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the new and returning members of the 2017/18 Norwalk High School Band Program and their families. We are fortunate to have an excellent and diverse band program at Norwalk High School, with nine performing groups and a spring musical offering our children a wealth of opportunities to explore their artistic sides while building friendships and learning life skills including team work, time management, commitment and community service.

You will hear the word "family" a great deal when it comes to the Norwalk High School Band Program because that is what we are, a true family. A family that supports one another, that encourages one and other and yes, even leans on one another for support. Being an active band parent is a unique and satisfying way to stay involved in your child's life throughout high school. So where and how can you start getting involved? First, I'd like to encourage each of you to attend as many competitions, performances and exhibitions as possible throughout the year; after all, what is performance without an audience? Attending performances is one way we support our children and encourage them to perform at their best. Second, please try to attend our regular, monthly parent meetings throughout the year. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to learn about upcoming activities, ask questions, provide feedback and connect with other band parents.

As with any family, we lean on one another for support. The success of our band program depends upon the hard work and dedication of our band director, staff and students, and also on us as parents, guardians and volunteers. Throughout the year, we are going to need each of you to help support our program by volunteering. Sounds like work? While there is work to be done, our volunteers also have fun and feel a sense of camaraderie as active members of the band family. Friends that volunteer together double their fun. Look through this book for descriptions of all our committees, and decide which ones are of interest to you. Our committee chairs, also listed in this book, are happy to answer any questions you may have.

During marching band season, be sure to arrive at Andrews Field about 30 minutes prior to pick up to watch the band perform their "run-through" and to meet other band parents. This is where you can order your green spirit wear, sign up for activities, and even plan carpools to competitions. During competitions, please join the Norwalk High School band family in the stands, as we form the "sea of green" as a visible show of support for our students. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

*Ed Abrams*

President, Norwalk Marching Bears, Inc.

## Table of Contents

BAND PROGRAM OVERVIEW .....	1
Concert Bands: Wind Symphony/Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band .....	1
Marching Band .....	1
Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble .....	1
Color Guard and Winter Guard .....	1
Winter Percussion .....	1
PERFORMANCE ATTIRE and CONDUCT .....	2
Marching Band .....	2
Musicians.....	2
Color Guard .....	2
Conduct Guidelines While In Marching Uniform.....	3
Marching Band Uniform Care and Cleaning.....	3
Color Guard Uniforms and Flags Care and Cleaning.....	3
Football Games/Home Competitions/Parades .....	4
Concert Bands .....	4
Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble .....	4
Wind Symphony .....	4
Jazz Bands .....	4
Jazz Orchestra .....	4
Jazz Ensemble.....	4
PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS .....	5
COMMUNICATION .....	6
Email .....	6
Monthly Meetings .....	6
Website.....	6
REMIND .....	6
FACEBOOK .....	6
Infoline – Audio Service .....	6
CONTACTS .....	7
Band Director.....	7
Norwalk Marching Bears, Inc. Executive Council .....	7
2017 - 2018 Executive Board .....	7
Event Chairs and Coordinators .....	7
Membership Database.....	7
Chaperones .....	8
Marching Band .....	8
Winter Guard .....	8
Winter Percussion .....	8
FUNDRAISING .....	9
Seasonal Overview .....	9
Year-Round.....	9
Fall (September, October, November) .....	9
Winter (December, January, February).....	9
Early Spring (March, April, May) .....	9
Summer (June, July, August) .....	9
Fundraising Committee Descriptions .....	10
Band Photos.....	10
Boat Show .....	10
Can and Bottle Drive.....	10
Carnival.....	10

Car Wash.....	10
Cavalcade of Bands.....	10
Certificates – Grocery & Restaurant .....	11
Corporate Sponsorships.....	11
Funathon .....	11
Jazz Cabaret .....	11
Memorial Day Parade Float .....	11
Musical.....	11
Oyster Festival .....	12
Refreshments for Events.....	12
SAT Practice Test.....	12
Spirit Wear .....	12
SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES .....	13
Chaperones .....	13
Banquet Committee .....	13
Equipment Crew.....	13
Band Photos .....	13
Quartermasters.....	13
Welcoming Committee .....	13
MBI SCHOLARSHIPS .....	14
For Seniors Only.....	14
The Patsy Gill Scholarship.....	15
The Diane Rivera Memorial Scholarship .....	15
FOOD FOR THOUGHT .....	16
APPENDIX .....	17
2017 Field Show Competition Addresses.....	18
Band Glossary .....	19

## **BAND PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Students enrolled in concert band and color guard classes 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 performing groups and related helpful information.

### **Concert Bands: 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 in 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.

### **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.

### **Jazz Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble**

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.

### **Color Guard and Winter Guard**

Color guard members use dance, athleticism, musicality, flags, rifles and sabres to visually express the accompanying music. Participation in these programs may begin in middle school; color guard members can elect to participate in winter guard.

### **Winter Percussion**

Winter Percussion is an indoor, competitive activity, with performing units consisting of the marching percussion (or battery) and front ensemble (or pit) sections of a marching band. Indoor Percussion includes elements of music performance, marching, and visual interest. We have one Winter Percussion unit that competes in both the MAC and WGI circuits. 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!***

## **PERFORMANCE ATTIRE and CONDUCT**

### **Marching Band**

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.

### ***Musicians***

#### **Full Uniform**

- 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 musicians except 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 wind 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)

### ***Color Guard***

Color guard, and on occasion other members of the marching band, will be provided stylized uniforms to enhance the visual appeal of our field show. These uniforms vary from year to year in accordance with the theme of the show. Information regarding the required components of these uniforms will be provided to the appropriate students.

## ***Conduct Guidelines While In Marching 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. Smoking at any school function is strictly prohibited.
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 required 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.

## **Football Games/Home Competitions/Parades**

- Full uniform must be worn at all times after leaving the school building until returning following the game unless otherwise specified.
- No part of the uniform will be removed in public.
- No one may sit on the ground while in uniform.
- 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.

## **Concert Bands**

### **Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble**

- Ladies will wear a black dress or black blouse and black skirt/pants, black stockings and black shoes.
- Gentlemen will wear a dark sports jacket, dark pants, black dress socks, black shoes, white shirt and tie.

### **Wind Symphony**

- Ladies will wear a long sleeve black blouse, floor length black skirt (or long sleeve floor length black dress), black stockings and black shoes.
- Gentlemen will wear a black tuxedo, white tux shirt, black bow tie, black cummerbund, black dress socks and black shoes.

## **Jazz Bands**

### **Jazz Orchestra**

- Gentlemen: Tuxedos, white tux shirt, bow tie, vest, black socks, black shoes.
- Ladies: Floor length black gown, black dress shoes.

### **Jazz Ensemble**

- Gentlemen: Black suit, white shirt, tie, black socks, black shoes.
- Ladies: Black dress or shirt and pants; black shoes.



## **PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES FOR SPECTATORS**

The Norwalk High School Marching Band consistently strives to demonstrate a high degree of excellence, professionalism and courtesy toward other bands. The parents, friends, family and alumni of the Norwalk Marching Band exhibit these same qualities when watching or accompanying the band. 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. Please remember to be respectful and courteous to those around you. 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**

- When we sit together in the stands, proudly wearing our green and white spirit wear, we form a “sea of green” which is impressive to see from the field. When our band sees our sea of green they feel our unity and support.
- Arrive at the competition as early as possible, preferably before the show is scheduled to begin. You will be amazed by the talent of the bands and the creativity of the field shows.

### **Show Respect for Competing Bands**

- Refrain from talking during any band's performance. We wouldn't want talking while Norwalk performs.
- Walk to and from bleacher seats only between performances.
- Stand and applaud (when the performance is over) for competing bands. The band members from other communities work just as hard as Norwalk.
- Keep it positive! Say something positive to two (or more) parents of competitive bands. We know what it feels like when we receive a compliment. Please refrain from negative comments in the stands and surrounding areas.

### **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.

### **Handling Criticism**

The majority of spectators at performances are courteous. In the rare instance where our band, program or fans are criticized by someone from another community, don't respond negatively, most of the time, the person doing the "talking" is simply looking to get some kind of a reaction from you. We recommend you simply walk by, or offer a compliment about their band! Turn a negative situation into a positive one. Say, "Your band did a good job tonight!"

### **Airgrams**

Many schools sell "Airgrams" at competitions for spectators to send best wishes and sentiments to performers. We request that you do not purchase air grams for our performers; we have the opportunity to honor our performers with air grams and candy grams during our end of season party, where they can be heard and appreciated.

## **COMMUNICATION**

There are nine performing groups in the Norwalk High School band program and during the school year there are quite a few performances and fund raising events. The band director, MBI executive committee and committee chairs make every effort to provide timely communication regarding all aspects of the band program to the band family.

**Please note:** It is imperative that all families check the online band calendar ([www.nhsband.com/MBICalendar.aspx](http://www.nhsband.com/MBICalendar.aspx)) often for schedule information, as schedules do change during the year.

### **Email**

Marching Bears Inc. (MBI) sends out regular email with important information from Mr. Rivera as well as other information and reminders of interest to Band families, with the approval of either our band director or MBI president. Please be sure we have your current email address so that you can stay easily informed. Please contact [correspondingsecretaryMBI@gmail.com](mailto:correspondingsecretaryMBI@gmail.com) to update to your email address(es).

### **Monthly Meetings**

General meetings, open to all band families, are held on the second week of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the band room at Norwalk High (please check the online calendar for firm scheduling). These meetings are run by the Marching Bears, Inc. Executive Council and provide an excellent opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback and hear important schedule, fundraising and financial information. We request that all parents and guardians attend these important meetings.

The Executive Board and Council meet in a separate meeting the first week of each month. Participants will be notified of these dates via email.

### **Website**

The band web site ([www.nhsband.com](http://www.nhsband.com)) contains a wealth of information for band families. There are schedules, scores, photos, forms, frequently asked questions documents and more are posted on the site. There is also information on fundraising events and schedules. Please check the website regularly for up to date information and our online calendar. If you have questions or comments about the website, please contact [websiteMBI@gmail.com](mailto:websiteMBI@gmail.com).

### **REMIND**

Mr. Rivera and the staff use the REMIND mobile application as the primary group communication tool. You can choose to receive text messages and/or download the REMIND APP. Bus arrival times will be posted to REMIND. REMIND is a great tool to notify you after competitions or when the band is traveling to find out when to pick up your child. Please be on time to pick up your children!

### **FACEBOOK**

Join us on Facebook, Norwalk High School Band and Guard Official Fan Page. The Staff will use Facebook as another group communication tool.

### **Infoline – Audio Service**

This telephone information service is updated after each competition with a recording containing the score, how the band placed and bus arrival times. Simply dial (203) 838-4481, ext. 13278 for the latest information. It is very important that you check Infoline after competitions or when the band is traveling to find out when to pick up your child. Please be on time to pick up your children!

## CONTACTS

### Band Director

Chris Rivera (203) 838-4481 Ext.13275

[riverac@norwalkps.org](mailto:riverac@norwalkps.org)

### Norwalk Marching Bears, Inc. Executive Council

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
President	Ed Abrams	(203) 984-7241	<a href="mailto:PresidentMBI@gmail.com">PresidentMBI@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Valerie Donahue	(203) 496-1690	<a href="mailto:VicePresidentMBI@gmail.com">VicePresidentMBI@gmail.com</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Tina Brescia	(203) 644-7744	<a href="mailto:CorrespondingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com">CorrespondingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Michele DiMasi	(203) 550-2663	<a href="mailto:RecordingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com">RecordingSecretaryMBI@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Penni Parker	(203) 246-1873	<a href="mailto:TreasurerMBI@gmail.com">TreasurerMBI@gmail.com</a>

### 2017 - 2018 Executive Board

The executive board consists of the band director, the executive council and the following standing committee chairs:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson(s)</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Can & Bottle Drive	Aracely Feighery	(203) 223-1242	<a href="mailto:acfeighery@gmail.com">acfeighery@gmail.com</a>
Cavalcade	Ed Abrams	(203) 984-7241	<a href="mailto:abrams981@gmail.com">abrams981@gmail.com</a>
Certificates	Christine Hussey	(203) 858-1385	<a href="mailto:Trent0016@optonline.net">Trent0016@optonline.net</a>
Corporate Sponsorships	Ed Abrams	(203) 984-7241	<a href="mailto:abrams981@gmail.com">abrams981@gmail.com</a>
Head Chaperones	Christine Hussey	(203) 858-1385	<a href="mailto:Trent0016@optonline.net">Trent0016@optonline.net</a>
	Amy Comunale	(203) 981-7025	<a href="mailto:mrscomunale@gmail.com">mrscomunale@gmail.com</a>
Permits for Events	Linda Piacenza	(203) 722-1662	<a href="mailto:lindap5899@optonline.net">lindap5899@optonline.net</a>
Quartermasters	Suzanne Abrams	(203) 858-0979	<a href="mailto:staela@hotmail.com">staela@hotmail.com</a>
	Claudette Quadrini	(203) 984-2005	<a href="mailto:cquad@optonline.net">cquad@optonline.net</a>
	Vernessa DeCausey	(203)-246-9855	<a href="mailto:javaughnmom@yahoo.com">javaughnmom@yahoo.com</a>
Spirit Wear	Stephanie Edwards	(203) 856-6791	<a href="mailto:steviedwards@yahoo.com">steviedwards@yahoo.com</a>
Welcoming Committee	Linda Piacenza	(203) 722-1662	<a href="mailto:lindap5899@optonline.net">lindap5899@optonline.net</a>

### Event Chairs and Coordinators

A full list of our current event chairpersons is available on our website at <http://www.nhsband.com/InfoandForms.aspx>.

***If you are interested in learning more about an open position, or would be interested in filling an open position or chairing one of the events upon the departure of the current chairperson, please contact the MBI President or Vice President.***

### Membership Database

The Corresponding Secretary keeps track of important student and parent information such as home and email addresses, cell phone numbers and parent occupation(s) provided by you on the band's Emergency Contact and Student Information form, distributed during summer practices. We may forward information regarding to parents' talents and/or interests to appropriate committee chairs. 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 let the corresponding secretary and head chaperone know.

## **Chaperones**

Following are the chaperones for this school year. Chaperone assignments by bus will be determined by the Band Director. Please contact the chaperones for your child's bus with questions or to ask about providing drinks/snacks for competition day.

### ***Marching Band***

#### **Band Head Chaperone**

Christine Hussey (203) 858-1385 [Trent0016@optonline.net](mailto:Trent0016@optonline.net)

#### **Guard Head Chaperone**

Amy Comunale (203) 981-7025 [mrscomunale@gmail.com](mailto:mrscomunale@gmail.com)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Cell</b>
<b>Christine Hussey</b>	<a href="mailto:Trent0016@optonline.net">Trent0016@optonline.net</a>	(203) 858-1385
<b>Amy Comunale</b>	<a href="mailto:mrscomunale@gmail.com">mrscomunale@gmail.com</a>	(203) 981-7025
Crystal Stead	<a href="mailto:amyahsmom@yahoo.com">amyahsmom@yahoo.com</a>	(203) 434-3221
Lisa Marie Randazzo	<a href="mailto:lmrandazzo@optonline.net">lmrandazzo@optonline.net</a>	(203) 451-5521
Vicky Cook	<a href="mailto:vicky@vickycook.com">vicky@vickycook.com</a>	(203) 981-9443
Jeff Donofrio	<a href="mailto:jeffdonofrio@hotmail.com">jeffdonofrio@hotmail.com</a>	(203) 550-7166
Barbara Smyth	<a href="mailto:barbaracsmyth@aol.com">barbaracsmyth@aol.com</a>	(203) 451-5265
Dan Koteen	<a href="mailto:dankoteen@gmail.com">dankoteen@gmail.com</a>	(203) 856.1092
Stevie Edwards	<a href="mailto:steviedwards@yahoo.com">steviedwards@yahoo.com</a>	(203) 856-6791
Annie Bonanno	<a href="mailto:anniebonanno@hotmail.com">anniebonanno@hotmail.com</a>	(203) 820-1481
Penni Parker	<a href="mailto:prparker23@gmail.com">prparker23@gmail.com</a>	(203) 246-1873
Sal Randazzo	<a href="mailto:strandazzojr@optonline.net">strandazzojr@optonline.net</a>	(203) 451-8435
Daniela O'Callaghan	<a href="mailto:danielaoc@optonline.net">danielaoc@optonline.net</a>	(203) 219-6820
Michelle Rybnick	<a href="mailto:michellerybnick@optonline.net">michellerybnick@optonline.net</a>	(203) 216-6034

### ***Winter Guard***

#### **Open Guard Head Chaperone**

Amy Comunale (203) 981-7025 [mrscomunale@gmail.com](mailto:mrscomunale@gmail.com)  
Full chaperone list will be made available at the start of the winter season.

#### **JV Guard Chaperones**

Full chaperone list will be made available at the start of the winter season.

### ***Winter Percussion***

Full chaperone list will be made available at the start of the winter season.

## **FUNDRAISING**

Each year parent members of Marching Bears Inc. run a number of fundraisers to help offset the gap between the funds supplied by the City of Norwalk and the cost of our band programs.

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 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.

### **Seasonal Overview**

Please note: An alphabetical listing with more detailed descriptions of all fundraisers follows this overview.

#### ***Year-Round***

- Can & Bottle Drive
- Grocery Store Gift Certificates
- Corporate Sponsorships
- Spirit Wear

#### ***Fall (September, October, November)***

- Norwalk Oyster Festival
- Boat Show
- Photos, Group & Individual
- NHS Cavalcade of Bands

#### ***Winter (December, January, February)***

- SAT Practice Test

#### ***Early Spring (March, April, May)***

- NHS Jazz Show
- NHS Winter Guard/Percussion Show
- Musical
- Jazz Cabaret

#### ***Summer (June, July, August)***

- Car Washes
- Carnival
- Funathon

***If you would ever like to help with anything, please come forward!  
Your help will be welcome and greatly appreciated.***

***Apprehensive about volunteering? Don't be!  
Volunteering is fun and rewarding.  
Friends that volunteer together double their fun!***

## **Fundraising Committee Descriptions**

### ***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 and 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; please get your 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!** Norwalk has a reputation for orchestrating some of the finest shows in the circuit. Approximately 200 adults are needed to ensure the show runs smoothly, so EVERY band family is asked to participate. Parents are invited to sign up for volunteer positions prior to the competition. Sign-up will take place during evening practices at Andrews Field. Information about Cavalcade will be presented during General Meetings. Please watch your email for volunteer opportunities as well.

#### **Chairperson(s):**

*Ed Abrams* ([abrams981@gmail.com](mailto:abrams981@gmail.com)); (203) 984-7241)

### **Certificates – Grocery & Restaurant**

*This fundraiser is supported by the generosity of Norwalk grocery merchants and is an opportunity for band families to help fund band activities without additional out-of-pocket expense.* Parents and friends may purchase gift cards from MBI and use them, at full face value, instead of cash at the participating merchants listed below. Gift cards never expire. They can be used for any purchase or service (except alcohol) at any store location, including pharmacy, Peapod, and Garden Shop. For every gift card we sell, the merchant donates a percentage to MBI, ranging from 5% to 10%. When you use our 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.

A full list of chairpersons and distributors is available on the home page of our website: [www.nhsband.com](http://www.nhsband.com). Current merchants include:

<b><u>Merchant</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Denomination</u></b>	<b><u>Profit</u></b>
Shop Rite	Any	\$25, 50, 100	5%
Stew Leonard's	Any	\$25, 50, 100	10%
Stop & Shop	Any	\$25, 50, 100	5%

We also have gift certificates for O'Neill's restaurant.

### **Corporate Sponsorships**

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.

### **Funathon**

This is a fun way for our band students to both raise funds and build team spirit. Students collect sponsors (minimum \$40) to support them as they play laser tag and arcade games at My Three Sons one evening during band camp. Additional funds beyond the \$40 minimum are applied in full toward the student's assessment. Parents donate baked goods for the students. Pizza and soda is served.

### **Jazz Cabaret**

Our Jazz Cabaret offers an excellent opportunity to listen to some wonderful jazz while enjoying the company of friends old and new. This event includes a silent auction and light appetizers.

### **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, creativity and remembrance.

### **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 grounds keeping 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. Signup 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, and perform cleanup activities.

### ***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!

### ***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. Spirit wear is available on Spirit Night, at our home shows and at select practices as determined by the committee chairs; dates will be communicated via email.



## **SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Chaperones**

Chaperones provide for the well-being and safety of our children when they travel or compete. All chaperones are selected by the Band Director. Chaperones are assigned to specific buses, which are typically organized by groupings of instruments / performers.

The chaperones are responsible for coordinating snacks and beverages for each bus trip. Families provide food and beverages for the bus their child rides. Donations of drinks, water, sandwiches, baked goods, packaged snacks and fruit are necessary; our students are hungry after performing! 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. The list of chaperones can be found in the [Contacts](#) section of this document.

### **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 Crew**

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: Mike Rybnick ((203) 216-6054; [mikerybnick@optonline.net](mailto:mikerybnick@optonline.net) )

### **Band Photos**

The Band Photo Chairperson is responsible for taking photos through the school year, which are enjoyed by everyone at the Band Banquet in June.

### **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 information regarding uniforms, please contact our quartermasters:

Suzanne Abrams ((203) 858-0979; [staela@hotmail.com](mailto:staela@hotmail.com))

Claudette Quadrini ((203) 984-2005; [cquad@optonline.net](mailto:cquad@optonline.net))

Vernessa DeCausey ((203) 246-9855; [javaughnmom@yahoo.com](mailto:javaughnmom@yahoo.com))

### **Welcoming Committee**

This committee helps freshman and other new band families get acquainted with the band programs. Members of this committee host the parent reception at the Eastside Band Concert and the Freshman Parent Orientation Meeting. We also have an information table available during summer band rehearsals.

## **MBI SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **For Seniors Only**

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:

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

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.

### **Applications and Selection Process**

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

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 following guidelines govern the selection of scholarship winners.

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

### **Distribution**

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.

### **The Patsy Gill Scholarship**

Patsy Gill, former MBI president (among many other roles), demonstrated tremendous spirit and dedication to the NHS Band program throughout her 14 year tenure as a band parent. In every way, Patsy and her family have demonstrated the true meaning of the phrase "Band Family". Her leadership by example, positive attitude, can do spirit and willingness to put the "family" first are traits that we would like to see recognized in others. This scholarship celebrates those traits and the student(s) that most closely models them in their own behavior.

**Amount:** \$1,000 awarded annually; amount may be distributed to one student or divided equally between two students at the discretion of the band director.

#### **Selection Process:**

The scholarship winner(s) will be selected by the Band Director after careful consideration of the students' service to the band family over their tenure in the band program, as he/she will have the most intimate knowledge of the students and their actions.

The ideal recipient will model the following traits:

- Leadership by example, as defined by their ability to help others achieve the most that they can out of the program
- Dedication to the program, as defined by their willingness to do more than is asked and act without being asked to further the efforts of the Band
- Positive attitude, as demonstrated by their actions and behavior
- Collaborative spirit, as demonstrated by their ability to engage and involve others in supporting the Band program

The following guidelines govern the selection of the scholarship winner(s):

- Ideally be a senior who has demonstrated these traits over the course of their full tenure with the Band program
- Funds must be used for the purpose of funding continued education

#### **Distribution**

The scholarship funds are 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.

### **The Diane Rivera Memorial Scholarship**

The Diane Rivera Memorial Scholarship honors the memory of our Band Director's mother whose support for our program and our students was something we will never forget. The scholarship is awarded to the most deserving student or students at the discretion of the band director.

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

### **Commitment**

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

### **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.

# **APPENDIX**

## **2017 Field Show Competition Addresses**

**September 16 - Brien McMahon High School (USBANDS)**

300 Highland Avenue, Norwalk CT 06854

**September 23 – Naugatuck High School (USBANDS)**

543 Rubber Avenue, Naugatuck CT 06770

**October 7 – Bunnell-Stratford High School (USBANDS)**

1 Bulldog Blvd, Stratford CT 06614

**October 14 –Norwalk High School (USBANDS)**

23 Calvin Murphy Drive, Norwalk CT 06851

**October 21 – Danbury High School (USBANDS)**

43 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury CT 06811

**October 28 – USBANDS New England Championships, New Britain CT**

Arute Field, Central CT State University (CCSU)

1615 Stanley Street, New Britain CT 06050

**November 4–USBANDS New England Regional Championships–Trumbull CT**

Trumbull High School

72 Strobel Road, Trumbull CT 06611

**November 11 – USBANDS National Championships at Metlife Stadium**

1 MetLife Stadium Dr, East Rutherford NJ 07073

**INFOLINE:**

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

For Competition Scores, Placement  
and Arrival Information

## **Band Glossary**

(Alphabetical)

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AA Guard	Please see JV Guard below.
Ad Book	The term Ad Book refers to the program books compiled for the home shows and the musical. Students can sell advertisements for placement in these programs to defray their assessment fees.
Airgrams	Many schools sell "Airgrams" at competitions for spectators to send best wishes and sentiments to performers. These are announced as the appropriate performing unit enters the field and starts setting up on the field or floor. <u>We request that you do not purchase airgrams for our performers</u> ; we have the opportunity to honor our performers with airgrams and candy grams during our end of season party, where they can be heard and appreciated. Please <u>do</u> support the schools we visit by purchasing other items, such as program books, band trinkets, refreshments, etc.
Andrews Field	Andrews Field is the primary practice location for the Marching Band. It is located on County Street, between Westport Avenue (US 1) and Strawberry Hill Avenue, behind the County Mall (behind Bond Grill, Romanacci's, etc.).
Assessments	Assessments are financial contributions required from students participating in the Marching Band, and other band-related programs. While the parent organization, Marching Bears Inc., runs a number of fundraising activities during the school year to offset the costs of the band program, it is usually necessary for each family to contribute to the cost of their student's participation in the band. The amount of each family's expected contribution will be determined as soon as possible (usually within the first few weeks of September). An installment payment schedule will be provided with the notice, but if your family needs extra time or help with these payments, please contact the band director, Mr. Rivera, to speak with complete confidentiality regarding options ( <a href="mailto:riverac@norwalkps.org">riverac@norwalkps.org</a> or 203.838.4481 x13275). Our goal is that no student will be excluded from participating because of financial need. <u>Please note that credits (overpayments) may not be carried to the next school year and are not refundable.</u>
Band Banquet	The band banquet is a celebration of the performing season held annually in June. The evening typically includes a performance by the Jazz Orchestra, speeches by the director and select students, senior recognition, scholarships and awards, and a presentation of the annual highlights video. Members of all performing bands and color guards attend; parents or guardians are encouraged to attend.

Term	Definition
Band Camp	<p>Band Camp is a <b>mandatory</b>, two week training program used to prepare for the upcoming marching band competition season. During band camp, students practice the music, drill (marching) and choreography that are the foundation of their field show. While the show continues to evolve during the entire marching season (which runs from late August through mid-November), band camp is the foundation upon which the show is built. Since each day's practice builds on the prior day, it is critical that all band members are at band camp every day.</p> <p>Band camp is a wonderful experience for the students. While it can be exhausting, since they put in long, hot days learning the music and the drill, it is also <u>fun</u>. They get to know each other, learn discipline and teamwork, and perhaps most importantly, develop strong bonds as a "band family". Your incoming student will know over 100 kids across all grades by the time they walk through the NHS doors for the first time. How great is that?</p>
Band Escort	<p>Band escort is a volunteer position needed during competitions hosted at Norwalk High School(also known as "home shows"). A band escort is assigned a visiting band or guard unit, and is responsible for guiding them to their warmup / practice, staging and performance areas according to the timeline established and provided by the escort chairperson for the event. After their performance is ended, the escort returns the performing group to their assigned room.</p>
Band Family	<p>One definition of the word family is a social unit consisting of one or more adults together with the children they care for. In terms of the band, the family includes the students, staff, parents, guardians, alumni and others that actively engage in support of our band programs at Norwalk High School.</p>
Band Infoline	<p>The Band Infoline is an audio service that is updated after each competition with a recording including the scores and how the band placed. Bus arrival times are included to facilitate timely pick up of all students. It is important that you check the Infoline for pick up times when the band is traveling. This telephone information service is available 24 hours a day: <b>203-838-4481, ext. 13278.</b></p>
Band Room	<p>The classroom where students attend their band classes and select practices. The band room is located in the Music Wing (see below) of Norwalk High School.</p>



<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Buses	Buses are used to transport the students to and from competition each Saturday. The number of buses used is dependent upon the size of the band. Students are assigned to buses at the discretion of the band director. Chaperones will ask for donations of food and beverages by bus for each competition.
Can and Bottle	This refers to a monthly fundraising activity that occurs the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. year-round. Members of the community bring their deposit bottles and cans to Andrews field, where band parent volunteers sort them by size and type for later pickup and payment.
Candlelight	Candlelight is a holiday performance held at Norwalk High School in December, which features performances by the all of the students in the music program, including chorus, band and orchestra. Candlelight is the oldest high school winter concert in New England. It began in Norwalk in the 1930s and has been performed every year since then, with the exception of two years during World War II, when lights-out regulations prevented it from being performed.
Candy Grams	<p>These are sold at select competitions, including our home shows, as a means to send well wishes and sweets to specific individuals.</p> <p>Additionally, candy grams are sold at the end of marching season for friends and family to provide thoughts and gentle kidding to our band members. These are read aloud at the end of season pizza party by the drum majors and guard captains. Do not write anything you do not want read in public 😊</p>
Captains	Captains are student leaders with responsibilities for multiple or large sections; typically there is a brass captain, a woodwind captain, a drum captain and color guard captains.
Cavalcade	Cavalcade is the name of the Musical Arts Conference competition held at Norwalk High School. This event is run by parent volunteers, the more the merrier! Proceeds from this event support our band and guard programs.
Chaperones	Chaperones are parent volunteers that are assigned a specific bus and travel with the students for every event, including field trips.
Choir Room	The classroom where students attend their Choir / Chorus classes and select practices. The choir room is located in the Music Wing (see below) of Norwalk High School.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Circle	<p>Circle is a powerful marching band tradition that brings the band together as a group for reflection and / or celebration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At full ensemble rehearsals, Circle may occur at the end of practice and is an opportunity for the band to come together to review the day, discuss what is working and what needs improvement and to share important information.</li> <li>• At competitions, Circle is used to celebrate a winning performance by repeating the show in an intimate way. After the awards ceremony is complete, the full band forms a circle in an open field where they perform the show again in place. Friends and family form an outer circle around them to share in the celebration. Generally parents stand behind their students, and when the students finish playing the show the drum majors will let them know when they can socialize with their families for a few minutes. Please be generous and congratulate students that do not have family present!</li> <li>• Finally, the last circle of the year is held at the annual Band Banquet as a way to bring closure to the year and as a final send-off for our seniors.</li> </ul>
Color Guard	<p>Color guard is a group of student performers that add visual aspects to the field show in the fall and perform as a separate group in the winter. Color guard members use movement, flags, rifles and sabers to visually express the accompanying music.</p>
Dayton	<p>In percussion and guard terms, Dayton (Ohio) refers to the site of the championship competition for the Winter Guard International (WGI) competition circuit. Please see Winter Guard International below.</p>
Dot Book	<p>A dot book is a spiral bound set of 3x5 index cards. Band members write their drill positions in the book for reference.</p>
Drillmasters	<p>Drillmasters are specialized shoes for marching band. Black Drillmasters are part of the standard marching band uniform.</p>
Drum Major	<p>Drum majors are student leaders for the marching band. During rehearsals and performances they direct the ensemble on what to play, when to play / move, and what tempo to keep.</p>
Equipment Dads	<p>Please see Equipment Crew below.</p>

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Equipment Crew	The equipment crew consists of volunteers (usually parents and guardians) responsible for loading and transporting band props, equipment and instruments to and from competitions and performances and onto the performance field or floor. Equipment personnel are needed for marching season and for each of the three Winter performing groups (Percussion, Open Guard and JV Guard).
Exhibition	Exhibition is the term used to denote that a performing group is not competing for placement (first, second, third, etc.) at a particular event. The group will still receive their score so they can continue to refine and improve their performance, but they will not be ranked for placement.
Field Show	This is the term used for the show performed by the band during marching season at competitions and during half-time at select home football games. A field show is fascinating and exciting to watch! The band performs music while marching intricate movements and formations on a football field, with additional visual impact provided by the color guard. How do they do it? Practice, practice, practice! Come watch our band in action, you will be amazed!
Flag Bag	A long, black bag used by the color guard members to transport their flags and weapons to and from competitions and practices. Flag bags can be purchased from the Head Chaperone of the color guard.
Footpath	Footpath Café features the Jazz Orchestra and Chamber Singers in a fun, night-club style performance including a variety of jazz and pop numbers. This show is held annually in June.
Freshman Basics	Freshman basics are sessions geared toward teaching freshman marching fundamentals. These sessions usually occur the first few weeks of marching season. Students will be informed if and when they should attend.
Full Retreat	Full retreat is reserved for the awards portion of championship competitions. This is really quite impressive from the stands! For a full retreat, each performing unit lines up <u>all</u> of their performers on the field or floor as the scores and placement are read. The student leaders accept any awards given to their unit.
Gauntlets	Gauntlets are a part of the marching band uniform, worn at the end of the sleeve, similar to a cuff.
Green Book	This term refers to the band Parent/Student Handbook.
Green Building	The "green building" is located at Andrews Field, on the left when you enter the parking lot. It really is green!

Term	Definition
Guard	Guard is an abbreviated term for Color Guard. Please see the description above.
Half-dress	<p>Half-dress is the part of the band uniform the students wear when travelling to and from competitions and parades. Half-dress consists of the following parts of the standard uniform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Drillmasters (marching shoes)</li> <li>• Black socks (must be calf or knee high)</li> <li>• Wind pants</li> <li>• Black spandex shorts</li> <li>• Black band t-shirt with the show logo</li> <li>• NHS Band Jacket</li> </ul> <p>Students are responsible for the care and cleaning of their half-dress clothing. <b>Please note:</b> It is advised that students wear additional layers, similar to Under Armour, under their band uniform during cold weather. Any additional layers worn under the uniform must be solid black, no logos may show.</p>
Head Chaperones	There are head chaperones for marching students and for color guard students. Head chaperones travel with the permission slips, contact information and medical forms for each student to every event. They also help coordinate the chaperones assigned to the buses.
Hell Week	Hell week is an affectionate term for a week of intense practice leading up to the first public performance of the spring musical, typically in April.
Home Show	We usually host two competitions at Norwalk High School each year, one in the fall ("Cavalcade") and another in the winter. The winter show is held indoors and features performances by color guards and percussion units.
Jazz Combo	Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Combo are the three jazz performance groups of our band program. Students wishing to participate in the Jazz program audition for placement in either intermediate level Jazz Ensemble or advanced Jazz Orchestra. In addition, students are welcome to form their own self-directed combo band, with a few members, if desired.
Jazz Ensemble	This is the intermediate level Jazz performing group. Please see further details under Jazz Combo above.
Jazz Orchestra	This is the advanced Jazz performing group. Please see further details under Jazz Combo above.

Term	Definition
JV Guard	JV Guard (previously AA Guard) is our intermediate Winter Guard performing group. Participation in this group may begin as early as middle school. JV Guard typically competes in the Musical Arts Conference (MAC). Winter guard competition schedules and scores can be located on the MAC website: <a href="http://www.musicalartsconference.com">www.musicalartsconference.com</a> .
MAC	MAC stands for Musical Arts Conference. Please see the description below.
Marching Bears, Inc.	<p>Marching Bears, Inc. (MBI) is the non-profit, parent organization that organizes and runs the events needed to fund the many performing groups that make up the Norwalk High School band program. Meetings are usually held the second Tuesday of every month in the band room; meeting dates and times are posted online, on the Norwalk High School band calendar (<a href="http://www.nhsband.com/MBICalendar.aspx">www.nhsband.com/MBICalendar.aspx</a>).</p> <p><b>All parents and guardians of students in the marching band, color guard, jazz bands and percussion are welcome and encouraged to participate!</b></p>
Marching Uniform	<p>Marching uniforms consist of a uniform jacket, bib-pants, shako, plume, gauntlets (fancy cuffs) and gloves (wristbands for percussion). These uniforms DO NOT go home. The Quartermasters arrange for dry cleaning and storage of the marching uniforms. Students wear their half-dress (see above) under their uniforms, and are responsible for the care and cleaning of their half-dress clothing. <b>Please note:</b> It is advised that students wear additional layers, similar to Under Armour, under their uniform during cold weather. Any additional layers worn under the uniform must be solid black.</p> <p>Color guard members get specialized uniforms (costumes) that relate to the theme of the field show. Guard members are responsible for the care and cleaning of their uniforms, and must turn them in at the end of the season.</p>
MBI	MBI stands for Marching Bears, Inc. Please see the description above.
Medical Forms	The chaperones MUST have a medical form, signed and authorized by your child's physician, in order to dispense OVER THE COUNTER medicines as well as ANY prescription medicine your child may require. Chaperones are supplied with common medications, such as Tylenol, Dramamine, Advil etc., but CANNOT administer anything without a doctor's approval. A separate medical form is needed for each medication. Make sure you hand in your medical forms by the start of Band Camp.

Term	Definition
Music Wing	The Music Wing is the section of Norwalk High School that houses the Music Department classrooms and the auditorium. The music wing is located past the main entrance of the high school, at the double doors just before the silver section of the building. <b>Please note:</b> during school hours, all visitors must enter through the main entrance of the high school.
Musical Arts Conference	The Musical Arts Conference (MAC) is the primary competition circuit for the color guard and percussion units that compete in the winter. Additional information about MAC can be found on their website: <a href="http://www.musicalartsconference.com">www.musicalartsconference.com</a> .
New York State Field Band Conference	New York State Field Band Conference (NYSFBC) is a marching band conference consisting primarily of performing units from New York State. The Norwalk High School marching band competes in this circuit from time to time. NYSFBC championships are held in the Carrier Dome at Syracuse University.
Ninja	The younger sibling of a band member, usually the child of a chaperone or equipment personnel, who travels with the band to assist with placement and removal of props and equipment on the field for shows and competitions.
NYSFBC	NYSFBC stands for New York State Field Band Conference. Please see above.
Open Guard	Open Guard is our advanced Winter Guard performing group. Open guard typically competes in the Musical Arts Conference (MAC) and Winter Guard International (WGI) competition conferences.
Orchestra Room	The classroom where students attend their orchestra classes and select practices. The orchestra room is located in the Music Wing (see above) of Norwalk High School.
Patch	Patches are given to band members to commemorate their shows and / or participation in a conference or event. Patches are sewn onto the band jacket, according to the diagram on the band website here: <a href="#">patch locations .jpg</a>
Pit	<p>During marching season the term pit refers to the front ensemble, meaning the stationary (non-moving) part of the band. This group primarily consists of percussion instruments, and is usually placed at the front of the performance field, closest to the spectator stands.</p> <p>During the musical, the term pit is often used to refer to the pit orchestra.</p>
Plume	The feather that extends from the top of the shako (hat) that is part of the band uniform.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Podium	An elevated platform the drum majors stand on when conducting the marching band.
Pre-season Summer Rehearsals	Pre-season Summer rehearsals are held at Norwalk High School. Rehearsals are twice a week beginning in June for Color Guard and Percussion, and once a week for the full band in July. Color guard will learn and review technique and fundamentals, and musicians will begin learning the show music, review music fundamentals and learn marching basics. If a student has to miss one of the pre-season rehearsals due to vacation, please inform Mr. Rivera in advance ( <a href="mailto:riverac@norwalkps.org">riverac@norwalkps.org</a> or 203.838.4481 x13275).
Quartermasters	Parent volunteers responsible for fitting, assigning, collecting and storing student uniforms.
Retreat	Retreat is the term used for the awards portion of a competition. During retreat, student leaders (drum majors, captains, etc.) representing each performing unit line up on the field or floor as the scores and placement are read. The student leaders accept any awards given to their unit.
Run through	The run-through is the last segment of each practice, when the performing group "runs through" the show from start to finish.
Sea of Green	Friends and family of the band form the "sea of green" by sitting as a group in the stands at competitions while wearing green to show our Norwalk pride. Generally, we have a Norwalk High School banner near where our parent group is sitting in the stands. Our band members can see the "sea of green" from the field, which gives a visual indicator of our support, AND it is <u>fun</u> to sit with other members of the band family!
Saber	Sabers are color guard equipment resembling a sword. Sabers are used primarily by advanced guard members, and can be thrown into the air and caught after a number of rotations, along with contributing to other visual effects.
Section Leader	Section Leaders are student leaders with responsibilities for small sections of the band, for example, flutes, saxophones, trumpets, etc. might each have their own section leader.
Sectionals	Additional practice sessions by section, which generally occur once per week prior to another scheduled practice time. Section leaders will let their players know when sectionals are scheduled. Attendance is mandatory.
Sections	The term "sections" may refer to broad groupings of instruments, such as Brass and Woodwinds. The term is also used to refer to smaller groupings of like instruments, such as saxophones, trumpets, clarinets, etc.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Shako	The shako is the military-style hat that is part of the marching band uniform.
Show Shirt	<p>A shirt worn by students that participate in a particular show (marching band, winter color guard, winter percussion, spring musical), usually as part of a uniform, that is printed with the show logo.</p> <p>For select events, such as marching band, parents and friends may also be able to purchase a shirt displaying the show logo. These would be available where our spirit wear is sold.</p>
Sock Bun	This is a hairstyle that involves using a rolled, donut-shaped fabric to form a neat and consistent bun. These can usually be purchased where hair accessories are sold, or can be made from a tube sock by cutting off the foot of the sock and rolling the remaining portion up from the ankle to the top to form a donut shape.
Spandex	These are black stretchy bike shorts that are part of the half-dress band uniform.
Spirit Night	Spirit Night is a celebration of what the students have achieved during band camp. It is held the last night of band camp and features a parent-hosted dinner for the students and staff, followed by the first public performance of the field show. This is a really fun evening, with family and friends joined by school and city dignitaries. You won't want to miss it!
Spirit Wear	Spirit wear is clothing displaying the band logo or show logo. Spirit wear is sold to friends and family of the band at Andrews field during marching season, and at the home shows. Spirit wear is a great way to show your Norwalk pride at competitions and around town!
Summer Band	The term Summer Band is sometimes used to refer to pre-season summer rehearsals. Please see above.
Symphonic Band	Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band are the three primary performing organizations in the band portion of the Music Department. All band students are placed of one of these groups. Freshmen are placed in Symphonic Band; students try out for placement in either the intermediate level Wind Ensemble or the advanced level Wind Symphony.
Syracuse	In band terms, this refers to the site of the championship competition for the New York State Field Band Conference. Please see New York State Field Band Conference above.
Uniform	For a description of the marching band uniform, please see "Marching Uniform" above.



<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
USBands	USBands (formerly USSBA) is a program of Youth Education in the Arts (YEA). USBands is a competitive circuit for scholastic band programs nationwide, with over 700 participating high school bands. For additional information about USBANDS, please visit their website: <a href="http://www.yea.org/programs/usbands">www.yea.org/programs/usbands</a> .
Weapon Line	Members of the color guard that use a rifle or sabre during competition.
Wind Ensemble	Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band are the three primary performing organizations in the band portion of the Music Department. All band students are placed of one of these groups. Freshmen are placed in Symphonic Band; students try out for placement in either the intermediate level Wind Ensemble or the advanced level Wind Symphony.
WGI	WGI stands for Winter Guard International. Please see the description below.
Wind Pants	Wind pants are part of the half-dress uniform. They have an elastic waist and snaps down the side seams.
Wind Symphony	Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band are the three primary performing organizations in the band portion of the Music Department. All band students are placed of one of these groups. Freshmen are placed in Symphonic Band; students try out for placement in either the intermediate level Wind Ensemble or the advanced level Wind Symphony.
Winter Guard	Winter guard is an indoor color guard activity with competitions typically held in school gymnasiums. Performances use recorded music rather than a live band or orchestra. We have two winter guard performing groups, our Open Guard and our JV Guard. Participation in these groups can begin as early as middle school.
Winter Guard International	Winter Guard International (WGI) is one of the two competition circuits in which our Open Guard and Winter Percussion units participate. Information, schedules and scores can be found on their website: <a href="http://www.wgi.org">http://www.wgi.org</a>
Winter Percussion	Winter Percussion is an indoor, competitive activity, with performing units consisting of the marching percussion (or battery) and front ensemble (or pit) sections of a marching band. Indoor Percussion includes elements of music performance, marching, and visual elements. We have one Winter Percussion unit that competes in both the MAC and WGI circuits.