

## **Going To A Marching Band Show (& our home show, *Music in Motion*) For New Parents (2019)**

Each year an email goes out to new parents about what to expect and how to be prepared for your first marching band show. Then after attending a few shows we have hosted our own “home show” which is called MUSIC IN MOTION in October each year. This year we will be hosting our home show in WEEK 1 on Saturday, September 7. Hopefully this email can give you some idea of what to expect on the average Saturday for a show. Of course lots of this will be different as we serve as hosts week one!

Most Saturday competition days begin with drop-off at East Senior at 11am or close to that time. The schedule for every show day will be printed weekly in the newsletter. After being dropped off, we rehearse for a few hours, then students help load equipment, eat lunch and change into half uniform (the jacket is put on after they arrive at the show site). At the home show we ask that students buy their lunch from our concession stand.

Then it's off to the competition site! We stay for the whole show, including awards, and leave afterwards. Depending on where the competition is, some nights are a little later if we have to travel farther. Most Saturdays, the kids can plan on being gone from 11am-10:30pm.

### **Parent Stuff:**

For parents, the address and directions to our shows are printed on every newsletter. We love having our WSMB family and friends in the stands to support and cheer us on! Wear your WSMB gear or show shirts if you have them. Tickets are available for presale for all NYSFBC shows on Thursday nights (both at drop off and pick up), and Saturday morning at drop off. Most tickets are \$7 presale, or \$9 at the door. Programs are available at the show, along with 50/50 and other raffles and Candy Grams. Candy Grams are usually a large candy bar, or a sandwich baggie of candy, that is purchased for a marching band student. It is a fundraiser for the host band. Most times they cost about \$1/candygram. You are asked to write a note to the student that is attached to the candy. It's a nice way to show your support or encourage someone at a show. Candy Grams are passed out to students on the bus ride home.

In the program you will find a page for each band with their information about what music they are performing and their show concept. It will be full of ads from local businesses and usually pictures of seniors, sections of the band and often “shout outs” to students in the host band. We sell ad space and shout-out messages in our program each year. Each year that information comes out a couple months before the show - it was sent out via email and is available on the “Music in Motion” Page on the district website marching band page. We need your help to sell program ads. The home show is the band boosters' biggest fundraiser each year! These forms were emailed and are available on the same webpage.

Dress for the weather, we can see three seasons between September and October! It can be hot at the start of the season, but as the season progresses, it can get cold sitting on bleachers, so be sure to check the weather. Many families will bring a blanket or seat cushion to sit on. You may think about bringing rain ponchos and "Hot Hands." If you have pom poms, flags or banners, bring them along too!

When you get there, look for West Seneca families and grab a seat. Save a couple seats near you and others from West Seneca will join you. They'll save a few seats and so on...then, before you know it, we have our own WSMB cheering section. You can bring snacks with you, but we also want to help support other bands through their concessions, just like we want them to purchase concessions at our show! It's a good idea to help out the host band by buying something, and when you see a booster parent from the host band, let them know what a nice job they did on their Home Show because we know what it takes to run a great show!

The show does go on if it rains. If it's raining, be prepared with raincoats and umbrellas when you're sitting outside. In case of heavy rain or thunder or lightning during a show, the show will move inside to the school gym. The show is then performed standing in place with the guard spinning flags and equipment in place as well.

Once the show starts, you cannot enter or leave the stands while a band is performing on the field. Also, talking to your neighbors is a no-no. It takes a few minutes for one band to leave and another to enter, so make a run for it if you have to, but NEVER before WSMB is about to perform! You might not get back into the stands in time and you'll miss all the excitement. And it IS exciting...WSMB fans are notoriously loud (but never obnoxious) in the stands but quiet and respectful during the performances (and we keep our little WSMB fans quiet too). We cheer for all of the bands, know that all of the kids, no matter where they are from, have worked very hard to perform their show. We never boo or voice negative opinions about other bands or the judges.

We give our kids a standing ovation when they enter and leave the field each and every time.

You may take pictures of your child or the band while on the field, or even very short video clips. YOU CANNOT VIDEO THE PERFORMANCE AND POST ANYWHERE ON SOCIAL MEDIA. This violates copyright law and there could be serious fines the band would have to pay if we were found doing this. It's great to share pictures on social media, but NO VIDEOS.

After the competition, the kids load up on the buses and everyone heads back to East Senior school parking lot. Once they've unloaded, you might think that it's time to go home and hit the sack...wrong! If you're like most of us, (and all are invited), you will enjoy a good meal with good friends - location TBA. Hope to see you there! Please remember, kids should have money to eat & leave tips for the server/ wait staff.

All in all, it's an exciting time for everyone. The culmination of band camp, plus weekly rehearsals adds up to a great show, that truly gets better every week. If you're able to come to some, or even all, of the shows, you'll see the band improve and add in new things every week. The show in week 1, is not the same show 6-7 weeks later at Dome for the State Championships. It's way better. And you're a part of that.

### **Student Stuff for both Students and Parents to know:**

For every competition, your child(ren) must have:

- Long black socks (no ankle socks)
- Marching band/Guard shoes
- White/Guard gloves (most are kept in uniform bags)
- Instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, mallets, etc.)
- Instrument/Flags
- 2019 Show Shirt
- Water jug/bottle
- Bag lunch with drink (non caffeinated or sugary energy drinks or pop, no nuts)
- Money for concessions at the show (this is their dinner)
- Hoodie/Jacket for after performing (gloves & hats too as it gets colder)

Students must ride the bus back and forth to the competitions, unless you have prior written approval from Mr. Blickwedehl for special circumstances. Any absences from a show **MUST** be emailed to Mr. Blickwedehl as soon as you know you have a conflict. His email is: [jblickwedehl@wscschools.org](mailto:jblickwedehl@wscschools.org) .

For competitions, wind and brass long hair must be up in a high bun to fit under the shako (their hat). Hair for guard will depend on how it is done that year. Pit percussion does not wear a shako and the students and instructors will agree on how to style their hair in advance. Guard will also put on their make-up when they get changed.

Students are responsible for keeping their uniforms clean. Gloves should be kept separate from the gauntlets (for wind & brass players). Gloves can easily get dirty, which rubs onto the white of the uniform including gauntlets.

After arriving at the competition site, the band stays together. They have Gatorade and granola bars as a snack (which the band provides), then warm up, before moving to the gate to be ready for their performance time. Everything during the show is timed, so the bands move on and off pretty quickly.

For the students, concessions are available **AFTER** they play (this is their dinner). There are also baked goods, novelty items (socks, pins, etc.), and candy grams.