



WHEATON NORTH MARCHING BAND FALL DRUMLINE

2016 SPRING/SUMMER CLINICS

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Spring/Summer Clinics is to get students, new and returning, acclimated into the Percussion Section of the WNHS Marching Band and prepare the section for the upcoming Fall Marching Band Season. This allows students the opportunity to play the various instruments & techniques associated with Percussion in the Marching Arts activity. All while receiving top-notch instruction.

We will cover a little bit of everything from playing & carrying the equipment to learning how to work as a team & individual responsibility.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Any student who is eligible to participate in Extra Curricular Activities at WNHS and is interested in being a part of Fall Drumline should attend these clinics.

Previous marching or music experience is not required. You do not need to be enrolled in the curricular music program at WNHS.

WHAT TO BRING

- **Dress appropriately.** All students should come to rehearsal dressed in clothing suitable for athletic activity. Avoid dress shoes, hiking boots, sandals and other casual footwear. Running, Basketball, or Tennis shoes should be worn. A Light T-shirt or Wicking Shirt and athletic shorts/pants are acceptable. Avoid jeans or dress pants. Hat and Sunglasses are also recommended when we start going outside.
- **Pair of marching snare sticks.** We use Vic Firth Ralph Hardimons (Wood Tip). These are a common marching snare sticks and can be found at any major music store or online. Regardless of where the student may be placed they should always have a pair in their stick bag.
- **Ear Plugs.** Drums are loud. Inside or outside, playing soft or loud...drums can damage your hearing. Please bring ear protection. The cheap disposable ones are more than enough.
- **Practice Pad.** Any pad is fine but we recommend getting one designed for marching. They provide better durability, more surface area and better stick response. During the Battery clinics we usually have more students than drums. To keep hands busy and students engaged we ask students bring pads so they can follow along when not on equipment.

Recommendations: 12" Vic Firth Heavy Hitter, 12" Evans RealFeel (Single or Double Sided) or 12" Offworld Invader (Any Verison).

Any major music store will carry at least one version of these pads. The best deals are typically found online at Amazon.com or Lonestarp Percussion.com

- **Water Bottle** – This is an athletic activity and when the weather is nice we will be outside potentially far from a water source. Please bring your own to stay hydrated.
- **Binder w/ Sheet Protectors** – Staying organized is key. You will be getting a lot of music and drill. To help keep it in good condition and from blowing away have a binder to keep it together.
- **Pencil** – We make a lot of adjustments through the year. Have a pencil handy.
- **Sun Screen** – We spend a lot of time outside. Bring a high SPF sun screen



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WHAT IS DRUMLINE

The Fall Drumline is the entire Percussion Section of the Fall Marching Band and is broken up into two major sections: The Battery and Pit.

The Drumlines main role in the Marching Band is to provide tempo and pulse for the rest of the band. With the additions of stationary percussion (Pit) and the implementation of electronics, the drumline now plays a huge role in the Music program as well.

The Battery is the on-field percussion that students carry and march with. This section is broken down into smaller sub-sections by instrument. Due to the higher physical and mental demand, students are placed in this section through an audition process.

The Pit is comprised of stationary percussion instruments that are the same instruments you would see during a concert (Mallet Keyboards, Timpani, and various Auxiliary Percussion.) Over the years the activity has evolved into using electronic components such as Synthesizers, Samplers and acoustic instrument amplification. There is no audition process involved with the pit and is open to anyone eligible. Those who do not audition for battery or do not make a battery spot will be placed in the pit.

It is important to understand that one section is not put in higher regard than another. Battery & Pit have equal impact and demand on them when it comes to their importance to the program. It is a common misconception that the Pit is a “demotion” and that is simply not the case.

DRUMLINE & MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS

From the start of the school year through October the Marching Band competes against other Marching Bands from Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. Competitions are held on weekends at various high schools in the Chicago area.

The Drumline also competes at Midwest Percussion Cooperative competitions (MPC). These are Percussion only events and are typically held at the same time and place as the Full Marching Band competitions.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT

Rehearsal attendance is mandatory. If there is a conflict Mr. Krause or Mr. Hagen need to be notified before the day of. Missing rehearsals will not only get you behind but may impact placement inside the percussion section. **If a student wants to audition for a battery spot they must be at the audition date.**

If a student has a conflict with that date they need to work with Percussion staff for an alternate date prior to the one on the schedule. Failure to do so may result in the student forfeiting their opportunity. We will do our best to work around any conflict when given proper notice.

REHEARSAL QUANTITY

Percussion has a very large variety when it comes to available instruments and techniques. There isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to percussion. Usually the exposure to this variety is kept to a minimum at the Middle School levels. Because of this plus the demand of the Marching Bands music program we need time to teach and build the various techniques that are required.

These rehearsals are not only meant to help introduce students to the new techniques & instruments but they are also meant to help get the section ready for the competitive season. We'll not only cover the basics but will begin to put together the music portion of our competitive program. Think of it as a sort of Spring Training.



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AUDITION PROCESS & PLACEMENT

The dates prior to Auditions are intended to introduce students the Battery Instruments and learn the basic fundamentals of moving and playing. It is encouraged that all students partake in these clinics. These dates are also prep for the battery auditions.

Battery Auditions will be held on the date listed on the schedule. Anyone interested in a spot in the battery must be in attendance on that day. If there is a conflict with that day the student(s) need to work with Staff to find an alternative date. Failure to do this may affect the student's chances of being placed in battery.

Battery spots are not guaranteed. WNHS has a finite amount of equipment and the amount we use varies based on many factors. Typically, we only use 3 - 4 Snares, 2 Tenors & 4 Bass Drums. Band size, available percussion students and student abilities will determine the final numbers.

The process will be done in a group setting. Individuals will be observed and critiqued by staff while playing with the rest of the group. At the end of the audition day, staff will sit down and discuss their observations and a final decision will be made the following day.

It is important to note that all spots are open. **No one is guaranteed a spot in the Battery** even if the student held a spot in the previous year.

The entire warm-up packet is open for the audition process. We will be working on these warm-ups prior to auditions so everyone has an understanding of the music and the techniques needed for the various instruments. There will also be some sight reading. So practice your reading skills.

Here are some tips & areas to work on as you prepare for auditions:

1. **FOCUS ON TECHNIQUE** – This includes grip but also mallet/stick stroke. Use a mirror to help you self-critique at home.
2. **STICK CONTROL/STICK HEIGHTS** – Work on defining your Taps vs. Accents. The definition between taps and accents should not only be heard but seen. Use that mirror again to help you. The more you do this the more it becomes muscle memory.
3. **USE A METRONOME** – This is often overlooked but is critical. Steady Tempo and Timing is the Drumline's key role in the Marching Band. There are free apps and a free online version of metronome that can be used in a pinch.
4. **LEARN IT SLOW** – Start learning exercises at slower tempos so you can breakdown the rhythms easier. This gives you time to understand how to breakdown the space between the notes as well. Remember, rhythms are the spaces between the notes.
5. **MEMORIZE** – Memorize the music. The more comfortable you are with the music the more you can focus on the nuances like stick heights, grip, etc... The sooner you memorize the sooner you can perfect it.

DON'T PRACTICE UNTIL YOU GET IT RIGHT. PRACTICE UNTIL YOU CAN'T GET IT WRONG.

COST

The cost of these clinics is nothing. This is part of your Marching Band tuition. There are no added costs for participating in these clinics



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Contact Information & Resources

STAFF

Director of Bands – Mr. Kent Krause; kent.krause@cusd200.org

Percussion Director – Anders Hagen; andersmhagen@gmail.com

Battery Caption – Mike Greco

Pit Caption – Stephen Utterback

BAND WEBSITE - www.wheatonnorthband.com

Events Calendar, forms and other resources can all be found on the website.

FACEBOOK – Search: Wheaton North Falcon Band and Band Parents

DROPBOX.COM – The Percussion section utilizes Dropbox.com to distribute and store music. Once you register for drumline you will receive an invite to the Dropbox. It is highly encouraged that students take advantage of this. It's the easiest and fastest way to get and replace any music that gets lost or damaged.





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APRIL			
Wednesday, April 06, 2016	Battery Clinics	6pm	9pm
Friday, April 08, 2016	Battery Clinics	6pm	9pm
Friday, April 15, 2016	Battery Clinics	6pm	9pm
Saturday, April 16, 2016	Battery Clinics	8am	12pm
Tuesday, April 26, 2016	Battery Clinics	6pm	9pm
Friday, April 29, 2016	BATTERY AUDITIONS	6pm	9pm
MAY			
Tuesday, May 10, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Friday, May 13, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Saturday, May 14, 2016	Battery & Pit	8am	12pm
Tuesday, May 24, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Friday, May 27, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
JUNE			
Tuesday, June 07, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Wednesday, June 15, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Monday, June 20, 2016	FULL BAND REHEARSAL	6pm	9pm
Friday, June 24, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Saturday, June 25, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Monday, June 27, 2016	FULL BAND REHEARSAL	6pm	9pm
JULY			
Monday, July 11, 2016	FULL BAND REHEARSAL	6pm	9pm
Thursday, July 14, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Monday, July 18, 2016	FULL BAND REHEARSAL	6pm	9pm
Thursday, July 21, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Saturday, July 23, 2016	Battery & Pit	8am	12pm
Monday, July 25, 2016	FULL BAND REHEARSAL	6pm	9pm
Thursday, July 28, 2016	Battery & Pit	6pm	9pm
Saturday, July 30, 2016	Battery & Pit	8am	12pm
AUGUST			
Monday, August 01, 2016	Band Camp (Full Band)	ALL DAY	
Tuesday, August 02, 2016	Band Camp (Full Band)	ALL DAY	
Wednesday, August 03, 2016	Band Camp (Full Band)	ALL DAY	
Thursday, August 04, 2016	Band Camp (Full Band)	ALL DAY	
Friday, August 05, 2016	Band Camp (Full Band)	ALL DAY	
Saturday, August 06, 2016	Band Camp (Full Band)	ALL DAY	

After Band Camp, the Drumline follows the Marching Band Calendar for rehearsals and competition. Please reference the band website for more details.

If there are known conflicts with any of these rehearsal dates (planned vacations, sports, work, etc...) please notify Staff as soon as possible. Please do not wait until the last minute and do not inform staff through another student. Contact us directly. We are more than willing to work around them when given proper notice.