

## **WELCOME!**

Welcome to your first year as a parent of a Greenwood Marching Woodmen! You and your student are now a member of an award-winning band with a history of excellence!

Marching band is a wonderful, challenging and rewarding experience for many families. The band members and families work very hard with exceptional dedication throughout the season. As a parent of a first time student, you will have many things to learn and remember. This handbook was put together in hopes of making your first year a little easier to navigate.

### **Reputation/History**

The Greenwood Marching Band (Class B) has maintained a tradition of excellence since 1975. The goal of the marching band each year is to participate in the ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) State competition held at Lucas Oil Stadium. The Marching Woodmen have qualified for State for 33 consecutive years as of 2015! Twelve of those years, they placed first, making them Class B state champions, **including their most recent championship in 2014!** In their state finals appearances since 2008 the band has won three times, been runner up five times and third once.

### **Bands/Guard**

All students who are enrolled in Marching Band, are members of the Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble, Percussion Class or Dance Performance and will receive a grade for these classes.

**Marching** – The Marching Band performs at football games and competes in contests from September through November. Marching band is co-curricular and students earn a grade.

**Irish Guard** – The flag and rifle corp who march with the Marching Band and perform in Winter Guard competitions. Students are admitted by audition. This is a class for which students receive a grade.

**Wind Ensemble** – One of two concert bands. Students are admitted to this band by audition. It is made of mainly upperclassmen. This is a class for which students receive a grade.

**Symphonic Band** – One of two concert bands. This band is made up of mainly freshmen and sophomores. This is a class for which students receive a grade.

**Jazz** – Students are admitted to this band by audition. This band performs at a variety of venues throughout the year. Instruments in Jazz Band include Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Bass Guitar, Rhythm Guitar, Rhythm Section and Piano. Jazz band is a class for which the students receive a grade.

**Pep** – Students volunteer for pep band. Any band member may play. Pep Band plays at home basketball games, for both boys and girls.

**Winter Percussion** – This group is made of up of percussion instruments. Students who do not play percussion instruments may try out for other roles in this ensemble. They perform at contests throughout the winter months, including a state competition.

**Winter Guard** – Students are admitted by audition. This group competes in contests during the winter months, including a state competition.

### **Commitment/Attendance**

- **Attendance** - Attendance is mandatory for every practice and every performance throughout the year. This is inclusive of all activities.
  
- **Appointments** - Please schedule appointments around these practices and performances.
  
- **Calendar/Schedule** - You will receive a calendar with every practice and performance scheduled for the entire school year. This includes marching band contests and practices, football games, concert band contests and practices, invitationals, and solo and ensemble contests.
  - o September, October, November – Marching Band Season – contests each Saturday.
  - o December – Christmas Concert
  - o January – Greenwood Solo and Ensemble Contest, All-State Auditions, Concert Band uniform fittings
  - o February, March – Winter Percussion and Winter Guard Season – contests each Saturday.
  - o April – ISSMA Large Organization contest (Symphonic Band)
  - o May – ISSMA State Qualifier (Wind Ensemble), Jazz Band Dinner Dance, ISSMA Concert Band State Finals (Wind Ensemble), Band Banquet, Commencement
  
- **Commitment** - During marching season, winter season and spring activities attendance and commitment are especially stressed. The marching show is a constant work in progress, with changes happening every week. Having even one student out at any time can disrupt the process.
  
- **Emergencies** - Emergencies and illness happen, and cannot be avoided at times, but for those flexible appointments and other flexible events, we ask that you work within the schedule.

### **Greenwood Band Parent Organization (GBPO)**

- **What** - An association of the parents of students who participate in Greenwood High School's various band and guard organizations.
  
- **Who** - These include Marching Band, Irish Guard, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Winter Guard and Winter Percussion Ensemble.

- **Purpose** -The purpose of the Band Parent Organization is to provide support and fund-raising activities for the band and guard members, adding an important dimension to their experience and education that they can cherish for the rest of their lives.
- **Volunteering** - There are numerous ways to volunteer and help out throughout the year, helping to keep costs down for the band. (See separate section for more information.)

### **Finances**

- **Fees** – Band fees are assessed for Marching Band, Winter Percussion, Irish Guard and Winter Guard and Fall Sports participants. This is commonplace among every band program in the state.

- **Fundraisers** - There are four “fair share” fundraisers that are held to help keep band fees down, one in the Fall and one in the Spring. Additional fundraisers include the Scrip Program and parking cars at the local Indy race tracks among many other. More information will be made available as opportunities come up.

- o **Fair Share** - Each student is designated a “fair share” amount that they are responsible for with two options:

- 1) sell the designated amount (or more) of the fair share
- 2) opt out of the fundraiser and pay the designated dollar amount

- If a student sells more than their designated fair share amount, they will receive credit for a portion of the extra items sold.
- Example: If the “fair share” amount is to sell 14 items, but the student sells 18, the student will receive credit for a portion of the additional 4 items sold.

- o **Band Account** - Each student will have an account where band fees, payments, and any credits earned are tracked. The treasurer sends out statements periodically to parents so you will be aware of any balances due or credits accumulated. You may carry over credits from one year to the next for band fees.

- **Additional opportunities** - There are additional opportunities through the year for parents and/or students to earn money for credit to your band account. Information is sent home with your student informing you of any upcoming events to work at and they are filled on a first come basis.

- **Payment** – Fees may be paid online at [ghsband.org](http://ghsband.org) or by check. All fees must be paid in full for students to receive any of their recognition awards.

### **Volunteer Opportunities**

- **Opportunities** - The band program has many opportunities to volunteer throughout the year. Volunteer opportunities are communicated through the GBPO newsletters and flyers send home with students.
- **Concession Stand** - Volunteers are needed for the concession stand during home football games, both JV and Varsity. The concession stand also needs volunteers for soccer and track events that happen in the football stadium. Please plan on volunteering on at least two events each semester.
- **Invitationals** - The GBPO hosts a marching band invitational in the fall and a winter guard invitational in the spring. These are educational events that also generate revenue necessary to operate our band and guard programs.
  - o An Invitational is a contest hosted by a specific school. Many schools from Indiana attend the band and guard Invitationals, which bring in revenue for the band and guard programs.

### **Marching Band**

**“Early is on time, on time is late, and late is unacceptable.”**

(Hint: This band mantra applies to all rehearsals and performances.)

#### **Rehearsal/Contest Schedule**

##### **June**

- Second week: full band rehearsal, M-F
- Students will learn music and marching fundamentals and techniques. The band directors will likely announce the theme of the show for that year during this week.
- Percussion and Guard have separate schedules which include additional practices throughout the summer and fall.

##### **July**

- Third full week: full band rehearsals in morning and afternoon
- Fourth full week: Band Camp! (See separate section)

#### **August – November (Rehearsals and Games)**

- **After school rehearsals** - Students meet after school every day until 4:40 for rehearsal. By the time instruments and props are put away, and personal items are retrieved, they are ready to leave around 4:45 or 4:50.

- **Water and Sunscreen** – VERY, VERY IMPORTANT: For each practice, PLEASE make sure your child has an adequate amount of water (usually a quart jug is good) and PLEASE make sure your child wears sunscreen (for summer AND after school practices). Many hours are spent in the sun.

- **Pick up** – After band practices, do not attempt to pick your child up at the curb.

- o Signs will be placed for no parking at the curb after practice.

- o Please park in the parking lot.

- o It is a very busy time (coming and going across the parking lot), so please be aware of safety measures put in place, heed the signs and go slowly.

- **Football Games** - The band will march at several home varsity football games in the fall (mandatory). On those nights, after school rehearsals are shortened. Students are released to get a bite to eat, then report back to school (usually between 5:00- 6:00).

### **SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER (CONTESTS)**

- **Saturdays** - Starting in September, Greenwood Marching Woodmen will have contests each Saturday. Typically, these are all day commitments.

- **Where** - Contests are held all over central Indiana. Usually contests are local, within an hour's drive. We do go to Evansville every other year for a regional contest (part of the process to qualify for state).

- **Schedule/Itinerary** - The contest schedule will be available at the end of the previous school year, though specific times/itinerary for each Saturday will be determined during the week of the contest. Information will be emailed and will also come home with the students. Be prepared for some early morning report times and late night dismissals.

- **Uniforms** – Each student will be issued a uniform. Dates for fittings will be announced.

- o **Box** - Uniforms are kept in a “box” which travels with the band. Uniforms never go home.

- o **Box Moms** – “Box Moms” help students get dressed into their uniforms at the venue (or at school prior to the performance) to ensure proper assembling of uniform. Students have the same Box Mom helping them throughout the year.

- o **Required clothing** - Students are required to wear a black shirt, black shorts and black socks under their uniform for each performance. They will be responsible for bringing those items and their shoes (purchased through the band department) to each performance.

o **Appearance** - There are very strict guidelines regarding appearance during competitions. Box Moms are responsible for each student assigned to their “box”. No additional jewelry (watches, necklaces, earrings, rings, etc.) or make-up is allowed. Hair is to be kept as a natural color and pulled up underneath the hat.

o **Changing area** - Box Moms are the only adults allowed in the changing area, please be respectful of the students privacy.

· **Travel for contests** – The band travels as a whole unit on school buses to each venue. Students are not allowed to ride with parents or separately. Box Moms and Pit Dads (see below) are chaperones for each trip.

### **Terms**

Your child will most likely talk about many parts of marching band, which will include new vocabulary/terms.

· **Charts** – These are the charts that mark your student’s individual spot(s) on the field where your child will march. Band members must have these charts with them at all times during practices. **Making multiple copies is suggested.** They are also available on Canvas for free.

· **Crayon** – A carpenter’s crayon you can get at a hardware store that students use to mark their spots on the field. It is helpful to keep charts and crayons together. One recommended brand (though not a required brand) is Irwin.

· **Playing test** - Given by section leaders at the request of the directors. Helps directors to make sure students know their music. These happen after practice. Usually your student will have advanced notice. It can take 15 – 30 minutes. Be prepared for your child to be dismissed later than usual on these days.

· **Section** – Your student’s individual instrument section.

· **Sectional** – A meeting with or among all members of a particular instrument group, led by the section leaders. Examples: meeting with section for breakfast before a contest (at school or a restaurant), a fun trip to bowling alley, movie night at a member’s house). These are not mandatory unless it is a practice session. However, attendance is strongly encouraged.

· **Movement** – The choreography of the show.

- **Blocks/Laps** – A last resort punishment for disruptive behavior or continually disregarding expectations – consists of the students participating in a marching fundamentals drill or a lap around the rehearsal after band practice. It can be given by band directors, drum majors, section leaders (and, rarely, other upperclassmen).
- **Show Shirts** – Show shirts (t-shirts and sweatshirts) with the show title are made available for optional purchase, usually close to the beginning of school.
- **Portraits and Show Buttons** – Each marching band and Irish Guard member is photographed in uniform with the option to purchase photo packages and/or buttons with your child’s photo. Parents and family members wear the buttons to contests and football games. All students are photographed. Purchases are optional.

### **People to know**

- **Band Directors** – Mr. John Morse, Mr. Steve Fletcher and Mr. Donald Kalugyer
- **“Mom” Knartzer** – Lisa Knartzer is the music department secretary and is a good resource for your questions.
- **Guard Instructor** – The instructor/director for the guard.
- **Drum Majors** – The student band members (usually juniors or seniors) who direct the band during the marching show. They are chosen through a try-out process.
- **Section Leader** – Upperclassmen students. The leader of each section whose job is to help the directors prepare music and guide the other members in the section. FYI, often communication happens through Facebook, if you want to consider that option to your child.
- **Box Mom/Guard Mom** – Moms who are responsible for the uniforms and help get band and guard members dressed for a performance. They travel with the band to every contest.
- **Pit Dads** – Dads who move the props and instruments on and off the field during a performance. They also build sets and props. They travel with the band to every contest.
- **Band Council** – The group of students who are leaders of the band, usually upperclassmen. They are elected into these positions.

## **Band Camp**

This is a week of **mandatory** intensive rehearsal. The students practice all day and in the evening at Greenwood High School, but will stay at a hotel in Indianapolis (near I-465 near Beech Grove) to spend four nights. The purpose is to provide focus and bonding time for students as they put together their show.

### **Details:**

- **Schedule** - On Monday of band camp week, the students report in early morning. They are dismissed from camp on Friday in the afternoon/early evening. Specific itinerary and expectations will be distributed the week before.
- **Roommates** - The students have roommates (3 or 4 to a room) with separate girls and boys floors. They are very carefully chaperoned with a specific, strict schedule and curfew.
- **Practice** - Practice during band camp week takes place at Greenwood High School – the band will travel by school bus to and from the hotel.
- **Meals** – All meals take place at the high school in the cafeteria. Some meals are prepared by the ladies in the cafeteria, and some are catered by local restaurants.
- **No contact** - Students are not allowed to contact family for this week – this is to allow for complete dedication, concentration and devotion to band.
- **Care packages** - You may send small care packages to students (instructions for this will be available the week before band camp).
- **Volunteers** - Parents have opportunities to volunteer during this week, during meals and practices. Typically parents of upperclassmen are given priority.
- **Chaperones** - Chaperones are “veteran” band parents who stay with the band at the hotel throughout the week.
- **Medical Information** – One or two nurses travel with the band all week and stay on site at the school and the hotel. Please turn in all medical forms before band camp.
- **Sunscreen** – PLEASE, PLEASE make sure your child has sunscreen. They will spend hours at a time in the sun.
- **Water** – For band camp, a tent is set up for students to have water breaks.



- **Cell phones** - No cell phones are allowed (iPods/Pads are allowed). Emergency numbers will be made available.
- **Theme days** – The band council plans fun activities throughout band camp week, which include theme days (Sectional shirt day, “twin” day, class color day, crazy day, etc.) Each of the sections will create or design a shirt to wear on a specific day during band camp. There is then a contest for the best section shirt (prices vary).
- **Please know:** For some students and parents, band camp can be a bit tough, especially for students not used to being away from home. Please prepare your students since no outside contact is allowed during band camp. This is a great opportunity for freshmen and new members to learn from the upperclassmen. Students enjoy band camp, and this will help them when school starts. They recognize faces and know they can ask for help from upperclassmen if they need it. It’s a very rewarding experience, something they will carry with them through the years and it is part of the Greenwood tradition. Please DO NOT show up at the high school or hotel to check in on your student. The nurses, chaperones and directors will make sure your students are taken care of and inform you in case there are any emergencies.

### **State Week**

- **Serenade** - The week before the State competition is a very special week, filled with tradition, starting with the morning after the Semi-State competition.
  - o **Time** - Traditionally, very early on Sunday morning after Semi-State (starting between 5-6 am), the entire band gathers at the school to caravan to each director’s home and “serenade” them, by playing the music from the show. But, shhhhhh, it is a “surprise” for the directors. :) It is loud, and it does wake the neighbors, but don’t worry, everyone expects it. This is an awesome and amazing start to the week before State.
- **Secret Pal** – During the week before State, the students participate in a Secret Pal activity.
  - o Each student who chooses to participate (this is NOT mandatory), will be assigned a Secret Pal.
  - o The Secret Pals get each other gifts all week with a bigger present and the reveal of their identity.
  - o More info will come home that week.
- **Pre-State Party** – The Pre-State cookout and pitch-in happens on the Thursday before State. This is a celebration for the students and families for a great year. More info will come home that week.

### **Band Trip**

- **When** – Every four years, the Greenwood Marching Woodmen take a trip to California to participate in the Hollywood Christmas Parade.
- **What** – This trip includes marching in the parade and sightseeing in the Los Angeles/Hollywood area.
- **Preparation** – Preparations for this trip begin one year before the trip is scheduled. The most recent trip was December 2013. The next scheduled trip will be December 2017, with preparation beginning in Fall 2016.
- **Awesome!** – This trip is an awesome, once-in-a-lifetime experience. Students (and parents) have an amazing time and make great memories.

### **End of Year Activities**

- **Band Banquet** – End of year celebration/dinner and recognition of seniors.
- **Jazz Band Dinner Dance** - Similar to Band Banquet
  - o Tickets are sold for each of the above events. Look for more information at the end of the school year.
- **Letter Jackets** - Fittings for letter jackets (optional) will happen in May. Students who complete a year with the marching band/Irish Guard are eligible for letter jackets providing they register and complete their second year.

### **Additional Information**

- **Souvenirs** - In addition to the photos, shirts and buttons, other souvenirs are available for sale, usually at football games.
- **Never yell** - **NEVER** yell out your individual student's name at any performance or recognize them individually in any way. It is distracting to the performers. There are great Greenwood fans that are very vocal but the band is cheered for as a group.
- **Be positive and polite** - Always be positive about other bands, schools, and performances. You never know who is sitting around you and we have a reputation to uphold.
- **Performance** - Students are not allowed to talk when they are in formation. Do not expect them to wave or speak back.
- **Tell others** - Make sure to share this information with family and friends that come to support the band.
- **Fan Section** – Parents and fans try to sit together in the stands at each performance.
- **Contest tickets** – Each contest venue will charge a fee to get into the contest.
- **After the contest** – Parents arrive back at the school before the buses get back after each contest to cheer for the students as they get off the bus.
- **Dismissal after contest** – The band gathers in the band room for final comments from the director. Families are welcome to attend. Students are formally dismissed by the band director and drum majors.

### **Resources**

Band Website: [www.ghsband.org](http://www.ghsband.org)

Facebook: @woodmenmusic AND search for Greenwood Marching Woodmen Past and Present

Twitter: @gmwig

Instagram: @greenwoodbandirishguard

Remind101: <https://www.remind.com/join/gmwig>

GBPO Officers and Chairpersons

Mentors/Upper classmen parent contacts