



Westlake High School Marching Thunder

To: All parents of prospective 9 -12th grade Band Students

From: Brek Mangelson, Director of Bands, Westlake High School

Re: 2014 Marching Thunder

Fresh off ANOTHER 4A State Championship it's already time to start preparing for another amazing marching season. Whether your student participated in the past or not we want them now! It is so much fun, but it does take a considerable amount of time and work. In this letter I would like to share with you some information about the marching band and explain the expectations, fees and schedule associated with participation in the band. This year is also a tour year. The band has been invited to represent the state of Utah as the official rep for the U.S.S. Utah in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade on December 7, 2014 in Hawaii. General information about the tour, the costs and the requirements are in this letter as well.

First off, Marching Band is not required. It is completely optional! It is entirely after school, but credit may be received for those who wish to register for the class and pay the associated class fee. Fundraisers will be limited and geared towards those that will be the most profitable. Information regarding this year's fundraisers, and how the profits will benefit your student, will be located on the fundraiser page of the website ASAP.

The practice schedule for the marching band season can be viewed on the calendar link at Thunderband.com. In summary, during the school year, marching band will now practice Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 3-6pm as well as Wednesday evenings from 5-9pm. Last year as well as two years ago the band practiced Thursday evenings. In an attempt to be equitable for all the students I have opted to change the evening this year and will do so every year so that it does not conflict with the same families each year, but rather rotates. In addition to these practices a required weekly sectional will take place on Monday afternoons from only 2-3pm.

The spring/summer schedule can be found on the Thunderband website as well. Fundamental Camps will begin in May and are required for all marching band members. Weekday practices begin in May as well. We have two full weeks in the summer where no official rehearsals will take place, one in June as well as in July. Summer practices are essential as they provide opportunities for us to prepare for the city parades we march in culminating in our performance at the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade in December. Parades and practices throughout the summer are required but absences may be requested according to the guidelines in the marching band contract. Please do whatever you can to be at most, if not all, of the practices and parades in the summer.

Important Dates for Camps/Clinics:

UMEA State Marching Band Camp- May 31st
Pre-Season Camps- May 10th and 17th
Color Guard and Drumline Camp- July 21-26
Pre-Game Camp- July 28th- August 1st
Band Camp- August 4th- 8th
Cleaning Camp- September 13th

The band is scheduled to perform and/or compete in The Weber Review at WSU; The Bridgerland Competition at USU; The Rocky Mountain Competition at BYU; The Nebo Tournament of Bands at Payson HS; The Mt. Timpanogos Competition in Pleasant Grove; The Wasatch Front Marching Invitational at Harriman HS; The UMEA State Marching Band Competition in St George and the Bands of America Regional Finals in St. George.

Each year to start off the season we have a "Step-Off" meeting for all the students and their parents. This meeting is extremely important so please do whatever you can to be there. This year it is scheduled for Wednesday April 23th at 7pm.

Next I will explain the costs that are associated with participating in the marching band. Like many other programs, the costs of buses, trips, competitions, uniforms, instruments, equipment, staff, food, etc. amount to tens of thousands of dollars. This year we will have over a six-figure budget. The anticipated cost this year again is \$725 per student. This includes all expenses for the summer and fall seasons as well as the St. George trip for the state championships and Bands of America Regional Finals, but NOT the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade trip to Hawaii. The only other fees involved would be if your son/daughter is new and needs to purchase the black marching shoes (\$35) and polo shirt (\$35) or if a replacement/different size is needed. The shoes need to be the same brand and design for all the students and we want the cheapest price, so we will order them for you in bulk in the spring. Measuring and sizing for these items will take place at the Step-Off meeting in April. Students playing a school marching instrument will still need to pay a different \$70 rental fee from the district.

The trip to HI for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade will take place December 4-9, 2014. The ground package for the trip is around \$859. The estimated cost of the flight is approximately \$500-\$700. The district school board will officially vote on the trip in April. If approved, payments for the trip will begin immediately so start saving now. The trip will need to be paid for in full by October 1, 2014. Additional information about the tour, how to make payments and when will be made available ASAP. Marching band students and their families will all be invited to travel with the band, but only students 9-12 may march in the parade. Summer attendance at rehearsals and parades, practices and performances for pregame, and practices in November for the Pearl Harbor Parade are all requirements to be eligible to travel with the band to HI. Involvement however in the field show band for the competition season is not. All are invited however to "opt. in" for the field show season.

So, how can your student join? It's easy! First, **fill out the marching band contract and medical form** that has been given to your son or daughter by their band teacher. **Pay** to the finance office at Westlake H.S. **a \$100 deposit (NOT THE JR. HIGHS!)** and staple a copy of the receipt to the contract and medical form. Turn these into your band teacher. The deadline for this contract and deposit is **February 7th** to enroll your student in marching band. After that, all remaining basic fees need to be paid by **Friday, July 11th**. **Any students who have not paid their fees in total by this date will be dropped from the field show season or may be made an alternate. Those students wishing to be in the field show should also have their music passed off by this deadline.** We need to have firm drill numbers to write our show so please begin budgeting immediately to make sure you can meet this deadline. **Also please understand that the deposit is non refundable. All all remaining band fees are also non refundable after the contract is signed and turned in unless written notice is given to Mr. Mangelson before July 11th deadline.** Balancing and managing the marching band budget is impossible if it remains volatile with adds and drops after deposits and contracts are received. Thank you for your support in adhering to these payment deadlines and policies.

We hope you will all take this opportunity to have your students participate in the marching band.

Respectfully,

Brek Mangelson
Director of Bands, Westlake High School