

2024-2025 West Craven High School Marching Eagle Handbook



Aaryn Torrance - Assistant Director

ENSEMBLES OF THE WEST CRAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

WCHS Marching Eagles (Fall Semester)

The Marching Eagles are the most visible ensemble of our organization. Whether they are performing at Pep Rallies, Football Games, Parades, or Competitions, our marching band is the visual and musical ambassador of West Craven High School.

WCHS Concert Band Beginner (Fall Semester)

The Beginner Concert Band is geared towards students who have never played an instrument before, or may have been in a band before, but need to brush up on the fundamentals of playing. This class is designed for the beginner student to learn the foundations of playing and reading music on a specific instrument.

WCHS Concert Band (Spring Semester)

Because the marching band performs so often in public, concert season seems “forgotten”. This is far from being true. Concert season is the time when the majority of musical training takes place. The Concert band receives a performance rating during the North Carolina Music Performance Assessment, which is considered by many as the basis for evaluating the entire band program. Concert Band is an ensemble designed to perform Grade IV or V music, and is used to develop students musicianship

WCHS Winter Guard (Winter Season)

Similarly, the Winter Guard continues to improve on skills specific to their activity (flags, rifles, etc.), during the spring semester.

The Winter Guard is an after school program that meets on Tuesday and Thursdays from December to April. The Winter Guard is a competitive group that is a part of the Atlantic Indoor Association.

WCHS Indoor Percussion (Winter Season)

Similar to the Winter Guard, the Indoor Percussion continues to improve on skills specific to their activity (battery percussion, mallets) during the spring semester. The Indoor Percussion is an after school program that meets on Tuesday and Thursdays from December to April. The Indoor Percussion is a competitive group that is a part of the Atlantic Indoor Association. It is also open to any band student regardless of primary instrument.

WCHS Marching Eagles 2024-2025 Season

Summer Camps

Summer Camps:

Summer camps are a necessary and important part of the process, as we prepare for our performance schedule in the Fall. Each facet of the Marching Eagles (Winds, Percussion, and Color Guard) will hold separate camps throughout the summer, as well as a full marching band camp in August.

Wind Camps (Woodwind and Brass):

Wind Camps take place the week of July 22- 26 (9am-4pm). This camp allows our brass and woodwind students the opportunity to focus on basic fundamentals of sound, including warm up routines for the marching band season. Attendance is required for all brass and woodwind students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the band directors, as soon as possible.

Percussion Camp (Battery and Front Ensemble):

Percussion camp takes place the week of July 22 - 26 (9am-4pm). Percussionists work on individual technique and endurance needed throughout the season. Attendance is mandatory for all percussion students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the directors as soon as possible.

Color guard Camp :

Color guard camp takes place the week of July 22 - July 26 (9am-4pm). Color guard students will work on individual equipment and dance technique needed for performance throughout the season. Attendance is required for all color guard students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the directors as soon as possible.

Full Ensemble Marching Band Camp (all winds, percussion and color guard)

Full ensemble band camp (July 29 to August 2) is one of the most important weeks of the entire marching band season.

Attendance is an absolute must for all participating students. With the help of additional staff, students will be able to give a concentrated effort as they learn a good amount of the competition show in one week's time.

Everyone will rehearse from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of band camp. Lunch is provided by the WCHS Band Boosters and will occur from 12:00-1:00 each day which is included in the Marching Band fees.

Due to the heat and vital rehearsals during this time, the following items are required for all Summer Camps:

- § lots of patience with a good, positive attitude
- § three-ringed binder with plastic sheet protectors for all music and pencil
- § large personal water cooler - with name written in permanent marker.
- § tennis shoes with socks, light-weight clothing, rain wear, sunglasses and hat
- § sun block, lip balm, bug spray/lotion

School Year Activities

After School Rehearsals for the WCHS Marching Eagles are held on Tuesday and Thursday, whenever school is in session throughout August, September, and October. There is a direct link between the amount of quality practice and the success of the band. Attendance at after school rehearsals is a must. Open communication is the key. The band director must be notified in advance of any absences. The 2024-2025 calendars are provided on our website, outside of the band office to allow parents and students the opportunity to coordinate personal schedules with the rehearsals.

Tuesday and Thursday rehearsals are **full ensemble** rehearsals, which run from 3:00-6:00. Our winds, percussion, and guard students learn how their unique elements influence the overall design (music and drill) of the show.

School Performances are a vital facet of the Marching Eagles. All members of the band must attend all home football games, parades, as well as other scheduled events. In the event a student must miss a performance, communication with the director is mandatory and it should be done, when possible, in a timely manner.

Competition Performances are an important evaluation tool for the Marching Eagles. These performances reinforce the belief that the process is just as important, or even more important, than the final results. A complete itinerary will be sent home with the band students each Monday of the week of the trip. Below is a listing of the competition schedule of the Marching Eagles for 2019:

- § September 28, 2024 – West Craven HS (Vanceboro)
- § October 5, 2024 - Northside HS (Jacksonville)
- § **October 12, 2024 - Off Weekend (Mumfest)**
- § October 19, 2024 - Pasquotank HS (Elizabeth City)
- § October 26, 2024 – Swansboro HS (Swansboro)
- § November 2, 2024 – Crystal Coast Band Classic (Havelock)

Appearance in Uniform

The Marching Eagle uniform is a symbol of pride for the band. Out of respect for our community, WCHS, and the Marching Eagles; all students will follow the same guidelines for appearance while in uniform. Each band member will be instructed on how to wear and care for your uniform.

Summer uniforms are worn often during the first few football games at the beginning of school. The Summer uniform consists of a band shirt, khaki/tan colored above the knee length shorts, white socks and tennis shoes.

Uniform Checklist:

- ü Hair up in a bun on the top, center of your head.
- ü All jewelry removed. You may wear posts in place of body piercings (nose, ear, etc.).
- ü Marching Eagle T-Shirt and appropriate athletic shorts for changing in and out of uniform
- ü Tall Black Socks
- ü Gloves
- ü Shoes (All rising freshman and color guard members will have a pair of shoes provided for them. Returning marchers, if you have lost or need a new pair of shoes, a fee of \$35.00 will be added to your band fee to purchase shoes)

Please follow these simple rules when wearing band uniforms.

- § Never eat or drink while in uniform (except Water)
- § Uniforms must be worn zipped and fastened completely, unless instructed to wear “halves” (jackets off) by a director. The straps to the bibbed pants should ALWAYS be up across the shoulders.
- § Do not remove any of the uniform until you are told to do so by a director.
- § You may not wear any other type of cap or sunglasses while in uniform.
- § There is never ever any running allowed while in uniform. We must maintain a “classic look” at all times.
- § Refrain from shouting, yelling or talking loudly while in uniform except when cheering for our athletic teams. No profanity is ever allowed!
- § No piercings other than small studs in ears.
- § No “out of the ordinary” hair color.

Band Fees

The Marching Band is a self funded activity that does not get much financial assistance from the county. Therefore, we have to charge a fee and fundraise in order to have a successful marching band program. This year the fees for marching band are \$375.00. We understand that this is a large sum of money, however when compared to surrounding high schools, this is the lowest band fee out of them. Band fees help pay for several things that the band needs. For example: music, drill design, color guard costumes, color guard flags, color guard choreography, instructors during band camp and throughout the season, competition registration fees, activity bus usage, and many other items associated with the day to day operations of the marching band. In order to help pay the fees in a timely manner parents may use the following payment schedule.

1. First Payment \$100.00 Due by Monday July 22, 2024
2. Second Payment: \$75.00 Due by Friday September 6, 2024
3. Third Payment: \$100.00 Due by Friday October 4, 2024
4. Final Payment: \$100.00 Due by Friday November 1, 2024

ALL band fees must be paid off by **Friday November 1**. We are offering a **15% discount** if your band fees are paid off by **Friday August 2nd**. This will reduce the band fees to **\$318.75**. Again in order to receive the discount, all fees must be paid off by Friday August 2nd, otherwise all band fees must be paid in full by Friday November 1. If you need any help or have a question pertaining to band fees please email the Booster Treasurers at wc.band.treasurer@gmail.com, and they will be happy to assist you in setting up a different payment plan or other financial assistance. There are several ways to pay for your band fees. Checks can be made out to West Craven Band Boosters. Check must be presented to a band director, or Booster treasurer for a receipt, and then placed in the gold box in the band office door. You can also visit the band website (www.westcravenband.com) and pay using the pay band fees link that can be found at the top of the homepage.

As the booster organization is a non-profit organization, we must pay our bills in a professional and timely manner. It is important you pay your fees by the dates listed to provide the needed cash flow necessary for us to conduct our affairs. If at any time you experience difficulty meeting the payment schedule please contact one of the Booster Treasurers at wc.band.treasurer@gmail.com or 252-244-3206 (band office). It is very important to have communication between the parent and the band boosters regarding payment. We will work with you on a payment schedule other than listed above if that would make it easier.

GUIDELINES FOR GRADES AND CONDUCT

Grades:

Students will be regularly evaluated on material that is important to achieve our overall goal of success. The great thing about the band is that we are accepting of everyone, regardless of his or her musical ability.

- § Daily Participation Grades (30%) - Participation grades reflect the student's attendance and level of preparedness for rehearsal (materials and skills). Points will be deducted for not adhering to these components.
- § Performance Participation Grades (30%) – Students are expected to be at all performances. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero for that performance grade. Again, communication with the directors is the key.
- § Test Grades (40%) - Performance evaluations of the music or other assigned materials. Students are allowed multiple opportunities to gain full credit on a check off. It is our desire and expectation for students to challenge themselves until they have reached the highest grade of 100.

Conduct:

Our level of performance, whether it is at a football game, competition, or concert, is a direct reflection of our rehearsal efforts. A band's performance can only be as good as the best rehearsal. Band members are expected to respect rehearsal time and use it wisely. Everyone must remember that you are not only representing our band, but also our school system, our community, and your family. As goodwill ambassadors for Craven County, we have an awesome responsibility to conduct ourselves in only the best possible way.

The band will perform at all home **football games** and other athletic events as designated by the director. One function of the band is to demonstrate school spirit at school events, which is done both musically and vocally.

- § Remain in your designated area and be aware of what is going on down front.
- § There will be no food or drinks (other than water) allowed in the area.
- § Be prepared to react quickly and immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- § Stand cheers will not be played unless rehearsed and approved by a director.
- § Absolutely no gum chewing or inappropriate language by anyone.
- § All band members are expected to remain for the entire football game.
- § Non-uniformed guests will not be allowed to sit in the band section due to space limitations.

Out of town **trips** offer the students an opportunity to compare themselves with bands from other areas and regions. The primary concern of the student should be to represent the school in the very highest degree.

- § Listening devices are only permitted on the buses if headphones are used.
- § Food or drinks will only be allowed as long as everyone uses the trash bags that will be located on each bus.
- § Only use the front, side door of the bus.

Do not question the chaperones and a kind "thank-you" will go a long way. Remember it is awfully difficult to make all 100+ of us happy at the same time when everyone is both mentally and physically exhausted. Chaperones have specific instructions from the director as to the rules each band member will follow as we travel.

All band members are required to ride the bus to the band performances and competitions. If parents drive separately and wish for their child to return home with them in their private vehicle, a permission slip, obtained from the assistant director and signed by a parent, must be presented to the assistant director before departing West Craven High School.

PARENT INFORMATION

WCHS Band Boosters

Much of what we do would not be possible without your support and the tremendous work by the band boosters! All parents are automatically members of the Band Boosters. This organization is not one that makes policy, disciplines students, or decides expenditures. Those decisions are the role of the band directors, school principal and the school system's administration.

Communication:

Communication is vital to the success of the WCHS Band. There are several different resources for up to date communication: the WCHS Band website, WCHS Band Facebook Page, and Letter from the Director.

§ **Website:** The most current band information can be found on our band website at: www.westcravenband.com. The calendar found on the website can sync with your digital calendar.

§ **Facebook:** We have two separate pages you can join on Facebook. This will be the quickest way to communicate with all of our band members, their families, boosters, and band/guard alumni. We encourage you to "like" this page to stay in touch with the very latest updates in the West Craven Band World!

West Craven High School Marching Band – Current Band Members and Families
West Craven Band – Alumni Page

§ **Letter from the Director:** Our goal is to collect email addresses of all band boosters and supporters so that we can communicate electronically! Letter from the Director goes out every Sunday.

Trips:

Parents are also encouraged to attend the competitions as the Marching Eagles have the opportunity to perform before thousands of people throughout the competition tour. Cheering sections are very important too! Band parents are asked to wear their Marching Eagles apparel and be nice to the band parents from other schools. Please do not promote poor sportsmanship in the event you do not agree with the judge's results. We must remember what we are teaching the band members through our example. We feel strongly that the process is as important as the end results. We feel it is more important to teach life skills while we rehearse and perform our music and routines.

All band members must ride to the event on the buses with the band to ensure that we all arrive at the same time. Following a band performance a parent may take their child from the event. Copies of this release form will be available from the assistant director on each trip we take. Bus check-outs cannot be done in advance and must be done in person only with Mrs. Torrance. This will ensure we have an accurate bus list so no student is accidentally left behind. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

We always need parent chaperones and volunteers on our trips. We ask that when you sign up to attend an event that you follow through on that commitment. Our directors are required to have a certain number of parents with them when the band travels. If a parent backs out at the last minute our boosters and directors end up scrambling to fill the vacated spot. Again this year, parents must pay in full the entire cost of the trip by the announced date. Failure to do so will forfeit your spot on the trip. In addition, parents who ride the bus will be expected to chaperone rooms and may be assigned other responsibilities. Parents not riding the bus will be responsible for making their own accommodations. The only exceptions will be those parents participating in the pit crew. Pending amount of badges received from competition site, chaperones riding the bus will receive a complimentary pass to get into the competition site.

Forms:

Health/Medical Release Form – provided at parent meeting in June.

Craven County School Board policies dictate that we have a completed health form on every band member participating. These forms will travel with the band and will be accessible if and when we need them for any reason. **Please fill out the loose copy of this form and return it to the directors before July 22, 2024.** Be sure all insurance information is completed. **This must be returned before a band student can participate during the entire camps and 2024-2025 school year.**

Absence from Rehearsals or Performances

In the event that a student must be absent from a marching band event (rehearsal or performance) this sample form provides advance notice and necessary communication with the band directors. Copies of this form may be found inside the band room.

Student Pick-Up Form

Parents wishing to take their child home after a performance must have this form filled out and presented to the assistant director before taking your child away from the contest site. This sample copy may be used to make additional copies. Copies of this form will also be made available on each bus.

Student Absence Form

This form will also be available in the band room and on the website!

This form must be completed and turned in at least one week in advance of any anticipated absence by a band student excluding extreme emergencies.

Student Name _____ Today's Date _____

Date of anticipated absence _____

Reason for Absence _____

"Personal Illness" and "Death in the Family" are the only excused absences.

Parent Signature _____ Student Signature _____

All forms must be submitted to Mrs. Torrance.

Director's Signature _____ Date _____ Date: ____

Student Pick-Up Form

All band members must ride to the event on the buses with the band to ensure that we all arrive at the same time. Following the performance students can be released to a parent or authorized individual stated by the parent. Copies of this release form will be available for students in the band room as well as on our website. This will happen at the conclusion of the event we are attending and at the buses.

We will not do any sign out students in advance. Please do not ask for an exception to this. If a parent is requesting that their child be released to the supervision of someone else, that is permissible. However, the parent must submit a written letter giving the name of the individual that will be signing out their child. The written request must be specific in the nature of containing the actual name of the individual(s) they are leaving with. If this document is not provided to accompany this form, your child will not be permitted to be released with anyone. This procedure follows the field trip dismissal policies as stated in Section 900 of the Craven County Schools Field Trip Policy under article 3. We will follow this procedure and not deviate from it. Please do your part and follow this as there will not be exceptions to this procedure.

I ask to assume the responsibility of the following student at the conclusion of the band performance:

Name _____ on (date) _____

In consideration of being allowed to transport the student stated above:

1. Assumes all the foregoing risk and accepts personal responsibility for damages following injury, permanent disability, or death after release by school officials.
2. Releases, waives, discharges, and covenants not to sue Craven County Board of Education, its affiliated schools, clubs, their respective

Name of responsible party – Printed

Signature of responsible party

Date

Directors Signature

Date

West Craven High School

Marching Eagle Handbook Agreement

I have read the 2024-2025 West Craven High School Band hand book in its entirety. I acknowledge that all the information given in the handbook is understood and that I will be held accountable to its standards and principles. Furthermore, I understand that failure to abide by the rules, procedures, and expectations of the West Craven Band Program can ultimately result in my/ or my child's removal from the band program. By signing in the designated area below, I am committing myself to West Craven High School band program, and will follow the guidelines set before me stated by the director's.

As a member of the West Craven Marching Band I also acknowledge that by signing below, I am making a commitment, not only to myself, but to the other members of the marching band. My fellow members will depend on me to attend all rehearsals and performances, be prepared for rehearsal, and meet all the other obligations set forth by the band directors. I understand that if I am unable to or choose to work or act in a contrary manner to the standards and expectations set forth by the band directors, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken which may include my being removed from the team.

Print Student Name: _____

Print Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Sign Student Name: _____

Sign Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____