

## TIPS FOR NEW FAMILIES

Marching band parents are a friendly group who passionately support their kids' choice to be a part of this NFHS organization. We want to officially welcome you to marching band! Below are a few tips:

### NFHS Music Program Website

- Our website is [www.nfhsmusic.org](http://www.nfhsmusic.org). There you can find information about marching band as well as all of our other music programs.
- Sign up on the website to receive notifications about various music programs. We send out emails to communicate with parents and students.

### Spring Marching Band & the Memorial Day Parade and Picnic

- Spring Marching Band is a great opportunity for your student to see if he/she likes marching and playing for a crowd. The experience culminates with the students marching in the Farmington Memorial Day Parade. See the *Spring Marching Band Information* form for rehearsal information and further details.
- For spring marching band practice, drop off and pick up your student from the band room, located at the back northwest corner of the school. The door to the band room will be open during practices.
- **The Memorial Day Parade:** New spring marching band students will not have an official marching band uniform for the parade. They will receive a NFHS band T-shirt which they should wear with black shorts and **comfortable** shoes.
  - You are responsible for transporting your student and his/her instrument to the starting point (parking lot of Farmington High School on Shiawassee) then back to NFHS after the parade. Bring a chair to the parade so you can be comfortable while waiting.
  - PLEASE stay for the picnic. All families are invited to the Memorial Day picnic, held at NFHS band room, immediately following the parade.

### Band Camp

- Make sure you review the list of what to pack for band camp. Students will not have any opportunity to purchase items they have forgotten. Err on the side of over-packing so as not to forget anything.
- Camp does not provide bedding, towels, or extra toothbrushes. (Beds are simple wooden bunk beds with mattresses.)
- Cell phone reception is poor and time for students to talk on the phone is limited. Don't worry if you don't hear from your student. The parent chaperones at camp are excellent and will take great care of your student. If there is anything you need to know, the chaperones will call you.
- We always need camp chaperones. You can come for a full or half week (Sunday-Wednesday or Wednesday-Saturday). No experience required. Training sessions include food and wine!!
- If you have an emergency, the number at the camp is: 269-795-9163 or 1-888-909-2267 (ask for Camp Manitou-Lin); after 8pm call 269-795-9163 ext. 9253.
- On the performance day (Saturday) bring a folding chair to enjoy the performance in comfort (sunscreen and a hat are a good idea as well).

### **Game Days**

- Games are **rarely** canceled because of weather. If it's raining, snowing, sleeting or anything short of severe thunderstorms or tornado warnings, there will be a game. The kids are assigned heavy NFHS raincoats which they will wear if needed. Parents are on their own for protection from the elements.
- We coordinate a potluck tailgate at home games (with the exception of Homecoming) typically in the school cafeteria. Tailgating is a great camaraderie-building activity for marching band students. Parents and family members are invited to participate.
- Students get dressed at NFHS before the game. All students should wear the following on game day:
  - Black athletic shorts, or long underwear in cold weather. No pants with pockets and NO JEANS.
  - Crew or taller **black** socks (except flags) and marching band shoes.
  - White marching band T-shirt or, in cold weather, white long underwear shirt. Important: Students remove their uniform jacket during the game while in the bleachers. A sweatshirt or jacket may be taken to the field on the rack or by a parent.
  - **Raincoats** are kept at home. PLEASE have your student bring it on game day if inclement weather is forecasted. They should take it back home at the end of the game. (We do not have space to store them.) Raincoats should be allowed to **air dry** with plenty of circulation if wet!
- The marching band members sit at the far end of the bleachers. Parents tend to sit in the section just before the marching band section.
- The bleachers are made of metal and can be cold, especially when the sun goes down. Bring a seat cushion, warm jacket, gloves, blanket, anything to keep you warm and comfortable.
- We will provide the kids with a snack during the game.

### **TAG Days**

- TAG Days are a district-wide band fundraiser. This is not a marching band specific event but marching band students are expected to participate fully to earn their varsity letter.
- This event requires a large number of volunteers. Please consider helping on one of the many committees to make this event a success. A great deal of the band booster budget is generated from this event.
- If you have questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Tanya Reynolds at [tatianareynolds@gmail.com](mailto:tatianareynolds@gmail.com).

### **Banquet / Varsity Jackets**

- A marching band banquet is held in the fall after the season is complete. The date for the banquet will be communicated to all fall marching band students. This is an opportunity for the kids to dress up and celebrate their season.
- Marching band students are eligible for a varsity letter, which are presented at the banquet. Before the banquet, you will be given an opportunity to purchase a varsity jacket. This is an optional purchase and is not included in the band program or uniform fees.