

# Marching Millionaires



# Parent Handbook 2021

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# ***Welcome!***

This information has been compiled so parents can know what to expect during the preseason and competitive season of marching band.

Being a member of the Williamsport Area High School Marching Band Program will bring your son or daughter an interesting, and fulfilling educational experience. They will work hard and experience many triumphs and challenges; two things that will prepare them for life after high school. This handbook is designed to answer important questions about time management, time commitment, band fees and how to pay for them, fundraising, travel, practice, performances and uniforms. It will also give you some “insider” information on what it takes to be a band student, and a band parent.

The Marching Millionaires succeed because we believe we have the right combination of expectations for our students, staff and parents. Our ultimate goal is to produce the best opportunities for musical and personal growth through successful performances. We are excited to have you join us on our journey!

## **Membership**

Students prepare for an opportunity to perform by attending practices and demonstrating skills necessary to perform as Marching Millionaires. A formal audition will take place in each section before the end of the current school year. The audition will include demonstrating skills learned during spring practices.

Students who attend practices and work on the skills taught at practice should ultimately be offered a performance spot in the group. Occasionally, due to poor attendance, immature work ethic, or lack of skill, a student may be denied a performance spot or offered a “probationary” spot. Parents are welcome at all practices and are encouraged to speak with staff members at any time to get a report on how their child is progressing.

Students who earn performance spots are expected to commit to EVERY performance on the schedule. We do not use a “bench”. Every student is important to the performance success of the entire group.

# Spring and Summer Practice Schedule

This is the time we dedicate to learning the music and marching for our fall competition show. Practice is mandatory – unless you are away on a family vacation or have a school event conflict like a concert, game or meet. A note, email or text is required if an absence occurs.

**Band Camps are Required.**

## Pre-Season Practices

**Percussion - Wednesdays in March, April & May from 6pm – 8pm**

**Winds and Guard - Thursdays in March, April & May from 6pm – 8pm**

### Everyone:

Thursday, June 3 from 6pm – 8pm

Thursday, June 10 – NO practice (Graduation)

Thursday, June 17 from 6pm – 9pm

**T,W,Th – June 22,23,24 – Music/Equipment Camp 6pm – 9pm at WAHS**

Thursday, July 1 from 6pm – 9pm

Thursday, July 8 from 6pm – 9pm

Thursday, July 15 from 6pm – 9pm

Thursday, July 22 from 6pm – 9pm

**M,T,W,Th,F, July 26 – 30 Main Band Camp from 1pm - 9pm at WAHS**

Thursday, August 5 from 6pm – 9pm

Thursday, August 12 from 6pm – 9pm

**M,T,W – August 16,17,18 – Final Band Camp 1pm – 9pm at WAHS**

Thursday, August 26 from 6pm – 9pm

## Marching Band Season

### **Band Camp**

**What is Band Camp?** Band camp is the name given to the intense time the marching band puts together all of the marching drill, music, choreography and equipment work that makes our show so amazing. The name came from many years ago when sports teams and bands would go off campus to a “camp” or college campus. We no longer leave campus for band camp, since it is so cost prohibitive, but we still call it band camp....

### Information about Band Camp:

**Attendance is mandatory.**

**Items students should have with them:** pencil, dot book (small 3x5 cardstock notebook on a string that students write their marching coordinates in and use at

every rehearsal for the rest of the season), water cooler, sun screen, shorts and a t-shirt, ball cap or hat, sun glasses, snack food, packed dinner.

## **Fall Rehearsal Schedule**

When school starts:

Tuesday 3pm – 6pm **Winds**; 5pm – 8pm **Guard**

Wednesday 6pm – 9pm **Percussion**

Thursday – **Full Ensemble (Everyone)** 6pm – 9pm

Fridays after school until 5pm when there is no football game.

On home football game days, after school until 4:30, dinner (bring a dinner or money for the concession stand) and then the game.

Away football games – depart immediately following school.

## **Fall Performance Schedule**

The Marching Millionaire performance schedule is given to students in the late spring or early summer. The band performs at every home football game, some away football games, local parades, and competitions each Saturday in September, October and the first week of November. We also perform at the Downtown Holiday Parade on the last Friday before Thanksgiving. Attendance at ALL performances is mandatory. We do not have a bench. When a student commits to being a Marching Millionaire, they are committing to every performance.

## Marching Millionaires 2021 Performance Schedule - Tentative

<b>Wednesday, August 18</b>	<b>Little League World Series Parade</b>
<b>Thursday, August 26</b>	<b>Downtown Williamsport 6pm Parent Night Performance at WAHS</b>
<b>Friday, September 10</b>	<b>Home Football Game vs. Mifflin County HS</b>
<b>Saturday, September 11</b>	<b>Finish the Show – practice from 9am – 3pm</b>
<b>Friday, September 17</b>	<b>Home Football vs. Central Mountain HS</b>
<b>Saturday, September 18</b>	<b>TOB Competition at Shamokin HS</b>
<b>Friday, September 24</b>	<b>Away Football at Berwick Area HS</b>
<b>Saturday, September 25</b>	<b>TOB Competition at Southern Tioga HS</b>
<b>Friday, October 1</b>	<b>Home Football vs. Dallas Area HS</b>
<b>Saturday, October 2</b>	<b>TOB Competition at West Shore HS</b>
<b>Saturday, October 9</b>	<b>TOB Competition at Williamsport Area HS This is also the County Band Exhibition</b>
<b>Friday, October 15</b>	<b>Home Football vs. Wyoming Valley West HS (Homecoming)</b>
<b>Saturday, October 16</b>	<b>TOB Competition at Loyalsock Township HS</b>
<b>Friday, October 22</b>	<b>Away Football at Wilkes-barre Area HS</b>
<b>Saturday, October 23</b>	<b>Mummer's Parade in South Williamsport TOB Region 4 Championships at Williamsport</b>
<b>Friday, October 29</b>	<b>Home Football vs. Hazleton Area HS (Senior Night)</b>
<b>Saturday, October 30</b>	<b>TOB Super Regional at ?</b>
<b>Friday, November 5</b>	<b>Playoff Game #1 (Home or Away)</b>
<b>Saturday, November 6</b>	<b>ACC Practice 9am – 3pm</b>
<b>Sunday, November 7</b>	<b>ACC Championships at Hershey Stadium ?</b>
<b>Friday, November 12</b>	<b>Playoff Game #2 (Home or Away)</b>
<b>Saturday, November 20</b>	<b>Downtown Holiday Parade 6pm ?</b>
<b>Extended football schedule</b>	<b>Keep Friday evenings available through the Playoff Season</b>

## Home Football Games

(this may be adjusted based on COVID 19 protocols)

The following Rules apply to all Wind, Percussion, and Guard Members :

Arrive on time for warm up, dressed for the game and ready for the performance. Home game warm up time is 6:00pm. Warm up will be in front of the ATC building. All band members will meet in the band room prior to each game at 5:50pm.

Your pride is shown in your seriousness and excellence as you warm up and march to the football field. At the field, the competition band will perform their show, followed by pre-game for all players which will include The Alma Mater, The Star Spangled Banner, and On Wisconsin. These three pieces may be memorized or you may use a flip folder for your music. Students will then move to the stands for the start of the game.

After entering the stands, remove your hat and remain standing until asked to sit by a director. Students will sit in the stands within sections. Guard members will sit together.

The band will be performing in the stands during quarters one, two, and four. The third quarter is your break time. All instrumentalists must have music. If the visiting band does not come to the game, we may perform at half time.

During the first, second, and fourth quarters, students will remain in their sections and will keep uniforms on with the exception of the hat. Students may not unzip the jacket unless the director asks everyone to do so. No one may return to the band room. No one may change out of their uniform into street clothes. Occasionally, it will be very warm at a game, if the director allows band members to remove their jackets, a red, white, or black (school colors) shirt MUST be worn. Students who do not have an appropriate colored shirt must keep their jackets on.

At halftime, students will stand to listen to the performance of the visiting band. After that performance, students will be dismissed for break. All students will return to their seats after break and be ready to play when the clock reads zero seconds left in the third quarter. All students must stay for the entire game in order to receive full credit for the performance. Students who are not ready to play will not receive full credit for the performance. Students who leave the stadium without permission from the director will not receive full credit for the performance. Students who cannot follow directions, will not receive full credit for the performance.

When the weather gets colder, you may wear extra clothing under your uniform jacket. Long underwear is preferred. Never wear jeans under your

uniform pants. Guard members may wear a hoodie, jacket or coat over the uniform. No one will be permitted to return to the school to change. Plan ahead. Guard members will place their equipment against the fence on the track after your performance. Take your own equipment back to the school after the game ends. Pit members will return equipment to the HS during the fourth quarter.

After the game ends, we will return to the band room. Take all of your uniform parts and place them carefully in your garment bag and return your instrument to its' locker. Crease your pants prior to hanging them on the hanger. Keep the uniform bag unzipped if your uniform is damp. Keep the band room clean.

## **Time Management:**

Common concerns parents and students have that may keep them from participating in the marching band, especially during freshman year, have to do with time commitment and the transition to high school.

Most students who participate in marching band are Honors and AP students. Marching Band helps teach them to manage their time wisely. Data from student grades shows that marching band students predominately have higher grade point averages during the marching season than they do in the marking period after marching band ends each year.

Choosing not to participate in marching band because you wish to focus on academics may be right for you, but the overwhelming majority of student grades suggest participating in marching band may help organize a student's time management. Students who participate in Marching Band begin the school year with an instant connection to dozens of other students in grades 9 – 12. In fact, it is almost impossible to walk down a hall at WAHS without going past another Marching Millionaire. And, someone you know from marching band has had your Math, English, History and Science teacher. They can be valuable resources for studying/tutoring and advice about success in these classrooms.

Bottom line: our academic wall of fame in the high school hub is full of marching band members who are also National Honor Merit Finalists, Salutatorians, and Valedictorians. The Marching Millionaire Band is full of high achievers who gain better time management skills as a part of participating in marching band.

***Uniforms and performance wear:***

(This may be adjusted based on COVID 19 protocols)

Football Games and Competitions

Band Uniform parts consist of:

- Marching Band Shoes – (sometimes referred to as dinkles).
- Band Uniform Jacket
- Uniform Silver and White Shield
- Band Uniform Pants (bibs)
- T-shirt / Shorts to be worn under uniform for group changes. Students will change into and out of uniform in the Band Room and on buses.
- Shako (Hat) and Plume
- Gloves.
- Long Socks.

Color Guard uniforms – Uniform, socks, guard shoes, gloves.

## Financial Obligations

**Each student, with family support, is asked to provide the following financial commitments to the organization:**

\* Each student in Band and Color Guard must pay \$24.00 for a pair of shoes. Returning members may use shoes from last year or may buy a new pair. Shoe money is due June 17.

\* Each student in Band, including Color Guard members, must pay for or fundraise money for an alternate uniform that they will keep after the season ends. Uniform money is due June 17.

\* Each student is required to solicit a minimum of \$100.00 in patron ads or sponsors for the home show program. Patron ad and sponsor money is due August 26. If you choose not to collect money from sponsors or through patron ads, a buy-out option of \$100 is acceptable.

It is entirely possible, with diligence, through the solicitation of program ads and sponsors, to pay all of the above costs without spending any of your own money. When soliciting ads and sponsors, the first \$100.00 of money collected goes directly to the band association to be used for the multitude of expenses incurred throughout the marching season. After the first \$100.00, 10% of all money collected by each student may be used to pay for shoes, etc. For instance, after the first \$100.00, if a student collects \$240.00 more in patron ads or sponsors, that student's shoes are paid for.

Patron Ads and Sponsor forms are given to students at the first rehearsal in June.

**Recap of fees and due dates:**

Shoe order	\$24	June 17
Uniform Fee	\$100	June 17
Patron Ads / Sponsors	\$100	August 18

Checks should be made out to:

**WAHS Band Association**

When paying multiple fees with one check please be certain to include the name of each fee being paid in the note portion of the check.

i.e. “shoes and uniform” \$124.00

Please include the student’s name on the check on the memo line.

All forms and fees may be deposited in the BLACK BOX next to Mr. Kendall’s Office in the Band Room.

The “black box” is a thick metal lock box (think robin hood) bolted to the brick wall with an impressive lock.

## Student “Accounts”

“Student Accounts” is the term we use to describe the system our treasurer uses to keep track of fundraising done by students. There really isn’t an “account” for each student, but rather a spreadsheet with each student’s name and fundraising activity. It is the money earmarked for student use to help pay fees for shoes and uniform maintenance and occasionally for major trips. Fundraising (individual students selling items like our whoopee pie sale) is always a choice – we encourage you to participate, but it is not a requirement for membership in the marching band. By far, most of our operating costs are met by major fundraising events like the Summer Drum Corps Show and our concession stands in the high school stadium, all of which operate with your volunteer help, which is essential. Our concession stand is the lifeline of the marching band and we need every family to pitch in at least 2 times during track and football season.

Student “account” money can be accessed by writing or emailing a note to the treasurer, signed (or emailed) by a parent, asking for available money to be used toward a fee. A note might read: “Please use the money my daughter Suzie earned through sandwich sales to pay for her shoe order of \$24”, signed “Mrs. Smith”

The note should either be dropped in the Black Box next to Mr. Kendall’s Office or emailed to the treasurer [treasurer@marchingmillionaires.org](mailto:treasurer@marchingmillionaires.org).

## Band Parent Association

The Marching Millionaires enjoy the support of the Williamsport Area High School Band Parent Association. The Association raises funds to support high school band students through organized fundraising and concession sales at all WAHS stadium events and is a recognized 501c3 non-profit organization, able to accept tax-deductible donations. Parents and/or older family members are asked to give time in some way to be a part of the support system organized by the Band Parent Association. There are many ways to be involved, please take a look at the various committees and consider volunteering your time to support our kids.

The Band Association holds board meetings, usually on the Second Thursday of each month, in the high school band room. The meetings are open to members of the band parent association. To join, simply come to a meeting and pay the \$1 annual membership fee. Members can run for Board Member seats and vote in the election, held each year at the annual band banquet. Board members help organize the parent association to raise funds and support our high school band students.

The Band Association also maintains the [www.marchingmillionaires.org](http://www.marchingmillionaires.org) website. This is a great resource for band parents as it is regularly updated with all forms, documents, fundraiser info, and announcements that pertain to the marching band.

### **2021 Officers:**

President – Scott Hopton [president@marchingmillionaires.org](mailto:president@marchingmillionaires.org)

Vice President – Paula Holmes [vicepresident@marchingmillionaires.org](mailto:vicepresident@marchingmillionaires.org)

Treasurer – Andrew Sauers [treasurer@marchingmillionaires.org](mailto:treasurer@marchingmillionaires.org)

Recording Secretary - Cheryl Riley

Communication Secretary – Amber Rhone [secretary@marchingmillionaires.org](mailto:secretary@marchingmillionaires.org)

## Major Committees :

### *Banquet –*

*At the end of the fall, we get together to celebrate a fun and successful marching band season and to recognize those individuals - both students and adults - who helped throughout the season.*

### *Concession Stand Committee -*

*The Williamsport High School Band Association maintains and operates the home side concession stand within the stadium complex, which is open for varsity, junior varsity, 9th grade and middle school football games, plus other sporting events through the year such as track, as well as band competitions each fall. This committee is responsible for cleaning, maintaining and working at the concession stand. The chairman is responsible for concession operations.*

### *Chaperone, Pit Crew and Prop Movement Committee –*

*The chaperone committee includes all parents who wish to chaperone trips. Chaperones do not have to purchase tickets to get into an away competition. Chaperones support the pit crew to help the marching band get on and off the competition field as well as unload, assemble, disassemble, and reload props. The head chaperone – appointed by the board – is responsible for organizing chaperones for each trip and assigning positions (pit crew or prop movement) for each chaperone at each show.*

### *Finance Committee – Director, Treasurer, President*

*The Finance Committee is responsible for monitoring the financial health of the association. The committee is also responsible for preparing the books for annual audit. Finally, the committee will oversee the collection and disbursement of all monies in conjunction with the Treasurer, who is a permanent member of the committee.*

### *Home Show / Preview Show/ Chapter Championships/ Drum Corps Show Committee –*

*These are the competitions we host in our stadium. The Home Show Committee is responsible for organizing and running all competitions hosted at WAHS.*

### *Publicity Committee –*

*This committee is responsible for all publicity to the press, the radio, the school, and any information for the public address system at football games about the Association.*

*Communication Committee –*

*The Communication Committee passes information throughout the association using telephone calls, our website, e-mail, and social media like facebook. This committee maintains the email address or phone number lists that include each student and their parents or guardians. The Board Secretary is the committee chair.*

*Show Program Committee –*

*Prepares the program for the printer.*

*Competition Ticket Sales Committee –*

*This committee is responsible for selling the show tickets for away competitions. All money from sales of these tickets stays with our association. Tickets are sold each week in the parking lot where the band practices. If you purchase your ticket here, you do not need to purchase a ticket at the away competition.*

*Uniform Committee –*

*This committee is responsible for issuing and fitting the band personnel with their uniforms, authorizes any alterations, requests the replacement or addition of new uniforms and works with the band director to study and recommend the replacement of uniforms approximately every 10 years.*

*Ways and Means Committee (fundraising) –*

*This committee is responsible for receiving and reporting all fund raising suggestions brought to the Association. The committee offers its recommendations on each proposal to the Board. The committee also generates its own fundraising proposals for presentation to the Board.*

*Prop Construction and Assembly Committee –*

*This committee includes parents who help design, build, and maintain props used by the band. Members of this committee help assemble the props if necessary at performances.*

*Website Committee –*

*This committee is responsible for keeping the marchingmillionaires.org website up to date with information for marching band members and their parents.*

## Band Terminology

- Marching Millionaires - This includes all the students. Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Guard and Drum Majors
- Guard- A group of students who add color and style to marching-band performances with flags and other props. Also know as Auxiliary, the term originally used for the flag/rifle carriers who stood at the front of a marching show. Evolved into modern color guard when dance and decorative flags were added.
- Battery/Drumline - A group of students who play the drums and march. The drums are attached to harnesses that go over their shoulders. These students march on the field in the show. Snares, Tenors, & Bass Drums are in the battery.
- Pit / Front Ensemble - A group of students who play percussion instruments but do not march. The Pit is usually right in front of the drum major.
- Band Parents Association- All parents are encouraged to become members of the Band Parent Association. There is an annual membership fee of \$1 (one dollar). The board meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of the month at the high school in the band room at 6:30 p.m. We discuss ways to support the band. We encourage everyone to attend. Board members are elected from the general membership at the annual banquet, held the first Saturday after championships each year.
- Atlantic Coast Championships The top 25 bands per class from all Regional Championships are invited to compete at ACC Championships. "Accs" run for 4 days in multiple venues and include bands from states in the mid-Atlantic Region of the US.
- Auxiliary see Guard.
- Cadence The beat played by percussion during a parade to indicate the marching pace. Also played as the band marches off the field after a field show or rehearsal.

Caption awards	Various awards a marching band can win at competitions, can include: Drum Major, Percussion, Auxiliary, Music, Marching, General Effect, Pit Crew, Brass, Woodwinds, etc.
Chapter Championships	Now known as Regional Championships – Think of this as PIAA Districts for Band. Bands who score high enough are invited to the TOB Atlantic Coast Championships.
Color guard	see Guard.
Dinkles	The slang term for marching band shoes.
Drill	the steps and positions that make up the Marching Band show. (see Sets)
Drill book / Dot Book	the notebook that holds each individual student's drill coordinates for the Marching Band show. It is a quick reference book that students fill out and carry with them at all times on the field to reference their location in the drill. Usually 3x5 card stock that is spiral bound.
Drum major(s)	Student conductor(s) who direct the marching band as it plays.
Percussion	The percussion section includes battery and pit.
Flags	flags/silks used by the Guard during the show.
Gauntlets	wrist and lower-arm covering; part of Marching Band uniform.
Halves-	This is what the musicians wear under their uniform jackets. It consists of the show shirt that each student is given, white socks, white marching shoes, and white uniform pants.
Home Show	We host from 5 to 15 bands who travel to Williamsport to compete against each other.
LCBDA	Lycoming County Band Directors Association.
PIT crew	The group of parent volunteers who are responsible for helping to get the instruments on and off the field within the allotted time frame, among other responsibilities. The pit crew also helps assemble the pit instruments,

push them onto the field and set them up for competition, A.K.A. "Pit Parents."

Plumes	the feathered portion of the Marching Band headwear.
Podium	raised platform for conductors.
Preview Show	TOB sanctioned Clinics and Competition.
Quads / Tenors	set of 5 connected drums carried by a member of the battery percussion.
Rifles	imitation rifles the Guard uses in a Marching Band show to visually interpret the music.
Run-through	practicing the entire Marching Band show non-stop.
Sabers	swords the Guard uses in a Marching Band show to visually interpret the music.
Scoring	Please visit <a href="http://www.njatob.org">www.njatob.org</a> for more information on how each band is scored. This is a nice insight into the whole process from a judge's point of view.
Section	Students who play the same instruments, i.e. the trumpet section.
Section leader	band student who is in charge of a Marching Band instrument section; such as "alto sax section leader."
Sectional	A practice or rehearsal by a section of instruments.
Sets	The formations the band makes. Students receive drill charts that provide them with a location on the field relative to yard-lines, side-lines, etc. This information is then transferred to dot books.
Shako	The technical term for the "hat" worn in marching band.
Step Off	The precise moment when a Marching Band performance starts.
Tournament of Bands (TOB)	This is the competitive marching band circuit to which we belong. TOB is one of the largest competitive band organizations in the country. Tournament of

Bands is the competitive circuit we compete in each week. It is judged by the NJA or National Judges Association. TOB is made up of bands from PA, NY, DE, NJ, MD, VA, WV, NC, OH and is divided into 13 geographic "Chapters" now known as "Regions". Williamsport is located in the middle of TOB Chapter 4, the "Greater Susquehanna Valley Region" or simply, "Region 4"

Founded in 1972 by the National Judges Association, Tournament provides performance opportunities in field band, indoor guard, majorette, percussion and dance team as well as comprehensive festivals with instrumental and choral events. Tournament of Bands is a non-profit educational organization that is available to any middle, junior high, senior high, college or university. TOB sanctions approximately 100 field band events and nearly 100 indoor events as well as four major championships at the conclusion of each competitive season. On any given Saturday night in the fall, TOB will have from 8 to 14 field band competitions providing the opportunity for hundreds of Marching Bands to participate in its competitive arena.

TOB is self-governed by an executive board elected by the member bands of TOB. The rules, bylaws, score sheets and the judging philosophy are all developed by the member bands at congresses and by participation on technical committees (music, percussion, visual).

Please visit [www.njatob.org](http://www.njatob.org) for more information.

Winds	the non-percussion part of the band; any instrument played by blowing air; both brass and woodwinds.
Winter Guard	a competitive auxiliary group that sometimes performs after Marching Band season is completed. Also known as Indoor Guard.
Winter Percussion	a competitive percussion group that sometimes performs after Marching Band season is completed. Also known as Indoor Percussion.

**Please complete this page and return it to Mr. Kendall at WAHS the next time you come to rehearsal.**

Student Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Student Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Email Address(s) \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent/Guardian Cell Phone #(s) \_\_\_\_\_ (optional)

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information about participating on the following committees:

Please check any of the following:

- Concession Stand (register, cook, prep, cleanup, etc.)
- Home Show (tickets, hospitality, program sales, band guide, parking, gate)
- Fundraising (you name it....we might sell it.... ☺)
- Banquet (decorations)
- Chaperone and Pit Crew (travel with the band and support the students)
- Uniform (fitting, alterations, repairs, etc.)
- Prop Construction
- Communication (phone tree, handouts for students, email updates)
- Publicity (advertising)
- Show Program (collecting and organizing program ads and sponsors as well as working with the printer and photographer)
- A representative from each committee selected will contact you.
- Website

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_