

William Tennent High School
Marching Band Member Handbook

Fall 2023 Season



Nicholas Seifert
Band Director

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Dear Prospective Band Member,

Welcome to William Tennent High School and the William Tennent Panther Marching Band. Marching Band is a very unique activity here at William Tennent. If you are reading this, you have a spot with this band. You can be on the field for every competition. There is no JV team. There is no bench. Whether you're a senior soloist, or have never played an instrument before, you are a contributing member to our tradition of excellence here at William Tennent.

As a member of the band, you will have the opportunity to perform an exciting show with your soon to be close friends. You will have an effect on many different audiences. You will lead our school community in spirit and pride on and off the field. You will have the opportunity to work with accomplished teachers and staff, and receive feedback and scores from exceptional judges. Personally, through putting together our program, you will develop pride, teamwork, motivation, leadership, and discipline; furthering your high school education in a way only the marching arts can.

The William Tennent Marching Band is the most visible and recognizable group in our music program. We perform for hundreds of Panther faithful at football games, for our peers and parents at competitions, and for our wider community. We also believe that great performance will expand our audiences and give us more opportunities to perform at impactful locations and unforgettable venues.

As we said at the start of this letter, every single person in the marching band contributes to our show. Because of this, there are certain qualities that need to be embraced by every member if we are going to have an excellent 2023 season. If each member commits to the culture we are building, we WILL have a successful season.

Again, welcome to the William Tennent High School Marching Band. We are very excited to be able to teach you, and we cannot wait to see how far you take this year's show!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicholas Seifert".

Nicholas Seifert

Band Director

I. COMMITMENT AND ATTENDANCE

Rehearsals during the competitive season are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-8:30 PM. These are the times that rehearsals start and end – you will need to be on campus about 15 minutes earlier so that you are ready to start right at 5:30. We perform in the stands and on the field at most Friday football games. Competitions are usually on Saturdays. Exact weekend schedules are sent by email for each show week, as they depend on our given performance time and transportation to the show. The full season schedule is included in this packet, and will be on the Marching Band Canvas page.

Band camp is from August 7-11 and 14-18 at the high school. Band camp is mandatory for all members as this is when we learn the bulk of our show. Rehearsal each day will be from 8AM - 5PM with a break for lunch. There will also be some activities and chances to meet your fellow band members in the evening. A full band camp guide will be shared electronically in August.

Attendance is required at all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Simply put, we are not at our best when you are not here. Only 100% attendance will give the band its best opportunity to improve at every rehearsal and perform well at every show. Our show will be constantly changing and improving, so if you miss a weekday rehearsal, you may not be able to march in that weekend's football game or competition. If there is a schedule conflict with a marching band event during the season, it should be communicated to the band director and cleared before band camp. If there is an emergency situation that causes you to miss a rehearsal, please email and (if you do not receive a response) call the director as soon as you are aware of the situation. Please note that this communication must come from a parent/guardian. Students can not excuse themselves from any marching band event.

II. INDIVIDUAL PREPARATION

Individual practice is necessary to build our skills between rehearsals. The more you improve individually, the farther we will go in ensemble rehearsals. However, spending our time together learning what you could learn on your own will hold back the success of the entire band. You do not have to practice for hours at a time, but do try to find some time every day for some quality practice. Preparation also includes taking care of yourself. Please make sure you are well hydrated throughout the week, and have eaten before coming to rehearsal. If you have a question or need help being ready for the next rehearsal, your section leader is your first resource. They have almost certainly been in your situation before and have great insight on how to be ready for our next task. Do not be afraid to ask them questions and show them your progress. They are here to help you.

III. REHEARSAL EQUIPMENT

You must be prepared for all rehearsals to give yourself the best chance for success. The following should be brought to every rehearsal by every band member.

- Three-ring binder. The binder should have all of your music and drill, prepared and marked as directed in plastic sheet protectors so that it will not be ruined if it rains.
- Pencil and 3 highlighters for writing notes and changes in your music and drill.
- Cheat Sheets for referencing coordinates and counts during ensemble rehearsals
- Red Water Jug – Please arrive with it filled.
- Athletic Clothing and Sneakers appropriate for the weather.
- Hat with a brim to protect your face and embouchure from the sun

WOODWINDS

Instrument, mouthpiece, ligature
Multiple playable reeds
Cork Grease
Instrument Cleaning Swab

BRASS

Instrument and Mouthpiece
Valve oil
Tuning Slide Grease

PERCUSSION

Drum Sticks/Mallets
Practice Pad

GUARD

Guard Gloves
Flags/Rifle/Flag Bag

IV. UNIFORMS

As stated earlier, the William Tennent Marching Band is one of the most visible groups in our school and our wider community. The school has purchased brand new uniforms for this season and we must wear them with care and pride.

When you are in uniform, you are in full uniform unless directed by the band director. For musicians, a full uniform includes the uniform top, pants, gloves, black socks, and black marching shoes (purchased from the band parents.) Under the uniform, you must wear at least your black WT shirt (provided by the band parents shorts/compressions. As the weather gets cooler, you should add an additional layer. Anything worn under the uniform must be solid black and fit tight against the skin.

Hair must be done so that it fits fully under the helmet. No jewelry, nail polish, or other accessory that will conflict with the appearance of the uniform are permitted. Uniforms are stored at the school and may not travel home (changing rooms are available). Before leaving for any event, there will be a uniform inspection in the band room. Members that are out of uniform may not be able to perform.

V. USE OF SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

We are blessed with amazing indoor and outdoor spaces for our activity. The maintenance of our space is a large task. It is a responsibility of all members, led by the drum major, to maintain our band's home. Whenever we leave a space, we want it to look better than when we arrived.

William Tennent is very fortunate to own instruments for students to use. All of our instruments must be treated with care to ensure their use in future seasons. School instruments are signed out for the school year. The school will check the instrument each year and perform routine maintenance. The student will take care of the instrument, cleaning it regularly, and acquiring any required supplies (reeds, cork grease, slide grease, valve oil, rosin, etc.) The school is not responsible for instrument damage beyond normal wear and tear; or instruments left in school buses, hallway lockers,, or another unsecure location.

Each member of the band will also be assigned a band locker. Students are only permitted to use the numbered locker assigned to them. They are primarily for holding your instrument and other rehearsal materials when not in use. You should refrain from putting homework, books, or lunches in the music locker room. During rehearsal, please put your case back in your empty locker - nothing should ever be on the floor in the music locker area.

Color guard members are responsible for all items in their flag bags. Flag bags are kept in the canister in the music locker area. Flags must be rolled before being put in the flag bag. If flags get wet, they should be spread out in the changing area to dry, before being placed back in the flag bag and canister. Members, led by the guard captains, are responsible for changing silks, taping their equipment, and ensuring the weights and tips are working properly. All guard equipment should also be labeled with the member's name.

VI. ACADEMICS

Success in both band and academics is not only possible, but expected. Band helps teach exceptional organizational and time-management skills. Get in the habit of planning ahead, completing assignments before they are due, and studying regularly. Having a lot of homework or a big test is not an excuse to miss a rehearsal.

Marching band no longer conflicts with academic support time, so students are encouraged to seek help from their teachers during this time. Also consider using your peers for support. Many upperclassmen would be glad to answer your questions.

The marching band will follow the athletics policy for academic probation. For more information, please see the student handbook.

VII. TRAVEL WITH THE BAND

The William Tennent Marching Band travels multiple times each week. When you are off campus, you are representing William Tennent in the larger community. All rules for school functions will be in effect. All members must take the bus both ways unless an exception is made by a band director in advance. Travel as a band must be taken seriously no matter how near or far, and anyone we meet while traveling must be treated with respect and courtesy.

VIII. PROFESSIONALISM

As a member of the William Tennent Marching Band, you are performing whenever you are in the public eye. In competition, we hold ourselves with pride and grace no matter the result. At football games, we will always support our team. We must always carry ourselves in a professional manner keeping in mind that every member represents the band and school as a whole. This is most important when you are in uniform. There is zero tolerance for disrespect, foul language, and inappropriate behavior while wearing the uniform. However, you must remember that you are also representing the band any time you discuss the band or wearing band apparel, both in public and in online posts.

IX. CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

All marching band members are encouraged to register for an appropriate curricular music ensemble (Concert band, symphonic winds, wind ensemble, curricular choir, or curricular orchestra). Students are also encouraged to audition for the William Tennent Jazz Ensemble. Please see Mr. DiCarne for more details.

X. COMMUNICATION

Students should check their school emails multiple times during a school or marching band day. By Thursday morning of every week, Mr. Seifert will send an email with the week's marching band announcements. There will also be emails with important information from the band parents. You are responsible for reading these emails, understanding their content, and filling out any attached forms promptly. Additional communications may be sent through the section leaders and captains.

There will also be a Canvas page for Marching Band. Music, drill, and any important paperwork will be posted here. If you need something that was distributed, Canvas is the first place you will go. If you are not receiving band emails or have not been added to the Canvas page by the first day of school, email Mr. Seifert immediately.

MARCHING BAND SCHEDULE

Please note that ALL drop off and pick up will be at the high school. There will be school buses to all off-campus events and students MUST ride the bus with the band both ways.

SATs: Please take the August 26th SAT if possible. If you must take the SAT on October 7th, contact Mr. Seifert as soon as possible. Do not take the SAT on November 4th.

ACTs: Please take the December 9 ACT if possible. If you must take the ACT on September 9th, contact Mr. Seifert as soon as possible. Do not take the ACT on October 28th.

Pre-Season

Wednesday July 26	6:00-7:00 PM	Introductory Meeting, Band Room.
Mon-Fri August 7-11	8:00AM-5:00PM	Band Camp Week 1
Mon-Fri August 14-18	8:00AM-5:00PM	Band Camp Week 2
Thursday August 24	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Tuesday August 29	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday August 31	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal

Week 1

Tuesday September 5	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday September 7	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday September 8	7:00 PM Kick	Football Home V Upper Merion

Week 2

Tuesday September 12	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday September 14	7:00 PM Kick	Football Home V Hatboro Horsham
Saturday September 16	9:00AM-5:00PM	Rehearsal/Friends and Family Show

Week 3

Tuesday September 19	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday September 21	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday September 22	7:00 PM Kick	Football Home V Father Judge
Saturday September 23	Comp Day	Competition at Council Rock North

Week 4

Tuesday September 26	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday September 28	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday September 29	7:00 PM Kick	Football @ Upper Moreland
Saturday September 30	Comp Day	Comp. at Plymouth Whitemarsh

Week 5

Tuesday October 3	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday October 5	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday October 6	7:00 PM Kick	Football @ Plymouth Whitemarsh
Saturday October 7	Comp Day	Competition at Pennridge

Week 6

Tuesday October 10	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday October 12	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday October 13	7:00 PM Kick	Football Home V Wissahickon Homecoming/Panther Band Day

Week 7

Tuesday October 17	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday October 19	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday October 20	7:00 PM Kick	Football Home V Cheltenham
Saturday October 21	Comp Day	Competition at Conestoga

Week 8

Tuesday October 24	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday October 26	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday October 27	7:00 PM Kick	Football @ Springfield
Saturday October 28	Comp Day	Competition at Hatboro Horsham

Week 9

Tuesday October 31	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Thursday November 2	5:30-8:30 PM	Rehearsal
Friday November 3	7:00 PM Kick	Playoff Football?
Saturday November 4	Championships	Location TBD Based on Class

AGREEMENT

I, _____, as a member of the William Tennent High School Marching band, have read and agree to the terms in this handbook. I have reviewed the season schedule with a parent/guardian and we understand the attendance and communication policies. By submitting this form, I understand that I am a contributing member of this band and this school, that I have communicated all known attendance concerns for the duration of the season, and I will strive to uphold the traditions and standards of the Willaim Tennent High School Marching Band.

SIGNATURE: _____

SECTION/INSTRUMENT _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Please scan or take a picture of this page, and email it to Mr. Seifert no later than August 1st!