



2009  
Columbia City  
Marching Eagles  
Handbook

Welcome to the 2009 season of the Columbia City Marching Eagles. Your Band Booster officers and Mrs. Bennett developed this booklet for parents and guardians. It is our hope that this guide will orient you more quickly, create a level of comfort, and foster a keen interest to be involved with the Columbia City Marching Eagles. We have tried to cover the many aspects of the marching band program, but if you require more in-depth knowledge about a particular topic, please feel free to contact any of the band booster officers listed below. This is to serve as an overall guide of the upcoming season. Mrs. Bennett will send home updates and specific information as needed.

This guide is your key source of information for marching band. Please keep it handy for reference and contacts.

We hope that this guide benefits both new and returning parents and guardians. The more you know, the more you can contribute to the success of this year's marching band.

Thank you,

Helen Bennett  
Director of Bands  
Columbia City High School  
(260) 244-6136 ext. 3330 School, **(260) 416-8652 cell**

Band Booster Executive Board

**Co-Presidents-** Carol & Paul Wyatt, Lisa Hensler

**Vice President-** Mark Swain

**Secretary-** Kim Swain

**Treasurer-** Greg Hockemeyer

**Band Manager-??**

**Pit Crew Manager-** Paul Wyatt

**Uniform Manager-** ??

**Guard Manager-??**

**The purpose of the Band Boosters is:**

- To build and maintain an organization which will help promote the general activities of the band.
- To develop and maintain an enthusiastic Columbia City High School community interest in the events of the music department.
- To lend significant support, both moral and financial, to the High School bands at Columbia City High School.
- To assist and cooperate with Mrs. Bennett while maintaining the highest degree of effective organizational performance and team standards.
- To build, maintain, and promote a positive relationship with each other, students, school administrators and staff.

**Columbia City Band Boosters Provide Positive Role Models.**

First and foremost, Band Booster members must be positive role models for our students. Members encourage and support and support all students regardless of the schools that they might represent. The Columbia City Band Boosters demote and promotes, at every opportunity, the highest standard of integrity, sportsmanship, social graces, courtesy, hospitality, and cooperation.

**How do I Become a member?**

The Band Boosters meet every second Monday at 7:00 with the exception of May, June, and July. The meetings are held in the Band Room. Everyone with an interest is welcome to attend.

**Marching Band Staff**

Marcus Farr	Assistant Director
Kent Klee	Music Arranger
Jon Bay	Drill Writer
Nick Neukom	Music Staff / Head Percussion Instructor
Mike Magdich	Percussion Instructor
Brian Matve	Percussion Instructor
Amy Johnston	Guard Instructor
Cindy Neukom	Guard Instructor
Camille Wilcoxson	Guard Instructor
John Blevins	Music Instructor

## **Equipment Handling / Pit Crew**

Parents are needed to move the pit instruments, drum major podiums, and props/tarps on and off the marching band field at home football games and every band competition. This must be done with respect to the time limits established at each competition site. Points are deducted for not clearing the field in the prescribed length of time. It is important to have enough parent volunteers to accomplish this. Help at rehearsals is also appreciated and sometimes necessary.

## **Chaperones / Food**

Parents who chaperone on Saturdays are a vital component to the marching band. They arrive early and make sure that students eat before leaving for competitions. The chaperones ride the busses to and from competitions. They help with uniforms and serve meals if we eat on the road. On dates where we attend two competitions, the chaperones may serve breakfast, lunch and dinner! If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact the band manager.

## **Fees and Fundraisers**

Band fees help cover the cost of staff salaries, music, repair of instruments, contest entry fees, color guard equipment, drill design, transportation, maintenance of uniforms and numerous other expenses. These fees cover only a portion of the expenses that are incurred throughout the marching season. The band fees can be paid in a lump sum or in a series of 4 payments as follows:

Payment 1	due July 27 <sup>th</sup> (Band Camp)
Payment 2	due August 4 <sup>th</sup>
Payment 3	due August 11 <sup>th</sup>
Payment 4	due August 18 <sup>th</sup> (Final Payment!)

Please make checks payable to Columbia City Band Boosters and submit to Helen Bennett or mail checks to:

COLUMBIA CITY BAND BOOSTERS  
c/o Helen Bennett  
600 N. Whitley St.  
Columbia City, IN 46725

Fundraisers are a necessary part of the band season. We need to raise money each year for the show, uniforms, and music. We need to look for grant opportunities and good fundraisers. If you have suggestion, please let Mrs. Bennett or the band manager know.

## **Summer Band**

Each marching band student **must** participate in summer band. This is where music and drill are taught. It is the responsibility of each student to be present **100%** of the time and give **100%** effort. If students miss any of the one-week period, that portion that he/she has missed must be taught again thus slowing the progress of the entire band.

Summer band is divided up into two parts. Practices begin three weeks before Old Settlers Festival to prepare to march in the parade. This is where the band learns the “basics” of marching and other exercises. This is a good time to work with the newcomers so that they get off to a good start in marching band.

The second part is an intensive one week band camp where drill and show music are taught. These are the single most important weeks of the summer! This concentrated rehearsal time is when the show is put together. Every band member **must** be present. The summer band schedule is always announced in the spring so that you can work vacations around it. Again, these practices are **mandatory! Plan now for 2010 and 2011!**

## **Marching Band Uniforms**

Uniforms are dry-cleaned once or twice yearly. Uniforms and accessories are organized in August in preparation for fittings.

The goal is to complete fitting by the end of August. Previous members receive an opportunity to determine if their uniform from the prior year still fits. Hems are marked for adjustments as needed. There are specific hem length specifications set by the band director for visual conformity. No one may alter hems after the official fitting without explicit approval from the band director. Parent volunteers are needed for fitting and hemming. Please volunteer to serve in this capacity if able.

The band uniforms represent a significant expenditure of funds. For that reason, the life expectancy of a set of uniforms is between six and ten years. This year we will have brand new uniforms for all wind and percussion members. The total cost of each uniform is estimated at \$350. As you can see, it is imperative that fundraisers are successful.

## **Color Guard Uniforms**

Color Guard uniforms are designed each season to express interpretations of the show and to add visual effect. Guard members may be assessed an additional fee based upon the uniforms selected. The Color Guard instructors select the uniforms with final approval by the band director. Uniform fittings occur in August. During the marching

band season, guard members are responsible for the care and condition of their uniform, ensuring its availability at required times. Guard members will be instructed as to the care and cleaning after each event. The guard staff determines makeup and hairstyles for the show with each member providing her own supplies.

### **Fall Practice Schedule**

There are mandatory Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 3:30 – 6:00 PM and Monday nights from 6:00-9:00 until the end of marching season. As always, the band plays for all home football games and will have a short rehearse before the game. Saturday rehearsals will be determined once the contest times are announced. Look for information sheets to be sent home on Tuesdays or Thursdays of each contest week.

### **Football Game Performances**

Football games are considered major performances for the marching band. Band members are required to be in attendance at all home football games, including all sectional games. Mrs. Bennett must approve any absence **four weeks** in advance. Performing at football games is important for school spirit and helps develop a positive rapport with the community and is treated as a dress rehearsal for Saturday.

### **Competitive Performances – Competitions**

Performance times, directions to the shows, and other important information will be sent home on Tuesdays or Thursdays preceding competitions. **Family and friends are strongly encouraged to attend** as many competitions as they can. All shows have an entry fee, usually \$6 per adult.

### **Judging**

Most of the marching band competitions that Columbia City participates in are governed by Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) rules. Indiana high school bands compete in four classes (A, B, C, D) based on their total school enrollment in grades 9-12, not on their band size. Columbia City is in class B.

The scoring system is based on a perfect score of 400 points in Music, 200 points in Music Effect, 200 points (average) in Visual, 200 points Visual Effect. The music score is based on how well the band demonstrates musicianship, tone quality, intonation, and technique. The scores of two music judges are added to the final score. The visual score evaluates accuracy and definition, technique, and composition. Two visual judges are utilized and the average of their scores is taken. Both the Visual Effect and Music Effect scores are based on the effectiveness of showmanship (how it is being performed visually and musically), repertoire variety, artistry, communication, and emotional range (goose-bump factor). Both Effect scores are added to the total.

Invitational competitions are hosted by various Indiana High Schools and most follow ISSMA rules. Many competitions award caption awards for Best Music,

Best Visual, and Best General Effect. Occasionally, other caption awards are presented for Best Guard, Best Drum Line, Best Drum Majors, and Best Pit Crew.

The first level of state competition is the District contest. Bands are judged on a 100 point scale. All Class C bands that score 54 points or more at District Contest are eligible to enter the Regional Contest. At Regional Contest, a Class C band scoring 64 points or above is awarded a First Division rating. Only the top ten bands (including ties) in each class move on to Semi-State. Then at Semi-State the top ten bands from each class move on to State Finals.

### **Spectator Etiquette**

At competitions, it is polite to be seated during performances to keep from disturbing the judges. To mark the beginning of a show, the drum major will salute the judges. This is the signal to quiet down. Emotions can run high during the shows. Negative comments regarding any band or judge reflect poorly on our band. We are a class act. We keep our comments positive at all times regarding other bands. Remember, all bands have put hundred of hours into their shows and deserve our respect. Of course, our loudest cheering will be for the **Columbia City Marching Eagles!**

### **Show our Colors!**

When our band sees our Columbia City shirts and hears us cheer, they get really fired up! **Sit together as a block!** The bigger the Columbia City block, the better! Join the block and be prepared to cheer when Columbia City takes the field for competition. Columbia City shirts can be ordered as soon as the order forms are handed out. Checks can be made out to Columbia City Band Boosters in the amount of \$15.00 for sizes small to extra large. Sizes up to 4XL can be ordered at \$1 additional for each X. Example: a 4XL shirt would cost \$17.

### **Spirit Events**

There will be ample opportunity to cheer on our students throughout the marching season. We could decorate the band room to congratulate the band members for a job well done. We could also decorate before going to important competitions (i.e. State Finals). Please attend the band booster meetings to help plan these events.