

Lawrence Central High School Winter Guard Information

As marching band season comes to a close, it becomes time to think about the up-coming winter guard season. Planning and design has already begun on this exciting part of the color guard experience. Likewise, members will need to plan ahead and organize their schedules so that the productions can be as successful as possible.

Winter Guard is a performance art/sport that is done in gymnasiums to recorded music. The show will be choreographed and staged on a painted tarp, and without the presence of the band. This gives the guard a chance to perform on their own, improving their skills in performance, equipment and dance. The winter guard experience is an incredible opportunity for performers to achieve greater confidence, self esteem, self directedness, leadership and goal achievement.

The shows will be staged, produced and choreographed during the months of November, December and January, with competitions beginning on January 30, 2010 and running until State Finals on March 20 and the national finals April 8-10. This year, we will compete in one national regional here in Indianapolis sponsored by Winter Guard International (WGI, similar to BOA). In addition, we will also compete in the Indiana High School Color Guard Association (IHSCGA, similar to ISSMA). After several years away, LCWG will return to the national competition (WGI—similar to BOA Grand Nationals) in Dayton, OH this year for an exciting conclusion to the year and season.

This year, LC's top guard will compete in World Class. This is a step up from the last 2 years, and will present new challenges for the guard--challenges, though, that the guard is more than ready to face. World Class, as the name implies, is the highest level of competition in the winter guard activity and represents the true "standard setters" of the world of competitive color guard.

Generally, the World Class Guard rehearsal schedule will follow the following format:

1. Tuesday, Thursday and some Friday evenings, from 6-9pm. Once competitions begin, Fridays are on an "as needed basis." Members will need to keep this time open for rehearsal until given further notice.
2. Saturdays in December in order to learn and choreograph the show.
3. New this year, in order to accommodate choreographer Tommy Allen's busy and in demand schedule, we will rehearse on 2 Sundays: 1/10 and 1/17 from 1-8pm. In exchange for these Sundays, the guard will be off on the corresponding Saturdays.
4. Our **mandatory** winter guard camp (similar to band camp, only the guard will not stay overnight) will be 12/28, 12/29 and 12/30. Please refer to the rehearsal schedule for times. **As is the case with band camp, attendance at these camp days is REQUIRED for all members. Students will need to clear their calendars for these important rehearsals.**

5. Martin Luther King Day, and Presidents' Day, when school is out, will also be rehearsal days. Please refer to the calendar for times.
6. *As always, please make all appointments outside of rehearsal time. Regular attendance in winter guard is even more important than in marching band.*

Many members and parents alike ask the question, "Why the presence of evening rehearsals?" It is only at these times that instructional staff is available to assist in the teaching and cleaning of the production. Most **qualified** instructors are not available until after regular business hours. In addition, rehearsal space (gymnasium time) is limited during the after-school hours.

Here are a few of the "basics" for this up-coming season:

- Again this year, we are planning on producing two competitive winter guards: a beginning level group (class 'A') and a more advanced group (World class). Think of it as having JV and Varsity guards.
- Current color guard members will be selected for the winter guard by *invitation only*. Any member not invited is strongly encouraged to enroll in one of the dance classes here at LC *and/or* at a dance studio (ballet, jazz and/or modern are suggested) during the off-season. Improvements in carriage, body strength and dance technique/ability will greatly improve a member's chances of being invited the following year.
- Only winter guard members will remain enrolled in the "G-4" color guard class for second semester.
- Current members not selected for winter guard may audition for the LCCG in the spring.

Competitive Structure/Classification:

Winter guards are classified into 3 classes. Marching bands are classified according to school size. Not so with winter guard, where groups are organized in an achievement based system. Class 'A' is for beginning level groups, 'Open' Class is for intermediate level groups, and 'World' Class is for advanced level groups. *For 2 years in a row, Lawrence Central was the Open Class State Champion and was last year's WGI Indianapolis Regional Open Class Champion!!!!*

A **MAJOR** issue for the winter guard in the past has been gym availability. While the parking lot is always available for marching band rehearsals, the gymnasium is regularly booked with athletic events/practices, greatly limiting our usage of that space. In addition, with construction taking place in the athletic areas this year, we are even more limited in our gym time. As a result of these challenges, virtually all of our rehearsals this year will again be at *Arlington High School* until the new LC Field House is completed. We are very fortunate to have developed a relationship with the athletic department at Arlington, and they are committed to meeting our needs.

Fees:

Mr. James has provided the guard with information in this area (See the 2009 Band and Guard Handbook). **ALL WINTER GUARD MEMBERS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN AS MANY FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES AS POSSIBLE!!**

Winter Guard Fee	\$120.00	Due 12/1/09
Winter Guard Under Garments	\$ 50.00	Due 12/1/09
Second Semester Quota	\$100.00	Due 2/1/10
Approximate Travel Fee (maximum)	<u>\$100.00</u>	Due 3/1/10
TOTAL	\$370.00	

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

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Other resources:

Lawrence Central Performing Arts Association www.lcpaa.org
Indiana High School Color Guard Association www.ihscga.org
Winter Guard International www.wgi.org

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