

The Purple Tornado Bands
of
Norwich High School

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Greetings!

This is an informational newsletter about the '08– 09 Purple Tornado Field Band.

- **To enroll your child as a prospective member fill out the enclosed Registration/Medical Form and conflict sheet in BLACK INK and return to:** *Gretchen Shyne*
Music Department
Norwich High School
19 Eaton Ave.
Norwich, N.Y. 13815
- **Note:** Registration is necessary for *all students* – new and returning.

Student and Parent **E-mail addresses** are used strictly in a **confidential format** (BCC). **News bulletins** are sent **weekly during the season** and periodically throughout the school year. Hard copies are also available.

* The recent past *

Norwich is a charter member of the New York State Field Band Conference, representing **one of the most prestigious programs** in the entire conference. Incredibly, **Norwich has been crowned New York State Champion 3 times in the past 6 years!**

In the end of May, the band traveled to **Williamsburg, Virginia** to perform in **The Music in the Parks Festival**. The marching band won first place and received the rating of "**Superior**", the highest rating of the competition.

In the beginning of June, the band competed at the prestigious **Sherburne Pageant of Bands**, taking **top honors** in the **Class AAA Parade Competition**. Norwich results at the Pageant:

- **1st Place – Class AAA Parade** (... top score overall in the parade of 40 bands!)
- **1st Place – Class AAA Jazz** (... a perfect score of 100 for the second consecutive year!)
- **1st Place – Class AAA Concert Competition**
- **1st Place – Class AAA Drum Line Competition**
- **2nd Place – Class AAA small ensemble Competition**
- **5th place – Junior High Concert Competition**
- **Gold Medal Honors – Junior High Jazz Ensemble Competition**
- **Norwich also won the Best-of-Class Award in Class AAA, the Frank L. Miller Outstanding Director award**, and for the first time in 45 years, **the Albert Whitney Overall Achievement Award**.

There are **thousands** of **alumni band members** in our community to whom we owe considerable thanks. They have all contributed greatly to develop a wonderful **tradition of musical excellence for the Norwich City School District!**

* What We DO! *

The primary objective of this organization is to develop and refine an **excellent theatrical presentation**, using the field as a stage. **All music, designs, routines and drill maneuvers are written specifically for the Purple Tornado Field Band**. It is designed to test the strengths and abilities of the performers. In return, members challenge the program to achieve the highest level of excellence possible. **Valuable life skills** develop during this process -- *One would be hard pressed to find a better activity to learn a standard of excellence, communication skills, strong work ethic, teamwork, and citizenship.*

Though marching is still an integral part of the process, the group will also dance, run, jump, and tumble! They will act, play, and perform in a context that transcends the stereotypical image of the activity. The goal is to interpret dynamic music in creative fashion through the medium of movement and music. To call this marching band is actually a bit limited in scope...

Fundamental training is an essential part of the overall process. Combining talent and dedication to master a quality program takes time... *most assuredly time well spent*. The group experiences tremendous growth and success each year due to the following contributing factors:

- **Students with the desire and courage to be successful**
- **A creative production staff**
- **An excellent instructional staff**
- **A strong support/parent group**

*** The Norwich Band Parents ***

The Norwich Band Parents provide the essential moral and financial support that is vital to the success of this program. All parents are most welcome and are encouraged to participate in the group. The kids are worth every moment of time and effort!

Activities sponsored and supported by the group include:

Rehearsals	Uniform fittings and maintenance	Band Camp
Fall Festival of Bands	Band sweatshirts, T-Shirts and jackets	Band-a-Thon
NYSSMA	Chaperoning all trips and events	Gus Macker
Special community events	Chaperoning and funding major trips	Awards Banquet

There are several committees to manage each phase of operation. Getting involved in these projects is both rewarding and extremely helpful in serving both our kids and the community. The Parent Officers spend many hours planning all events. They are, in essence, the lifeline to the group. Our All-Star cast of officers:

Lisa Lella & Connie Monday	- Co-Presidents
Frank Lella & Chauntel Titus	- Co-Vice Presidents
Sharon Mason	- Secretary
Kristin Hinman	- Treasurer

*** Who can be in it? ***

Students entering grades 7-12. If they perform on a higher skilled percussion instrument (quints/snare/mallet keyboard) or play a wind instrument, *they must be enrolled in the concert band program at the middle school or high school level.*

ALL music students can have a role: Many current members in the front group and percussion sections are largely comprised of students who have some form of musical training (strings, vocal, piano, dance, etc.). They make excellent candidates, already having a good foundation in musical phrasing, rhythm, and timing. Pianists adapt well to mallet keyboards and other instruments in the percussion section. *A musical background is **not required**...* This activity has "sparked" an interest in many other music groups for many members. It is also common for upperclassmen to come on board - from all grade levels. **Everyone plays!**

Athletes and Field Band: Students are permitted to play fall sports and be in field band. The music and athletic departments cooperate to resolve any schedule conflicts with practices/games that overlap. Historically, many members have participated in field band and a fall sport/cheerleading.

Students with jobs must arrange their work schedule so it does not interfere with rehearsals or performances. Employers are accustomed to working around the schedules of busy students – providing there is enough advanced notice. *Members with jobs are advised to provide a practice/performance schedule to their employer as soon as possible.*

*** Summer Rehearsals ***

Summer rehearsals are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning **Tuesday, July 8th** from **6:30-9 PM**. All members attend, unless they are at camp, on family vacation, etc. Occasionally there have been students who were absent *most of the summer*. This is permitted, **except for camp week, when attendance is required. Please make sure we are properly notified – it helps to plan each member's role more easily.**

*** Marching Clinics ***

Students who have never been a member of the NPTFB must attend two marching clinics:

Thursday, July 8th ----- 6:00-6:30pm – and each consequential summer rehearsal until all new members have attended two.

*** Band Camp ***

August 11 – 13 - (Monday - Wednesday) from 1 PM to 9 PM. Attendance is required.

August 18 – 20 - (Monday - Wednesday) from 1 PM to 9 PM. Attendance is required.

- There will be a **performance** for parents and friends **Wednesday, August 20th at 8 pm!!**

Fall Rehearsals: When the school year begins, rehearsals will be from 6:30 - 9 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also rehearse on show days – usually from 11 - 2.

BAND-A-THON (BAT) is an excellent fundraiser! Students collect **pledges by the hour** to raise money. BAT will be held from 8 AM **Saturday, September 6th** – **Sunday, September 7th** at 9 AM. It will feature a **performance** for the public at **7 PM Saturday evening**. There will be a full schedule of activities including recreation and sleep time and meals. The entire event is fully supervised and chaperoned. Students bring their sleeping bag, pillow, sweats/shorts et al, and swimwear. More information will be available prior to this event. **BAT plays a key role in developing the group's skills, financial assets, and teamwork ethic.** Second only to band camp, it is the most important phase of instruction. **BAT collection envelopes will be distributed during camp week.**

*** Annual Fall Festival of Bands ***

This is our “home show” and is an excellent fundraiser. The 1st Fall Festival of Bands was held in 1973! The Festival is a great event that provides a firsthand look at the inner workings of the New York State Field Band Conference. **This year's Fall Festival** will be held at the **NHS Stadium** on **October 18th at 6:30 PM.**

*** Attendance Procedures ***

During the summer, members who are away (vacation, camp, etc.) are excused from rehearsals. Attached is a calendar of rehearsals and performances. Please write all known conflicts on the designated space on the back of the medical form before you return it. Any further arising conflicts should then be submitted as soon as known: Provision for excused absences: a (hard copy) written excuse from parent (or legal guardian) briefly explaining the *dates of* and *reason* for absence. Excuses (for planned absences) are requested before the absence occurs. In case of illness, emergency, etc., it is due when the student returns to the next rehearsal/performance.

This procedure is consistent with school policy. It provides everyone with crucial information concerning members' whereabouts. If a student is not present, everyone needs to know. ***Providing for the safety and well being of all members is paramount. Your cooperation is appreciated.***

*** Thanks To ALL ***

It has been a wonderful first year in Norwich! Let's build on our success for the upcoming season!
Sincerely,

Gretchen Shyne

*** Purple Tornado Field Band 2008 Fall Performance Schedule ***

Saturday	9/6 & 7	- PURPLE TORNADO BAND-A-THON (8 AM Saturday – 9 AM Sunday)
Saturday	9/13	- NYSFBC Show in New Hartford – 7 PM
Saturday	9/20	- NYSFBC Show in Oswego – 7 PM
Saturday	9/27	- NYSFBC Show in Auburn – 7 PM
Saturday	10/4	- NYSFBC Show in Vestal – 7 PM
Saturday	10/11	- NYSFBC Show in Liverpool – 6:30PM
Saturday	10/18	- NYSFBC Show in NORWICH! – Annual Fall Festival of Bands – 6:30PM
Sunday	10/26	- NYSFBC Championships – SU Carrier Dome - (Time TBA)

NOTE * All Home Football Games will be announced as of July 1st

Other events in the off-season...

Tuesday	11/11/08	- Veterans' Day Parade – 10 AM
Saturday	11/22/08	- Santa Claus Parade – 6 PM – biggest local parade of the year!
Monday	5/25/09	- Memorial Day Parade – 9 AM
Saturday	6/6/09	- Sherburne Pageant of Bands

*** '07 Purple Tornado Field Band Rehearsal and Performance Schedule ***

(...full rehearsals and performances in **bold**...)

KEY: R = Rehearsal Show = NYSFBC Show hfb = home football game (not scheduled yet ...)

(summer rehearsals 7 - 9 PM)

<u>July</u>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10)R 7pm	11	12)R 7pm	13	14
15	16	17)R 7pm	18	19)R 7pm	20	21
22	23	24)R 7pm	25	26)R 7pm	27	28
29	30	31)R				

NOTE * See marching clinic dates and times above!

<u>August</u>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2)R 7pm	3	4
5	6	7)R 7pm	8	9)R 7pm	10	11
12	(13 **BAND CAMP "A" - M thru W** 15) ... 1PM - 9 PM daily			16)R 7pm	17	18
19	(20 **BAND CAMP "A" - M thru W** 22) ... 1PM - 9 PM daily			23)R 7pm	24	25
26	27	28)R 6:30pm	perf @ 8 PM! 29	30)R 6:30pm	31	

NOTE * See marching clinic dates and times above!

(...note ** fall rehearsals 6:30 - 9 PM)

<u>September</u>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4)R 6:30pm	5	6:30pm 6)R	7	8)Band-a-thon
9) 9 AM Sun.)	10	11)R 6:30pm	12	6:30pm 13)R	14	15)Show in
16	17	18)R 6:30pm	19	6:30pm 20)R	21	22)Show in
23	24	25)R 6:30pm	26	6:30pm 27)R	28	29)Show in
30	NOTE ** Home Football Games are not yet scheduled – stay tuned!					Auburn

<u>October</u>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2)R 6:30pm	3	4)R 6:30pm	5)	6)Show in
7	8	9)R 6:30pm	10	11)R 6:30pm	12	Corning East
14	15	16)R 6:30pm	17	18)R 6:30pm	19	13)Show in
21	22	23)R	24	25)R	26	Liverpool
						20)Show in
						Norwich!
						27)R
						(1-5pm at the "Y")
						28) NYSFBC Championships at the Carrier Dome