
The Marching Warriors and the Big Blue Machine

A SEASON OF CHANGE



Unity in Separation

For sixty years, The Marching Warriors have entertained thousands upon thousands of supportive and loyal fans in parades, halftime shows, performances at the fairgrounds, and at hundreds of competitions. It's not likely a surprise that generations of families have graced the many iterations of uniforms worn by the proud and polished performers in The Warren Local Marching Warriors. In this, the sixty-first year, The Marching Warriors will begin a new era in our storied journey at Warren High School.

The primary goal of this new outlook is to include as many students as possible in the marching arts while allowing every student to find success along the way. In this separation, we will find a new spirit of unity. Unity in our school, in our community, and certainly in our band program. For the first time in a long time, the doors have been reopened to students who have, for a variety of reasons, had to walk away from marching because of the time commitment, other interests, or burden of responsibility.

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The Marching Warriors

The legacy of the Marching Warriors will continue to be one of the brightest jewels of Warrior Nation! Students in The Marching Warriors will earn a Varsity Letter after completing two years in the prestigious ensemble. The ensemble will include students currently in grades 6-11 at Warren Middle and High School who are accepted after the Play-In and March-In in the Spring of 2020. Students will be accepted based upon their performance abilities and their likelihood of success with the demands of the ensemble.

Below you can see the strenuous demands of The Marching Warriors in 2020. Beginning in the Spring, students will be asked to attend a number of training sessions and summer mini-camps before the band camps even arrive. Students selected* to the Marching Warriors will not only fulfill the responsibilities of OMEA and BOA competitions, but will also be a part of the Big Blue Machine on Friday nights and in local parades. *Participating musicians are expected to be enrolled in a Middle School Band or the Warren Symphonic Band for at least the first semester.*

The Marching Warriors' Commitments

Spring Sessions	April 17 (2:45-5p)	April 24 & May 1 (2:45-5p)	<i>Spring sessions are <u>encouraged</u>.</i>
Summer Mini-Camps	July 9 (4-7p)	July 14, 16, 21, 30 (5-8p)	<i>Summer mini-camps are <u>important</u>.</i>
Band Camps	July 31 (8a - 5p)	August 2 - August 7	<i>Band Camps are <u>mandatory</u>.</i>
After-School Rehearsals	Monday, (3:20-6p)	Tuesday, (3:20-5p)	Thursday, (3:20-6p)
Performances	Football Games (~10)	Parades (~4)	Competitions (OMEA & BOA)

The Marching Warriors will operate on less rehearsal time and heightened expectations. Students selected for this ensemble must be able to make a commitment from July through the first half of November (Bands of America Grand Nationals). Attendance will be a major key to success with



fewer rehearsals to learn, clean, and polish the competitive program.

Students who wish to perform with The Marching Warriors will need to complete a Play-In/March-In during the end of March and beginning of April. Students will be notified of his or her placement in either or both bands soon afterward.

* Separate auditions are required for drum major, all percussion positions and the color guard.

...and the Big Blue Machine

The birth of the Big Blue Machine opens the door for a wide variety of students including athletes, new musicians, and to developing players. What better way is there to learn than by doing? Students participating in the Big Blue Machine will have a much lighter commitment of rehearsal time during the summer and school year but will still perform at all of the football games and local parades. You read that right - all of those performances with the commitment of just one day of rehearsal each week! This is truly an opportunity for any student* to pick up an instrument and get the experience of a school marching band without the pressures of performing at the high level of a competitive ensemble. The ensemble will also include every member of The Marching Warriors.

In the chart below you can see the commitments for the Big Blue Machine. With only one rehearsal each week, it is imperative that members maintain a stellar attendance record from Band Camp through the duration of the football season. *All musicians in the ensemble should make every effort to enroll in a Middle School Band or the Warren Symphonic Band for at least the first semester.*

The Big Blue Machine's Commitments

Spring Sessions	April 24 & May 1 (2:45-5p)	<i>Spring sessions are <u>encouraged</u>.</i>
Summer Mini-Camps	July 14 & 30 (5-8p)	<i>Summer mini-camps are <u>important</u>.</i>
Band Camp (One Day Only!)	July 31 (8a - 5p)	<i>Band Camp is <u>mandatory</u>.</i>
After-School Rehearsals	Tuesday, (3:20-5p)	
Performances	Football Games (~10)	Parades (~4)

Students who opt for, or are placed in, the Big Blue Machine will be important members of Warrior Nation. Wearing the full uniform at football games and the summer uniform in parades, students will enjoy all the aspects of a non-competing marching band: the musical excitement, the friendships, the bus rides and the thrill of entertaining thousands of cheering fans each year!



Still unsure about joining the marching band in 2020? **Be a COG in the Big Blue Machine** and take part in Warren's largest student organization. Everyone starts, everyone contributes, and everyone is important! You will find your place here.

* Separate auditions are required for drum major, all percussion positions and the color guard.

(cont'd from 1)

This new era will provide two performance environments which better allow for individual students to experience a higher level of success. The higher demand of The Marching Warriors will require deeper level of commitments and abilities while the Big Blue Machine will allow for all interested students to have a great time and present quality performances again and again to our community at football games, parades and school assemblies.

Why Now?

To think that this was a decision made over a cup of coffee last week would be a massive error! This decision, although it is taking effect now, has been developing for more than two years. We have seen an increased level of participation from the younger grades with smaller numbers in the upper classes, and it is clear that a disconnect is developing between the Director's desire for more involvement and the demand placed on young developing members to perform at a highly competitive level.

The performing arts should be a wonderful part of every young student's life and success at the personal level should be a focus for all teachers of music and the arts. Young students who are thrust into an environment for which they are not ready can bring about frustration, feelings of apathy, or at its worst - a strong desire to drop out. None of these feelings or results are good for the student, for his/her peers or for the ensemble.

As the number of young members has increased in the past two years, the success of the whole ensemble has become somewhat stagnant. It would be remiss to not mention that the level of performance has remained well above average at Warren. However, the steady climb The Marching Warriors had experienced in 2016 and 2017 has stalled ever since. The correlation is much more than a coincidence and one that can be corrected with careful planning and effort.

So, now is the time for the change. Now is the time to bring the Marching Warriors into a new decade of success and tradition.

Football Games, Parades, & Competitions



Every aspect of the marching bands at Warren is an important element of pride for our school, our community and our members. Every participating member is a starting player - nobody sits on the bench! Come and find your spot!

The Marching Warriors and the Big Blue Machine

2020 Marching Warriors Play-In & March-In

Students who wish to march on the field with The Marching Warriors in 2020 and who would like to play a woodwind or brass instrument must complete a short and low-pressure Play-In & March-In. The purpose of the Play-In & March-In is to verify the readiness and suitability of the individual student based upon three factors: the playing level of the student, the physical capability of the student, and the social preparedness of the student's behavior for a competitive marching ensemble. No single factor will be the sole reason for a student's acceptance or rejection from The Marching Warriors. After completing the Play-In & March-In, accepted students will be notified of their offered position in The Marching Warriors while all other students will be granted a spot in the **Big Blue Machine** - an exciting new ensemble open to all students no matter the experience!

Students who wish to march with the Color Guard or a Percussion section will be subject to a separate audition process.

*Students who wish only to perform in the **Big Blue Machine** are not required to Play-In or March-In.*

Play-In

Any, some, or all of the following:

Concert F Remington Exercise (half or whole notes)
Concert B^b Major Scale (ascending and descending)
Concert E^b Major Scale (ascending and descending)
Concert A^b Major Scale (ascending and descending)

All scales may be requested at various rhythms and speeds.

March-In

Any, some, or all of the following:

Call to Attention. Call to Parade Rest.
Forward 4 - Halt. Backward 4 - Halt.
Forward 8 - Backward 8 - Halt.
Lateral slide 8 - Halt.

All movements may be requested while playing long tones.

With the restrictions placed on schools because of the coronavirus, the schedule is currently TBD.

Detach at dotted line. Turn in lower portion to Director at the Play-In. Extra copies will be available.

Name _____ Grade (Fall 2020) _____

Desired instrument assignment for The Marching Warriors _____

Years of experience on instrument above: _____ Previous seasons with The Marching Warriors _____

Desired instrument assignment for the Big Blue Machine (if different) _____

Statement of Responsibility

I hereby state that, upon acceptance into The Marching Warriors, I will fulfill all responsibilities placed upon me as a performer in the select ensemble to the highest extent possible. I further agree to maintain exemplary attendance all season with the understanding that my participation is dependent upon regular attendance at all rehearsals and events and exceptional effort while in attendance.

Print _____

Sign _____