2023 Lake Waconia Band Festival





Welcome to our 24th Year!

Welcome to the 24th Annual Lake Waconia Band Festival. The Festival draws top bands from around Minnesota with an expected audience of 3,000 for this marching bands-only parade.

Our first band will begin performing at 6 p.m. and the entire parade route is 1st Street.

The performance areas are at City Square Park, 1st Street Main Street – between Olive & Vine Streets (the judging area), and on Walnut Street between 1st and 2nd Street.

Because of the sponsorship of local Waconia businesses, we are awarding gift cards from Music Mart to the top-rated bands (1st, 2nd, and 3nd places) in each of three divisions. Trophy awards will be given for People's Choice, Best Color Guard, Best Percussion Section, and Best Wind Section. Judging is done by Tri-State Judging.

The awards ceremony will follow the conclusion of the parade at Meuwissen Field on the west side of Bayview Elementary School this year.

The Lake Waconia Band Festival is funded by donations from local Waconia businesses. We encourage you to visit the local businesses in Waconia and thank them for their support of the Festival.

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Festival Facts

Welcome to the Lake Waconia Band Festival! This is a day devoted to marching band excellence and community celebration!

Today marks the 24th year of the event that started as the brainchild of a handful of parents and the staff of the Waconia High School Marching Band. It follows in the footsteps of another successful marching band competition, "Flags Over Minnesota," held in Waconia from 1975 to 1984.

The Lake Waconia Band Festival has earned the reputation of being one of the best Minnesota band festivals! This is in large part to the amazing support of our entire community. From the businesses that financially support this day, to the neighbors who share their streets with our visiting guests, it takes a community like Waconia to open its streets and hearts to the crowds that visit us each year.

This band festival is designed to give people of the area a chance to see some of the finest marching bands from Minnesota. It is a festival for music lovers and marching band enthusiasts, but it is also intended to give people who have not experienced marching band a chance to see what they have been missing.

Today, you'll see firsthand the precision, uniformity, fanfare, and in-step marching that goes into the making of top-notch marching band groups. Already, these musicians have been practicing in the many weeks leading up to the summer competition season. As parents of marching band students know, the commitment and passion of these students, their directors, and coaches runs deep.

However, marching bands are comprised of more than only musicians. You will also see wonderful color guard displays and vivid, show-stopping dancing and dramatics. Alongside each band, you'll see a fleet of helpers. There are prop-masters who create and move the props necessary for the dramatics, street helpers whisking away flags and props, color guard carrying the flags and banners, and scores of parents moving along the sidelines assisting as needed.

As Waconia is the host band, they will close out the parade with their performance.

Mark your calendars now for the 24th Annual Lake Waconia Band Festival, scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2024!



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The People that Make this Festival Possible

It takes hundreds of hours and over 100 volunteers to make this event successful! Approximately 11 team leaders oversee these volunteers. Please thank them for all the hours and hard work put in to make this Festival possible.

2023 Festival Coordinator: Mitch Fisk

2024 Festival Coordinator: Jenny Moran

Bus Parking: Kelly Amott

Environmental Services: John Raidt

First Aid/Medical: Jeremy Baker

Hospitality: Karen Sazdoff & Kristen Baker

Intersection Safety: Korey and Misty Compaan

Parade Starters: Macie Fisk

People's Choice Award Judge: Harlan Kugath

Program: Micah Fisk

Staging: Mark Murphy

Volunteers: Martha Swift

We would also like to thank two staff members from Waconia Public Schools:

Jill Johnson, Student Activities Director
Jake Hannes, Athletic Facilities and Grounds Coordinator

2023 Lake Waconia Band Festival Parade Order

The Waconia Marching Band Drumline (EXHIBITION) -

Marching the parade route in reverse from Bayview Elementary School to City Square Park.

Honor Guard

Grand Marshall, James Thulein Founding Director of the Waconia Marching Band

Waconia Alumni Band

PARTICIPATING BANDS:

Hmong College Prep Academy: EXHIBITION

Cotter High School Marching Band

Lake City Tiger Marching Band

Litchfield Marching Dragons

Richfield High School Marching Spartans

Dassel-Cokato Marching Band

Sauk Rapids High School Marching Storm

Two Rivers High School Marching Band

728 Cadets Marching Band

Champlin Park Marching Rebels

Owatonna High School Marching Band

St. Michael-Albertville Marching Knights

Former Waconia Marching Band Directors

Waconia High School- HOST

Grand Marshal: Jim Thulien

Director from 1973 - 1985

He didn't have any marching band experience when he took the Waconia director job when he started. He started out in college studying to become a CPA and realized his love for music. Aren't we grateful he did!

Jim would like to acknowledge the village it took to start and keep the Waconia program going including the Flags Over Minnesota (which you are experiencing now as the Lake Waconia Marching Band Festival).

There are several people who deserve special attention as we look back at the early years of the marching band:

Mark Torborg, Assistant MB Director. English teacher.

Bob Lind, Assistant WHS Principal. A band parent, chaperone and a strong supporter of the band program.

Brook Peterson, WHS Principal. Band parent, chaperone and a strong supporter of the band program.

Tim Bloudek, the first student Commander (drum major) of the marching band. Ron Larson, WHS Choral Director. Band parent and a tremendous supporter of the band program.

The people who gave their time and energy to serve on the Booster Board and those who worked on the Flags Over Minnesota Festivals.

Students, parents and the communities at large were involved in the development of the program as you know it today. It takes a village, and the communities of New Germany, St. Bonifacius and Waconia created that village. A thank you should go out to the entire village.



First Aid/Emergency

First Aid/Emergency – A First Aid Tent is available at Bayview Elementary School. In case of emergencies in weather and other circumstances, follow directions of personnel from the Festival Safety Team, Waconia Fire Department, and Carver County Sheriff's Office. An emergency plan has been developed, and area elementary school (Bayview – Walnut & 1st Streets and Trinity Lutheran Church Birch St & 2nd St) will be available should shelter be required.

Concessions

There are food trucks located near the performance zone at City Square Park and near the Judging zone. Enjoy great food while hearing great music!

Judges' Information

Determining classes for Lake Waconia Band Festival participating bands is based on both school size (grades 9-12) and band size of the 14 competing bands. School size information is drawn from the Minnesota State High School League website; band size is the number of total band members (winds, percussion, color guard, honor guard, and drum majors) given by the director and printed in the festival's program. Bands are then ranked 1-14 by school size and 1-14 by band size. School size rank is given 2/3 weight (multiplied by 67%), and band size rank is given 1/3 weight (multiplied by 33%). These two results are then added together to rank the bands and come up with band classes for a parade. If two bands have the same result, school-size determines the tiebreaker. Tri-State Judging Association does these calculations for the festival.

The actual judging area is a 100-yard stretch of the Festival's route on Main Street. At approximately the 80-yard mark (between Vine and Maple Streets) is a trailer to give the judges an additional vantage point to see the bands in action. Each band is also timed by the judges.

The categories each marching band will be rated on are below with the name of the Judge for that discipline.

Music General Effect: Musicianship, Performance Effectiveness, and Coordination of Auxiliaries with the Music

Judge: Lane Powell, also Head Judge

Marching Execution: Alignment of Rank, Files, and Diagonals, Effective Performance, Personal Bearing, Uniformity in Position of Instruments and Equipment

Judge: Mike Reed

Visual General Effect: Overall Set-Up, Showmanship, Performance Effectiveness, and Auxiliary precision, interpretation, difficulty, and choreography

Judge: Ken Martinson

Music Execution: Musical Content, Brass and Woodwind tone quality, intonation, articulation, note & rhythmic accuracy/phrasing and Percussion tuning, tonality, precision, balance within section, musicality, difficulty and rhythmic accuracy.

Judge: John Greene

Percussion: Percussion sections are evaluated on their musicality, balance, blend, phrasing, technique, dynamic contrast, tone quality, control of pulse and tempo, and uniformity/precision.

Judge: Barry Peterson

Guard: Musical interpretation, integration, staging, creativity, use of body, form, and equipment, expressive opportunities, timing and precision, uniform approach to technique, visual communication, control of body and form, and marching technique

Judge: Leon Sieve

Additional Help for Our Judges: Tabulator – Jessie Powell; Timer – Kim Peterson; Tech – Jon Mattheis

THANK YOU, Tri-State Judges for your help with the 2023 Lake Waconia Band Festival!

Special Thanks to our Sponsors

We wish to express a special thanks to the local Waconia businesses. They have contributed funds, donations of services, and/or products to make the Lake Waconia Band Festival possible this year. We encourage you to stop in to one or several of these businesses to thank them and support them as a part of our community.

If you want to become a sponsoring member of the Festival please contact Mitch Fisk at lakewaconiabandfestival@gmail.com; if you wish to sponsor the Waconia Band Boosters, please contact Roxanne Kuerschner at rkuerschner@isd110.org.

Major Sponsors

Waconia Band Boosters, Inc.

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We Bring Life

2023 Participating Bands

Hmong College Prep Academy Marching Warriors

Band Name: Hmong College Prep Academy Marching Warriors

Director: Kiersten Sloneker & Emma Grams

Drumline Instructor: Dana O'Brien

Drum Major: Ethan Vaj & Muaj Vaj (Vaj is pronounced "Vah", and Muaj is pronounced "Moo-uh)

Band Member #: 50

Repertoire: Emblems of America att. Tim Galyen

Name of Show: For All

Show Explanation: The HCPA Marching Warriors is made up of students in grades 6-12, from first year band students to recently-graduated seniors. With over half of the ensemble being new to the world of marching, the HCPA Marching Warriors are thrilled to be stepping into their third year of parade marching, and are looking forward to joining the growing community of Minnesota Marching Bands. Presenting their 2023 show "For All," under the direction of Kiersten Sloneker & Emma Grams, the HCPA Marching Warriors.

Cotter High School Marching Band

Director: Andy Meurer

Drumline Instructor: Sam Wantock

Color Guard Instructor: Jenna Rickoff

Drum Major: Francis Koll and Sophia Carlson

Band Member #: TBD (70+)

Repertoire: Pure Imagination, The Candy Man, I Want Candy

Name of Show: "The Candy Shop"

Show Explanation: The Cotter High School Marching Band is a competitive parade unit who has performed across MN for over 40 years. This year's show is titled "The Candy Shop" and depicts the childish joy that all ages can feel when given a sweet piece of candy to enjoy. Including selections from "Pure Imagination", "The Candy Man", and "I Want Candy", this sweet show is sure to make you want to get up and dance!





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Lake City Tiger Band

Directors: Eric Stashek

Assistant Director: Willy Leafbald

Brass Director: Ari Carlso

Drum Major: Lucy Weist, Sophia Huber

Guard Captain: Taeryn Kessler

Drumline Captain: Jonah Siewert

Band Member #: 60

Repertoire: Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me, Elton John; Chandelier, Sia;

Name of Show: Midnight Lights

Show Explanation: The Lake City Tiger Band invite you to experience the magic of their 2023 show, "Midnight Lights." Join us as we celebrate the beauty of night...as the sun sets and the stars twinkle above, the Lake City Tiger Band takes you on a musical journey that will leave you breathless. The band captures the bittersweet essence of twilight, as day transitions into night. As the moon shines brightly overhead, their energetic performance captures the essence of shimmering lights and boundless dreams.



Litchfield Marching Dragons

Director: Bailey Benoit and Kelly Taylor

Drumline Instructor: Haydn Veith

Color Guard Instructor: Remington Zeppelin, Zach Olson

Drum Major: Kendra Ball, Isabelle Culbertson

Band Member #: 120

Repertoire: Desert Winds

Name of Show: Desert Winds





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Richfield High School "Marching Spartans"

Director: Chad Armbruster, Jeffrey Peterson

Hornline Staff: Pete Dysart, Owen Tucker

Drumline Staff: Ryan Larson, Calvin Millet

Color Guard Staff: Laryssa Euteneuer, Karly Allison

Show Design: Joel Matuzak

Drum Major: George Illes

Band Member #: 40

Name of Show: Metrodance

Show Explanation: The show celebrates Richfield High School's unique connection to the Metro area with the use of synthesized sounds, unique costuming and authentic approach to urban dance movement.



Dassel-Cokato Marching Chargers

Director: Danielle Baratono

Drumline Instructor: Anson Hanna

Color Guard Instructor: Jenna Schunk

Drum Major: Katie Johnson

Band Member #: 50

Repertoire: Superstition, Voodoo, The Dark Brigade

Name of Show: Abracadabra!

Show Explanation: Magician-magic inspired!





SHOP-PLAY-DINE-STAY

Sauk Rapids Rice High School Marching Storm

Director: Heidi Martinson, Garrett James, Ben Brinkman

Drumline Instructor: Andrew Winnekamp

Color Guard Instructor: Susana Manea and Kayla DeBoer

Drum Major: Lillian Julius and Lydia Johnson

Band Member #: 60

Repertoire: Music from "How to Train Your Dragon (John Powell) with Ride of the Valkyries (Wagner),

Immigrant Song (Led Zeppelin) woven in.

Name of Show: Nordic Odyssey

Show Explanation: This summer, the Sauk Rapids Rice HIgh School Marching Storm will ride on the wings of Valkyries, over the blackest of seas and above the highest fjords. We will pilgrimage through lands of snow and ice, and around the midnight sun in search of......dragon.



Two Rivers High School

Director: Erik Christianson

Drumline Instructor: Ryan Malone & Jack Standridge

Color Guard Instructor: Katie Hafflock

Drum Major: Dylan Donahue

Band Member #: 43

Repertoire: Music from Aladdin **Name of Show:** Arabian Nights

Show Explanation: The show seeks to convey the mysterious and exotic sights and sounds along the silk

road centuries ago.



728 Cadets Marching Arts

Director: Joe Jaeger

Drumline Director: Joe Jaeger

Hornline/Winds Director: Shannon Curtis

Color Guard Director: Natalie Sterner

Drum Majors: Nick Tentis and Dia Sanchez

Band Member #: 114

Repertoire: Music by Billie Eilish, Michael Jackson, Lalo Schifrin, and John Barry.

Name of Show: Heist



Champlin Park Marching Rebels

Director: Steve Johnson & Amanda Mastrian

Drumline Instructors: Tyler Hague & Elias Taylor

Color Guard Instructors: Addie Guenther, Bailey Engberg & Emily Erickson, Benny Constant

Drum Major: Mikey Beasly & Amara Kolles

Band Member #: 80

Repertoire: Somebody to Love by Queen, Love Story by Taylor Swift and I'm a Believer by the Monkees

Name of Show: When I First Saw You



Owatonna High School Marching Band

Director: Peter Guenther

Assistant Director: Ethan Wightkin

Colorguard Instructors: Madelyn Ruemping, Jodie DeKam, Gary Swanson

Colorguard Design: Gary Swanson, Madelyn Ruemping

Drumline Instructor: Lee Sackett

Brass Instructor: Ethan Wightkin, Peter Guenther

Woodwind Instructor: Holly Guenther **Visual Instruction:** Ethan Wightkin

Visual Design: Joel Matuzak
Music Arrangement: Joel Matuzak
Percussion Arrangement: Joel Matuzak
Drum Majors: Riley Kalbach & Liam Melgaard

Band Member #: 102

Repertoire: "Pinball Wizard" by Pete Townshend;

"The Angry Birds Theme" by Ari Pulkkinen;

"Naruto" Yasuharu Takanashi;

"Super Mario Brothers" by Koji Kondo; "Sogno di Volare" by Christopher Tin

Name of Show: Level Up

Show Explanation: A creative interpretation of the classic and modern video game.



St. Michael-Albertville Marching Knights

Director: Joshua VanVooren

Drumline Instructor: Andy Abel

Color Guard Instructor: Marissa McLaughlin

Drum Major: Alex Boltz, Amelia Dayton, Lucas Przyblski, Xander Larson

Band Member #: 85

Repertoire: A Pirate's Adventure

Name of Show: A Pirate's Adventure

Show Explanation: Are you ready to go on a Pirate's Adventure? Join the infamous pirate king Blackbeard and his band of scallywags as they sail the seven seas trying to escape from the Knights of STMA. Be prepared for the unexpected as the STMA Marching Knights take you on a musical adventure as they prepare to do battle with the pirates lords and you might even get to hear the pirate's favorite letter in the alphabet..."RRRR"



Waconia High School Marching Band

Director: Nick Hansberry, Phil Snyder, Alli Wilmes **Drumline Instructor:** Jake Esterberg; Alli Wilmes

Color Guard Instructor: Sue Snorek; Sydney Kuykindall; Rachel Horner Bonkoungou; Julia Scarletti **Drum Major:** Abbey DeMarce; Katja Kuerschner; Berit Fitzsimonds; Oren Storms; Isabelle McInnis

Band Member #: 170

Repertoire: Don't Rain on My Parade--Barbara Streisand; Black Hole Sun-Soundgarden; Singing in the

Rain-Nacio Herb Brown; Umbrella-Rihanna

Name of Show: Don't Rain On My Parade



Marching in front of the Waconia Marching Band are former directors:

Lisa Sauer

Christian Gilbert

John Pohland

Thanks to them for the work they put into continuing to build on the program that Jim started back in 1973!





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THANKS FOR COMING! SEE YOU JUNE 15, 2024

