

## **Waller High School Bands Marching Bulldog Band – Fall 2007**

### **Varsity/Non-Varsity Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: What do the designations “Varsity” and “Non-Varsity” mean for marching band?**

**A:** As with all other performing ensembles at Waller High School, marching band has always been grouped according to ability level. Students possessing a desired level of fundamental physical and musical skills, combined with the proper academic achievement (their ability to maintain eligibility throughout the year), are selected for the Varsity group. Students in need of more time or individualized instruction to achieve the desired level of fundamental skills, or students whose academic performance is not in line with the standards of the Waller High School Bands or UIL, are placed into our Non-Varsity program.

**Q: How is this determination made for each student?**

**A:** During the first week of our Summer Band, students will undergo an audition process, allowing them to demonstrate their level of mastery in several areas, including:

- Marching/Movement Fundamentals (all students)
- Musical Fundamentals (wind and percussion students)
- Equipment Fundamentals (color guard students)
- Combination of the above domains (moving and performing)

Students will be grouped according to their achievement on the above audition and, in combination with a review of their academic record to date a determination will be made as to their placement in the Fall 2007 Marching Band.

**Q: When will the Non-Varsity and Varsity rehearse?**

**A:** In the past, the Non-Varsity and Varsity groups have rehearsed the same material simultaneously throughout the marching season. In order to maximize the effectiveness of both programs, as well as create the most educational environment for all of our students, we have decided to create a parallel rehearsal schedule for these two elements of our band.

While the finalized schedule will not be available until early June, we can tell you that the Non-Varsity will rehearse between 3 and 4 hours per week, where the Varsity will continue to rehearse 7.5 to 8 hours total per week as they have in the past. No student in the Waller HS Band Program will rehearse more than 8 hours per week, in accordance with UIL regulations. Built into this time we also plan on offering tutorials for all band students, and having one day per week where the Non-Varsity and Varsity rehearse a special presentation for all home football game half-times together.

**Q: What will the Non-Varsity and Varsity perform together?**

**A:** The Non-Varsity and Varsity will combine and perform a traditional half-time show, yet to be created, that will incorporate all the spirit, pride, and excitement of a Waller High School football game! This production will be performed at all regular season home games, as well as away games at the director's discretion.

Both the Non-Varsity and Varsity groups will prepare this program throughout the week, and combine to rehearse it once per week. For the remainder of their rehearsals the Non-Varsity will continue to refine their fundamental skill base, and the Varsity will continue to refine the contest show.

**Q: What will the role of the Non-Varsity be at Region Marching Contest or Bands of America?**

**A:** As in the past, our Non-Varsity members will help immeasurably by supervising and facilitating the moving of key pieces of equipment, assisting their fellow band members with uniforms, loading, unloading, and all other logistical aspects of the band's performance. This, of course, being only if the student is academically eligible and a member in good standing with the band and Waller High School.

All members of the Waller High School Bulldog Band share in the successes that the band will achieve throughout the year. We have had the honor of achieving the coveted "Sweepstakes" award for the past two years running – a distinction that comes as a result of the efforts of every member of the band program. No student is any more or less important to our band family, and should never feel that their contribution is not making a difference.

**Q: When will Varsity and Non-Varsity students meet during the school day?**

**A:** As with all concert ensembles, we group the marching band by ability to increase their musical and developmental success. In the Fall Semester, students who are in the Varsity Marching Band will be enrolled in one of two periods (A and B) that will appear on their schedules as "Symphonic Band" or "Wind Ensemble". Students in the Non-Varsity Marching Band will be enrolled in one period that will appear on their schedule as "Concert Band"

**Q: My student auditioned into Concert Band but is a Varsity Band member... / My student auditioned in Symphonic Band but is a Non-Varsity Band member... How will this placement work for concert performances?**

**A:** Once marching season is over, your student will be given the concert music for the ensemble they auditioned into at the end of the previous school year. A director will rehearse each band during class time and will hold up to three (3) after-school rehearsals in preparation for the Winter Concert. These rehearsals allow each band to combine its members from Varsity Marching Band A and B, as well as Non-Varsity Marching Band, Color Guard, Battery Percussion, and Front Ensemble.

**Q: Are the band placements (Concert, Symphonic, Wind Ensemble) permanent?**

A: No. Students will have the opportunity to re-audition for concert ensembles after the Winter Concert. As a part of this audition, student's musical development and experience will play a factor. Successful auditions for Region Band or Region Orchestra will receive consideration, as will appointment to a performing Region ensemble. Advancement to Area will receive strong consideration as well. The Waller band staff strongly encourages all of our students to take on musical challenges outside of the requirements of their ensembles – it is through these experiences that young musicians grow immensely.

If you have any further troubles, questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to contact a band director using the contact information below.

Welcome to the Waller High School Marching Bulldog Band! We're glad you're here!

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