



## **Welcome to the 2014 Notre Dame College Marching Band Season!!**

### ***Band Camp Information***

#### **Greetings!**

It is extremely important that you read through this entire mailing to ensure that you are well versed in our preparations for the 2014 Notre Dame College Marching Band Camp. It is equally important that you follow all directions and communicate the required information quickly. You should get into the habit of checking your email at least once per day. Future communication will move primarily to email. If there are any questions, comments, or concerns please feel free to contact Performing Arts Graduate Assistant, Michael Martinek at [MMartinek@ndc.edu](mailto:MMartinek@ndc.edu).

#### **Introduction:**

This is an exciting time for the Notre Dame College Marching Band. Following an amazing year in 2013-2014, and now in the sixth year of its existence, we are looking to continue building the tradition of excellence while also expanding performance opportunities and musical offerings. In order to accomplish this we must take a leap. We must continually establish our work ethic and traditions so we are poised for success in everything that we aim to accomplish.

Our mission is simple: To provide an enjoyable performance opportunity for students while supporting the goals and programs within the College.

Given that this is a school without a music major, per se, this is an incredible opportunity to perform in the musical "arena" while also pursuing your liberal arts education. This is an opportunity that is not offered at all schools!!

Band Camp is integral to our success. Rather than send everything out in one big packet, we are amassing all of the music and information as the days of August bring us closer to camp. So, we will be posting music and information on the band website as it becomes available. It is expected that you will put in the necessary time and energy to arrive at band camp "ready to go." You are expected to always read through all of the material sent to you, communicate as needed, and rehearse the music to the point of perfection and memorization. All of our music will be memorized...take the time NOW to begin the process, rather than attempting to cram it into your brain all at once.

This is not high school marching band...you are expected to come to rehearsal prepared. Through this preparation and diligence, we will have an amazingly enjoyable season. Having "fun" in marching band is directly related to the amount of work we are getting accomplished. Do your part to ensure we meet our aggressive goals.

Participation in activities like the marching arts is important to complementing your education. Numerous studies show that a successful college education includes not only classes, but participation in activities that make the individual part of the larger institution of learners and educators.

This packet will include some basic information and preparations for the 2014 Notre Dame College Marching Band Camp to be held August 17 – August 22. This is an intensive learning forum designed to accomplish many tasks in preparation for our performances. It is critical that you read through all of the information, fill out the web form, and upon receipt, practice all the music accordingly.

Our success starts here, and it starts now...

### **Band Camp Basics:**

- Band Camp is Sunday, August 17, 2014 – Friday, August 22, 2014.
- Students will move-in on Sunday, August 17 from 12pm-2pm
- Band Camp will officially begin in the Afternoon Block on August 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Band Camp will continue **through** the EVENING BLOCK on Friday, August 22.
- General Outline of a Schedule for Camp:
  - The actual schedule is being worked out with Athletics, Grounds, etc. A more detailed schedule will be developed in the coming weeks, but a general outline is as follows:
    - Breakfast: Everyone (commuters and residents) at 7:30 in Connelly
    - Morning Block (approximately 8:30 – 11:30 AM): includes stretching, physical conditioning, visual warm-up/basics, visual charts for the day.
    - Lunch (11:45AM)
    - Afternoon Block (approximately 1:00 – 4:30 PM): will vary day to day, but could include more visual charts, sectional time to learn/memorize music, etc.
    - Dinner at 5:00PM
    - Evening Block (approximately 6:00 – 9:00 PM): will vary day to day, but should include an ensemble rehearsal in arc and on field to integrate music and visual packages. Additional time will be allocated for sectionals as needed, and as we lose sun.
    - Nighttime Activities (approximately 9:00 – 11:00 PM): various social activities and time spent getting to know each other.
  - Given the work schedule outlined above, it is imperative that students get a full night of sleep, drink plenty of water, and eat at every meal.

### **Attendance**

- Attendance at all rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY, including Band Camp.
- Do not plan ANYTHING else for the days of Band Camp.
- Working a job, writing a paper, or getting homework done is NEVER an excuse for missing any activity for the band. Proper planning is required to have a successful experience. NEVER ask to be excused from a rehearsal or performance. Our arena is one in which we NEED all members to be present to move forward towards our goals. When someone misses rehearsal, it hurts the group by not presenting the optimal rehearsal condition, and it stunts our growth by not having all members progress at the same rate.
- Missing rehearsal for illness or extreme emergency must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

### **Information Needed**

- If not done already, as soon as possible, please navigate to the following website and fill out the required information: [www.NotreDameCollege.edu/bandcamp](http://www.NotreDameCollege.edu/bandcamp)
- This information is IMPORTANT...it is EXTREMELY important that we receive it quickly so we can order shoes, shirts, and update our roster.

### **Communication**

- All band communication will eventually move to your Notre Dame Student Email. However, in the interim, mailings may be sent to your personal email account. Be sure to check your email

often. Upon the start of the semester, it will be expected that you will check your NDC email account regularly.

- Additionally, our student leadership team maintains the Notre Dame College Marching Band Facebook page and will actively post information there.
- [www.NotreDameCollege.edu/band](http://www.NotreDameCollege.edu/band) for information!!!
- Follow NDC BAND on Twitter: @NDCPerfoms
- You may contact the following individuals for more information about the program:
  - Brandy Viol, NDCPA Assistant Director of Enrollment for the Performing Arts: 216-373-6481 ([bviol@ndc.edu](mailto:bviol@ndc.edu))
  - Michael Martinek, Graduate Assistant, Performing Arts: 216-373-6499 ([MMartinek@ndc.edu](mailto:MMartinek@ndc.edu))
  - John McFarland, NDCMB Percussion Instructor and Assistant Director of Bands ([JMcFarland@ndc.edu](mailto:JMcFarland@ndc.edu))
  - Bernard Williams, NDCMB Music Director ([bmwilliams@ndc.edu](mailto:bmwilliams@ndc.edu))
  - Kyle Shriver, NDCMB Woodwind Instructor ([kshriver@ndc.edu](mailto:kshriver@ndc.edu))
- If you have trouble finding the information that you need from the contacts above feel free to contact me, Bill Neater, Director of Performing Arts, by emailing [bneater@ndc.edu](mailto:bneater@ndc.edu).

### **Band Leadership**

- Band leadership is a tenuous position...that is, as section leader, member of the leadership team, or drum major, you are both a student and a part of the decision making process. This is difficult from the leader's perspective and the student's perspective. At all times, be sure to understand that the band leadership team is acting in the interest of the band staff, and towards the goals and aspirations set forth by that staff. Ensure that you accept constructive criticism, follow the directions of all student leaders, and discuss any concerns privately with the student leader or with a staff member.

### **Behavior**

- There is much to be said about this...but, we will make it brief...for now.
- Be advised that as a member of the Notre Dame College Marching Band you are held to the highest standard of behavior. At all times, when at rehearsal, performances, events, and in general, you represent the Notre Dame College Marching Band. It is expected that you will be professional, respectful young adults in all manners.
- Violations of the College's behavior policies will result in removal from the band, failure and withdrawal from the course, and loss of scholarship monies. This is non-negotiable.
- There are many bad decisions that lurk around you...be sure to think through all decisions and all actions, taking into account the standard of behavior that is expected from you at all times.

### **Camp Gear**

- Band Camp is primarily held outside. The arena we work in is outdoors: Accordingly, we will do everything possible to be outdoors to learn. Unless there is work that can be done indoors, the only reason we would move indoors is in the case of lightning or torrential precipitation.
- Students are expected to wear light clothes to camp (white t-shirt on top, loose fitting shorts below). More information about this to follow (themed days, etc.)
- All students are expected to wear a brimmed hat/bandanna at all summer rehearsals
- Students should bring and apply sun block liberally. Rehearsal time is NOT granted to be sun block application time...plan accordingly.
- It is advisable to have insect repellent as well, especially for the nighttime rehearsals.
- Students should bring a red or blue ½ gallon – 1 gallon water jug to be used for “gush and go” breaks. You can find these at Wal-Mart/Kmart/Target/Supermarkets...sometimes in the camping section. Here is a link:  
<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Coleman-1-Gallon-Jug-Red/13848699?findingMethod=rr>  
Coleman and Rubbermaid make the most popular jugs.

- These should be filled with Ice Water or Gatorade at each break and left on the sideline. “Gush and Go” breaks are exactly what they sound like...run off the field, grab a drink, and run back on. They are meant to hydrate the body during the particularly hot days of rehearsal...this is NOT a break. You will usually get a 5-10 minute break in the middle of a rehearsal block... “gush and go’s” are not breaks and will be given often, as long as the membership does not take advantage of the time.
- Sunglasses and watches are NOT allowable on the field.
- Students should always have a pencil and their dot book on their person at all times. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot\\_book](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dot_book) (I think it’s hilarious that there’s a Wikipedia entry for a Dot Book!!)
- **Sneakers and socks must always be worn during practices. No FLIP FLOPS or open-toed footwear**
- Students are encouraged to have granola bars, and/or other methods of quick food ingestion handy.
- Again, students must stay hydrated and nourished throughout camp. Skipping breaks, meals, etc. is unacceptable.
- Students should have a small backpack for all their “goodies,” in addition to their water jug, and instrument. This is all that should accompany students to the field. (fanny pack, anyone?)

### **Cell Phones, etc...**

- I recognize the need to stay constantly in touch with the world, via cell phone, email, Facebook, etc. However, I also encourage the membership to exercise good judgment when in rehearsal with regard to these methods of communication.
- **In short, cell phone use (checking it, making a phone call, firing off a text, etc.) during rehearsal is unacceptable.** Keep your cell phone off of the field...leave it in your book bag. Do NOT check your cell phone on a “gush and go.”
- In a broader sense, when you are at band you are expected to have your mind solely focused on the act of making yourself a better performer and making the group better. There is NOTHING else that is running through your mind when you are at band. This type of focus will help us move as a team towards achieving our goals.

### **Rehearsal Etiquette**

- You will hear about this a lot, but for now, just know that there is flow to rehearsal. There is a reason why things will happen first, then second, etc. Your role is to take it in and become a better performer. There is to be no talking or discussion on the field. When you are called to SET, you immediately go to SET, irrespective of ANYTHING that is going on around you.
- Commentary flows from the “box” (or, the person who is running the rehearsal), to the field. On the field, commentary first comes from STAFF, then Student Leaders, then, if time allows, questions can be asked of the appropriate personnel. At no time, unless instructed by someone in leadership, should students be discussing things with other students on the field...this leads to having “too many cooks in the kitchen.” Of course, there is often a need for a discussion...just be sure to have the permission of a member of the leadership team.
- “Field Time” may be used by staff and student leadership to discuss something, go over counts/music, or play through a segment, as needed by the moment. This is NOT individual practice time, and students should NOT engage in individual practice...unless directed to do so.
- When being directed to go through something on Field Time, be sure to be mindful of other sections who are trying to do the same thing...be respectful, we are all on the same team.
- Always keep an ear open for the words “STANDBY.” When you hear this, you will immediately go to “stand-by.”
- We work in a large arena, with a lot of different things going on. These processes are in place to ensure that we manage that effectively. Successful groups are groups that practice for success and follow these processes. Anything else results in Marching Band Anarchy...

## **Schedule of Events for the Season**

- The Department of Bands will publish a Performance Schedule for the season. This represents an approximation of performance opportunities, times, dates, etc. Be advised that this will change, and it will be added to. We are currently in negotiations with a number of different performance opportunities throughout the fall. In general, leave your weekends in September, all of October, and early November open. The final determination of the schedule will be updated online on the Google Calendar which can be shared to your local calendar, mobile device, and is ALWAYS available on [www.NotreDameCollege.edu/band](http://www.NotreDameCollege.edu/band).

## **Final Thoughts...**

There is a lot of information in this packet. Some of it makes sense, and some of it may not. That's ok. Read it...re-read it...and re-re-read it. You may not know what "Standby" is, what "Set" looks like, or what "field-time" is, but it is important that you are familiar with the concepts. Please understand that everything is a work in progress, and some things may change...especially things like the calendar and schedule. We've given you a good outline of what to expect, and will fill in the gaps in the upcoming days and weeks. This is the first digest of things to come...

My vision for this band is one that rehearses well, marches with fierce intensity, and plays music with all of the requisite emotion needed, having a great time while doing so. I want to see a band that marches onto the field with confidence and will do everything in their power, stopping at nothing to communicate that intensity and enjoyment to the audience. Whether it is playing a classical piece, a modern piece, or a pop-tunes piece, a good band can communicate all of those ideas effectively. That is our goal...

Don't be afraid to be better than you think you can be...

Be sure to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you on August 18<sup>th</sup>, and I look forward to working with you throughout the season and throughout your collegiate education.

## **What Next?**

- Read the entire packet again...
- ***Fill out the Band Camp Registration Form on the NDC website. This is very important and needs to be done immediately.***
- Check your email daily...personal and NDC. Soon, we will only require NDC.
- Practice: Get moving on the basics. There will be a basics/warm-up program, but start practicing your own music, scales, warm-ups, etc.
- Check your email/website for music. Once you receive it (or it is posted), practice it and memorize it.
- Get your camp gear and get mentally prepared...
- Ask questions before you move in.

Enjoy the final days of summer! We have some amazing things planned for the 2014 season! We can't wait to share it with you and be a part of it with you!!

Looking forward to the 2014 Notre Dame Marching Band Season,



Bill Neater  
Director of Performing Arts  
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