

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

MARCHING  
LEATHERNECKS  
HANDBOOK  
2025



Dr. Matt Thomas

Director of the Marching Leathernecks

Dr. Kevin Nichols

Percussion Coordinator

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## **WELCOME**

Welcome to the Western Illinois University Marching Leathernecks. The Marching Leathernecks have a long and rich history of performance excellence. The band is known for its powerful sound and unique innovations which have impressed audiences throughout the Midwest. In addition to performing for all home football games, the band also performs at many local, regional, and national events, professional football games, high school marching band contests, and selected away WIU games.

*Georgia On My Mind* has been an audience favorite and band tradition since 1982. Another tradition, *You'll Never Walk Alone*, has become the band's theme song and has a reverent quality that is very meaningful to all band members.

This is one of the greatest organizations on our campus and the choice you have made to be a lasting member of this organization will benefit you for a lifetime. Welcome to your ML family. From this point on, you'll never walk alone.

### ***You'll Never Walk Alone***

When you walk through a storm,  
Hold your head up high,  
and don't be afraid of the dark.

At the end of the storm  
Is a golden sky,  
And the sweet silver song  
Of a lark.

Walk on through the wind,  
Walk on through the rain,  
Tho your dreams be tossed and blown.

Walk on, walk on,  
With hope in your heart,  
and you'll never walk alone.  
You'll never walk alone.

## **MARCHING LEATHERNECKS STAFF**

### ***Director of the Marching Leathernecks***

**Dr. Matt Thomas** is the Associate Director of Bands at Western Illinois University. He is director of the Concert Band, University Band, Pep Band, and the “Marching Leathernecks,” and teaches other courses within the undergraduate music education curriculum.

A native of the Midwest, Dr. Thomas was born and raised in Evansville, Indiana. He attended the University of Kentucky as a trumpet student of Terry Everson, and graduated from the institution with a Bachelor of Music Education degree. He then taught in the Cobb County, Georgia, school district, where bands under his direction gave feature performances at the University of Georgia Middle School Festival and *The Midwest Clinic, an International Band and Orchestra Conference*.

Dr. Thomas’ graduate studies included a Master of Music degree in Wind/Band Conducting and a Ph.D. in Music Education from The Florida State University, where he was a conducting student of Richard Clary. During his time at FSU, he was an associate conductor with the numerous graduate and undergraduate concert ensembles, taught courses in music education and conducting, and was a visual designer for the 400 member marching band.

### ***Percussion Coordinator***

**Dr. Kevin A. Nichols**, Associate Professor of Music at Western Illinois University, teaches applied percussion and percussion methods course, coach jazz combos, and is the Drumline Instructor/Arranger for the Marching Leathernecks. Outside of WIU, he is active as a performer, director, clinician and adjudicator throughout the Midwest and Southwest.

Active as a performer, Dr. Nichols has supported such notable artists as Marie Osmond, Evelyn Glennie, David Amram, Jim Rattigan and the Turtle Island String Quartet. Additionally, he is an active performer with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, the University of Iowa Symphony and Chamber Orchestras, Knox-Galesburg Symphony, and Galesburg Symphony Chorus. Active on the drum set, he is a member of the John Cooper Jazz Orchestra, Peoria Heritage Ensemble, Savoy Stompers, and the Matt Warnock Trio. His WIU performances include solo recitals, the Faculty Chamber Series, and Summer Music Theatre. Mr. Nichols is also a founding member of the resident faculty jazz combo, the Hopper Jazztet.

Dr. Nichols completed his Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Iowa. He is a member of the PAS Drumset Committee and a former officer for the Illinois Chapter of PAS. He is a member of M.E.N.C., C.M.S., and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and is an Educational Artist for the Avedis Zildjian Cymbal Company and Remo, Inc. Remo, Inc.

## ***Student Leadership***

This group of veteran members of the marching band has been selected based upon exemplary skills in music, marching, and leadership but primarily on their commitment to the Marching Leathernecks. These people will be responsible for running sectionals, distributing music and coordinate sheets, music memorization pass-offs, and assisting with problems that may arise within their assigned section. The undergraduate staff will also assist when traveling by making sure their sections have all necessary equipment, assisting with the loading and unloading of busses, relaying specific instructions to sections, and being all-around good people. Section Leaders are also asked to recruit students to help with the Marching Band Classic. These are dedicated, experienced, and talented people who will lead the ranks of the Marching Leathernecks. Please give them the necessary respect to provide a good working environment.

### **Flute**

Riley DeMay

### **Clarinet**

Josh Goff\*

Karol Sheese\*

Jamie Thurman-Keup

### **Sax**

Chai Mullins

Riley Woodworth

### **Trumpet**

Andrew Allen

Saed Porcayo\*

Paul Steinkamp

### **Mello**

Kaitlyn Driskell

### **Low Brass**

Sean Hyde (tbn)

Kaylie Littig (bar)

Garrett Embree (sousa)

Will Koss (sousa)

### **Drumline**

Brandon Rowe & Darren Woods (snare)

TBD (tenor)

Emma Frost (bass)

Kane Struwe (cymbals)

### **Guard**

Mackenzie Alford

Ethan Popp

Julietta Marini

### **Dance**

Jocelyn Diers

Natalie Newendyke

Rosalie Maze (Junior Captain – fall)

Zakiyah Callender (Junior Captain – spring)

### **Drum Major**

Josh Goff

Saed Porcayo

Karol Sheesw

### **Graduate Assistants**

Chris Jenkins

Madison Smith

*(\*Auditions for these positions will be held on an annual basis. Announcements of the dates, times, and location(s) will be via e-mail later in the semester.)*

## **COMMUNICATION**

Your first line of communication is your section leader. These veteran members should be able to help with most questions and are trained to alleviate a large burden from the director. For routine questions, please go to your section leader, undergraduate staff members, or graduate assistants first before approaching the director.

The University Bands Office is located in Sallee Hall, Room 204. We invite students to come to the office when they are in need of assistance as we are glad to help. Directors' office hours are posted outside the band office and appointments can be scheduled via email.

When announcements and/or information are disseminated to band members from the director or staff, the primary line of communication will be the students' WIU e-mail addresses (no Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc., e-mail addresses used). Watch your WIU e-mail mailbox frequently. You do not want to miss any important information that may be sent. For additional information and reminders, you are also encouraged to join/follow the Marching Leathernecks Facebook group as well as WIU Bands page.

In case you've missed it, our web site is: [www.wiu.edu/bands](http://www.wiu.edu/bands). Also, please refer to Western Online [westernonline.wiu.edu](http://westernonline.wiu.edu) for music and additional class information.

The Band Department is assigned a section of the bulletin board in the School of Music lobby in Browne Hall. There is also a bulletin board outside the Bands Office in Sallee Hall. Please keep an eye on these boards for important information.



## ***PRESEASON MARCHING BAND CAMP***

(This schedule tentative and is subject to change. In some instances, times may be approximate.)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SUNDAY, AUGUST 17</u></b></p> <p><u>4:00-7:00 PM</u> - Move-in for ALL members</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MONDAY, AUGUST 18</u></b></p> <p><i>(9:00 AM - Leadership ONLY, CoFAC Recital Hall)</i></p> <p><u>10:00 AM</u> - WELCOME (*everyone*), CoFAC</p> <p><u>10:30 AM</u> – Section Meetings (assigned locations)</p> <p><u>12:00 PM</u> - Lunch, Corbin/Olson Dining Hall</p> <p><u>1:00 PM</u> – Music Sectionals/Rehearsals (assigned locations)</p> <p><u>5:00 PM</u> – Break (Change/Travel)</p> <p><u>6:00-9:00 PM</u> - BBQ &amp; Pool Party, Glenwood Park</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TUESDAY, AUGUST 19</u></b></p> <p><u>10:00 AM</u> – Marching Fundamentals, Corbin-Olson Field</p> <p><u>12:00 PM</u> - Lunch, Subway Sandwiches</p> <p><u>1:00 PM</u> – Music Sectionals/Rehearsals (assigned locations)</p> <p><u>5:00 PM</u> - Dinner, Corbin/Olson Dining Hall</p> <p><u>6:00PM</u> - Drill, Corbin/Olson Practice Field</p> <p><u>9:00 PM</u> – Uniform Check-out, *Returning Members*</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20</u></b></p> <p><u>10:00 AM</u> – Marching Fundamentals, Corbin-Olson Field</p> <p><u>12:00 PM</u> - Lunch, Pizza</p> <p><u>1:00 PM</u> – Music Sectionals/Rehearsals (assigned locations)</p> <p><u>5:00 PM</u> - Dinner, Corbin/Olson Dining Hall</p> <p><u>6:00PM</u> - Drill, Corbin/Olson Practice Field</p> <p><u>9:00 PM</u> – Uniform Check-out, *NEW Members*</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>THURSDAY, AUGUST 21</u></b></p> <p><u>10:00 AM</u> – Marching Fundamentals, Corbin-Olson Field</p> <p><u>12:00 PM</u> - Lunch (on your own)</p> <p><u>1:00 PM</u> – Music Sectional/Rehearsals (assigned locations)</p> <p><u>5:00 PM</u> - Dinner (on your own)</p> <p><u>6:00-9:00 PM</u> - Drill, Corbin/Olson Practice Field</p> <p><u>9:00 PM</u> – Tradition Walk</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>FRIDAY, AUGUST 22</u></b></p> <p><u>9:00 AM</u> – Section Warm-up, Quad</p> <p><u>9:30 AM</u> – Faculty Assembly Performance, CoFAC</p> <p><u>10:00 AM</u> – Rehearsal, Corbin-Olson Field</p> <p><u>12:00 PM</u> - Lunch (on your own)</p> <p><u>1:00 PM</u> – Music Sectionals/Rehearsals (assigned locations)</p> <p><u>3:00 PM</u> - Gameday march-down, Quad</p> <p><u>3:30 PM</u> – Teach Fight Song to Football, Ashtray</p> <p><u>4:00 PM</u> – Set up in stands, Hanson Field</p> <p><u>4:30 PM</u> – Dinner—picnic on Campus Lawn</p> <p><u>6:00 PM</u> – Western Welcome Performance, Hanson Field</p> <p><u>7:00-9:00 PM</u> – Rocky After Dark</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SAT-SUN, AUGUST 23-24</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">No rehearsal</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MONDAY, AUGUST 25</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CLASSES BEGIN • No rehearsal</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TUESDAY, AUGUST 26</u></b></p> <p><u>4:15 PM</u> - Regular rehearsal schedule, Corbin-Olson Field (<i>Tues, Thurs, &amp; Fri, 4:15-6:15; and Monday sectionals</i>)</p>
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# **ATTENDANCE AND GRADING**

## ***Rehearsal and Performance Attendance***

Attendance is taken at the start of each rehearsal, which begins at 4:15 sharp. Please proceed to your section's designated location prior to 4:15. The senior assistants or grad assistants will take attendance. Tardy students must speak with them upon arrival, and students who do not do so will be considered absent. Please check with the graduate assistant periodically to make sure your attendance record is correct. Grading is heavily based on attendance and the director must approve all absences/tardies via confirmed email.

If you have a class conflict that will require you to miss a portion or all of rehearsal, the following steps must be taken before a request is made to the director:

1. Verify that the course could not be taken at a different time (section) or semester, or that an alternate course could be taken.
2. In the case that the first point above cannot be satisfied, then speak to the instructor of the class. Verify she/he understands that marching band is also an academic class (and not an extra-curricular activity) and your grade will suffer if you miss a portion of any rehearsal. Ask the instructor if she/he would allow you to come late or leave early (as needed) to accommodate your schedule for marching band.

Once these steps have been taken, a request for approval may be submitted to the director. Within the request, please include the information from the two points above, as well as the:

1. Name and meeting time of the class.
2. Is it required for your major?

In general, students are not allowed to miss any scheduled rehearsals or performances of the Marching Leathernecks. The only exceptions to a missed rehearsal or performance are:

1. Cases of sickness accompanied by a doctor's note. When sickness occurs prior to game day, please notify the Bands Office of your availability.
2. Other unusual and extenuating circumstances as approved by the director.

The following will not be considered:

1. Travel home.
2. Greek rush or activities.
3. Sickness not accompanied by a doctor's note.
4. Weddings, unless that of an immediate family member or if you are in the wedding party (you will need to provide a wedding program).
5. Work.

All performance absences must be approved *by August 20th*. Remember, this must be approved by the director via confirmed email.

## ***Academic Credit and Grading***

As a member of the Marching Leathernecks, you must be enrolled in Marching Band - MUS 116 for one credit hour. If you have not registered for this course, you must do so during the “add/drop” period at the beginning of the semester. This is for many reasons, one of which is travel insurance.

The majority of your grade will be based upon rehearsal and performance attendance and appropriate participation. The following will lower your final grade one time per occurrence (ex. B+ to B, C to C-, etc.):

- An unexcused absence to a rehearsal
- Two unexcused tardies to rehearsals

An unexcused absence to a game day rehearsal may also result in not being allowed to march at the game that day (you will still be required to attend the game with the same penalties enforced). An unexcused absence or tardy to a game day performance will result in a failing grade for the semester and possible immediate removal from the group.

Music memorization will comprise the other major portion of your final grade. The Marching Leathernecks have had a tradition of memorizing music for Pregame and Halftime performances, and this tradition will continue even as the musical repertoire grows (the only music that is not required to be memorized are stand tunes). Section leaders will do music memorization pass-offs accompanied by Senior and Graduate Assistants. If the music is not satisfactorily memorized and passed-off prior to game day, you may not be allowed to march in that performance and your final grade will be lowered one time per occurrence (see example above).

## **EQUIPMENT**

### ***WIU Equipment***

All Western Illinois University owned equipment (including instruments and uniforms) must be looked after with the greatest of care. Equipment, while loaned to you, remains the property of WIU and may be called in at any time. You are responsible for normal maintenance and for the repair of damage which results from negligence or misuse. Penalties will be invoked if equipment is not returned on time according to the announced schedule.

### ***Uniforms***

Each member of the band will be issued a uniform, including the Westernaires and Westernettes and it is IMPERATIVE that we take care of them. It is your responsibility to clean this uniform as needed during the marching season. Uniforms MUST be dry-cleaned by a certain cleaner in a specific way. If your uniform needs to be cleaned before the end of the season, please contact the band office before proceeding. This uniform can only be worn for official marching band functions. Whenever we travel, you must place your uniform in a garment bag, on a hanger, neatly folded. Please hang your uniform up after performances and

allow to air dry, especially after hot or rainy days.

A uniform is the property of Western Illinois University. Therefore, when you are fitted for a uniform, you sign a check-out form and this obligates you to return it in the condition you received it (except for normal wear such as perspiration or soilage from wearing it throughout the marching season). If your uniform comes back damaged in any way other than from normal wear, you will be responsible to pay for professional repair or replacement. The cost for lost items will be given on the check-out form, of which you may request a copy when checking out the uniform. Upon receiving your uniform, immediately check for any needed alterations. Do not use duct tape, staples or fishing line to alter your pants.

When in uniform, make sure that it is being worn properly at all times. This includes keeping the coat zipped and the hat on level - no slanting. Long hair must be tucked up in the hat during performance. Don't be sloppy. Section leaders may have a uniform inspection prior to our performances. You must wear your uniform t-shirt underneath your uniform coat. If you wear a hat in the stands, it must be the official ML baseball cap. Sunglasses may be worn in the stands and in performances with director approval. No bandanas are allowed with the uniform at any time. Gloves and collar liners should be washed periodically or as needed. Take pride in your uniform and appearance as it is most certainly a big part of our performance.

Uniform dispersal will take place at designated times during band camp. Please be aware of these and come at your designated time slot. The uniform room is located in Simpkins Hall, behind 001.

Uniform return will take place after the season is over. You must check in your uniform after our last performance. Dr. Thomas will designate dates and times. You must have your uniform checked in at those times - no exceptions. An "incomplete" for the course will be given and a financial hold placed on your account if all items are not returned by the end of the fall semester. Please phone the Bands Office to arrange an alternate time if you absolutely cannot check your uniform in at the designated time.

### ***Plumes***

You will also be issued a plume. These are worn on the hats at all times when performing, with the only exception being rain. Please keep track of your plume, they have been known to get lost easily and are expensive to replace. When not performing, please store it in your garment bag, or your stadium bag if in the stands.

### ***Shoes***

All wind and percussion players are required to wear the official black uniform shoes and new members are required to purchase these shoes. These can be purchased through the Bands Office and are ordered through Kidder Music. Your shoes must be polished or cleaned before each performance. In performance, the shoes must be worn with black socks. (Don't wear white, you'll look poor and you'll not be allowed to perform). Westernaires will need to purchase black marching shoes as selected for the color guard. Uniforms are furnished.

Westernettes will have a specific type of shoe to purchase. Details for ordering will be announced at band camp.

### ***ML Shirts***

All band members will be required to purchase a Marching Leathernecks t-shirt. Online ordering will take place during band camp. We wear these t-shirts for some performances and always under our uniform coats. We do this so we can remove the coat in hot weather and still look uniform. Please keep your shirt clean and in good condition. When it becomes worn, you must purchase another one.

### ***Stadium Bags and Caps***

All wind players are required to purchase a stadium cap and drawstring backpack that may be purchased in WIU Bookstore. The backpacks will be worn into the stadium and used to carry your stadium cap and flip folder. Plumes will also be placed in the backpack in case of rain. It is also recommended that you purchase a light-weight rain poncho to keep in your stadium pack in case of rain (clear, white, purple, or yellow are acceptable colors).

### ***Instruments***

The School of Music has a limited number of instruments available to check out for marching band. Euphonium players will use marching baritones, horn players will use marching mellophones, and tuba players will use sousaphones, and these instruments will be checked out by the School of Music.

The instrument room is located in Simpkins Hall, Room 003. As indicated in the Preseason Camp Schedule, instruments are to be checked-out during camp. Each instrument checked-out requires the student's signature on an Instrument Loan Agreement - please pay special attention to this form (read it thoroughly).

During the following week after Marching Band season ends, the instruments are to be checked in at the instrument room. Do not delay in doing this. If you are planning to play in the Pep Band, you must recheck out your instrument. Do not just keep the instrument you checked out for marching band to play in Pep Band - this makes it more difficult to keep track of the instruments. Hours will be posted on the bulletin boards and on the instrument room door - please watch for the signs. Announcements will also be made at rehearsals. A word of warning - If you fail to return an instrument during the posted hours for the instrument room, you will not be allowed to leave it in the band office. We cannot assume this responsibility.

### ***Lyres and Flip Folders***

Woodwind and brass players must have lyres and flip folders for marching rehearsals and while playing in the stands. The Bands Office will have flip folders and some lyres for sale. Please check early if you need one or consult your local music dealer.

# **REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES**

## ***Rehearsal Deportment***

“Unity” is the motto of our rehearsals - remember we are all working toward ONE goal. You will not be forced to stand at attention for hours on end, nor do we tolerate total anarchy. You will be treated as adults as long as your actions reflect those of a collegiate musical ensemble. To promote unity, we ask that you make an extra effort to be kind to your fellow members and to use the Golden Rule as much as possible.

Dress should respectfully represent the organization and WIU to the campus and the community at all times. During rehearsals and at all times when affiliated with the organization, members of the Marching Leathernecks will follow appropriate dress guidelines. These include: shirts must be worn at all times and must not be exceptionally revealing, sports bras may not be worn by themselves and must be covered by shirts, tank tops are permissible but must not be deep cut (not more than several inches under armpit and not below sports bra). The director reserves the discretion to ask a member not abiding by these standards to cover, change, or leave the activity if he/she does not abide by the dress requirements.

## ***Rehearsal Information***

Staff will receive drill charts and every member of the band will receive a coordinate sheet. This small sheet of paper lists your individual coordinate on the football field (some people have them laminated for safe-keeping). We will learn how to read them at camp. You must have all music, coordinate sheets, flip folder and a pencil at each and every rehearsal. Section leaders will check the section to make sure all are prepared for rehearsals.

## ***Game Day Information***

We will rehearse at Hanson Field the morning of a home game. It is extremely important to be on time. Please wear your band pants, shoes, hat, and t-shirt to this dress rehearsal. Be sure to bring all items with you to the dress rehearsal. After this rehearsal, there will be time for you to change and eat prior to our pregame concert. Unless you have a locker in Browne Hall, be advised that there is no place for you to store cases and other belongings during rehearsal and the game. Please make arrangements beforehand. We meet at the “Quad” 90 minutes prior to kickoff, and *Pregame At The Ashtray* will be presented approximately 60 minutes prior to kickoff. Members are not excused until the postgame show has concluded, announcements have been given, and *Never Walk Alone* has been performed.

## ***Code of Conduct***

Remember that as a member of the Marching Leathernecks you serve as a representative of Western Illinois University and are part of one of the most visible organizations on campus. When you are in uniform or on an away trip with the band, or engaged in any activity associated with the Marching Leathernecks, bear in mind the Code of Conduct: Any conduct which is not exemplary or reflects poorly upon Western Illinois University will be dealt with according to the

infraction and could result in dismissal from the organization and failure of the course.

Members of the group should feel safe at all times and never bullied or harassed by other members. Sexual or other harassment is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Incidents of harassment will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including separation or dismissal from the Marching Leathernecks.

If the deviant behavior occurs while on an off-campus trip, the student detracting from the image of Western Illinois University or the Marching Leathernecks will be dealt with severely and possibly be sent home at his/her expense. Absolutely no smoking or drinking alcohol while in uniform. Additionally, members should never wear the uniform (including the band t-shirt) for unofficial activities.

### ***No-Tolerance Hazing Policy***

The Western Illinois University Policy on Hazing states:

Hazing of any type whether committed or arranged by individual students or members of recognized student organizations is an unacceptable practice at Western Illinois University. Activities prohibited under this Policy shall include, but not be limited to, any of the following:

1. extended deprivation of sleep or rest;
2. forced consumption of food, liquor, beverage or drugs;
3. beatings;
4. brandings;
5. tests of endurance;

OR

6. submission of members or prospective members to potentially hazardous or dangerous circumstances.

It shall not be an acceptable defense to a charge of hazing to claim that the participants took part voluntarily, that they voluntarily assumed the risks or hardship of the activity, or that no injury in fact was suffered.

The Marching Leathernecks have a long and deep tradition of fostering a family-like atmosphere within the organization. While there are situations in the world that have recently been brought to light including hazing in university marching bands, the Marching Leathernecks stand far from that and will continue to be an organization where all are welcome, comfortable, and protected from such inappropriate behavior. Hazing of any kind will not be tolerated and should immediately be brought to the attention of the director, who will consult with administration on appropriate actions including (but not limited to) immediate removal from the organization of those involved.

### ***In the Stands***

At Hanson Field, the Marching Leathernecks' seats are in the middle section of the east bleachers directly across from the press box. Assigned seating (by section) will be given prior to the first game. General rules include:

- No visits by friends, relatives, etc. while in the stands - including previous members. Our full attention should be placed on the game. Band members and invited guests (pre-approved by the director) are the only people allowed in the band seating area during the game.
- Everyone participates in playing/cheering from the stands. Support our Fighting Leathernecks. Our role as spirit leaders includes playing in the stands. Have fun - support the team by playing well, cheering hard, and giving the team the best support possible.
- There is to be absolutely no cell phone usage during the game.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Students and other fans will be seated in close proximity to the band. Do not provoke any fights - keep your cool. There may be some people at the game who have had a few alcoholic beverages prior to the game or even during the game. Please do not engage these individuals.
- Trips to the rest room will be granted only by section leaders and the director. Please keep these to a bare minimum. Water will be provided after pregame and halftime. No food or drink in the stands - no exceptions.
- Please make every effort to get to your seating area as soon as possible after pregame and halftime so we can play shortly after the action begins.
- Exit from our seats will begin approximately 3 minutes before halftime. Please stay out of the way of football players and officials. When instructed to do so, quickly and carefully make your way to your starting spot. Wait for the drum major's command for field entrance.
- Above all, remember we are the largest and most visible athletic support group at WIU. Bring positive attention to the group by playing all stand music well, participating in all cheers, and having a great time.

Please keep in mind that from the minute we begin preparations for the first downbeat of *Pregame At The Ashtray* to the dismissal following *Never Walk Alone*, the Marching Leathernecks are always "on-stage." Take pride in our organization.

### ***Football Game Performances***

The Marching Leathernecks usually present *four* formal performances at home football games. Each of these performances has a specific purpose and function:

#### ***Pregame at the Ashtray***

We will present *Pregame At The Ashtray* 60 minutes prior to kickoff. This concert takes place in the pedestrian area behind the student union. Parts of pregame and the halftime show are usually presented at the pregame concert. Visiting bands are invited to join us in this exciting setting and friends, family (including pets), and all Fighting Leathernecks fans are encouraged to attend.



### ***Pregame Show***

This is a performance given on the field prior to the start of each game. This show is designed as a salute and tribute to our beloved alma mater, Western Illinois University, as well as our country.

### ***Halftime Show***

This is our premiere performance at football games - designed as a showcase of the Marching Leathernecks. A typical halftime show will include three or four musical numbers. The opener and closer will usually be full drill selections. The middle tune will be used as either concert numbers featuring the Westernettes (danceline)/Westernaires (colorguard) or as light drill numbers. Each show is designed with the goal to best entertain our audience which is mainly composed of football fans. A theme will almost always be designated for our halftime shows. This season, we will have three or four completely different halftime shows.

### ***Post-Game/Never Walk***

At the end of every game, we will circle-up on the field and finish our performance with our long-lasting tradition of playing *Never Walk Alone*.

### ***Tentative Performance Schedule***

Sunday, Aug 17	Early move-in
Mon-Fri, Aug 18-22	Pre-Season Camp
Friday, Aug 22	WIU welcome event performances
Saturday, Sept. 6	Pekin Marigold Parade & Performance
Saturday, Sept. 13	Home Game #1 (Family Weekend)
Saturday, Sept. 20	Performance at Geneseo Competition
Saturday, Sept. 27	Home Game #2
Saturday, Oct. 18	Home Game #3 (Homecoming)
Saturday, Oct. 25	Marching Band Classic (all day)
Saturday, Nov. 8	Home Game #4
Friday, Nov. 14	Senior Send-off
Saturday, Nov. 15	Home Game #5
(*Possible Post Season play-off games TBA)	

### ***Family Weekend/Band Parent's Day***

Band Parents Day is held annually as part of the WIU home game during Family Weekend. This is one of the most fun events we host as your parents will not only participate in all of the pre-game festivities as honorary ML's but will actually march in the half-time show with you. Please notify your parents, and we will be sending out more information (as well as posting it on

the bands' website) as the date approaches.

### ***WIU Marching Band Classic***

As shown on the performance schedule, the WIU Marching Band Classic is a high school field show competition that is held annually on Hanson Field. This is a major event for WIU Bands. The Marching Leathernecks will perform in exhibition for this event before a crowd of many high school students, educators, parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends. In addition, members of the Marching Leathernecks are the hosts and will be expected to assist with the many aspects of this event for the entire day. Please keep an eye on the bulletin boards for a sign-up sheet. Your cooperation and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

### ***Travel and Medical Forms***

Travel will always be by bus and check-in time is always 30 minutes prior to the scheduled departure. If an overnight stay is required, the staff will arrange lodging. Per diem may or may not be available. Departure time is very real and firm - we will not wait for you, so be on time. If a trip requires you to miss classes, excuse forms for your professors will be provided by the Bands Office in advance of the performance date.

## **OTHER BANDS AT WESTERN**

### ***Wind Ensemble (MUS 113)***

The Wind Ensemble (MUS 113) performs throughout the region, the state, and at numerous campus concerts and ceremonies. The ensemble meets from 3:00-5:00 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 3:00-4:00 on Fridays during the marching band season (from 3:00-5:00 PM on MWF after marching season ends) and performs two campus concerts during the fall semester. Dr. Mike Fansler is the director of the Wind Ensemble.

### ***Concert Band (MUS 114)***

The Concert Band (MUS 114) meets from 3:00-4:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday and from 6:00-7:15 PM on Wednesday during the fall semester. After marching season ends, Concert Band rehearses from 3:00-5:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday and from 6:00-7:15 PM on Wednesday for the remainder of the semester. The band performs 2 concerts during the fall semester featuring the finest in traditional and contemporary band literature. Dr. Matt Thomas is the director of the Concert Band.

### ***University Band (MUS 115)***

The University Band is a non-auditioned ensemble open to students who want to experience reading and performing band literature in a large concert band setting. It is also for those upper-level music education majors who would like to experience a secondary instrument in a band setting. This group meets only one night a week during the spring semester and will play a variety of literature as well as discuss aspects of achieving high performance standards. Topics

will include: balance issues, intonation tendencies for all instruments, blending techniques, and other important performance characteristics. Great repertoire is performed in a final concert directed primarily by graduate students and advanced conducting students. If you would like to find out more about this group, please contact Dr. Matt Thomas, or simply enroll.

### ***Pep Band (MUS 118)***

Pep Band will begin in the fall semester, but students will register for credit in the spring. This spirited group will perform for men's and women's basketball games and possibly several volleyball games. Membership and participation is open to all university students registered for the course, and payment for games is assigned by seniority. Stay tuned for more detailed schedule and audition information early this fall. Dr. Matt Thomas is director of the Pep Band.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities:**

<http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students/provost/students/>

### **WIU School of Music health and safety policy/information:**

[http://www.wiu.edu/cofac/music/health\\_safety.php](http://www.wiu.edu/cofac/music/health_safety.php)

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

<http://www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php>

### ***Students with disabilities:***

In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Development and Success Center at 309-298-1884, [disability@wiu.edu](mailto:disability@wiu.edu), or in 125 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

### ***Title IX:***

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: [http://www.wiu.edu/equal\\_opportunity\\_and\\_access/report.php](http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/report.php). If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/dhsm.php>.

### **Disruptive Student Behavior:**

Disruptive Student Behavior is defined as inappropriate student behavior that a reasonable faculty member would view as interfering with the ability of the instructor to teach and students to learn whether in a classroom or other learning environment (such as an online course, laboratory, site field experience, internships, instructor's office, computer lab, or other setting whether it is an on-campus or off-campus location), which disrupts the educational process. It is also considered disruptive behavior for a student to exhibit threatening, intimidating, or other inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates outside of the learning environment. For more information visit

<http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/disrupst.php>

### **Musician Health and Safety:**

The following resources contain best practices related to health and safety in musical settings. These are links to research-based strategies for maintaining personal health and safety within the contexts of practice, performance, teaching, and listening. Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to supplement the resources below with professional information that is specific to their particular areas of music activity.

[http://www.wiu.edu/cofac/music/health\\_safety.php](http://www.wiu.edu/cofac/music/health_safety.php)

### **Military/Veteran Support:**

As a military-friendly institution, and in accordance with federal regulations and Illinois statutes, Western Illinois University has established policies and procedures to accommodate military service students. In addition to the supports available at WIU's Veterans Resource Center ([www.wiu.edu/student\\_success/veterans](http://www.wiu.edu/student_success/veterans) / 309-298-3505), veterans, members of the National Guard or Reserves, and active-duty military personnel with military obligations (e.g., deployments, trainings, drill) are encouraged to communicate these, in advance whenever possible, to the instructor. The Military Service Policy can be found at <http://www.wiu.edu/policies/military.php>