

Performing Arts Department

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www.CWPerformingArts.info

Canal Winchester High School
300 Washington St.
Canal Winchester, OH 43110

5/26/20

I am very glad you've chosen to join us. The Winchester Steel Co. is the most unique musical experience you'll have at CWHS and possibly your lifetime. No other organization can offer you the professional atmosphere that the Steel Band can. The performances can range from 1/2 to 3 hours. You will begin to see how the notes on the page are just a beginning to your concert. You will have the opportunity to develop into fine soloists. You will see how, with improvisation, most of the music is never played the same way twice.

Of course, right now people are concerned about how the Covid situation will affecting the Steel Band program. We will be working under the same guidelines as every other program in Canal Winchester Schools. We have events already on the calendar and we'll assume things are a 'go' until a change is needed.

Here are few things to know about our program:

- 1) There are **NO Participation Fees**. The group is 90% self funded. The Performing Arts Boosters make up the remaining balance.
- 2) There are no conflicts with any of the Marching Band rehearsals or performances. Mr. McGee and I work hard to see that the students are not put in the middle of a conflict. During the Marching Band Season, September and October, we rehearse on Tuesday, 2:45-4:10. After the Marching Band Season ends, we move to Mondays and Fridays, 2:45-3:45.
- 3) We have Pan Camp the week of **Aug 17-121, 1:00-4:30** in the HS Music Room. This week is very important to help our new players feel comfortable with their instrument. Please see that it is on your calendar.
- 4) While playing a steel drum may seem totally foreign to some students, the majority of the current members are not percussionists by training and had no experience playing a percussion instrument before joining the Steel Band. To help you transition into the band, I'm going to ask that you take some time this summer to prepare for Pan Camp. A) Review your letters. There are numerous applications and websites that can help, but I've posted a guide and quiz on: <http://cwperformingarts.info/cwpa-public-downloads/index.html> B) Learn the layout of your pan. This can be done through the same website and by downloading an app called **Digital Pan**.
- 5) Many of our players are involved in one or more of our sports teams or other activities. I realize conflicts can happen with our rehearsals and I am willing to find ways to compromise with other school activities. You will be expected to avoid conflicts with any job schedules.
- 6) This is a unique ensemble for any school district. There are only about a dozen such groups in all of Ohio. The Canal Winchester Steel Band has a professional reputation throughout the Midwest. We are the only HS group to perform before the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, The Lancaster Arts Festival, and numerous Corporate and Private events around Central Ohio.
- 7) The members of the band achieve the highest level musicianship. ANY student looking at a full or part time career in music should be a member of this group.
- 8) The Canal Winchester Steel Band works with the top people in the Steel Band world. We've commissioned works from and hosted clinicians that are considered in the top ten Steel Band authorities on the planet.
- 9) I need just a couple things from every student - Show up to rehearsal and give me your best effort. With that, you're guaranteed to be successful. As the old joke goes: "How do you eat an Elephant? One bite at a time." Have patience and set a reasonable goal.



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Our program will perform as both a full band and as a combo group. There are four FULL band concerts already scheduled. Please see that these dates are on your calendar.

Wednesday, Dec. 20, CWHS, 7pm

Tuesday, May 11, CWHS, 7pm.

Other dates will be added as the school year progresses.

If at any time you or your parents have any concerns or questions, please let me know and I'll be very happy to talk with you and work out any thing that comes up. My personal email is: filups@prodigy.net. It is the easiest way to contact me.

Whether this is your 1st or your 7th year in our program, we're about to start an incredible journey that can't be matched anywhere in our region. **Welcome!**

Todd Phillips

