

May 2009

Dear Student,

This is your invitation to join the most spirited group of students on campus, the most closely knit family at NIU, and the Pride of the Midwest, the Huskie Marching Band! If you have already signed up for marching band, GREAT! If not, keep reading and make plans now to attend band camp so you can be part of the fun.

Band camp is important because it is the greatest chunk of time we will have to prepare for our first show. To be ready for the game, during camp we will be learning music and drill to our entire pregame show, music and drill to the first halftime show, as well as music for the stands. Check the marching band web site at [www.niu.edu/band](http://www.niu.edu/band) to download copies of the music, so you can start memorizing! Parts to the Fight Song along with the rest of the pre-game music are already available under the "Info for Current Members" section, as well as instructions for part selection, criteria for auditioning for parts, and more. Keep checking the web site for more music throughout the summer.

Band Camp starts on Sunday, August 16 for everyone. If you have not already registered for the Huskie Marching Band as a class, sign up as soon as possible. Woodwind, brass or percussion players should enroll for MUSC 393 section0001, Colorguard for MUSC 393 section0003, Silverettes for MUSC 393 section0002. For specific instructions to enroll using MyNIU, see the following website [http://www.niu.edu/myniutraining/Documents/Registering\\_for\\_classes.pdf](http://www.niu.edu/myniutraining/Documents/Registering_for_classes.pdf)

Enclosed, you will find a registration form, an order form for uniform parts such as spats or marching shoes, and a medical form. **Please complete and return the registration form, the uniform part order form (if applicable), and the medical form (note: two-sided) to the Huskie Band office before July 31.** Please note that you must completely fill out the entire medical form, including signing the back page.

**Drumline:** The majority of the drumline positions were determined at the audition in April. Prospective members can still audition at the Drumline Practice Camp on Saturday, July 18. Contact Dr. Bough for more information at [tbough@niu.edu](mailto:tbough@niu.edu).

#### **Housing:**

**NIU Residence Hall:** In order to check into your residence hall at the start of camp, you must be registered for marching band as a class (see above) and you must notify the marching band office using the enclosed registration form. Once you have completed BOTH steps, you will be placed on a list for early check-in at no cost to you. You may check into your residence hall on Sunday, Aug. 16 from 2 – 5 PM. Contact the Huskie Marching Band office via email at [band@niu.edu](mailto:band@niu.edu) if you have questions. **If you do not turn in the housing form by July 31, you will be charged a *per day* early move-in fee.**

**Off Campus and University Plaza:** Make arrangements with your landlord to move-in on or before Aug. 16. Band camp starts that evening, so please take care of your moving arrangements so you are ready for rehearsal that night. Get confirmation from your landlord in writing that you will be able to move in as specified to avoid last minute complications.

**Meals:** The Huskie Marching Band will provide evening meals for the band on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night. You are on your own for breakfast and lunch. All residence hall rooms come equipped

with refrigerators and microwave ovens. Residence Hall meal plans are not active until the Thursday of band camp, so plan ahead!

**Camp Schedule:** Please visit the Huskie Bands website at [www.niu.edu](http://www.niu.edu) for a detailed band camp schedule. REHEARSAL STARTS AT 7:00 PM ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, in Room 155 (the band room) of the Music Building. If you need to check out a university instrument, those will be available starting at 5:00 PM. Storage lockers for instruments will be available during regular business hours from the large ensemble office for a small fee. NIU can ONLY provide sousaphones, marching baritones, mellophones, and a few tenor saxophones. Members should provide all other instruments. Once you are registered for marching band as a class, you can contact the band office (see above) to check out an instrument during the summer so you can start practicing!

**Band Camp Spirit Days:** We want to invite you to start planning for our Band Camp Spirit Days, something we do to make band camp a bit more fun! A few of the days will have a designated theme to dress accordingly. The section with the most participation wins a great prize! **Monday:** High School T-shirt day, **Tuesday:** HMB Pride Day- Wear a color that corresponds to your year in HMB (1<sup>st</sup>=green, 2<sup>nd</sup>=white, 3<sup>rd</sup>=blue, 4<sup>th</sup>=yellow, 5<sup>th</sup>+ =grey), **Wednesday:** Hawaiian Theme Day.

**Bring your Summer Uniform:** We have several performances during band camp. It is going to be hot, so rather than wear our entire uniform, we are going to perform in our summer uniform. We provide you with one (free) Huskie Marching Band t-shirt. YOU provide a pair of shorts, in some light shade of khaki, brown or tan.

**Marching Band Uniform:** All members of the woodwind, brass and percussion section need to provide their own pair of black, MTX marching shoes as part of our marching band uniform. You also need to provide a pair of white spats to be worn with the uniform. You are welcome to purchase these yourself, or through the Huskie Marching Band using the enclosed order form. The registration, order and medical forms must be received in the band office by July 31 for priority consideration.

### **Bring a Friend!**

Our goal is to build the largest, most spirited, talented band possible! Help us continue to earn our name, the Pride of the Midwest, by inviting your friends to join us for what promises to be a truly spectacular season. Talented performers who are completely reliable and who demonstrate a positive work ethic at every rehearsal are always welcome! Feel free to contact the band office at [band@niu.edu](mailto:band@niu.edu) or (815) 753-1042 if you have questions.

### **Pep Band**

Members can choose to join pep band as well. Pep Band is an entirely separate class (MUSC 393 section 4) from marching band that meets during both semesters. Fall Pep Band performances include most home volleyball games at Victor E. Court at the Convocation Center as well as basketball games in November and December, plus a few rehearsals on Tuesday nights throughout the semester. Members can also choose to do Spring Pep Band which performs at all basketball games January – March.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas Bough  
Director, Huskie Marching Band