What We Provide You--Marching Band members are provided the following items free of charge: uniform, flip folder, music, band shirt and shorts, and transportation and lodging on all trips. School instruments (nearly all types of instruments are available) may be checked out for a $15 rental fee. Students only need to provide a lyre for their instrument and black band shoes. We are planning to offer the band members the same "perks" this year.

Band Grants--All Marching Band members are paid! Last year, band members were paid $50 for every year they had participated in Band, and those working on crews (uniforms, loading, field-lining) received additional money. Many upperclassmen earn $400 or more by the end of the season.

Will I have time to be in Marching Band?--Absolutely! The band consists of students from almost every department on campus, all of whom not only find plenty of time to participate, but also find that the thrill of performing before thousands of fans and the friendships and good times associated with marching band are among the most valuable experiences in their college careers. Rehearsals are scheduled at a time (3:10 p.m.) when there are very few classes scheduled. Freshmen and transfers in their first semester at Indiana State find that the Band is a fantastic way to meet other students and become identified with a visible, first-class organization. There are some people that may try to tell you that you don't have time to participate in anything outside of your major area when you're in college. I hope that you are planning on doing some things that you enjoy, and marching band is something that our students really enjoy. We invariably have a few students that come and say that they are going to sit out a year and get their feet on the ground and then march the next year. We usually never see those people again. Don't let someone talk you out of what you want to do for selfish reasons. Call me if you have questions about how band can fit into your schedule!

Band Trips and off-campus performances--Each year, the Marching Sycamores travel and perform at various sites in the Midwest. The band has performed for high school, college, and professional football audiences in each of the last several years, including seven performances at the RCA Dome for the Indianapolis Colts. The band has performed on ABC TV for the Monday Night Football game between the Colts and Steelers and were invited last year to play a regular season game and a playoff game. Members of the band have also performed at the ISSMA Marching Band State Finals at the RCA Dome in recent years. Band members do not pay for their travel and lodging costs.

Rehearsal Schedule--During the year, the marching band rehearses three times a week for two hours a day (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:10 to 5:10). There is also a morning rehearsal each Saturday that we have a home game. The schedule of 6-7 hours of rehearsal a week is much less than what many high school band members experienced.

Academic Credit--Marching Band is a class and students participating receive 1 credit hour for the fall semester. Marching Band is listed under "Music 109" (or 409 for upperclassmen).

Performances--In addition to performing at all home football games and the homecoming parade, the band gives exhibition performances at the high school marching band contests that take place at Memorial Stadium.

Marching Style--We utilize a contemporary marching style in our shows. Those students coming from a competitive marching band will be comfortable performing in our style, yet the students in our band who had little or no marching experience in high school have no problems learning and executing the system. The college student who plans to become a marching band director will gain valuable experience in helping to put together shows that are similar in style to those of fine high school marching bands.

Band Camp--Camp starts in mid-August, a few days before classes begin. Marching Band students are able to beat the rush and move into their residence halls before other students. After the first week of school, we have only three afternoon rehearsals a week (no regularly scheduled evening rehearsals after Band Camp). If you have any questions or problems please call or write to us.

Sycamore Basketball Bands--The Sycamore Basketball Bands are well known in Terre Haute and throughout the region for their exciting musical performances and spirited support of ISU basketball teams. Marching Band members get first consideration when auditions are held for the Basketball Bands. We have two Basketball Bands which play for all men's and women's games as well as postseason tournaments. In March 2008 a selected group of students traveled to conference basketball tournaments in St. Louis. As with the marching band, Basketball Band is a class and the university pays all student expenses.

We hope that you can become a part of the excitement with the marching band and basketball band this fall. We look forward to getting your application and seeing you in August!

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