

WELCOME TO THE WADE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND

WHAT IS MARCHING BAND?

The marching band is a contemporary, performance art ensemble within the WHHS bands program. This ensemble consists of wind players, percussionists, and color guard members. Marching band performs at home football games, as well as contests and festivals on most Saturdays in September and October.

Marching "season" spans weather from the hottest summer days to cool fall nights. Your marching band student will work harder, and be more tired, than you've ever seen, but they will also find a group of friends they will share a bond with throughout their high school career (and beyond).

MARCHING BAND COMMITMENT

Participating in Marching Band means committing to the ENTIRE season:

- Participate in 2 weeks of band camp at the end of July/early August
- Participate in after school rehearsal up to 3 days a week through early November
- Participate in each football game and competition scheduled, including most Saturdays in September and October.
- All band rehearsals, games and competitions are on the calendar on the website as soon as we know them.

Students should not become involved with activities that may DIRECTLY and CONTINUOUSLY conflict with band activities.

- Work is not an excuse for missing any band activity.
- Inform Mr. Pagett in advance of any possible unavoidable absences for them to be considered as excused.

Yes, it is hard work

Yes, they will be hot and tired.

They may even say at some point they want to QUIT!

If that time comes for your student, please be prepared to:

- Remind them they have made a commitment and they should see it through.
- Remind them that it is disrespectful to Mr. Pagett and to ALL the other marchers, because the show will have to be rewritten and then everyone has to relearn it.
- Remind them that you've spent your money allowing them to do this.
- Let them know that leaving before the end means the work you have done is for nothing. Stick it out and feel the amazing sense of accomplishment.

COST OF BAND

Awesome isn't cheap

The school district and school provide the WHHS Band with a fraction of what is necessary to operate a band program over the course of the year.

We must raise our own funds to cover the majority of the cost of equipment and equipment maintenance, transportation, and numerous other expenses. The WHHS Band Boosters serve as the fundraising and support organization for the band programs.

IT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE WADE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND THAT NO STUDENT SHOULD BE DENIED THE PRIVILEGE OF BAND MEMBERSHIP DUE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.

FOR OPTIONS IN MEETING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, PARENTS SHOULD CONTACT THE BAND DIRECTOR.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Each band family is responsible for paying/raising

Student 1 = \$500 student band fees

Additional student in same family = \$300 student band fees

While these fees may seem high, there are several options to reduce the amount owed.

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITY

Each band family is also required to make a commitment to support the band through volunteering.

Our new volunteer point system is designed to increase parent involvement, promote fairness and spread volunteer duties throughout the band program.

- Each volunteer opportunity has points attributed to the task. The points are calculated based on time, effort, and experience required for the task.

Marching Band Point Requirement = 20 (at least 2 by student)

Payout in lieu of volunteering = \$100

- Families have until the end of the third month of the season to earn their points, after which the balance of incomplete points will be charged against their account.

GET ALL THE DETAILS ON THE WHHS VOLUNTEER POINTS SYSTEM AT

<https://whhsbands.swimtopia.com/>

EXPLANATION OF FEES

- The first \$200 must be paid for each student by the beginning of band camp to cover items ordered in the summer.
- If you are unable to pay the first \$200 of band fees by the beginning of band camp, please speak with the band director as soon as possible.
- Part of fees cover items worn or used by the student which will become the student's property at the end of the season.
- Fees are also used for band-related expenses such as instructional staff, transportation, equipment purchase and repair, food, and various other expenses.

SCHEDULE FOR PAYMENTS

Fees should be paid on the following schedule:

July 30	August 30	September 30	October 30
\$200 (can be reduced by sponsorships)	\$100 (can be reduced by sponsorships)	\$100	\$100 (can be reduced by fruit sales)

REDUCTION #1 PAY EARLY & PAY LESS

Families may always opt to pay the student band fees up front and out-of-pocket rather than participating in fundraising, volunteering, or seeking sponsors.

A \$50 discount will be given for full payment received by July 30 (beginning of band camp), for a reduced total of \$450 instead of \$500

REDUCTION #2 - SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorships provide an opportunity for businesses to get recognition in the community while giving the band the money needed to operate.

- full credit earned against band fees
- must be turned in by August 30

July 30	August 30	September 30	October 30
\$200 \$0 (can be reduced by sponsorships)	\$100 \$0 (can be reduced by sponsorships)	\$100	\$100 (can be reduced by fruit sales)

REDUCTION #3 - FRUIT SALES

- Meet minimum sold [to be announced]
- earns \$100 credit toward October payment
- one per student

July 30	August 30	September 30	October 30
\$200 \$0 (can be reduced by sponsorships)	\$100 \$0 (can be reduced by sponsorships)	\$100	\$100 \$0 (can be reduced by fruit sales)

EXAMPLES

Example: 1 student in family - \$500 total

- \$200 paid by beginning of band camp
- Two \$100 sponsorships sold (\$200)
- Student participates in 2 shifts at car wash (2 pts)
- At least one parent volunteers for 4 football concessions shifts (12 pts)
- One parent volunteers as a competition chaperone (6 pts)
- Student sells minimum requirement for Fruit Sales (\$100)

Example: 2 students in one family - \$800 total

- \$200 each (\$400) paid by beginning of band camp
- Two \$100 sponsorships sold (\$200)
- Both students participate in 2 shifts at car wash (4 pts)
- At least one parent volunteers for 4 football concessions shifts (12 pts)
- One parent volunteers for 1 prop crew for a competition (6 pts)
- Both students sell minimum requirement for fruit sales (\$200)

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Families who do not pay band fees create a problem for the WHHS Band. The WHHS Band Boosters is a nonprofit organization that relies heavily on band operating fees to function.

We understand that some families may have trouble paying band fees in a timely manner, and we are always willing to work with these families.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND PAYMENT PLANS

For families that have difficulty meeting financial obligations by the dates indicated, the Band Boosters can arrange mutually agreeable payment plans and/or provide financial assistance on a case-by-case basis to help defer the cost of larger band expenses. Payment plans are available to all.

- To request assistance, parents should complete the Hardship Waiver Form.
- Families seeking financial assistance must commit to earning 20 points in order to qualify for Assistance.

The band keeps all financial assistance matters in strict confidence.

WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THE BAND FEES

To be purchased through online WHHS Band Boosters:

- \$40 - Black marching shoes / guard shoes (if you don't already have them)
 - Shoes are part of the uniform and are all ordered together.
 - The shoe company will come to the school early in the season (the date will be announced) and measure everyone who needs them:
 - All new band or guard
 - Anyone needing a new size
- \$TBD - Track Suit for guard members only
 - Only for those who don't have one or need a different size

To be purchased individually:

- Black compression shorts to wear under uniform (thinner athletic shorts work best)
- Long black socks (solid black, several pairs)
- Additional or replacement gloves

WHAT EVERY NEW BAND PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

COMMUNICATION

EMAIL

- Essential that we have a working email address that you will check frequently
- We send weekly (or more) email messages with schedules and important information

WEBSITE – www.whhsbands.com

- Band calendar of events
- General information, contact info, FAQs, links for volunteering, donating, parent accounts, etc.

FACEBOOK- WHHSBands

- Find pictures and videos of performances
- First place we will post schedule changes

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNTS

You'll set up your free account through our membership system, where you'll be able to:

- Maintain your family's contact information
- Complete required forms
- Order spirit wear with secure online order form
- Make secure online donations
- Make payments and see records of previous payments

UNIFORM RESPONSIBILITY

Each time the uniform is to be worn, students are responsible for arriving at the school wearing:

- black shorts to be worn under uniform
- long solid black socks (not ankle or no-show, no stripes or other colors on them)
 - these can be bought at most dollar stores if you don't have them
- black gloves appropriate to your instrument

Make sure these are washed after each performance and ready for the next one.

Many parents opt to get an extra pair of shorts and/or pair of socks in case their child doesn't bring them home when they should. This is also helpful on those weekends that we have a football game Friday and contest Saturday.

WHAT THE BAND NEEDS FROM YOU

VOLUNTEERING – EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED!

WE CAN'T DO IT ALL WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

Volunteer points can be earned in a wide variety of ways

- Options range from an hour to all day or even something you do on your own schedule at home
- Points are also awarded for food donations and bake sale contributions
- We know that not everyone is available for everything and you have certain areas you are more comfortable in helping with than others.

Please give some thought to how you can help!

SCHOOL DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

The school district has specific requirements for volunteers with the school.

- Any volunteer must have at least Level 1 approval confirmed
- For band volunteers, we'd love for you to go ahead and apply for Level 2 approval (which includes the background check) as soon as possible.

DONATIONS

The band always needs donations, and not just financial donations.

- Water
We need more than 200 bottles of water for each game and 200 for each competition. For 6 games and 6 competitions, that is at least 2,400 bottles of water!
- Concessions
We have several items we need in larger quantities for concessions, and if each band family picked up one item on their next shopping trip, we could turn each into a larger profit for the band. Check the volunteer portal for items needed and point values
- Odds and Ends
From snacks to medical supplies to shelving to nuts and bolts or even something you thought of but we didn't know to request! Watch emails for specific requests.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BAND CAMP

WHAT IS BAND CAMP?

Band camp is two weeks of practices in late July/early August. These are long hot days of hard work but this is where the team begins and the individuals become a band.

- A major portion of these two weeks of rehearsal are spent outdoors.
- It will be very hot outside.
- Chaperones will be onsite and will have first aid supplies if needed.

BAND CAMP CHANGES

Weekly Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday - 8 am to 8 pm

Wednesday (both weeks), Friday (first week) - 8 am to 5 pm

New daily time schedule

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Outdoor Rehearsal

12:00 to 12:45 p.m. Lunch

12:45 to 5:00 p.m. Indoor Rehearsal

5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Dinner (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday)

6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Outdoor Rehearsal (Monday, Tuesday & Thursday)

Practice location

For band camp and practices all season, the band will make use of the student parking lot, behind the stadium

PREPARING FOR BAND CAMP

Marching band can be much more physically demanding than most people think and many of our students, especially in summer, are not used to this level of exertion.

It is VERY important that you begin to prepare your body for camp.

- Evaluate your diet.
- Start drinking more water and less soda or juice.
- Increase your current amount of physical activity.
- Begin playing your instrument again.

PRACTICE/BAND CAMP ESSENTIALS

Every Student Needs to:

- **Eat a healthy breakfast.**
 - Eat good protein. Avoid breakfasts that are heavy in sugar. Drink lots of water (and juice, sparingly).
- **Wear tennis shoes and socks.**
 - Good socks and athletic shoes (not necessarily new ones for band camp!)
 - *No flip flops or sandals.*
- **Wear lightweight clothing.**
 - Again, it will be very hot outside. It is important you wear lightweight and light-colored clothes especially shirts or tanks and shorts.
- **Wear sunscreen each day and bug spray at night.**
 - Every year we have students who get burned the first day of practice and it makes them uncomfortable all week.
- **Make a Band Bag**

A designated band bag or backpack, different from your school bag or purse, that is pre-stocked with the items you need every day of band camp - sunscreen, bug spray, deodorant, extra socks, cheap rain poncho, small towel, etc.

 - Last year's school backpack or a drawstring bag could work great for this.
 - Remember to take washable items out and replace them!

Every Student Needs to Bring Every Day:

- **Water Jug**
 - At least a Half-Gallon insulated container filled with water.
 - Must be able to be opened and closed so that it doesn't spill.
 - No disposable bottles or jugs, yeti cups, or tumblers.
 - A coleman half gallon jug can be found at walmart for under \$10
- **3-ring binder** – (½ inch to 1 inch) with 10-12 sheet protectors in it to accommodate warmups and show music.
- Pencil
- **Healthy Lunch and Dinner – Absolutely required**
 - Something light but filling so you don't get overheated
 - Students won't be allowed to leave campus during meals.
 - Box dinners will be available for purchase
- **Sunglasses and/or Hat - at least one is required**
 - Consider a wider hat that covers your neck and ears as well as shading your face.
- Towel – for your neck or head
- **Your Instrument!**
- Extras for your instrument – reeds for woodwinds, valve oil for brass, sticks for drums, etc.
- Change of clothes if you'd like – it will be long, hot days and you don't want to be too offensive
- Any medications that you may need throughout the day with parent instructions
- **Your Best Attitude Ever!!**

HEAT AND YOUR MARCHER'S HEALTH

ARE YOUR KIDS IN DANGER?

Marching Band is an athletic pursuit with athletic demands. If they follow our guidelines and hydrate, they will be absolutely safe.

Throughout the season – not just during band camp, it can still be very hot during practice, and students cannot come to practice without eating healthy food and drinking lots of water - all day, not just at 4 o'clock.

If they aren't eating anything but junk all day and/or drinking little or no water, they will be more likely to throw up or pass out at practice, which can result in embarrassment, discomfort or even injury!

Please make sure your student is not in danger – again, make sure they

- Eat healthy - you can't do band on an empty or poorly fed stomach.
- Eat good protein. Avoid foods that are heavy in sugar.
- Drink lots of water.
- Wear tennis shoes and socks.
- Wear lightweight clothing.
- WATER - ABSOLUTELY REQUIRED!
 - A 20 oz water bottle is NOT ACCEPTABLE for 3+ hours in the sun and heat. Please make sure your student brings an insulated half-gallon water cooler with them to every practice.
 - Students have access to lockers in the band room where they can store their cooler and have it for every rehearsal.

PRACTICE/BAND CAMP PICK UP

Students are not dismissed from the practice field and may not be picked up from the parking lot. After practice ends:

- Students have to push equipment back to the band room.
- Students have to put their instruments and other equipment away.
- There will also be some announcements from the director and/or leadership prior to dismissal.

BAND PICK UP PROCEDURE

The school has designated the following:

- For all practice, games and competitions, all band pick up will be through the fire lane at the side of the school.
- Enter the main entrance to the school and follow the lane to the right of the building - red lines
- The gates should be unlocked, but please note, if you are early to arrive, you may need to push the gate open.
- Please pull to the left side of the road so others can pass you on the right without endangering other kids. Use caution when leaving the back of the building.
- Please note, the gates will only be open for 30 minutes after scheduled pick up time. Please be on time to pick up your child so that everyone can get home to their families.

MARCHING COMPETITIONS

CONTEST DAYS

Contest days are long.

- We usually have a practice in the morning before we load up and travel to the contest then typically stay to the end to see the awards presentation before driving home.
- These can be 12 hour days for our students. They have a great time but we want you to be aware that they will be there all day.
- It is a good idea to bring a snack (protein bars and other portable food works well) because we often eat at odd times to work around the performance schedule.
- Usually the kids will eat a meal provided by Boosters at the contest after they perform.

We encourage parents to attend these contests.

- It means a lot to our members to hear the audience screaming for them when they are taking the field. We ask that if you are in the stands you try to sit with the rest of the WHHS members (there is strength in numbers). Just look for the group of people wearing WHHS shirts or the Wade Hampton flag.
- Alternately you can volunteer to chaperone and/or volunteer for the crew which will allow you to walk with the students through each of their warm up areas, get them on the field, then watch the performance up close.
 - Parents who are volunteering get free admission to the contests and chaperones obviously get free transportation.

WHAT ARE BOOSTERS?

WHHS BAND BOOSTERS

The purpose of the Wade Hampton High School (WHHS) Band Boosters, a 501c3 organization, is to promote the development and continuation of a superior band program at Wade Hampton High School and to help provide excellent musical opportunities for students and for members of the community.

Boosters coordinate fundraising to cover the cost of operating the band and coordinate the volunteers that are needed to keep it running.

BAND BOOSTERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President
- VP / president pro-tem
- VP for Communications & Membership
- Secretary
- Treasurer

MORE OF THE ESSENTIAL ROLES THAT MAKE THE BAND GO

- Band Camp Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Concessions Coordinator
- Equipment/Props Coordinator
- Uniform Coordinator
- Transportation Coordinator
- Other stuff we haven't thought of yet coordinator...

NEXT STEPS

- SUBMIT YOUR PAPER COMMITMENT FORM by May 31 to guarantee a spot in the drill
- SET UP YOUR ONLINE PARENT ACCOUNT
Look for an email soon with the link and instructions
- COMPLETE YOUR PARENT AND STUDENT ONLINE FORMS
- PAY BAND FEE BY THE FIRST WEEK OF BAND CAMP