

West Shore Marching Band Essential Information

for members of the West Shore Marching Band & Family



West Shore
Music Boosters

Marching Band Ensembles:

Full Ensemble: Refers to all 3 groups that make up the Marching Band: Winds, Percussion & Color Guard

Band Proper: Band Proper refers to the students that play an instrument; Winds & Percussion

Winds: Student that plays a wind instrument; Brass or Woodwinds. They are broken down into smaller sections for practice.

Percussion: Encompasses all instrument that makes noise when struck. They are broken down into smaller sections:

- **Battery & Cymbal Line:** students that march with their percussion instruments. Also referred to as the Drumline.
- **Pit:** Front ensemble that uses large percussion equipment, set up along the front side line and is stationary (don't march on the field).

Color Guard: Non-musical section of students that provide additional visual aspects to the performance through the use of various equipment, including flags, rifles, and sabers, along with dance and gymnastics.

Propster:

Students (typically Middle school or freshman) that assist moving props on and off the field. Honorary members of the WS Marching Band. Propster fee covers Season T-Shirt, Booster provided meals, Nationals wrist band & bus ticket. The Sibling discount does not apply to propsters.

Uniform - Band Proper:

Dinkles: These are specific black marching shoes the musicians wear when they are in uniform.

- Dinkles rental program: Used shoes are available on a first come-first serve basis by seniority. If there is a pair of shoes that fit you, you're welcome to use them for the season with a \$40 deposit, once shoes are returned at the end of the season you will be returned \$35 via check or applied toward student credits.
- Purchase: Contact the Uniform Coordinator to purchase a brand new pair for \$35.

Gauntlets: Flared cuff that covers the wrists on the performance jacket.

Bibs: Marching pants, they have snaps on the inseam and buckles on the shoulder straps to adjust length, 1 slim interior pocket and zip in the back.

Jacket: The Jacket has the West Shore Marching Band emblem on the chest and the sleeves have snaps on the inseam to adjust the arm length.

Smurfs: Blue raincoats that are uniform in style and color that are used during inclement weather.

Under Uniform: This should be adhered to for football games and band competitions.

- White WSMB T-shirt (1 white WSMB shirt is provided by boosters, additional shirts can be purchased),
- Navy blue shorts (worn under the uniform and should not be bulky),
- Black crew socks (no design or pattern should be seen while in uniform). If a student is unprepared, socks can be purchased for \$3, see the Uniform coordinator.
- Cold weather/thermal gear like Under Armour, Cuddl Duds, etc. is recommended (White top, dark bottoms).
- Memorial Day Parade and Parent Preview: White/Blue combo will be worn.

Shako: This is the "hat" that a plume will be added to for the marching members.

Plumes: These are the "feathers" (sometimes referred to as Chickens) that are placed in the shakos for performances. Chaperones will insert them and collect them at each performance. Plumes feathers must never be touched, especially without gloves (handled by the metal base) to avoid ruining them. Students should refrain from touching them.

Traditional Uniform Band students will wear their prospective school uniform for Senior Night & for special ensembles: PAMEA Festivals | Districts | County Band | Regionals, etc.

Uniform - Color Guard: Uniform changes with each show to enhance the show theme.

Swooshies: Warm up suits that the Color Guard wears over their uniform to protect it, to stay warm and to look uniform. Guard incurs additional cost for uniforms & supplies. Directors will provide information (unitard, gloves, shoes, etc.).

Registration: WSMB requires registration & first aid forms so we have contact information (important in case of emergency).

- Submit Payment or contact the Booster President for a payment plan. Financial hardships are kept strictly confidential.
- A late fee will be applied after Band Camp starts (unless you're on a payment plan), however if you stop making installments towards your payment plan a late fee will be applied.

Communication:

Websites: All Members: www.WestShoreMusicBoosters.com **Guard Members:** www.WestShoreColorGuard.com

Calendars are available on the website. Acronyms: WSMB: Marching Band, WSCG: Color Guard, WSDL: Drum Line
WSMB: westshoremusicboosters.com/calendar.html **WSCG:** westshorecolorguard.com/calendar.html

Charms: Communication and Financial management system.

- Your student will have an account in Charms. More information can be found on the booster website to access it.
- Receive Booster Informational emails generated from Charms.
- View student financial statement of expenses owed or paid (registration payment, etc.) and track student credits earned through fundraising.

Remind: Using the Remind App or by Text – To join text the “@name” to 81010.

- Boosters Information @ws-fyi (typically last-minute updates, meeting reminders, schedule changes, etc.).
- Boosters Fundraising @ws-fund (fundraiser reminders of due dates or pick up location/times).

Instructors: During the season Instructors will communicate through the leadership team. The Section Leaders will distribute the information to the rest of the members of the section.

Volunteering & Donations: All help and donations are needed & greatly appreciated. Supporting the boosters, supports your child.

- Volunteers must have clearances through the West Shore School District. Information on booster & district website.
- We utilize Time To Sign Up in organizing volunteers and donations. The link is available on our website & will be emailed when we need help.

Fundraising: It takes more than just the registration fee to fully fund the marching band program.

- Fundraisers are listed on the booster website, some are year-round while others are open for a limited time.

Student Credits: Through fundraising activities, each student can earn credits that can be used to offset music/guard costs.

- Details on reimbursements can be found on the website under fundraisers.

Band box: Locked drop box with WSMB Logo & a slot in the top so students can deposit orders/payments/fundraisers at either High School.

Locations: CC: Located in the band room near the hallway entrance. **RL:** Located between the band room and chorus room.

Important Reminder: Any WSMB communications, payments, fundraising forms, should never be handed to a director, staff member, school office or booster representative (unless specifically directed to do so by a WSMB Communication).

On the Hill: The area at Red Land and Cedar Cliff where parents congregate to watch the marching band practice.

- Cedar Cliff: Located in the grass area between CC & Highland to view the parking lot practice field.
- Red land: Located in the grass area between RL and the lower parking lot practice field.

Drill: This is the marching assignment for each student that will create the formations you see the band form.

Drill Down: A fun activity that all students participate in, which reinforces drill commands. They continue moving until they are tapped out by a staff member.

Dot Book: Is used to record different steps in each section of the show. Students use it during practices until all choreography is memorized.

Band Camp: 7 days where the students put in a lot of hours to learn the show. The evenings conclude with Drill Down.

Pictures: Group and Individual photos are taken. Order forms are available prior to photo day.

Band Olympics: Sections compete against each other in fun activities during their dinner break.

More information will be available on the booster website: Music Ensembles | Marching Band

Band Competitions: WSMB competes in both the TOB and US Bands circuits. WSMB competes at “local” competitions throughout the season ending the season with two Grand Championship Competitions (ACC’s & Nationals).

Tickets: We typically receive a limited supply of adult tickets to pre-sell prior to competitions, WSMB earns a few dollars (Tickets are the same price at the door of the venue so it’s a win-win for everyone to purchase from WSMB when possible).

Local Competition tickets range \$10-15 students/seniors may receive a discount. Grams \$1-2, Concessions vary.

Large Competition (States/Nationals/ACC’s) tickets range between \$20-25. Grams \$3-5, Concessions vary.

Dates will be posted on the WSMB Calendar (you can subscribe to the calendar so events will sync to your calendar). WSMB doesn’t practice or compete (Saturday) during CC or RL’s homecoming weekends.

Details The Members Only Section of website will provide all the details we receive from the host school: location, time, etc.

Home Show: We host The West Shore Classic, where marching bands from local schools to out of state will come to West Shore Stadium to compete. We create a program, provide trophies for the award ceremony, and operate Admissions, Concessions, Grams & Buttons.

Candy Grams: Grams are a treat that is purchased and sent to a performing marching band member with a message of encouragement. Grams are distributed to students after their competition performance. Grams are typically between \$1-5. The WSMB will set up a “pop up Grams” at the Thursday practice before States and Nationals.

TOB: Tournament of Bands. WSMB is Region 6 in TOB.

Chapters: Chapter VI Championships is similar to a regional championship in other sports. Chapter VI covers Cumberland, Dauphin, Perry, Lancaster and York counties.

ACC: Atlantic Coast Championship takes place late Oct/early Nov Hershey Stadium.

USBands: “States” hosted by a College, venue may change from year to year.

Nationals WSMB travels on chartered buses in November to Met Life Stadium in New Jersey for the final competition.

- **Nationals Bus Tickets** Family/Friends may be able to sign-up for Bus tickets late in the season (price TBD), ticket availability is first paid - first served off of a signup sheet. Bus ticket doesn’t include the stadium entrance. NO REFUNDS will be issued beyond one week prior to the event.

Season Show Shirt: 1-time sale with Show Design/Theme, Short & Long Sleeve T’s and Hoodies - Friends & Family, prices vary \$10-\$50, Marching Band Members in good standing receives a free short sleeved t- shirt.

Spirit Wear: Online Store opens several times a year with everything from hats, jackets, pendants, & clothing. Most items you can customize Marching Band – Percussion – Color Guard, prices vary.

Senior Night: On the last Home game for CC and RL, students are escorted out onto the field and greeted by the band directors. Students wear white plumes for special recognition.

Band Banquet: End of the season banquet with dinner, awards and year in review video. Awards: 3rd year member Varsity Letter, 4th year member Varsity Pin, 5th year member Gift Card. Seniors receive a booster gift. Ticket Cost Approximately: Adult \$28, Children 10 & under \$19, Marching Band Members in good standing ticket is free of charge (price subject to change).

Video & Social Media: The Band Directors request that you don’t post any videos of performances during the season on any social media outlets until after Nationals. If you must share, send them privately. Violations of music copywrites are subject to penalties and fees.

WSSD Activity Fee: “Pay-to-Play” fee is required for participation in interscholastic athletics and student activities, it helps cover facility costs (stadium, parking lots, lights, facility usage, etc.). This fee goes directly to the WSSD, no portion goes to the music boosters. Submit your completed form & WSSD Activity Fee directly to student’s High School (or any WSSD School Office) prior to the first football game. Request a receipt for your records. Contact your school’s athletic director to work out a payment plan or complete the Request for Waiver of Activity Fee.

Responsibility: If WSMB or WSSD Property is lost or damaged from misuse or negligence then students will be responsible for the replacement cost. All equipment and uniforms must be treated with respect, while accidents happen and are understood, there is no room for carelessness.