

**Video Policy: Parents and students-Please read the following from Mr. Starrett.**

**This is VERY IMPORTANT!**

Dear West Shore Marching Band parents,

Recently there has been some discussion about placing videos of our marching show from football or competition performances on Youtube or Facebook. It seems only natural to want to do this considering it is a source of pride and we like sharing these moments with family and friends. There is an issue however that many of us have not been made aware of, including myself. Apparently there are groups who use Youtube and social media like Facebook to steal ideas from other competitive groups. I know this may sound a bit absurd and over the top, but it is happening. While it is not our style to worry about what other programs are doing, it is certainly probable that other groups do use this as a means to get a competitive edge so to speak. With that said, if you choose to video our show, I would ask that you simply use a password or other means of limiting your viewership. I believe this to be a perfect compromise to both sides of the discussion. This will allow us to post our show and share it with those who we wish to see it, yet excluding possible "idea poachers" from programs who are looking for a competitive edge.

Please understand that our goals have not changed. We all work very hard to provide the most rewarding experience possible for all involved, students, parents and staff. Winning may or may not be in the cards at any time during any season. But there is no denying that if we were to win, all of us would be thrilled. And if being extra cautious with posting our show ensures a level playing field, then I believe it to be in our best interest.

Thanks much for your attention on this matter.

Robert Starrett - Director of West Shore Marching Band