



Parent Guide

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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 sideline 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

Time Commitment

All

- 3 nights (Percussion-1pm to 9pm, Winds & CG 6-9) of mini band camp in June
- 7 days of band camp in August from 9am to 9pm. Pack a lunch. Boosters serve dinners.
- Tuesday and Thursday between band camp and school starting from 4-9
- Thursday night practice during school from 6-9
- Friday night football games from August till first weekend November
- Saturday morning practices 9am till ~2pm.
- Saturday night Competitions from mid-September till early November. Return times can be midnight (or later for Championships)
- Arrival time is when you are to be there and ready to go (so 9 am start you will want to be there around 8:45 to ensure you are ready to start)

Percussion Specific

- Percussion Camp 3 days 1pm to 9pm in July
- Monday night practices 6-9

Winds Specific

- Monday night practices 6-9 from June till November

Guard Specific

- Tuesday night practices 6-9

Band Camp

- 7 days where the students put in a lot of hours to learn the show. The evenings conclude with Drill Down All Members
- 9 am to 9 pm (must be there and ready to go by 9)
- Pack a lunch
- Boosters provide Dinner
- Photo day in full uniform is held
- Themed attire days are optional but encouraged

Communication

- Website:
 - All Members: www.WestShoreMusicBoosters.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
- Slack:
 - Slack is a messaging platform with specific chat rooms by group and instrumentation.
 - The directors will communicate with band members though slack. This is a closed system that only members are a part of. Only members can see posts
 - Typically used on a cell phone with the slack app.
- 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. The boosters communicate fundraisers, donations, event information and more through email. Please ensure you are reading the emails in full to know what is taking place.
 - To ensure your email is listed: log into charms on a computer (not an app) please confirm your address & phone numbers are correct. This will ensure you are receiving emails.
- 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).
- Social Media
 - Facebook / Instagram
 - The boosters and music departments have numerous Facebook and Instagram pages.
- 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

Fees

- Marching Band Registration
 - Paid to WSMB (West Shore Music Boosters)
 - Discounts for paying early
 - Helps fund the marching band program
- WSSD Activity Fee
 - 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.
 - Recently there was an ability to pay from your lunch account

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.
- Please ensure each fundraiser has the students name and contact number located on the form (even if it does not have a space for the phone number)
- Payment for fundraisers are due when the fundraiser orders are turned in
- All checks must be made out to WSMB (West Shore Music Boosters), if you are selling, please double check any checks given to you are filled out to WSMB.
- 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 across from Mr. Clements office
 - RL: Located between the band room and chorus room.
 - Middle Schools: Please place in the band box at each schools dedicated location (New for 2022-2023)
- Important Reminder: Any WS Music Booster 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).
- Student credits from fundraisers are posted to your student's charms account. You can access charms to see their credits at any time. Please see the booster website under forms to find charms setup/login information.
- Student Credits can be used to offset music/guard costs. Details on reimbursement can be found on the website under fundraisers and forms.

Video Policy

- The Band Directors request that you don't record and post any videos of performances during the season on any social media outlets. Violations of music copywrites are subject to penalties and fees.

Band Competitions

- WSMB competes in the USBands circuit. WSMB competes at "local" competitions throughout the season ending the season with the Grand Championship Competition at MetLife Stadium.
- Tickets:
 - We typically receive a limited supply of adult tickets to pre-sell prior to competitions, WSMB earns a few dollars from those sales.

- 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 \$10-25 students/seniors may receive a discount. Grams \$1-3, Concessions vary.
- Large Competition (States/Regionals/Nationals) tickets range between \$20-30. Grams \$3-5, Concessions vary.
- 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 competitions.
- Nationals
 - WSMB students travel on chartered buses in November to Met Life Stadium in New Jersey for the final competition.
 - Students may return home with their parents if they choose but must arrange someone to handle their uniform on their behalf. Director approval is required.
 - National Bus for Family/Friends – In years past we have offered a charter bus for family and friends. There is a sign-up for spots on the bus. The price is TBD (Covers the cost of the bus rental) which strictly covers your seat to and from Nationals. The sign-up is a first come first served signup sheet with backup spots available. *This does not include your entrance ticket into the stadium.* NO REFUNDS will be issued beyond one week prior to the event.
 - Once the bus arrives at the stadium family/friends will enter the stadium through the main gates. More information will be provided closer to Nationals.
 - Last Practice before Nationals is closed to members and Staff only. Final Run though is students only.

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.
- The weekend following after Championship Weekend
- Students are free
- Parents are encouraged to attend
 - Tickets will be for sale closer to the banquet

On the hill

The area at Red Land and Cedar Cliff where parents congregate to watch the marching band practice. Typically, at the end of practice.

- Cedar Cliff: Located in the grass area between CC & Highland to view the parking lot
- Red Land: Located in the grass 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

A homemade book used to record different steps in each section of the show. Students use it during practice until all choreography is memorized.

Volunteering

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

- For certain volunteers' positions, you 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 help is needed.

Volunteer Positions

- West Shore Music Boosters Executive Board (clearances required)
 - President, Red Land VP, Cedar Cliff VP, Recording Secretary, Programs Coordinator, Financial Secretary Red Land, Financial Secretary Cedar Cliff, Fundraising Coordinator, and Treasurer.
- West Shore Music Boosters Committee Chairs (clearances required for some)
 - Spirit Store Coordinator, Band Uniform Coordinators, Chaperone Coordinators, Concessions Coordinator, Equipment/Transportation Coordinator, Grocery Gift Card Coordinator, Hospitality Coordinators, Photographer / Videographer, Band Banquet, Website & Social Media Coordinators, Candy Gram Coordinator, and First Aid Coordinator.
- Band Camp Help
 - Volunteers are needed each afternoon to help with meal preparation, serving & clean up. Approximately 4 – 7 PM
 - Tent Setup on Wednesday evening prior to the start of camp

- Tent clean up on Friday afternoon.
- Football Game help
 - Equipment pushing, water station, uniforms, and seat covers
- Home shows help
 - Admissions, concession stand, program sales, grams sales, button sales, 50/50 sales, runners, hospitality, announcer, rope holders, parking, band greeters, truck parking, student guides, and DJ.
- Prop Building Crew
 - Assist in building & maintaining props for the shows
- Truck Crew
 - Assist in loading & unloading trailers for competitions
 - Driver or Navigator to and from competitions
 - Typically, are prop/instrument pushers for the shows/competitions as well
- Position details can be found on the website

Season Show Shirt:

1-time sale with Show Design/Theme, Short & Long Sleeve T's and Hoodies - Friends & Families may purchase, prices vary \$10-\$50 depending on style and brand, Marching Band Members in good standing receive 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 based on style and brand chosen

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)
 - Cold weather/thermal gear like Under Armour, Cuddl Duds, etc. is recommended (White top, dark bottoms).
 - 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.
- 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.
- Memorial Day Parade and Parent Preview: White/Blue combo will be worn.

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.)

FAQs

www.westshoremusicboosters.com/prospective-members.html