

Westfield High School Band SURVIVAL GUIDE 2021-2022 Season

An opportunity to learn, live, and love music

This "Band Survival Guide" contains the overwhelming amount of important information that you need in order to participate in the Band program. ***Please take the time to read through the following information.*** It answers a LOT of frequently asked questions. Once you have finished reviewing the information contained in this document, please open the three 2021-2021 Band Registration Forms files on the website and fill out all of the included forms. Marchers and Color Guard should have the Registration Documents filled in, signed, and ready to turn in the first day of Band Camp (Monday August 2) as we kick off the marching season. Non-marchers may drop off the forms at band camp or bring into the first week of class. School fees should be paid on MySchoolBucks. Booster donations may be paid via check or cash.

What is the Westfield Band Program?

The Westfield Band program is an award-winning program that offers students of all abilities an opportunity to learn, live, and love music. The Westfield Band has nine performance groups including the Wind Symphony, the Symphonic Band, the Concert Band, Jazz I, Jazz II, two Percussion Ensembles, the Color Guard, and the Marching Bulldogs. Each of these groups has gained local, state, and national recognition.

What's the Marching Band schedule?

Marching band camp starts July 30 for drum majors, section leaders, and captains; August 2 for all remaining marchers. The band performs at up to 6 weekend competitions, 6 football games, and any playoff games. September and October include approximately three after school or evening practices per week. See our 2021-2022 calendar at www.westfieldband.org | Click on the CHARMS/Calendar link.

Where can I get the Marching Band music?

Marching music is posted on the website at www.westfieldband.org | Documents tab link. If you cannot retrieve your music or have not heard from your section leader about how to retrieve your music, please contact Mr. Johnson at APJohnson@fcps.edu.

Is Marching Band Required?

Marching band is required for Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band students and optional (but encouraged) for Concert Band students.

I heard Marching Band is tough.

Yes, marching band is physically and mentally challenging, but also a lot of fun! Marching band is a great way for freshmen to make new friends, form relationships with upperclassmen, and become familiar with the school. It eases the transition from middle to high school. Students never forget the exhilaration of that first night performing to a cheering crowd under the lights!

What do I need for marching band camp?

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> T-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Hats | <input type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shorts or Sweats
(no Jeans) | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrument | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic Shoes & Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-ring binder with non-glare
sheet protectors to hold the
marching drill |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses | <input type="checkbox"/> Flip Folder | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Lyre | |

We do march flutes and piccolos. If you prefer to march a piccolo, flute players need to rent or purchase a piccolo for marching band as the school does not have any to rent.

When do I get my uniform?

Band members will be issued marching band and concert uniforms. Marching Band uniform fittings occur during band camp. Uniforms will be issued as soon as appropriate fee payments are received.

Uniform Rental/Maintenance Agreement

The rental fee for concert gowns and tuxedos is covered by the band course materials fee. Marching Band uniform rental is included in the Marching Band fee. This agreement includes use of the uniform(s) for the entire season/school year. It covers dry cleaning at the end of the season and general maintenance such as replacement of buttons, zippers and snaps. It does not include the repair of rips, tears or extra dry cleaning. The cost for any additional maintenance will be based on the actual repair or cleaning expense and is the responsibility of the student/parent. Every effort will be made to fit uniforms to our students; occasional hemming is the responsibility of the parent.

Students agree that these uniforms are to be worn only at performances designated by the Band Director.

Marching Band students will be issued a numbered uniform as well as a numbered hanger. The Jackets, Pants/Bibs, and a Garment Bag will be distributed to students prior to the first game or competition and must be returned after the final competition or game. Uniforms should be correctly hung up at home after each performance. All Marching Band hats, gauntlets and plumes will remain at the school.

Concert uniforms (gowns, tuxedos, vests) will be fitted and issued to students to take home. They must be returned at the end of the final concert performance for the school year.

Fees will be charged for any missing items according to the following schedule:

MB Jacket	\$250.00	MB Plume	\$15.00	Cummerbund	\$ 8.50
MB Pants/Bibs	\$100.00	Mirror	\$ 5.00	Vest	\$30.00
MB Cape	\$ 50.00	MB Gloves	\$ 2.50	Bow Tie	\$ 5.00
MB Baldric	\$ 50.00	Socks	\$ 2.50	Gown	\$85.00
MB Gauntlets	\$ 45.00	Tuxedo Jacket	\$65.00	Bow for Gown	\$10.00
MB Hat	\$ 50.00	Tuxedo Pants	\$38.00	Garment Bag	\$18.00

Black socks are required for the Marching and concert uniforms. Students who show up for performances without their black socks will be issued a new pair and charged \$2.50 per pair. They are not returnable.

Compression shirts/shorts are recommended to be worn under the Class 1 MB uniform, but not required. As a convenience, they may be purchased on your own or they may be purchased online when the spirit wear purchases are made. Watch your email for an announcement when the website is available.

What is Color Guard?

The Color Guard complements and accents the marching musicians with their colorful flags, weapons, and maneuvers. Winter Guard participates in indoor guard competitions in the winter and early spring.

Tell me about the wind ensembles.

Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and Jazz I are academic classes that begin when school begins. Jazz II (or 8th period Jazz Band) begins after Marching Season and meets after school on Mondays. All band assignments and chair positions are made by audition/assessment by the director(s). Concerts are in October, December, February, and May. In lieu of a spring trip this year, the Marching Band is headed to Hawaii in December to march in the Pearl Harbor Day Parade. The bands typically have one additional after school or evening rehearsal per week in the weeks leading up to each concert.

What is percussion ensemble?

Percussion ensemble includes all percussionists. Percussion students will be placed into either Advanced Percussion ensemble or Intermediate Percussion Ensemble. Both of these groups, at different points in the year, will serve as the percussion sections for the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band and Concert Band. Additionally, they will perform as independent groups.

Do I need private lessons?

Private instruction is critically important for learning the mechanics and techniques of playing your instrument - skills that are not generally covered during ensemble instruction at Westfield. However, private lessons are not required, and students who do not take lessons are not penalized in any way.

Should I upgrade my instrument?

Yes! Students often find the beginner line instruments inadequate for their high school level of musicianship.

What does it cost to participate?

Unfortunately, the school system doesn't provide enough funding to provide the high-quality band program we'd like. The Westfield High School Band Booster Organization (WHSBBO) was formed to support the band program by raising funds to be used for purchases to help provide a quality educational program and to enable student participation in music competitions through scholarships and grants.

**All FCPS fees are paid to Westfield High School.
All Band Booster contributions are voluntary and are paid to "WHSBBO".
Two separate payments are required.
**FCPS fees should be paid online only through the use of
www.MySchoolBucks.com via credit card or bank account withdrawal. The band
course materials fee will be assessed through an invoice to your student's Student
ID after the first week of school. Marching band, marching band pre-season, and
instrument rental fees may be "purchased" through the school store.****

FCPS Concert Band Course Materials Fee for All Students (\$100)

These are for ALL students in a classroom program: Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Percussion Ensemble and Jazz Band. Only one payment is needed even if your student is in multiple band classes. The FCPS Band Course Materials Fee is for consumables required as part of the approved curriculum. The general band program is also subsidized by Music Booster and Band Booster fundraising, which pays for clinicians, purchase of instruments, and registration fees for assessments and auditions. The band course materials fee will be assessed as an invoice to every student registered in a band class through your Student's ID in MySchoolBucks in September and will be due by Sept 30.

FCPS Marching Band or Color Guard Fee (\$250)

These are for students participating in the Marching Band and Color Guard and cover MB/CG expenses. The FCPS MB/CG Fee is for consumables required as part of the approved curriculum. The MB/CG program is also subsidized by Music Booster and Band Booster fundraising, which pays for transportation, extra music, and marching instruction.

FCPS Marching Band or Color Guard Pre-Season Activity Fee (\$150)

These are for students participating in the Marching Band and Color Guard and cover MB/CG expenses that occur during the pre-season activities (i.e. band camp). The activity fee covers a portion of the costs of MB/CG pre-season camp including instruction, water, plotting materials, food, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Instrument Rental Fees (\$100 for Concert Instruments; \$60 for Concert Percussion; \$30 for Marching Percussion)

These fees apply only to students who rent a school-owned instrument. Fees are "purchased" on MySchoolBucks. The instrument rental contract is on the purchase page and should be downloaded, completed, and submitted to the band director. Fees and contracts will begin to be collected during marching band camp and will continue after school starts. Instruments will NOT be distributed until the contract is turned in and the fee is paid. The instrument rental fee is paid directly to Westfield High School through MySchoolBucks.

Marching Band Shoe Replacement (\$40)

All NEW marching band students (not including Color Guard) are fitted for one pair of marching band shoes. Shoe fitting will occur during marching band camp and your order will be placed for you. Students who need replacements (shoe size change, lost shoes, etc.) will have the opportunity to get new shoes at this time.

Compression Shirts/Shorts (\$19-\$36 each)

The Class 1 MB uniform is form fitting and compression undergarments are recommended for a professional look. As a convenience, these may be purchased through the Band Boosters online spirit store (watch for an email as this is a limited time), or they may be purchased on your own. Any brand will do.

Band Booster Membership Donations

Membership Donations are our primary source of income to support the band program. Please consider a tax- deductible donation to directly benefit WHSBBO's mission to help provide quality educational programs and to enable student participation in music competitions through scholarships and grants. Note that all parents/guardians are automatically members of the WHSBBO at no additional cost. Your name or your business or personal ad will be listed in all band concert programs according to the level of contribution as described on the Booster Membership form. Donations can be made via check made out to "WHSBBO" or cash.

Class B Marching Band Uniform for Parents

The parent "uniform" for parents is generally the black polo shirt with band logo that is available for purchase when the band spirit wear store is open. The store is only open for a short period of time during band camp. If you think you might volunteer at any time during the year (as a marching chaperone, pit crew, spring trip chaperone, or other band event), we highly encourage you to purchase one for yourself when the spirit wear store is open as it only happens once a year. Chaperones participating on the spring band trips are required to wear the band polo shirt at all public events.

WHS Band Spirit Wear

Band spirit wear will be available for purchase online at the beginning of the camp. Both parents and students are encouraged to wear their spirit wear during our events. Band chaperones and other parent volunteers are highly encouraged to purchase a band polo shirt for our parent "uniform" (black polo shirt).

Band Sweatshirt (HIGHLY Recommended)

The WHS Band sweatshirt is black with gold trim and features a hood and the band logo. We highly encourage the purchase of one to be used at non-uniform events and other school functions to show your band spirit. Adults are welcome to purchase sweatshirts as well. Sweatshirts are available for purchase online.

Transportation, Overnight Lodging and/or Meal Expenses:

Transportation, lodging and/or meal costs may be assessed for long-distance/late-evening band events (typically no more than one trip per year). Accommodations generally include four students per room to reduce expenses.

Spring Trip (\$600 to \$800 per trip)

Every spring, concert band students have a trip to a competition or festival. Occasionally the jazz band or percussion ensemble may have a separate, additional trip. Trip costs have historically ranged from \$600 to \$800.

How are payments made?

School fees (marching band, marching band pre-season, instrument rental fees) should be paid online at www.MySchoolBucks.com by "purchasing" those items through the School Store. Booster donations and purchases should be paid via check made out to "WHSBBO" or cash. There are many times during the year when you'll need to make payments, submit permission forms, etc. As school fees, they will be posted on the School Store on MySchoolBucks for items to purchase by credit card or via bank account withdrawal. Corresponding documents should be placed in the beige metal lockbox in the band room near the door. All forms and any checks made out to the "WHSBBO" should be placed in the beige metal lockbox. The band course materials fee will be assessed through an invoice to the student's Student ID after the first week of school through MySchoolBucks.

Are there fundraising opportunities?

There are many fundraising opportunities throughout the year. All students are expected to participate in band fundraising.

What are the WHSMBC and WHSBBO?

The Westfield High School Music Department (Band, Chorus, Orchestra, and Guitar) has an umbrella booster organization called the Westfield High School Music Booster Club (WHSMBC). The primary activities of the WHSMBC are joint music department fundraisers (Tag Day, Fruit Sale). The Westfield High School Band Booster Organization exists to support the band program at Westfield High School. WHSBBO is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporation, and all parents/guardians of band students are automatically members.

Can I mix academics, sports, and band?

The class schedule at Westfield High School is made to allow students to take a full schedule of classes (including AP) and play in one of the bands during all four years, and participate in sports. Some sports are easier to work around than others. Since we have several "levels" of band, we are usually able to place you in the appropriate band to make things work, so you can enjoy athletics and band during your high school career!

How can I get involved?

The need for volunteers continues even through the High School years. With the number of kids involved in the Westfield HS Band program, you can only imagine that it takes quite a few people to help coordinate an event.

Fortunately, along with the great many talented musicians in the program, we have a great many talented and willing volunteers! All activities require a chair person (someone in charge), as well as multiple volunteers needed to help pull off the event. It's a great way to stay involved with your student, meet their friends and to enjoy some great music! Please email volunteer-chair@westfieldband.org if you have any questions.

Brief Description of Volunteer Needs:

Marching Band Season:

We kick off the year with one of our busiest activities - Marching Band. Please check the MB schedule at www.westfieldband.org.

Practice Support Parent: Managing the red med bag during practice so directors don't need to stop practice when a student needs first aid assistance. Morning, afternoon and evening help is needed.

Marching Band Uniforms: We need many volunteers to help with the initial MB uniform fitting during the first few weeks of band camp, as well as ongoing help with the distribution and collection of uniforms (hats/gauntlets) before and after a home football game or competition.

Home Game Concessions: During home games the marching band gets the 3rd quarter "off" to mingle and get something to eat. Home Game Concessions allows the MB to exit the stadium via the back door to the parking lot where parents have tables set up with pizza, Chick-fil-a, soda, candy, and water so students can eat without having to wait in line. Proceeds come back to the band. Parents set up before the game and help man the tables immediately following the half-time performance.

Fairfax County Public School Employee: In order to give student medications during competitions or on trips, an FCPS employee is required to distribute the meds, be it the student's own or general meds such as Tylenol or other over the counter meds.

Pit Crew: MANY volunteers are needed to help bring the 'pit' equipment onto the football field for the half time show and competitions.

Chaperones: Chaperones are needed to accompany students to home games, away games and to competitions - duties include supervising students, helping to carry items, assisting with uniforms, etc. Parent "uniform" (the black polo with band logo) is highly encouraged. Optional black Band polo is available for purchase through the spirit wear store during band camp.

Middle School Night: During the marching band season, we welcome the 8th grade band students for Middle School Night. They "buddy" with Westfield Band students for their first exposure to the WHS Band Program. Volunteers are needed to coordinate the night, to hand out pizza, and to chaperone during the football game.

Homecoming Game: We need help chaperoning the marching band and transporting the large instruments during the homecoming parade in Centreville.

Senior Recognition: Involves coordinating parents and their seniors in preparation for recognition at the Senior Night football game. Volunteers are needed to make silk flowers, buy yellow roses, photograph seniors and arrange for senior buttons, and coordinate the lineup of parents and seniors for the recognition ceremony.

Band Camp Pool Party: Chaperones are needed to help serve ice cream and supervise students during our annual band camp pool party.

Marching Band Banquet: Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up the cafeteria.

Concert Band Needs:

Stage Hand: Help set up stage for concerts and re-arranging stage between bands.

Concert Programs: Assistance is needed in producing, copying and assembling concert programs.

CB Uniform Fitting: We need many volunteers to help with the initial Concert Band uniform fittings during MB season.

Publicity: Help ensure that the Band gets the publicity it deserves!

Chaperones: Needed to accompany students on the annual spring trip - duties include supervising students, helping to carry items, assisting with uniforms, etc. Parent "uniform" (the black polo with band logo) is highly encouraged. Optional black Band polo is available for purchase through the spirit wear store during band camp.

Concert Volunteers: Needed from each band to assist the coordinator with any issues/activities for that band; assist with various concert needs, general coordination, supervision, senior recognition. You will work closely with Mr. Johnson and the coordinator.

Band Awards: Help organize end of the year band awards.

Band Banquet: Volunteers needed to help coordinate, serve food, and clean up during the annual Band Banquet.

Fundraising/Other:

Many volunteers are needed with the various fundraising events, especially Tag Day. On this day, many parent drivers are needed to drive and chaperone students, mostly in groups of 4, to pre-determined mapped out Westfield neighborhoods to supervise them while pairs solicit donations for the music program. This is our biggest and most profitable fundraising event. All students are EXPECTED to participate.

We have had a variety of sales throughout the year (Cookie Dough, Citrus, Entertainment Books, and more) that require volunteers to tally orders, unload trucks, sort merchandise and fill/check orders. There is a fundraising chairperson (through December), but we need fundraiser coordinators to plan and manage individual fundraisers - bring your ideas!

50/50 Raffle: Involves selling raffle tickets during the first half of home football games to support the band students.

"Just call me" - We will call you...if you're just not sure or signed up for some things but did not want to over commit but you still are willing, fill this out!

How are high school bands recognized for superior performance?

Honor Band

High school bands obtain the distinction of Virginia State Honor Band by earning superior ratings at both the State Marching and District Concert Band festivals sponsored by the Virginia Band & Orchestra Directors Association (VBODA). Westfield High School has achieved this status several times including this past year since the founding of the school as shown on the outside wall of the school.

Student Recognition/Awards Program

Students who participate in marching band receive a letter their first year of marching. Other activity participation may result in additional awards. Students who letter in Band may purchase a letterman's jacket from the Student Activities Office if they want one.

What else do I need to know?

The Band website: www.westfieldband.org has lots more information. You can also contact the Band Director or Band Booster President.

The band program is very active - how do I stay informed?

Most communication is from the band director in class and via our band booster website (www.westfieldband.org).

Most announcements and messages are via email, so be sure to add your address(es) to our email list. If you don't receive the emails, send a note to president@westfieldband.org with a request to be added to the email list. Please bookmark the website and visit it often!