



**Washington High School**  
**New Band Parent**  
**Survival Guide 2025**

**“Think Outside The Bachs”**

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **Welcome**

The Washington Warrior Marching Band has a long-standing tradition of performing across the midwest. Not only do we perform at halftime and in parade shows, but we have a fully competitive field show that we perform at several venues in South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska. Putting together a high-quality field show requires an enormous amount of time and effort from both students and parents. We are confident this hard work pays off though as your student will learn to cooperate as a member of a team and achieve something great each year.

Becoming a Warrior Marching Band Parent can feel overwhelming. From the rigorous schedule we employ for your students, the volunteer opportunities, the travel, and all the new terms you will learn, you might find yourself needing a little help. Do not fear - this handbook is here to provide you with as much information as possible to guide you through our marching season.

We are very excited to welcome you to the Washington Warrior Marching Band family. Thank you for your commitment to music education in our schools. Go Warriors and go band!

## **Educational Philosophy**

Our educational philosophy in the Washington Band program is to emphasize the importance of participation, appreciation, and support of music for life. We believe that even when your student graduates these halls of Washington High School, they will benefit from having participated in music in high school. They will learn many life lessons and skills throughout their time here that will serve them well in their future careers. Lessons like perseverance, dedication, time management, team cooperation, responsibility, and understanding constructive criticism. Through this art form, we also hope that your students make life-long memories while striving for a common goal with life-long friends.



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## **STAY INFORMED**

### **CutTime**

All students will be entered into a system called CutTime. This system helps us operate your students' band financial account and send out emails throughout the year (not just during marching band season). Make sure you provide us with your email contact information to receive notifications. To access your students financial information, use the provided link that was first sent to you through CutTime.

### **'Warriors in Tune' Newsletter**

We release a new newsletter each month called the 'Warriors in Tune'. You will receive this by email through our CutTime system. This newsletter contains pertinent information about current events in the band room, volunteer opportunities, what fundraisers we are participating in, and other reminders and updates. During the fall, we dedicate a lot of area to marching band due to the intense nature of the activity. As the year progresses, however, we focus more on our curricular bands with reminders about concerts, Jazz Band competitions, and more. Please be sure to check out this newsletter at the beginning of each month.

### **Washington Band Website**

Our website, run by our Band Parent/Alumni organization, has everything you need to stay informed. There are also links to our Facebook page which will keep you up to date as well. All of our performance dates and concert dates are located there as well. On the "Calendar" tab, we have everything for the whole year listed in Google Calendar. You can easily add all of these straight to your phone! Click the "add to Google Calendar" in the lower right corner and everything will upload automatically. This will very shortly be active and up to date

[www.washingtonband.org](http://www.washingtonband.org)

### **GroupMe**

GroupMe is an app that our parents utilize to ask questions in chat format. In this group, you have access to all the parents in our organization that choose to be members - many of whom have been with us for many years. Any question you have, they can answer! To become a member of our GroupMe app, visit our website, click on the "parent resources" tab, and you will find the GroupMe QR code.

Or you can follow these instructions:



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1. Download the GroupMe app
2. Follow this link: [https://groupme.com/join\\_group/107470265/UcpxZLON](https://groupme.com/join_group/107470265/UcpxZLON)

## **SUMMER MARCHING BAND SEASON**

### **Drop/Off and Pick-Up**

Students can be dropped off and picked up at our band doors - Door Q. These are located on the Northeast side of the building. In the event that you arrive at school before the directors (meaning the back doors will not be open) you can enter through the main entrance near the offices. During band camp or rehearsals, students can park in the back parking lot nearest these doors. Chaperones that are traveling overnight with the band should park at the BACK of this parking lot (nearest the tennis courts) and inform the director of your name, make/model of car, and license number.

During the school year, practices take place after school on the practice field.

### **The Ice Cream Social**

Where you are right now!

This is the official kick-off to our marching band season. After rookie camp, all students come for our first meeting about season expectations. They then meet their sections and get to know one another and perform a small show of commands for the parents after this parent meeting. Be prepared to purchase the things you will need for the rest of this season at this meeting including: marching drillmasters (shoes), black gloves, parent show shirts, and other WHS swag.

### **Pre-Season Sectionals**

In July, we hold pre-season sectionals on Thursday evenings. We know that practicing instruments pretty much goes by the wayside during the summer months for many students. Not to mention, learning and memorizing music by oneself can be difficult. These rehearsals are “built-in practice time” for your student to learn the music with friends and get it memorized (which needs to be done before band camp!) Most of this time is spent in sectional rooms (like instruments) learning all of the music with a paid summer



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technician. We do spend some time outside learning marching basics so prepare for July heat with plenty of water, sunscreen, and athletic clothing.

### **Percussion and Color Guard Camp**

Because the percussion and color guard require so much extra technique to master, each group has their own camp before the full band camp. Percussion will meet two weeks before band camp where the first week is spent on perfecting our own WHS Percussion technique. The second week is focused on learning and memorizing music. Color Guard will meet one week before band camp. Our goal in the color guard is to have our whole routine learned before band camp starts. Then we can spend band camp learning our spots and putting our work together with those spots. These camps are EXTREMELY important for these groups and your student will feel behind if they miss these days. Please plan accordingly.

### **Band Camp**

Band camp is the most important two weeks of every summer. This is where we actually learn the show you see and enjoy each year! Band camp is mandatory. Students should arrive *at least* fifteen minutes early each morning and bring these items with them every single day:

- Water (half-gallon plastic jugs work best)
- Tennis shoes and socks
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses and hat
- Instrument and music
- Pencils
- Beach towel or yoga mat
- Lunch and snacks (or have a plan to go out for lunch)

Band camp will leave your student exhausted, hot, and maybe a little overwhelmed. This is normal, especially for new students. We promise it's worth every minute! Some of the best memories are created at band camp and your student will thank you later for helping them stick it out. Reminding them to sleep, drink water, and eat food are the most important ways you can help your student succeed.

### **Howard Wood Retreat**



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The retreat at Howard Wood Field will take place on July 16th. This rehearsal is the **ONLY** time during the season that we, the directors and technicians, get to see the show from the viewpoint that our judges will see it. It's vital to our season that we are able to have this rehearsal at Howard Wood Field and that everyone is present so that we may see all the forms move from "the box." We also spend a great deal of time learning the "creative" aspects of our show like body moves and dancing at this rehearsal. The students usually have a large dinner break and then our first full show-run at the end of the evening. We welcome you to join us for our evening run. Parent Preview night takes place on July 15th and will be held at the WHS Field. The First Look Performance takes place at 7pm. That same day, we have the students in for a short rehearsal to prepare for the evening.

### **Uniform Check-Out**

Uniform check-out will take place on Monday, August 4th this year. Students will be issued their official WHS Warrior Marching Band Uniform. Color Guard will receive two uniforms: their show uniform and their parade uniform. The fitting process for these uniforms is lengthy and thus, we have timed the day where students show up according to their school grade. Please refer to the season schedule to view your fitting time. To get a good and accurate fitting, students should wear **what they will normally wear under their uniform** to this fitting. That includes:

- Black shorts

- Black show shirt

- LONG black socks

- Marching Band Shoes

- Long hair tied up in a high bun to fit under the shako

**\*\*Color Guard members may want to wear their unitard/tights on this day to ensure a proper fit**

Once they have been fitted, the uniform and shako will be put in a garment bag and hat box, respectively, and be stored on our uniform cart patiently awaiting its first performance. Students should **NEVER** take their uniform home. After each performance, students will take off all parts of the uniform, put back in the garment bag according to the instructions they are given, and be stored in number order on our carts to be hauled to and from performances.

**Students must NEVER eat or drink anything but water when in uniform.** In addition, when we put on our uniforms, students are expected to act in a manner that is respectful and appropriate for the whole



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team. This means no swearing or horsing around. Each student is a representative of our whole organization and we only get one chance to make good first impressions.

### **Parent Preview Night**

AKA Family Night. This is the first night you will be able to see our marching production for the year. The event takes place at the WHS turf football field and provides an opportunity for you, your family, and your friends, to not only preview our new show but also watch us behind-the-scenes in a rehearsal. You will be able to see all the work your student has completed during band camp and gain inspiration and insight from the directors and technicians about the show. Food will be available for purchase at a friendly price. Our band parent association is around selling parent t-shirts, yard signs, and more. Our rehearsal begins at 4PM with our formal Preview Show beginning at 7PM. **Students will have time to eat before the show.**

## **COMPETITION SEASON**

### **Halftime Performances**

The marching band performs at all home football games unless otherwise instructed by the director via the schedule. All football games are played/performed at Howard Wood Field (HWF). Students should be dropped off and/or will enter through the band gate on the northwest side of the HWF parking lot. You will see our band trailers. This is also where they should be picked up.

When students arrive at HWF, they should be ready to get into uniform by wearing their 'blacks' and of course, bring their instruments. Big instruments (such as sousaphone and bari sax) as well as all color guard and percussion equipment will be loaded on the trailer at the rehearsal prior to our performance. It is the responsibility of your student to load their own equipment! It is also the responsibility of your student to then unload their own equipment from the trailer in time for rehearsal to begin. This means that big instrument players, percussion, and color guard may need to arrive 15-30 minutes earlier than everyone else to make sure they are prepared.

The band will perform the National Anthem during pregame and then serve as the pep band during the first quarter playing the school song for all the touchdowns we are bound to score. We then spend the second quarter warming up and preparing for the big competition dress rehearsal. Oops. I meant halftime.



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Once halftime is complete, students will get out of uniform and are dismissed to either go home or watch the rest of the game in the student section with their friends. **Please make plans to pick up your student immediately following halftime.**

### **Presidents Bowl**

The Warrior Band performs in the Presidents Bowl in early September alongside the three other public high schools in Sioux Falls. This is the biggest fundraiser that our school booster organization has and that booster organization then helps provide money for the band via formal requests from us for funds. In the past, the booster organization has helped fund our new drum major podium, the new speaker system, color guard silks, and much more. Please make plans to attend this event! The booster organization looks at how many tickets each group contributed to this event when deciding whether or not to provide funds to that group. They ask that students each try to sell ten (10) tickets to this event. WHS will perform the National Anthem and our field show at this event prior to the Washington game.

### **Festival of Bands**

Our home competition is the Festival of Bands and is rotationally held in the first week of October. This event is the biggest fundraiser for the band directly and requires A LOT of parent/student volunteers. We have one of the biggest competitions in the midwest because we host a parade which draws several smaller area schools to our event that may not ever perform a field show.

The day consists of a parade in the morning around Covell Lake and then a prelim-finals format competition of field shows during the rest of the day.

All four Sioux Falls High Schools and Bishop O'Gorman perform in the parade in the AM and as an exhibition performance in the PM field show. After the parade, students are bused back to WHS to get out of uniform and then are released to help volunteer/watch the event. Our field-show time varies depending on the year and our parent volunteer shift, but is usually between 4PM and 9PM. Volunteer opportunities include ticket-taking, program distribution, water station management, band marshaling, and much more. We encourage you to help if you can! It's very fun to watch several high schools perform their shows throughout the day.



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## Competitions

The Washington Band performs in several competitions in September and October in South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Students are always bused to competitions and the departure time will be included in a detailed itinerary emailed to you at least a week in advance. Departure and arrival times vary depending on location and time of our performance but may require early mornings, long days, and late nights.

**You must be available to pick up your students at WHS when we arrive back at school and/or make other arrangements for them to get home.** Directors will not leave until all students are picked up but also have small children, need sleep, and want to go home.

Seats on the bus are assigned (partners chosen by your students) and are not able to be negotiated or changed throughout the season. We have a bus rule called “No Purpling” which means that one side of the bus will be all female and one side will be all male. Students are not permitted to sit with a member of the opposing gender. We also have several chaperones seated throughout the bus for supervision and safety. Students can bring blankets, pillows, and snacks on the bus.

Students generally need to bring their own food and snacks throughout the day and/or money to purchase food. We always stop at a local Wal-Mart on the way home after our competition for students to purchase food and whatever else they can find. It's a big tradition for your students to come with random Wal-Mart items such as plungers and full rotisserie chickens.

**Important!** If you would like to travel and watch the band perform, we encourage it! Parents wear orange and gather in the bleachers of each competition site ready and waiting to scream and cheer for our students as they take the field. Tickets for events will be communicated as they get closer. **If you do travel to a competition and your student wants to ride home with YOU instead of on the bus, there is a form called the “Permission to Ride Home with a Parent” that MUST be filled out and turned in at least TWO DAYS PRIOR to our departure date. These forms are located in the band room and in the WHS Shared Drive on the website so you can print and fill out. Students may ONLY RIDE WITH PARENTS OR GUARDIANS that are listed in their Infinite Campus. Students cannot ride**



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**home with friends' parents even with explicit permission from said parent and/or anyone not listed on their school Infinite Campus profile.**

### **Overnight Competition**

Every season we take one competition and make it an overnight experience. This is usually one of our Minnesota competitions so we can experience the Mall of America and help alleviate the long drive time.

When we travel overnight, students are assigned to rooms of four (4) and are able to choose who they room with. AT NO TIME are students allowed in anyone else's room but their own - especially rooms of the opposing gender. We have a strict lights-out policy and all rooms are checked by overnight chaperones at that time. We will tape all doors after room checks and have an adult up and making rounds overnight. This is not only to make sure students stay in their room, but also for the safety of your students as it ensures that they know someone is always awake should something happen in the middle of the night. Should any of these overnight rules be broken, they will have consequences at the fine arts level but also via the SFSD level and the WHS Principals.

### **Parent Tips for Competitions**

We hope many of you travel and enjoy watching your child perform at competitions. They appreciate the "sea of orange and black" that stands up and cheers when WHS is announced to take the field.

Competition days can get long and even though we are a summer/fall activity, the performances can get chilly. Dress in layers, bring blankets and seat cushions if desired, and make sure to wear your marching band parent t-shirt!

The band will often have time to get out of their formal uniform after the performance and wear their 'blacks' and their section sweatshirts in the stands for awards. Usual awards given are for best wind section, best color guard (AKA auxiliary), best percussion, best drum majors, and an overall ranking among the other bands competing based on a score up to 100 points. Our goal at WHS is to find our weak spots each weekend (in terms of score) and do all we can to increase the level of that score for the upcoming competition. We just want to keep getting better week after week.



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## POST COMPETITION SEASON

### Indoor Show and Pancake Dinner/Silent Auction

The Indoor Show is the culmination of our season and is usually the first week in November. The Indoor Show takes place in the WHS Auditorium with one matinee show for all incoming 8th graders from Whittier MS and Ben Reifel MS, and then two evening performances at 6PM and 8PM. From 5PM - 8PM, we have Chris' Cakes here flipping up some pancakes for dinner for you to enjoy before or after the show.

From 5PM to 7PM, we also run our annual silent auction with all benefits going towards running this event and fundraising for the band. If you know or have ideas for silent auction items, please contact us! We are always looking for new ideas.

Your student will start by receiving five (5) tickets to the event to sell. He/she **MUST** return those tickets if they are unsold or their band account will be charged. They can always ask and sell more if needed. Since students cannot eat in uniform, they should plan to eat between shows. All students still need to purchase tickets for the event. We have tickets available at a discounted price for students just eating the meal. We also have discounted price tickets for anyone who just wants to see the show. Our 6PM show is usually the one everyone goes to. The 8PM one is a little longer because we show our end-of-the-year slideshow at the conclusion of the performance and students may have speeches to make.

### Uniform Check-In

At the end of the season we take down all uniforms from the rack and bag them up to be dry cleaned in the spring months. Many senior students ask to use their uniform or instruments for senior pictures which is perfectly fine. They just need to be returned ASAP for dry cleaning.

Students should keep their marching shoes at home to be used for next year. Gloves can be saved but most are really worn from the season and just get tossed to be purchased again the following year. **Make sure students clear out all personal items from the garment bags!**



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## **FUNDRAISING**

### **Target Fees**

While the WHS Band does receive some funding from the School District for travel, most of the cost of marching band is shouldered by the Band Booster organization and the students. Unfortunately, the marching arts are getting more expensive year after year and it costs many, many, many thousands of dollars to produce a competitive field show. Because of this, we ask the students to help with food, travel accommodations, summer technician pay, competition fees, silk/uniform costs, percussion costs etc. by fundraising a target fee each year. That target fee is **\$300** per year and is due on the last day of school. We have the lowest target fee of all four SF Public Schools.

Throughout the year we have SEVERAL fundraisers that your students can participate in to raise money to reach this goal. Keep an eye on the newsletter for the fundraisers that we host during the school year.

There are a few year-long, ongoing fundraisers that you should definitely consider utilizing. Those are listed below. You can find more detailed information, instructions, and order forms (if needed) on our website under "parent resources."

### **HyVee Cards**

Everyone needs groceries so why not spend the money you would spend on groceries anyway by purchasing a HyVee gift card where some of the money goes right into your student's account? HyVee gives 5% percent back on every HyVee Card straight to your student's account. So if you buy a \$100 HyVee card, \$5 goes into your student's individual account (ISA). Order forms can be found online, given to the band director, or given straight to our HyVee coordinator via the address on the form.

### **Scrip Cards/Raise Right App**

Scrip cards are gift cards that you can use for purchases just like cash. Since the cards are purchased upfront, retailers give discounts or "rewards" of 2%-15% depending on the retailer. This revenue goes directly into your student's band account.

WHS Band Boosters will order the gift cards at a discount; families pay face value for the cards and the difference is an instant rebate for your favorite band student. RaiseRight offers a secure ACH online payment system through App and used from your phone at checkout lines. Orders can even be shipped to



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your door (fees apply). Orders for physical cards are placed on the **3rd Friday of the month**. Online orders can be purchased anytime by you through the app and the revenue will be documented in your ISA monthly.

For questions about the WHS Bands RaiseRight, email Linda Weidner at the link below who put two boys through marching band, including big trips, almost solely on Scrip money!

wideman@sio.midco.net

### **Interstate Battery Sales**

Packs of 24 – AA & AAA batteries are available. The packs sell for \$15 each and the students receive a profit of \$9-\$10 on each pack sold.

If you would like to order batteries, please email Dawn Taborda (dawnmomx4@aol.com) to make arrangements for ordering your batteries.

The battery form is available online and you may print off the form. Batteries are also sold at Band Booster meetings, band concerts and other events.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

### **Band Booster Association**

Beyond supporting your student's musical journey, parents have many ways they can volunteer and provide support for the band. Our Band Booster Association meets on the **second Monday** of each month at **7:00PM in the band room**. If you are interested in volunteering for anything, this is the best place to start. And even if you are not, please come to the band booster meeting! You will receive updates from the directors on what is happening in the band room, upcoming events, things to look forward to, and more. There is no pressure to volunteer for anything and we have a great community of parents available to help and answer questions. Listed below, however, are some of the big volunteer opportunities we have in place for you.

### **Chaperoning**

Chaperones help students prepare to perform by adding the finishing touches to uniforms and making sure students have water available. There are many ways to chaperone from something as small as one home football game to something as large as our overnight. Wherever we go, chaperones always have



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their way paid for. This includes busing for travel, tickets for games and competitions, and hotel rooms for overnights.

When the band travels out of town, adult chaperones ride the buses with the students and, if the band is out overnight, chaperones stay in the hotel with the students. Be warned, out of town trips can take away from one's sleep: chaperones in the hotel, for example, take shifts overnight to patrol corridors, ensuring students' safety and adherence to curfew. Without chaperones, though, the school district would prohibit the band from traveling. We are required by SFSD policy to have one chaperone per 10 students. Frankly, band kids are some of the best teenagers adults could ever work with so enjoy their company and watch them perform their best!

### **Pit Crew**

The Pit Crew wears many hats but all of those hats come together to serve the band through manual labor, mostly. You (and your students' younger siblings!) can volunteer for anything and everything but here is a quick list of some of the things the Pit Crew does:

- Constructs props for each show during the off-season
- Parents with trucks can volunteer to drive our trailers to and from competitions (gas reimbursed)
- Set up those props before every performance
- Help set-up and take down the field before/after shows and competitions (we have strict time limits at some competitions)
- Help load trailers at the end of the last rehearsal before a performance (drumline, color guard, frontline equipment, props etc.)
- Help with sewing needs
- Make sure carts, lights, and all sound equipment are functioning properly

Basically if you have a knack for building things, lifting things, fixing things, or like being told what to do in service of the band, join Pit Crew! Pit Crew also gets into home games and competitions for free.

### **Uniform Committee**

Our band parent organization appoints a uniform chair-person each year but that person will definitely need help on uniform check-out day as well as dry cleaning day. If volunteering on uniform check-out day, you



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would simply be responsible for helping students get fitted for the right uniform (guidelines provided by directors), make sure all parts of the uniform are intact, ensure students know how to properly place uniform in garment bags, and help the color guard get fitted for their parade uniform. It is a very easy-going day but does ensure quite a few people to maintain efficiency.

### **Indoor Show and Silent Auction/Dinner**

The Silent Auction, which takes place in conjunction with the pancake dinner and Indoor Show, provides some of the best fundraising for the band. The Silent Auction Committee works at a low intensity year-round arranging for donations from individuals and companies, then collects, sets up, and delivers items during Indoor Show week. Drumming up donations is straightforward: Businesses are very receptive and supportive of the band, and there is an ongoing network of present and past band parents and supporters who are more than willing to donate. Typically, one phone call and you are done. We try to have a wide variety of items both in inventory and price options. Some auction items in the past have included: signed Vikings helmet, 2-day passes to the Omaha Zoo and/or Vikings Stadium, Disney tickets, Movie tickets, jewelry, homemade items such as blankets and soup bowls, etc. We have an extensive list for you to work from and you can add as you go.

### **Working at Fundraisers**

Repeatedly throughout the year (either by email or the newsletter) you will see requests to volunteer at specific fundraising events. The money from these events goes straight to the Band Parent Organization which provides money to the band program when needed. Here are some of the big events we absolutely need volunteers for:

- Parent Preview Night: opportunities include entrance/welcoming committee, HWF clean-up after the show, food area hosts, merchandise sales.
- Festival of Bands: we need MANY people to volunteer for this event. Job descriptions were listed in the Festival of Bands section above.
- Indoor Show: parents work in shifts to help set-up, clean-up, take tickets, work the silent auction, sorting and contacting winners, and watching the show.



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## **Conclusion**

If you have made it this far, congratulations! We hope this served as an inclusive and informative handbook that you will reference throughout the marching season. You will still have questions, and that's alright. You have all been assigned a parent mentor, you can ask any questions in the GroupMe chat, and you can always email a band director. The best way to stay informed is to attend the booster meetings if possible.

We are so thrilled to have you and your student as a member of our Warrior Band Family. This activity is unlike any other and will provide your student with educational tools for the rest of their lives as well as timeless memories and friendships. We have found that students get more out of this experience if their parents/guardians/siblings/friends get involved - even if that just means attending their shows. We absolutely CANNOT function without parent support, however, so if after this first year you feel grounded enough to volunteer for something, please do! We sincerely appreciate everything you do to make this work for the students of Washington High School Band. Go Warriors!



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## Glossary of Terms

**Across the Floors:** a color guard term that means to practice dance moves in lines moving across the floor

**Band Camp:** the training period running from late July through August, during which time students learn the season's show.

**Band Door:** Door Q, the busiest door at WHS (at least during marching band season).

**Band Locker:** individual cubby in the band room to hold instruments and music. Many students use their band lockers instead of their regular lockers to hold books and binders, since they spend so much time in the band room anyway.

**Black Band T-shirt:** a short-sleeved t-shirt provided by WHS Band as part of the uniform, worn under the jacket. The directors will often call for students to wear their black band shirts for rehearsals as well.

**Battery (aka drumline):** the moving part of the percussion section that performs on the field; includes snares, tenors, and bass drums.

**Beret:** The sousaphones are issued berets instead of shakos because of the size of their instrument bells

**Bibbers:** the 'overalls' or pants portion of the uniform

**[Your] Blacks:** Directors will often tell students to 'wear your blacks' as a uniform option. This means black show shirts, black shorts, LONG

black socks (see next item).

**Black Socks:** an often-overlooked but **crucial** part of the uniform. Socks should be plain black and should reach to mid-shin, at least. Students will need several pairs, as they tend to disappear from one weekend to the next, only to reappear crusty and smelly when lockers are cleaned out.

**Black Gloves:** to be worn by all wind players during performances. Brass players wear them even in rehearsals to avoid getting fingerprints on the brass instrument. Clarinets cut holes in the fingertips so they can cover the holes of their instruments. Some prefer gripped and others prefer non-gripped. Buy several pairs.

**Body Work:** extra movements performed by hornline and drumline, besides marching and playing.

**Drumline:** the percussion section, divided into the battery and the front ensemble or 'Pit'

**Chaperones:** adults who travel with the band.

**Color Guard:** the group on the field that spins flags, rifles, and sabers (as well as dances) for added visual spectacle.

**DCI:** Drum Corps International (<http://www.dci.org/>). An organization of intensely trained musicians and color guard ages 13-21 that perform in many cities during the summer as members of a professional marching band. A drum corps (or drum-and-bugle corps)



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includes only valved brass instruments such as trumpets, mellophones, and tubas, and percussion. Auditions are very lengthy and difficult but the shows are spectacular to watch.

**Doctor Beat (aka “the met”):** a highly amplified metronome, the sound of which is sure to raise students’ anxiety once band camp is over

**Dot Book:** a book of 3x5 pages--hung around the waist or neck from a string or lanyard with an attached pencil--that each student uses to define their own individual movements and positions within the show, as well as noting any special movements or pauses. Each student must have his or her dot book for EVERY day of band camp and at EVERY rehearsal.

**Drill:** the “choreography” or movements of the show

**Drill Chart:** a set of pages (usually between 50-75 of them) showing dot formations (each dot a single marcher) along key points in the show

**Drillmasters:** black marching shoes that are part of the uniform. Drillmasters must be purchased at the start of marching band season. The good news is, unless the shoes become so worn that the seams tear, one pair should last a student all four years of marching band.

**Drum Major:** the student conductors of the band on the field. Drum Majors represent the highest level of student leadership in the marching band, setting the professional tone of

the band for the rest of the students.

**Front Ensemble (aka pit):** the stationary part of the percussion section that sets up in front of the field; includes mallet instruments (marimba, vibraphone, etc.), keyboards, timpani, gongs, and auxiliary percussion instruments. The pit does not normally march but has extra responsibilities like loading and unloading their instruments.

**Gauntlets:** fancy wrist wear worn over the student’s black gloves. Gauntlets come in left and right pairs, so students should take care to keep their gauntlets together.

**Hole:** a gap in the form because of a student’s absence.

**Horn Line:** the brass and woodwind sections

**ISA:** Individual Student Account. This is the money each student/family pays for participating in the band.

**Jazz Shoes:** the shoes that the color guard performs in. They should be bought in black and can be found on several dance websites.

**Pit Crew:** adults (and children) who help move the band and its equipment.

**Plume:** the “feather duster” thing on the band hats. Plumes are delicate, prone to bending and shedding, and generally unsuitable for teenage responsibilities. Chaperones hand out plumes right before the performance, and collect them immediately afterward.



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**Props:** large “set” pieces on the field during performances.

**Rotational Travel:** An optional trip taken by the band students every four years. Fundraising can be used to pay for this trip

**Shako:** The hats that the wind players wear - Yep, they have an actual name other than ‘hat’

**Student Leader:** a junior or senior student who leads an instrument section (e.g. clarinet, trumpet, tuba, colorguard). Student leaders lead by example, help less experienced students learn the show, help enforce discipline, and encourage fun and participation.

**Show Shirt:** a specially designed shirt that captures the spirit of each year’s show. Most parents get one for each year in the band.

**Spot Checks:** instructor checks of each student’s music memorization, beginning the first day of Band Camp. All music must be memorized before Band Camp begins.

**Target Fee:** The band asks the students to help with food, travel accommodations, summer technician pay, competition fees, silk/uniform costs, percussion costs etc. by fundraising a target fee each year.

**Tear:** when two parts of the band on either sides of the field are off tempo, the Doctor Beat, by being either too slow or too fast. This usually drives the Directors insane.

**Technician:** an adult expert, besides the band directors themselves, who instruct students in music or marching.

**Turf Turds:** bits of black plastic from Astroturf that students’ shoes pick up and track home.

**White Gloves:** only the drum majors wear white gloves for conducting

**YIM:** Youth in Music, a competition in Minneapolis showcasing the best bands of the upper Midwest. Tip for traveling parents: stay out by the Mall of America and take the direct rail line downtown.



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