

Band 101

Band Boosters: Anyone interested in band is a Band Booster. We are a 501(c)3 organization supporting the band. We support the band in two ways: we raise money and we volunteer. Through a variety of fundraisers through the year, we raise enough money to provide things like: music, uniforms, and instruments for the band. Volunteers do things like: help fit uniforms, serve meals during Heat Week and for home football games, work concessions, chaperone, usher at concerts, and work on planning committees for Marching Band Banquet and A Royal Night of Jazz.

Marching Band: WHS students may participate in two marching bands.

- **South Washington County Marching Band** – This band combines students from WHS, East Ridge, and Park High School. This is our District Marching Band. They march in summer parades. In June, they march in the Strawberry Days Fest in Cottage Grove and at Valley Fair. In August, they march in the Heritage Days parade, Woodbury Days parade and at the State Fair. Uniform for this includes the District Marching Band t-shirt, khaki shorts and athletic shoes.
- **WHS Marching Band** – Only WHS students in 9-12th grades, this band marches at all the home football games and at the WHS Homecoming parade. Boosters provide the uniforms for this band. Students do need to wear their blue band shirts to all home games and homecoming.

Heat Week – One full week in late July or early August when the marching band practices from 1-8:30pm every day. Some call this band camp. Students learn fundamentals of field marching, their field music and also begin to learn the field show. Boosters provide supper for students each night of Heat Week.

Marching Band uniforms – Boosters own these. Students are fitted on or around Heat Week each August. There are bibbers, which fit like snow-bibs, and an outer jacket.

Band shirt – These are blue t-shirts. Students wear these under their uniforms and at specified times during the year.

Shako – The “hats” the marching band wears. Boosters own these, and students are fitted in August before the field marching season kicks off.

Plume – The feathers that go on top of the Shakos. Boosters “Plume the band” before the students march onto the field, and remove the plumes as the students return to the bleachers after performing. (Stick the feather in their hat...and remove the feathers)

Home Football Games – the Boosters feed the band before every home football game. Meals are similar to those at Heat Week. Boosters help dress the band in their uniforms and also help hang the

uniforms back onto the racks at the end of the games. Boosters also “plume” the band before half time and collect the feathers when the band finishes performing.

Homecoming Parade – This parade happens between the end of school and before the boosters feed the band before the football game. Mr. Katzenmeyer will tell everyone what to wear (usually jeans and band shirt/track jacket).

Marching Band Banquet – A celebration banquet for parents and students at the end of marching band season. Traditionally held off-site, this is an event everyone pays to attend.

Concert Band: Every student enrolled in “band” in school is in a concert band. The band performs in a concert setting. WHS has four different concert bands

Varsity Band – This band is mostly for students new to high school band. This band is mostly 9th graders.

Symphonic Band – This is a non-audition band for students in 10th grade.

Symphonic Winds -- This is a non-audition concert band for 11th and 12th grade students

Concert Band – This is an audition band for grades 10-12. Students interested in more rigorous music audition in the spring. This is our elite band.

Concert attire – For Varsity, Symphonic and Symphonic Winds, students wear dress blacks. Black pants, black shirt, black shoes and socks for men. For women, black dresses are allowed with black stockings or leggings. For Concert Band, men wear tuxes and women wear gowns. Boosters has vendors for both tuxes and gowns to make purchasing easy. Boosters has a SWAP sale at the end of the year when graduates can sell their tuxes or dresses to incoming members.

Private lessons – Taking private music lessons is not required. Many of our students in our premiere ensemble (Concert Band) take lessons to improve their skills. There are a list of instructors posted on the website if any student is interested. Part of the student’s music class does involve lessons, but these can be with the directors.

Other WHS Ensembles

Pit Orchestra – An ensemble that accompanies the fall musical. Selection is based upon instrumentation needed and director’s choice.

Jazz Band – WHS has two Jazz Ensembles. Both ensembles are audition based. Auditions typically happen after the fall musical is over, in early November. Both ensembles rehearse twice weekly.

A Royal Night of Jazz – Each spring, the jazz band ensembles come together for a big concert. This is a fundraiser for the boosters. Decorations, food, drink, and good music to enjoy.

Pep Band – Students enrolled in a band class may sign up to participate in Pep Band. Usually between December and February, this ensemble plays at select home men/women hockey and men/women basketball games.

Orchestral Winds – a selected group of students from Concert Band who play with Concert Orchestra to complete the full Orchestra.

Drumline – All the percussion in marching band consist of the drumline.

Winter Drumline – WHS has two winter drumlines. Both are audition based. Auditions typically happen after marching band has ended. Both JV Drumline and Varsity Drumline play at indoor basketball games to entertain the crowd. In the spring of 2015, Varsity Drumline performed for the grand opening of the new Lunds & Byerly's store in Woodbury.

Percussion Ensemble – This group of percussionists practices weekly and performs during the winter and spring months. In the spring of 2015, our percussion ensemble became the first ensemble from District 833 to perform at the MMEA Mid-Winter Conference at the Minneapolis Convention Center. In Spring 2017, we commissioned a Nathan Daughtrey percussion symphony and performed it first! This group has also performed with Robert Robinson.

Honor Bands: These are bands outside of WHS that students may audition for. This is not required, but is encouraged.

9th & 10th grade MBDA State Honor Band – This ensemble is sponsored by Minnesota Band Director's Association. Students get audition materials in October and audition in late November / early December. Auditions are recorded by the band director and submitted electronically. Students find out if they were selected after the first of the year. The bands rehearse and perform one weekend in April.

MMEA 11th and 12th All-State Band – This ensemble is sponsored by Minnesota Music Educator's Association. Students currently in 10th and 11th grade are eligible for admission. Students get audition materials in the fall. Typically, this includes scales, etudes and a solo. Auditions are recorded by the band director and submitted electronically in March. The ensembles are announced in May. There is a one-week Band Camp at a college in MN where students come together with a guest conductor and prepare music. They perform at the end of the week. Students also rehearse for a day and perform at the MMEA Mid-Winter Conference held in the Twin Cities in February with the same ensemble and same guest conductor.

University of Minnesota High School Honor Band – Students grades 10-12 from around the Twin Cities submit electronic auditions to the U of MN, and they are selected to perform together. It's an intense weekend of making music with University staff. Students arrive on a Friday and perform a concert Sunday. These are some of the best high school musicians in the state.

SEC Honor Band – SEC is the conference WHS is in. In conjunction with the SEC Music Festival, the conference band directors nominate their top students into an Honor Band and Honor Orchestra. These top students perform at the end of the festival under guest conductors.

Contests – Periodically there are large ensemble contests each band attends. They are during the school day and you have warning when these dates are coming. Students wear concert attire.

Solo and Ensemble Contest – This contest is sponsored by MMEA and the MN State High School League. This is for students in grades 10-12. Students are encouraged to work up an instrumental solo or form an ensemble with other students. Students perform in front of a judge for a score. Solo and Ensemble Contest is in the spring.

SEC Music Festival – SEC is the conference WHS is in. Each year, there is a music festival at one of the nine conference schools where the top bands, orchestras and choirs from each school come together to perform. Judges critique the ensembles, and students learn from each other.

Miscellaneous

Travel – Every other year the marching band travels. On “off” years, the Concert Band travels. Trips are optional, but the hope is everyone will go. Students perform during the trips. Past Marching band trips include: New York for the St. Pat’s day parade, FL to march through Disney and perform a field show, and Hawaii for the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack. Past Concert Band trips include: Chicago, Denver, and in Spring 2018, they plan to travel to Seattle.

Graduation –Seniors do not play for graduation. Stay tuned who plays this year.