



West Harrison High School Band Boosters

"The Pride of South Mississippi"

PARENT SURVIVAL GUIDE

2025-2026

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Welcome to West Harrison High School Bands! We are extremely excited for your band and color guard members, as well as your families, to join us for the 2025-2026 band seasons. Over the past four years, the band and color guard have averaged approximately 150 members from 9th through 12th grades, and we expect this number to continue to grow.

The band program has two seasons: marching and indoor. Marching season begins in May 2025 and includes summer band camp, football games, and competitions until November 2025. Indoor season starts in November 2025 and includes competitions and performances until March 2026. Both seasons have their own set of fees to participate.

Our marching band, indoor bands, and color guard have received many prestigious awards due to the dedication and hard work the students and our directors over the last several decades.

Our commitment is to help your child develop life skills through the art of music, including leadership, discipline, citizenship, and responsibility. Thank you for letting us share in the growth of your child.

The purpose of the Band Boosters is to serve as a bridge between the Directors and the parents, allowing the Directors to focus on teaching the band members. The Booster Board consists of volunteers who support the Directors, band members, color guard members, parents, and the overall band program. The Booster Board will hold monthly meetings to keep everyone updated on fundraising and essential information.

BAND DIRECTOR CONTACTS

Director of Bands:

Mr. Eric Fry

EFry@harrison.k12.ms.us

Assistant Director of Bands:

Mrs. Brittany Miller

BMiller@harrison.k12.ms.us

BAND BOOSTER CONTACTS

President:

Britney Morrison

whhighbandbooster@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Kayla McGee

whhstreasurer@gmail.com

Vice President:

Jamie Buis

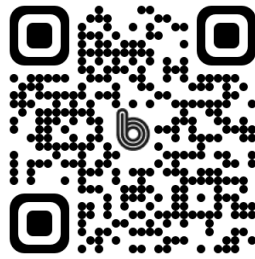
Secretary:

Amber LeMaire

BAND APP AND MY MUSIC OFFICE (MMO)

Band app:

All parents and students should have this app, as all information about our program is advertised here, including scheduled events and sign-up sheets. The notifications can be overwhelming at times, but it is essential that everyone keeps them turned on to avoid missing important information. If you have a question, we request that you send a private message to one of the Booster Board members to minimize notifications. The Directors are not part of this app due to school district policies. All information from the Directors is passed to the Booster Board, who then posts the information. Please ensure your first and last name is listed on your profile, rather than just your first name. If you haven't joined the Band app, please scan the QR code below to join.



My Music Office:

This web-based program is designed to serve as a registry of active band and color guard members. It includes the member information, their emergency contacts, uniform details, and, most importantly, member fees. Keeping contact information up to date is essential. You will receive login credentials for your member-specific account, allowing you to update your information, view posted payments, and check balances due. The Treasurer will send weekly statements to keep you updated on any financial changes to your account.

Also, please make sure to follow our Facebook pages. We post information on these for you to share on your social media.

- ***West Harrison Bands***
- ***West Harrison Band Boosters***

BAND AND COLOR GUARD MEMBER FEES

2025-2026 MARCHING FEES:

- HORNS AND DRUMS TOTAL \$780.00
- COLOR GUARD TOTAL \$905.00
 - Marching band show design
 - Marching band staff
 - Transportation/truck driver fees
 - Costumes for the marching show/uniform upkeep (members keep the costumes)
 - Bands of America Orlando trip in October and related expenses
 - Marching and concert band contest/festival entrance fees
 - Guest clinicians for marching and concert band
 - Day-to-Day band logistics
 - Music purchases for marching and concert band
 - Copyright for marching band music
 - Rehearsal gear: green shirt, black shorts, water bottle, bag

PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

- May 22, 2025 \$100.00
- June 5, 2025 \$200.00
- July 7, 2025 \$200.00
- August 3, 2025 \$200.00
- September 1, 2025 Any remaining fees
- September 15, 2025 Hard deadline to have fees paid in full

Please be advised that the Booster Board will contact you if your payment is not received by the schedule. If a member's fees are not paid in full by September 15, 2025, that member will be ineligible to travel or participate in competitions, including Bands of America.

Chaperone pricing for the Bands of America trip will be released closer to band camp.

You can pay through My Music Office or drop cash or a check in the box in the band hall. Please ensure to place the payment in an envelope with the member's name and the reason for the payment.

Indoor fees to be released later in the season.

SPRING TRIP TO ORLANDO FEBRUARY 12-17, 2026

The West Harrison Band is fortunate to have a Spring trip in February 2026 to Orlando! We'll spend four days at Universal Studios and perform in a parade! This trip is 100% optional for band members, color guard members, and parents; however, we encourage everyone to come! The fee is \$960.00 for members in a quad room (four to a room) and is separate from the band and color guard fee. Remember, this is an optional trip, but the main band and color guard fee must be paid in full before members are eligible for the Spring trip. The band member fee, color guard fee, and Spring trip payments can be made simultaneously. Fundraising opportunities will help to offset the costs for the Spring trip! Chaperones will be needed, and the price will be released later in the season.

TRIP BREAKDOWN:

- 100% optional for band and color guard members
- \$960.00 per member
- Payment schedule:
 - July 7, 2025 \$100 deposit
 - August 1, 2025 \$172
 - September 1, 2025 \$172
 - October 1, 2025 \$172
 - November 1, 2025 \$172
 - December 1, 2025 \$172
- Trip Schedule:
 - February 12, 2026
 - Travel to Orlando (drive through the night)
 - February 13, 2026
 - Boosters will provide breakfast
 - Epic Universe (check into hotel at night)
 - February 14, 2026
 - Universal Studios / Islands of Adventure
 - February 15, 2026
 - Epic Universe
 - February 16, 2026
 - Parade at Universal Studios
 - Day at Universal Studios / Islands of Adventure
 - Travel home after park closes
 - February 17, 2026
 - Arrive at WHHS early morning

FUNDRAISING AND SPONSORSHIP

Our goal for the 2025-2026 season is to raise a minimum of \$200,000.00. Our biggest expense this year will be trailer repairs for both of our trailers. Both trailers need cosmetic and mechanical repairs completed before the upcoming season. We will also have expenses for upgrading our concession supplies and equipment.

Fundraisers are needed to support the band and color guard to fill the gap of what is not paid for by the school district and member fees. The Booster Board is open to any suggestions for fundraising ideas.

Although participation in fundraising is not mandatory, we expect all band members and color guard members to contribute. We provide several fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Some of these fundraisers help cover the individual fees for band and color guard members, while others support the Band Booster general funds. The general funds assist with various aspects of the program, including show design and music, additional staff wages, transportation, equipment repairs, and covering part of the competitions and trips in which we participate to keep individual member fees as low as possible. Fundraising is a fantastic opportunity to help pay your band and color guard members' fees, thereby reducing your own expenses. Even if your member's fees are fully paid, any individual fundraiser will still be credited to your member's account, creating a balance that can be applied towards next season's fees.

One of the largest individual member fee credits you can earn is by working concessions at Shucker's games. Please consult a member of the Booster Board for more information.

Sponsorships play a significant role in our funding resources, and we need everyone's help in securing them. The attached sponsorship form can be shared for endorsement. For each sponsorship you secure, the Booster Board will allocate 10% of the sponsorship amount to your band member's or color guard member's individual fee.

VOLUNTEERS

All parent and guardian volunteers are committed to supporting the directors, band, color guard, and boosters in various ways, including chaperoning trips, serving meals, building and transporting props, and moving equipment during halftime at football games and competition performances.

We expect each parent to volunteer at least once during the season. This allows all parents the opportunity to watch their member perform throughout the season. We have several volunteer opportunities throughout the season, with our greatest need in the concessions during home games.

A \$75.00 fee will be charged to the account of any band or color guard member who does not have a volunteer reported by the end of the season.

A signup sheet will be posted in the Band App for each event where volunteers are needed.

The Booster Board is looking for volunteers to form committees for the band seasons. These volunteers will commit to their selected committee for the entire season. Below is a list of committees where we are seeking volunteers.

- Uniform Committee – 6 volunteers to take inventory of uniforms, label uniforms, and submit uniform checkouts to the Booster Board.
- Photography Committee – 3 volunteers to take photos and video of each event and submit them to the Booster Board, Band App, and Social Media.
- Decorating Committee – 12 volunteers to assist the Booster Board with decorating for events throughout the season, especially the end-of-year Band Banquet.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- Grades:
 - Student grades are a significant issue. If your child receives an “F,” they will not be allowed to leave school for the planned events. This is a district-wide policy and will be strictly enforced. Parents have access to school grades, and students are constantly reminded about their academic performance.
- Pickup & Parking –
 - Please stay in your vehicle and do not enter the band hall or block the doors or the surrounding areas outside the band hall. The members with carts and equipment have difficulty entering the band hall. If your child requires an escort to your vehicle for safety reasons, please let us know or have your child come to us, and we will escort them to you. The Board members are always available.
 - Practice: When picking up your child from practice, please park in a parking space in the parking lot. Do not drive around waiting for your child to come out or park at the curb. Stay in your vehicle and allow your child to walk to you. Additionally, this is school property; please SLOW down when driving through the parking lot, whether you are arriving or leaving. Many parents and students drive too fast. We understand everyone is eager to go home to eat and sleep, but the safety of everyone, especially the students on the property, is our utmost priority. PLEASE SLOW DOWN.
 - Games: We know everyone is exhausted at the end of game nights, including the kids. However, the same rules apply to game nights as to practices. Please do not park at the curbs, as there is too much traffic that needs to be kept flowing steadily to clear the parking lot.

BAND PARENT HANDBOOK

The first priority for every band parent is to attend as many events where your child is performing as possible to recognize their effort, provide support, and encourage them to succeed.

Another major priority for band parents is to get involved and volunteer their time in support of our program. The West Harrison High Band program is fortunate to have some of the best directors and support staff. However, running a world-class band program is very challenging without volunteers and the financial backing generated through various volunteer and fundraising activities. Our mission is to provide unwavering support for the program, which in turn helps our dedicated band and guard members achieve success.

You know you're a Band parent when...

- You make 3 more trips than expected to drop off your child with everything they need.
- You carry spare black socks with you at all times.
- You follow yellow school buses around on band competition days.
- You cannot pick your child out of the band in uniform because they all look alike.
- You no longer speak of your child as daughter/son, but as a “freshman trumpet.”
- You prominently display a band calendar in the kitchen
- You sync the band calendar to everyone's phone in the family so they know where you are on game days and Saturdays.
- You don't have to plan outfits for game nights or competitions – it will always be a band fan shirt

“What that really means...”

- “Band practice is at 4:00 pm” – if you're early, you're on time, if you're on time, you're late. When you drop your member off at 3:30, there will be students already there, ready to play. Always allow extra time because tardiness will not be accepted. Practice at 4:00 pm means they will be practicing at 4:00 pm, not waiting for your member to be dropped off or getting ready.
- Practice Field – The practice field is actually in the high school parking lot, not on the football field. The concrete surface has been marked with yard lines, ticks, and hashes.
- Front Ensemble – The front ensemble are the members playing percussion instruments that don't march and are situated at the front of the field during performances. We regularly need front ensemble and drumline parents to help set up and take down the front ensemble in record time before and after a performance.