

Purpose:

To give the members and students information vital to the success of the West Harrison High School Band Program.

Membership Responsibilities

All members of the West Harrison band program are expected to, including, but not limited to:

- Represent West Harrison High School and the WHHS band with class and respect
- Help foster a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Attend all required events
- Pay all related fees
- Maintain the appropriate MHSAA eligibility
- Maintain the appropriate Harrison County School District eligibility
- Follow the instructions of all band directors and band staff
- Have all equipment, instruments, music, etc, ready for rehearsals
- Follow all rules and regulations of the Harrison County School District student handbook
- HAVE FUN!!!

Band Calendar

The 2025-2026 West Harrison band calendar has been approved by Mr. Waltman, WHHS Principal. All students and parents will be given a physical calendar. Additionally, a copy of the calendar will be uploaded to The Band App by the WHHS Band Booster President.

The band calendar is subject to change. The band directors will update students and parents in a timely manner if there is any change to the calendar. Sometimes the band is asked to perform at a function with very little notice. Please be patient with the band staff if there is a change.

Attendance Policy

All students are required to attend every function, including, but not limited to:

- In school and after school rehearsals
- Band Camp
- Football games
- Saturday competitions
- Concerts
- Community performances
- School pep rallies

Lack of attendance negatively impacts the full band. Example: during marching band, the drill and show are extremely difficult to clean and learn if students are constantly absent. Students will be placed as an alternate for the marching band show starting with the **third unexcused absence**. Absences reset for indoor percussion and winterguard seasons.

Excused absences:

- Sickness (must provide a doctor's note upon return)

- Death in the immediate family
- Religious function
- Wedding of immediate family member (parent and sibling)
- College audition/visit
- Honor Band and All State
- Approved school functions
- Certain doctor appointments (case by case basis)
- Anything else deemed excused at the Director's discretion

Unexcused absences:

- Work
- Feeling tired
- Forgetting about rehearsal
- Not wanting to attend
- Birthday parties
- Vacations
- Certain doctor appointments (case by case basis)
- Anything else deemed unexcused at the Director's discretion

Participation

All students must be in good standing with MHSAA and West Harrison High School to participate. Students will be removed from the marching show if deemed ineligible or in poor academic standing. If a student is pulled from the marching show for whatever reason (eligibility, injury, etc), the directors will assign other tasks.

During marching season, students will receive half credit on their daily participation if they do not have proper equipment, clothing, etc. During concert band season, students will receive no credit on their daily participation if they do not have their instruments.

All students are required to be enrolled in band both academic semesters (marching band in the Fall, concert band in the Spring). Exception: colorguard students that are not in winterguard (spring semester). All students must stay enrolled in band the full year to be eligible for trips, awards, banquets, etc.

Once a student quits band, they may not be eligible to rejoin; the directors and school administrators will review each case.

Alternate Status

Some students will be placed as alternates for the marching show if the need arises, such as academic ineligibility, too many unexcused absences, injuries, not following band/school rules, lack of participation (not knowing drill and music), etc. Students pulled from the show will have an opportunity to earn their spot back. All alternates are still expected to be at every band function, pay all fees, adhere to band/school rules, etc. Being an alternate does not affect enrollment status in band.

Alternate status is just for marching band. All students perform equally with the concert bands.

Marching Band Clothing

Marching band is a physical activity. All students are required to dress appropriately for rehearsals: athletic tops/t-shirts, athletic shorts, and athletic shoes are required for every rehearsal. Examples of what not to wear: jeans, sweatpants (during summer/warm weather), sandals, flip flops, Converse, Vans, Crocs, basketball shoes (prevents proper marching), etc. Please speak to Mr. Fry if you have questions about rehearsal attire.

Every student will receive a costume top for the marching show (purchased through band fees). Students may keep their costume top at the end of the season; however, it is the student's responsibility to keep their costume top clean. All costume tops must be washed once a week (ideally, costume tops will be clean for both Friday night games and Saturday competitions, but if time is a factor, costume tops can be hung up and air dried after Friday night games).

Every student will be issued a set of marching bibbers and green marching jacket. The bibbers are part of the marching show costume and the jackets are worn on special occasions. Both items will be returned at the end of the year. The bibbers, like the costume top, must be washed once a week.

All students must have a pair of marching shoes. These are not included in the band fee as students don't necessarily have to purchase a new pair of shoes each year. Marching shoes must be kept in working condition. If they break, start to develop holes, etc, students must purchase a new pair. Marching shoes will only be worn with the full costume and at select rehearsals.

Injuries

Students are expected to participate every day to the best of their ability. We understand that marching band is a physical activity. Proper breaks will be given during rehearsals, but everyone must participate, even if tired, sore, etc. We understand that some injuries will occur. We will never ask students to participate or perform while injured. However, students must know the difference between being a little tired, sore, etc, versus being truly injured.

If a student is injured or if held out from a doctor's notes, the student's grade will not be penalized.

If a student is injured/out for a prolonged period, the directors will consult with the school nurse and school administration about their spot in the marching show.

Fees

There are fees associated with the band program. The fees cover a wide range of items, such as the marching show, costumes for the show, transportation, clothing, food, Bands of America competition fees, etc. **West Harrison Band policy is all fees must be paid in full before students can attend overnight trips**, such as our BOA, indoor percussion, winterguard, and Spring trips. There are no exceptions to this policy. Students will have plenty of fundraising opportunities to offset the band fee costs.

Marching band is a very time-consuming activity. Our band calendar is very busy during marching band, but it eases up a lot for concert band. There is a fee associated with band; it primarily covers marching band, but the fee covers the full year. Please review the student fee breakdown below:

Student Fees

- \$430 for horns and drums
 - o Students keep costume since they pay for it
- \$555 for colorguard
 - o Flag silks/equipment
 - o Covers up to \$175 for the costume (boosters pay the remainder)
 - o Students keep one flag silk and costume at end of the season
- \$350/student for BOA Orlando
- **Total: \$780 for horns/drums; \$905 for colorguard**
- **Fees include, but not limited to:**
 - o Marching band show design
 - o Marching band staff
 - o Transportation/truck driver fees
 - o Costumes for the marching show/uniform upkeep
 - o Bands of America Orlando trip in October and related expenses
 - o Marching and concert band contest/festival entrance fees
 - o Guest clinicians for marching and concert band
 - o Day-to-day band logistics
 - o Music purchases (marching and concert band)
 - o Copyright for marching band music
 - o Rehearsal gear: green shirt, black shorts, water bottle
- **Payment schedule:**
 - o May 22nd (parent meeting): \$100 deposit
 - o June 5th (Thursday rehearsal): \$200
 - o July 7th (first day of band camp): \$200
 - o August 3rd: \$200
 - o September 1st: any remaining fees
 - o September 15th: hard deadline

We will have plenty of fundraising opportunities throughout the year. Many students fundraise so much throughout the year that they pay off their next year's fees! Our band booster organization holds monthly meetings during marching band season and bimonthly meetings during concert band season. We would love all parents and students to attend these meetings and have their voices heard; sometimes, the best fundraising ideas come from parental discussion at these meetings!

Additionally, 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 students and parents; however, we encourage everyone to come! The fee is \$960 for students in a quad room (four to a room) and is separate from the band fee. Remember, this is an optional trip, but the main band fee must be paid in full before students are eligible for the Spring Trip. The band fee and Spring trip payments can be made simultaneously. There will be fundraising opportunities to offset costs for the Spring trip!

February 2026 Orlando Trip

- 100% optional for the kids (THIS IS NOT MANDATORY)
- \$960/student
- This is a separate fee from the band fee
- Band fees must be paid in full to attend

- Families can make simultaneous band fee and Orlando trip payments
 - o July 7th: (first day of band camp): \$100 deposit
 - o August 1st: \$172
 - o September 1st: \$172
 - o October 1st: \$172
 - o November 1st: \$172
 - o December 1st: \$172
- Feb 12: Travel to Orlando (drive through the night)
- Feb 13: Epic Universe, check into hotel at night
 - o Boosters provide breakfast on Feb 13
- Feb 14: Universal Studios/Islands of Adventure
- Feb 15: Epic Universe
- Feb 16: Parade at Universal Studios, day at US/loA, travel home after park closes
- Feb 17: Arrive at WHHS early morning

Travel

The band travels a lot, whether it be for marching competitions, football games, spring trips, concerts, etc. Students are expected to attend every mandatory event (Spring trips are optional). Sometimes we only take half the band to certain away football games; rosters will come out a week before these select games. The band directors and school administrators reserve the right to not allow students to travel based on school discipline, academics, breaking band rules, not paying fees, etc.

Grading

Grades will come from a mix of participation and playing/video assignments. Students must be in good academic standing with both the band and the school to participate.

Communication

Harrison County teachers use **Parent Square** to communicate with parents and students. All parents and students must have the Parent Square app downloaded, or at least one parent/guardian per household. Additionally, our band boosters use **The Band App** to communicate with parents and students, upload calendars and documents, relay important info from the band directors, allow parents to ask our Band Booster Board questions, etc. Every student and at least one parent/guardian per household needs to download The Band App. **Note: band directors do not use The Band App to communicate**; this is strictly for band students, band parents, and the Band Booster Board.

Band Boosters

We have an active band booster organization that raises funds for the band. Student band fees alone do not cover the full operating expense of the band program. We have monthly meetings during marching season (July, August, September, and October) and bimonthly meetings after marching season (November, January, March, and May). We encourage all parents to participate and have their voices heard! Usually, the best fundraising ideas come from discussion at booster meetings!

There are a lot of moving parts to running a band program. Each rule and regulation in this handbook enable the band to perform and operate to the best of its ability. The directors are confident that if all students adhere to the rules and regulations listed, then our band will be the best it can be! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Mr. Fry. Go band!!!

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By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the handbook, understand the contents, and will abide by the contents.

Student name _____

Student signature _____

Parent name _____

Parent signature _____

Date _____