



West Johnston High School Band Handbook 2022-2023 School Year

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Terms

- Some terms and acronyms are used frequently and interchangeably throughout this handbook. These include:
 - WJHS BPA: West Johnston High School Band Parent Association
 - JCPS: Johnston County Public Schools
 - WJHS: West Johnston High School
 - Band, Band Program, West Johnston High School Band, ensemble, performance unit, marching band
 - Band directors, directors
 - Band member, member, student (this includes Guard, Percussion AND Winds students, unless otherwise stated)
 - Incidental Expenses: IE
 - Band Room, “The Hatcher”, The “Leslie Hatcher Memorial Band Room”

Preface

- This handbook describes the West Johnston High School Band Program (Band Program) and its policies, rules, and regulations. Band members are required to follow the policies, rules and regulations of **Johnston County Public Schools** and the **West Johnston Band Program** as described in this handbook. School rules and policies are in-force at all times that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of West Johnston High School. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict.
- The band directors shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.



To our new members and parents,

Welcome to the West Johnston Band Program! We are beyond excited for your interest. Our number one goal is to help you make artistic experiences every day that lead to lifelong memories and appreciation for artistry. We have a GINORMOUS number of opportunities for you within this program to find your way of expressing yourself. West truly offers more opportunities for you than any other school in our county, and we hope you'll take advantage of as many of them as possible!

Band and Guard are one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. Imagine if an English teacher graded everyone in the class on the level of the weakest student! In band, everyone MUST perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will sound terrible. Even one person making a grade of 60% on a piece of music means 40% of the notes were played in error...not pleasant to hear!

In addition to teaching performance skills, band and guard teaches you to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in tune? For our guard, every checkpoint, count, release/stopping angle, facial expression, etc. matters. How much energy am I putting into every toss? Is my body correct? Have I also hit my drill? Am I performing through all of that? Nowhere else on campus is the demand for active thought while performing any stronger and it's for this reason that colleges and universities across the country look for students involved in Band/Guard for ALL their programs, not just for their Fine Arts Departments.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication, loyalty and trust are huge components of creating artistry in a group. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band program demands grit, drive and time management - skills that will be valuable all through life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction - all of these develop quickly as a part of your experience.

Before we go further, I want to put in front of you our band manifesto:

West Johnston Band Manifesto

We escape by making artistry.

We are a family of expression.

We build a safe and secure home for every person.

We live to learn, serve, and inspire.

We strive to be undeniable.

We do this for each other.

This is West Johnston's legacy.



This original form of the Manifesto was created in 2018 by our student leaders, and has evolved over time into its current form at the discretion of the staff and students. Many of the principles and ideals stated here are what define and guide our processes and systems used throughout the program - so make sure you know this Manifesto!

To our new parents, we hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities together. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation (the West Johnston Band Parent Association or BPA), assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones, equipment crew, or as a parent leader. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible. Parents - You are SO IMPORTANT to not just your student's success but the success of the entire program!

This handbook should help orient your family to the many different aspects of the band program. Attendance at BPA Meetings (once a month, mostly on the first Tuesday of each month) is HIGHLY recommended. The band program produces a calendar kept on our website - westjohnstonband.com. Student AND parents, please check this for any questions and use it to guide when you need to be where! Feel free to contact any director or BPA officer for help and remember to come to the meetings to get the latest information about each event.

We truly believe we have a unique culture in the West Johnston Band community that strives to be undeniable in ALL areas of what we do. We want to make sure our members have a balanced, enjoyable and artistic experience that not only allows them to create moments and friendships that they'll remember the rest of the lives, but also inculcate values - dedication, grit, consistency, understanding, care, being detail-oriented, time management, and so much more - that will show up in every other area of their life. We look forward to being a part of your family for the rest of your student's high school career and we hope to help you/your student be the absolute best they can be.

On Behalf of the West Johnston Band Staff:

Lucas Meade
Director of Bands

Jessica Leighton
Assistant Director of Bands



Objectives of the Band Program

West Johnston Band Manifesto

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The primary objectives of the band program are:

Cultural - To build caring and invested relationships that create a band family, value each individual for their innate worth and see their importance to both the artistic and cultural goals of the whole program.

Excellence - To strive to be undeniable in every activity we pursue, to not just valued experts and judges but also to our community as a whole, from the very young, to our most experienced audience members.

Educational - To create engaged and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded artistic education and give our students all the skill sets they need to pursue artistic activities beyond high school.

Citizenship - To inculcate skill sets and values that build a safe and secure home for every person and prepare students to be outstanding members of society beyond high school.

Service - To nurture an eagerness to do what's best for "the team", in whatever form that takes within our band family, school community or community at-large, along with a drive to inspire those around us.

Recreational - To provide an artistic outlet to express oneself - not just in performances but in every day rehearsals.



The West Johnston Band Performance Opportunities

Concert Ensembles/Class Color guard

The concert band programs and class color guard are the core of everything we do. Without a successful and developing concert band program our musicians cannot excel in anything else. The concert program is divided into 2 auditioned ensembles (auditions occur during the end of each semester). Rising 9th graders are generally placed in our Symphonic Band, which is called "Beginning Band/Orchestra" by the school (95% of the students are not actually just beginning! And yes, it's called orchestra but it's just the spring name for Band). The concert programs perform 2-3 concerts per semester including a Fall Concert, Holiday performance, Midwinter concert, Music Performance Assessment Performance (MPA) and a Final concert. The concert band students are also encouraged to participate in All-County Band and All-District band auditions, two events that put together auditioned ensembles that participate in a 2 day clinic with a world class educator. There is generally no fee to perform with this group because they are classes at WJHS, however, there may be a small fee of \$10-20 to travel or bring in clinicians.

Marching Band

As one of the most visible and recognized ensembles both at the school and in our community, the West Johnston Marching Band is our largest, most inclusive and arguably most important extracurricular ensemble. Being fully transparent, much of the dues for this ensemble help fund the rest of the program (just as football helps fund the rest of the athletics department), and so having the largest marching band is not only critical to the financial success of the program but also allows for the most enjoyment for all its members - bigger band, bigger sound, bigger visuals, bigger fun.

The marching band develops a single show for the marching season. Marching band has evolved into a competitive and artistic activity and requires a huge amount of design and planning. The marching band attends Varsity Football Games, which begin a week or two before school starts. They perform their show during halftime and play pop tunes in the stands during gameplay. Marching competitions begin in mid-September and continue through the end of October/early November, where the band performs the year's show amongst high school bands from across the state. The band also participates in a number of parades and other local events.



Membership

- Members are those that sign contracts and have deposits ready at our annual May meeting.
- Students who are in marching band are required to also be in a concert band/guard class for both the fall and the spring. Any class conflicts must be cleared with the directors.

Rehearsals

- The band has a regular rehearsal schedule, including but not limited to the following:
 - Rookie/Percussion/Guard Camp - Last week of July
 - Band Camp - Beginning of August
 - August Rehearsal Days
 - Fall Semester Marching Band Mini camps - usually on Saturdays
 - After school rehearsal - generally on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays
- Please check the band website westjohnstonband.com for a calendar with all band events and rehearsals.
- Please encourage and work with your students to put together a calendar to avoid double bookings and missing rehearsals. All events in the calendar are required. If concern rises for significant or consistent absences, the directors reserve the right to assign a consequence for that student.
- **See further details for the marching band on p.14.**

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz band is an auditioned group for those that play saxophone, trombone, trumpet or a rhythm instrument and is focused on teaching students jazz styles at a more advanced level. Jazz band rehearses after school once a week during marching season (September-October), and then twice a week through the rest of the year (November-May). Performances include elementary/middle schools, local venues/events, fine arts collaboratives, jazz festivals, and of course our band concerts. There is a fee for the jazz band, normally between \$100-\$200 to cover travel, staff, equipment and music costs.

Winter Guard

The award winning winter guard program is an extension of the fall color guard. It is essentially an indoor color guard. This group competes much like the marching band at various local and national competitions. Local competitions are organized and run by the Atlantic Indoor Association (AIA) or the Carolina Winter Ensemble Association (CWEA) and national competitions are run by Winter Guard International (WGI).

- The winter guard season runs typically from the end of November, beginning with auditions and training dates, to the middle of April.
- There is no experience necessary to audition to be a part of the winter guards.
- There is a separate incidental expense for being a part of the winter guard(s).



- The winter programs typically rehearse 2-3 days during the week and during most Saturdays in the Spring semester.

Fine Arts Collaboration/Musical

Students in the band program will also have opportunities to perform with the other departments in the Fine Arts through our fine arts collaboratives (Traditionally in December) and the Musical (in the Spring). These groups are audition-based and have separate contracts for those rehearsal dates.

Private Lessons

Students in the band program are encouraged to pursue private lessons on their instruments. The fastest and most effective way to improve on one's instrument is by taking weekly 1-on-1 lessons with an expert on your instrument, although even bi-weekly or monthly lessons can be a huge advantage for any student. With our proximity to the Triangle, there are many teachers that are willing to drive to our school or potentially meet somewhere to provide private lessons. If interested in this, please reach out to a band director!

Other Opportunities

All-County/All-District/All-State

These are audition-based ensembles that represent Johnston County, the Southeastern District and North Carolina respectively. Students prepare scales and a solo and then sight-read for a panel of judges, and then the top performers are selected to participate in a multi-day clinic that culminates in a concert with a nationally or even internationally recognized conductor and teacher.

Timeline:

Johnston County All-County Honors Band - Auditions in November (Normally on a Tuesday or Thursday night) - Clinic in November (normally the Monday/Tuesday of Thanksgiving Break)

Southeastern District Honors Band All-District - Auditions in January (normally the 2nd Saturday), Clinic in January (normally the 4th Saturday).

North Carolina All-State Honors Band - Auditions in March (normally the 1st Saturday), Clinic at the end of April/Beginning of May.

Note - You can only audition for the All-State Honors Band if you place a high enough chair on your instrument at the All-District level.

Year-Round Ensembles

We are incredibly lucky to be so close to Raleigh, which provides many opportunities outside of WJHS. These ensembles are audition-based and choose students from many high schools across many counties. The level of musicianship of these groups are much higher, just like All-District/All-State, as these are usually the top players from their high school bands. Please go to these links to learn more about each group. There is generally a fee to participate in these groups.



Triangle Youth Brass Bands - Brass and percussion auditions in October and placement in one of THREE bands. Rehearsals every Monday night from 6:30-8:30pm. Three concerts during the school year. Often travels to “NABBA,” the North American Brass Band Association Championships, currently held in Huntsville, Alabama. All three bands placed 1st in their sections in 2022.

<https://trianglebrass.org/about-2/>

Triangle Youth Jazz Ensembles - Auditions at the beginning of the school year and placement in one of FOUR ensembles. Performances throughout the school year. Often travels to local and out-of-state jazz festivals, like Essentially Ellington at the Lincoln Center.

<https://philharmonic-association.org/triangle-youth-jazz-ensemble/>

Triangle Youth Philharmonic - Auditions at the beginning of the school year and placement in one of THREE ensembles. Performances in the spring. These ensembles are made of strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Only a couple of each woodwind and brass instrument are chosen for these ensembles.

<https://philharmonic-association.org/triangle-youth-philharmonic/>

Annual Ensembles and Camps

The groups below only meet for a few rehearsals the days leading up to the performance, much like All-District/All-State. Some are audition-based, some are first-come/first-serve, and others welcome everyone who signs up.

Carolina Band Festival at UNC Greensboro (February)

<https://vpa.uncg.edu/music/carolina-band-festival-conductors-conference/>

UNC Pembroke Honor Band (March)

<https://www.uncp.edu/departments/music/festivals-and-special-events/uncp-honor-band>

UNC Pembroke Honor Jazz Festival (April)

<https://www.uncp.edu/departments/music/festivals-and-special-events/uncp-honor-jazz-festival>

UNC Greensboro Summer Music Camp (July)

<https://vpa.uncg.edu/music/smcamp/>

ECU Summer Music Camp (June)

<https://music.ecu.edu/summer/band/>

Cannon Summer Music Camp at App State (June - July)

<https://cannon.appstate.edu/>



Policies, Rules, Procedures

Listed below are the various policies and procedures that will help make the program run more efficiently and help hold all our members to high standards of conduct and excellence. Failure to adhere to the policies are grounds for appropriate consequences, including, but not limited to: office referrals, ineligibility to participate in rehearsal/performances, parent conferences, and dismissal from the program (without refunds). Students are also expected to be familiar with and adhere to the policies set forth by Johnston County Public Schools. These policies and procedures apply to any event that falls under school function or trip.

School-Owned Instruments

School-owned instruments will be checked out at the beginning of the season (start of summer for some), including but not limited to Tenor Saxophones, Bari Saxophones, Bassoons, Bass Clarinets, Euphoniums and Tubas. **Only the students that are designated to those instruments are allowed to use them.**

Checkout Process

- Students will ask a Band Director to check out an instrument.
- Students and parent representatives will sign documents agreeing to take care of the instrument. There is NO fee for use.
- Wear and tear repairs will be **covered by the family**, unless agreed to by the band staff. Directors must be notified immediately when the instrument is in need of repair.

Instrument Repair

All instruments should be treated with care. Store them properly and keep up with maintenance, such as regularly oiling valves, applying cork grease, or replacing old reeds. We are lucky to have several great instrument repair specialists in the Triangle area. Repair techs from these companies often make stops at JCPS schools on a regular basis. Students should notify a band director as soon as possible if an instrument needs repair.

- Music and Arts <http://www.musicarts.com>
- Edwards Music <http://www.edwardsmusic.com>
- Flying Squirrel <https://www.flyingsquirrelmusicnc.com/>
- Sweeney Brass <https://www.sweeneybrass.com/>



Band Facilities

Band Room ("The Hatcher")

The use of band facilities before, after, or during school is a privilege. Students are not to be in the band room without a band director present. No food or drink, except water, is permitted in the band room. Students who abuse the facility will be disciplined accordingly. Any abuse or damage will be considered vandalism. No outside students are permitted in the band room. There will be no horseplay (i.e. throwing items, wrestling, running) in or around the band room. All percussion equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them. No storing of personal items. The Band Room is nicknamed "The Hatcher" as it is officially the Leslie Hatcher Memorial Band Room, after Leslie Hatcher, one of our most beloved band dads who passed away far too young after a battle with cancer.

Instrument Storage & Side Rooms

The cubby room is for the storage of instruments only. All instruments should be in their assigned cubby. Side rooms, such as the percussion room, guard room, and library, can be used as practice spaces if cleared with a director. Students should not enter these spaces if not granted permission from a director. Students are responsible for keeping all side rooms neat and orderly. It is a privilege to have access to these rooms and the directors reserve the right to limit usage.

Band Office

The band office is for band directors and staff only. Students should knock on the door and wait for someone to beckon them in. Do not enter without permission.

Band Passes

Thanks to the band's excellent reputation in the past, Band Passes are special passes given out by the band directors that allow students to come to the band room in the mornings before school, during West Success and during lunch, as long as a student has an A or a B in their classes. **THIS IS PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT**, and if abused will lead to the loss of not only the band pass for the individual, but could lead to loss of the privilege for the program overall. Take care especially during West Success that the teacher who you're not with is aware that you are in the band room.



Financial Obligations

Incidental Expenses (aka "IE")

Each student's incidental expense is set to help cover the cost of the operating budget. There are numerous ways to contribute and fundraise toward your incidental expense. The BPA and staff write a budget based on a number of different costs including:

- Show Shirt and Journey Shirt
- Show design
- Music
- Equipment Needs
- Uniform needs
- Guard Needs
- Staff Salaries
- Travel Expenses
- End-of-year awards
- Some of the food costs

No member will be denied the opportunities of our organization due to financial difficulties. Please speak with a director or WJHS BPA board member if at any time financial obligations seem to be a deterrent. Please make all efforts to contribute and fundraise your incidental expenses in good time. Failure to contribute could prevent your student from traveling and participating in extracurricular aspects of marching band.

- You will be contacted before traveling to meet the expenses of that trip if your individual expenses are not up to date.
- Once a contract has been signed and payments made no refunds will be issued should a student decide to not participate any further.
 - If participation is ceased due to medical reasons (with documentation provided by a medical professional) the board may review the decision to issue a refund.
- **All students are expected to participate in 3 mandatory fundraisers.**
 - **Fall Marching Band Invitational - Compass Classic**
 - **Reverse Raffle-each student sells at least 3 tickets**
 - **Winterfest - Winter guard and drumline competition at West**
- There are many on-going fundraising opportunities, such as working an event at PNC arena (hockey, Disney on Ice, etc). The WJHS BPA also occasionally sets up one-time fundraisers that may directly benefit a student's IE account based on a product sold, such as Mrs. Debbie's Specialty Apples.



Marching Band Specifics

Marching Band involves certain logistics that most other ensembles do not need. Please review these, especially if you are new to marching band!

Outdoor Rehearsal Needs List

This list applies to all rehearsals and includes specific items at the end. Students **MUST** have access/bring these items for each rehearsal.

- **Water jug/cooler at least 1 gallon recommended. This is a must have.**
- **Tennis Shoes and socks (NO flip flops, sandals, flats/converse, etc.)**
- **Pencil at all rehearsals**
- **Lunch - during band camp and Saturday minicamps**
- *Hat (Recommended)*
- *Sunglasses (Recommended)*
- *Chapstick or lip balm (Recommended)*
- *Sunscreen with a high SPF (Recommended)*
- *Bug spray (Recommended)*
- *Snacks EVERY DAY (Recommended)*

GUARD ONLY:

- Flag/Rifle
- Guard gloves (will be provided toward the beginning of the season)

INSTRUMENTALISTS ONLY:

- Flip Folder/Lyre
- Music folder
- Instrument
- Instrument accessories, reeds, mouthpieces, etc

Preparing for Band Camp

Before Band Camp, band members are encouraged to:

- Build stamina by doing basic workouts and stretches before late July.
- Get used to the heat by spending time outside during the day.
- Begin drinking additional water to keep hydrated in the heat.
- Practice your instrument! Even if it's just 5-10 minutes on a daily basis.

Rookie Band+Percussion+Guard Camp (End of July)

Generally Monday-Thursday mornings the week before Band Camp, this is our chance to prepare certain groups ahead of Band Camp - our rookies, our percussionists and our color guard members. These are required morning-only rehearsals as they are critical to helping these members before for full camp - any conflicts must be cleared with the directors ahead of camp.



Band Camp (Beginning of August)

Typical Band Camp days involve marching rehearsals outside in the relative cool of the mornings and musical rehearsals indoors in the heat of the afternoon and then more marching or learning drill in the evening.

- This is where students receive the bulk of their training, both musically and visually. We bring in a staff of teachers that are considered experts in their respective fields and give exclusive instruction for the two weeks of camp. Students learn the first part of the marching show, prepare stand tunes and in general are trained in many of the fundamentals they'll use throughout the year.
- Band Camp concludes with a preview performance and pool party for the entire band.
- Materials for rehearsals are located at the front of the Policies section.

This is the most important time of the year and is mandatory for all students.

Please speak with directors about concerns/conflicts.

Friday Night Varsity Football Games

The band performs at all home varsity football games during the season. The band plays pep songs during the game, and performs the competitive show at half-time. Occasionally, we will travel to local away games and playoffs with a pep band made up of volunteers. There is always a rehearsal before each home game and a \$5 dinner will be offered by the BPA. Students may be asked to wear their "Summer Uniform" when it is too hot for a full uniform, consisting of a Journey shirt, khaki shorts, and neutral colored athletic shoes. All other performances will be in the full marching uniform.

Local Parades

The band traditionally performs in 2-3 parades throughout the year, including the Cleveland 4th of July Parade, the Mule Days Parade in mid-September, and various Christmas parades in Johnston County. There is also a possibility of WJHS hosting a Homecoming Parade on Tuesday the week of the Homecoming football game at the discretion of school administration.

- Incoming and Alumni students are always invited to the July 4th parade.
- 1-2 rehearsals ahead of any parades that are not in season (i.e. Christmas parades) are required to perform.

Marching Competitions

The band attends competitions at local, regional, and national levels. Different competitions divide their competitions in classes based on band size or in some cases school enrollment. Most of our local competitions are judged on criteria established by the **North Carolina Bandmasters Association (NCBA)**. The criteria at national competitions such as **Bands of America (BOA)** differ slightly from those used at our state competitions, but they are generally very similar.



- The directors will determine which competitions the band attends. There are many band competitions held by other schools in a driving radius of one to two hours. Competitions are held on Saturdays starting mid-September running through the end of October/early November.
- Depending on the timing of the trip, the WJHS-BPA may provide food and beverages to the members. On a typical Saturday, the kids will bring their own lunch and dinner may be provided by the WJHS-BPA for a small fee or the students may purchase concessions at the event.
- Itineraries for local competitions will be provided 1-2 weeks before the competition date.

Overnight Trips

Trips to BOA shows and other places further away require us to stay overnight. These trips generally last from Friday night through Sunday late afternoon to early evening. Depending on circumstances, we use several different housing arrangements.

- Parents have the opportunity to sign up as chaperones and helpers for all trips. Chaperones and helpers **MUST** be a Level 2 volunteer for Johnston County Public Schools.
- Students must meet financial and academic criteria to be allowed to participate in overnight trips.
- Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations set forth in this handbook and adhere to the policies set forth by Johnston County Public Schools.

Attendance

Unless otherwise noted, attendance is mandatory for all scheduled rehearsals and performances. Any absence/tardies not approved at least 2 days in advance or deemed an emergency will fall as unexcused and lead to consequences. Students may be temporarily excused from rehearsal under the following conditions:

- When personally ill and when attendance in school would endanger their health or the health of others.
- On special and recognized religious holidays observed by their faith that is previously discussed with a band director.
- Family Emergency that is communicated with the band staff.

All absences/tardies must be notified with all relevant band staff (including BOTH band directors) and with the group as a whole in the BAND app. If a student misses and staff/students are not aware of the reason, assumptions are often made which can lead to frustration or worse. We want students to be in the habit of notifying everyone so that there's time to adjust rehearsal.



The following rules will govern authorized absences/tardies:

- Personal illness, Family Emergency, or Religious Observance
 - The Band Directors should be notified prior to the required rehearsal or performance.
- Conflicts with other acceptable school activities (tutoring, one-time audition/try-out dates, college interviews/meetings, and standardized testing).
 - Notify both band directors at least 48 hours in advance of the date of conflict. A week or more notice is preferable, given how many students are affected.
 - Written verification is needed to describe the problem and resolution.
 - Every effort will be made to coordinate with the conflicting school activity to accommodate participation with the other sponsors in both activities.

Consequences of unauthorized absences/tardies:

Excused absences/tardies are at the director's approval. Any time missed from rehearsal makes the group, not just the individual, weaker, so any time missed is expected to be made up by the student on their own.

Process of Removal from a position due to absences from rehearsals:

First unexcused absence: Directors reserve the right to not allow a student to perform in the next performance. Student may lose band pass privileges. Student/director conference.

Second unexcused absence: Student will not perform in next performance. Student may lose band pass privileges. Student/director/parent conference.

Third unexcused absence: Student will not perform in the next two performances. Student may lose band pass privileges. Student/director/parent/administrator conference.

With your 4th unexcused absence: Student will be dismissed from the program.

Tardies

Two unexcused tardies (late arrival or leaving early) is equivalent to one unexcused absence. See the above list for consequences for unexcused absences.

Health related absences:

For health issues where students can be at rehearsal but not necessarily participate because of medical issues:

- Students may come to rehearsal but may have to sit out due to medical reasons. (asthma, heart conditions, etc)
- These issues must be communicated with directors so we know students are not taking advantage of situations.



- Students will be seated next to/under the drum major podium and still be engaged with rehearsal.
- While we certainly do everything we can to accommodate students that have health concerns, the directors reserve the right to withhold the next performance opportunity if students miss more than half of a rehearsal during the week of the next performance. These will be decided on a case by case basis and are left up to the discretion of the directors.

Drivers Education Courses

Please plan on taking the class portion of Drivers Ed after the marching season is over. You are paying for specialized instruction and the other 100 plus students in the program depend on full participation at all rehearsals. Drivers Ed classes are taught throughout the year. Missing rehearsals for the class portion of Drivers Ed is considered an unexcused absence.

Academic Policy

The West band students are consistently at the top of each class. There are many that are not. Band practice is not an excuse for falling behind in classes. One of the biggest lessons that our extracurricular ensembles teach is time management. All extra curricular students will be held to the following academic standards:

- Eligibility for participation is defined as passing (60% or better)
- When a student is reported as failing, they will be put on PROBATIONARY status and will be required to set up and participate in afterschool tutoring until the grade can be brought up to passing.
 - Failure to set up/ participate in tutoring may result in removal from next performance.
- Students who are failing may lose band pass privileges.

Misbehavior / General Conduct

Reasons for dismissal from the band program, dismissal from the activity, and/or suspension from performances are set by the Band Directors and the School Board as described in the Student and Faculty Handbook. Additional penalties (removal of band passes, parent chaperones as a students “2”, etc.) are at the discretion of the band directors and could be imposed for the following violations:

- Consumption of alcohol, drugs, smoking, chewing, dipping, vaping is not permitted.
 - Violation of this policy may result in immediate dismissal.
 - Violation of this policy at an event, which requires overnight travel, may result in being sent home in advance of the conclusion of the event.



- All costs associated with being sent home in advance will become the responsibility of the member and/or his family. This will include the cost of transportation for the member and a chaperone.
- Destruction or damaging of property/equipment
 - Clearly apparent attempts, whether successful or not, to damage or destroy property, are not permitted or acceptable.
 - This policy applies to any property, whether personal, school, or private.
 - Band members and/or their parent(s) will be financially responsible for costs associated with restoring/replacing damaged or destroyed property.
 - If required, band members who are suspected of violating this policy may be reported to appropriate civil authorities.
- Using Profanity towards Directors, Parents or other students.
- Inappropriate Posting on Social Media that fails to represent the program appropriately.
- Conduct detrimental to the organization and organizations reputation.
- Willful Disobedience
 - Band members should show respect for directors, staff, and chaperones.

Uniforms

Never wear the uniform to events other than those designated by the directors. Always wear the entire uniform with all accessories. Never wear any jewelry (including watches) or make-up while in uniform.

- You are responsible for the EXACT NUMBERED UNIFORM ITEM that you receive.
- Members may be required to pay for some parts of their uniform (e.g. shoes, socks, gloves). Directors will identify which parts must be purchased and which must be purchased from designated sources.
- Uniforms are inspected before every performance. Everything must be clean and in good repair. Failure to comply with this policy may lead to being excluded from performing.
- BPA-owned uniforms will be stored at school and may not be taken home without permission.

Uniform Etiquette

Must always wear full uniform, unless instructed otherwise. If not wearing the jacket, it must be folded in a uniform fashion. Instructions will be given during changing if we are starting with or without jackets on - if you're unsure, assume that we are "jackets on".



- Never allow any part of the uniform to touch the ground unless given permission by a staff member.
- Must always travel in 2s or pairs. No West member should ever travel alone, ever.
- ABSOLUTELY ZERO profanity in uniform.
- No public displays of affection. The only acceptable PDA is giving your family members/ fellow uniformed members a quick hug pre/post performance.
 - Disregard for these rules will result in consequences at the discretion of the directors.
 - You may lose your performance eligibility for the next performance.

Code of Conduct

As members of the West Johnston Fine Arts Department, you will be highly visible, not only as a musical organization, but as representatives of our school, community, and state. That responsibility and opportunity carries with it an obligation to project and maintain the absolute highest moral and musical integrity. Many of those who come into contact with us as we perform and travel will form their opinions of West Johnston based upon the impressions we create, both in close proximity and from a distance. Therefore, the rules of the JCS and individual campus program rules and regulations apply at all times. As in any situation, good judgment must always prevail.

- When enjoying free time and during sightseeing excursions, always stay in groups of three or more members. This is for your safety.
- School dress code is required on all trips.
- Mixed company in hotel rooms is prohibited. Gathering with friends of other genders must take place in common areas.
- Members must remain reasonably quiet at all times when in hotel facilities. Curfews will be strictly observed. Any personal needs, which might require leaving your room after curfew, must be arranged in advance with a chaperone or director.
- Band members are responsible for all their own equipment and personal items (triple check for uniform parts, extra reeds, valve oil, mutes, music, etc.)
 - However, we all must share in the logistical responsibilities of the trip. We will all participate as equipment movers, sanitation engineers, stagehands, etc. Please perform the duties asked of you.
- There will be times when changes to our plans become necessary. Look for solutions to problems and avoid complaining. Concerns should be expressed at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner.



Rehearsal Expectations

- Members will treat each other, band directors, staff, and chaperones with respect at all times.
- Members will listen attentively when instructions are being given.
- Members will follow all instructions of the adults or student leadership without question, within reason.
- Members will be courteous toward each other and other individuals.
- Members will conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times. Profanity, vulgarity, and obscenities will not be tolerated.
- Cell phones being used or ringing during rehearsal will not be tolerated as this is in direct violation of rehearsal etiquette and school policy.
 - This includes using wireless earpods, such as AirPods.

Travel/Bus Expectations

- All riders will remain seated when the bus is in motion.
- All riders must keep all appendages inside the bus at all times.
- Students may play school-appropriate music over a speaker at an appropriate volume as long as there is no vulgar language and the song is about a clean topic. Music should be turned off when the buses arrive at the destination. The directors reserve the right to abolish this privilege, both temporarily and permanently.
- Students must remain in their seats and on the bus until the directors give instructions.
- No one is allowed on the bus unless an adult chaperone or the driver is present.
- When the buses arrive at the destination, students should be silent to allow the bus driver to concentrate and for all students to focus on the upcoming performance.
- Inappropriate physical (PDA) or verbal contact of a hostile or an intimate nature between students will not be tolerated.



Parents: What to Expect and Etiquette at Competitions

Band competitions are festive occasions full of color and sound. Family members usually wear their “Teal” and sit together to support the band during competitions. Spectators should NOT enter or leave the stadium while any band is performing. Talking and phone use should be limited during the performance. Remember, we are there to support the hard work and effort of all competing bands. Please cheer for WJHS and the other participating schools! It is okay to cheer during the performance; after movements, for soloists, or for the really cool parts. Please be positive and be aware of how what you are saying and doing is perceived by the band community as a whole.

The stands, concession areas, and other gathering places are crowded and you never know whose parent or friend is standing or sitting next to you. We NEVER speak negatively of other band programs in public. Be proud of what our kids do and (again) do not be negative towards others. Admission costs for local competitions range from \$5 to \$10. They may be a bit higher at out of state competitions. Things you may want to bring include; seat cushion, camera, poncho, binoculars, pen or pencil to record results.



West Johnston High School Band Parents Association

Mission Statement

The West Johnston High School Band Parents Association is a legally incorporated non-profit organization, organized to support the West Johnston High School Band and its Directors in musical education and enjoyment.

The Purposes of this Club are to:

1. Promote means and opportunities for the education of the public with respect to the study and culture of instrumental music and the enjoyment and wholesome utilization thereof,
2. Solicit, collect, and otherwise handle and dispose of funds in the promotion of the activities of the West Johnston High School Band (with the advice and counsel from the Band Directors and School Principal),
3. Assist the public within the Johnston County Public School area in promoting and developing an outstanding music education program, and
4. Seek the cooperation of other organizations

Membership

Parents of all the band students make up the membership of this organization and manage the logistics of transporting equipment, instruments, and students to competitions, parades, and other events.

Meetings

Band Parent Association Meetings are generally the first Tuesday of every month from 7:00pm - 8:00pm. Sometimes, to save our band families' time we will have meetings just before a major performance, such as the end of Band Camp Community show, or the Winter Post-season show, rather than at an extra meeting earlier in the month. Meetings can be either virtual (over Zoom) or in-person - hosted in The Hatcher (Band Room).

Board Meetings are generally the week before the full meeting, from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Please double check the band calendar for dates.

Where Can You Help?

The two largest sections of the association are **Ways and Means** and **Operations**. There are many opportunities to be involved with the West Johnston Band Parents Association.



Ways and Means

Ways and Means is the fundraising portion of the band program. The fundraisers cannot be handled by one or two people. **We need your help** from support to taking charge of any of the specific fund raisers. We need you to join our committee!

General Fundraising

We count on each family to pay their individual student account (Incidental Expenses Account formerly known as Fair Share Account) and help the band to raise money to support the overall program. **Most of our fundraising efforts are geared towards helping members pay their individual expense account, while others go to support the General Band Fund (known as “General Fund”).** General Fund money is used to support the entire program. It covers general operating expenses, administrative expenses, and helps bring down the assessments for programs such as the marching band, and winter programs.

Operations

Operations handle the general logistics of the band. It takes quite a bit of support for the band to get anywhere and do anything, but working as a team is the key to success! **We need your help!**

Key Areas of Operations

- Travel arrangements/ equipment transportation
- Feeding the band (Hospitality)
- Pit crew
- Props crew
- Uniforms

Chaperones

The West Johnston Band Parents Association will provide adult supervision for all activities. In order to Chaperone our events or to be involved with helping the kids, you must follow the Johnston County Public School’s guidelines to be a Level II Volunteer. Instructions are on the Johnston County Public Schools Website. **This must be renewed EACH YEAR (After July 1st), and once applied, your name must be submitted to the VP of Operations (westbandvpopoperations@gmail.com) for submission to the principal.** Just because you submitted a Level II application does NOT mean that you are approved - only once the band submits your name to administration can you be cleared to help!



PNC, ShopWithScrip and Grocery Card Programs

You can start taking advantage of these programs NOW to help offset your individual expense account! We are here to help, so please let us know if you have any questions.

PNC Arena

We have a contract to work concession stand number 109 and various carts at the PNC Arena. Our West volunteers work various Hockey Games, Basketball Games, concerts, and other events throughout the year. Many parents have paid their Incidental Expenses Account in full by working these events! Please email Katrina McNeill for more information at schedulingpnc@gmail.com

Grocery Cards

We have a Grocery Card Program. We purchase grocery store (Food Lion and Lowes Foods) gift cards; and a percentage of the purchase price comes back to the BPA in the form of a rebate and 90% of that goes to your Incidental Expenses Account. Lowe's is a 6% rebate and Food Lion is a 5% rebate. Please email Stephanie McLeod at giftcardcoordinator@gmail.com for more information.

ShopWithScrip and Gift Card Program

This program is similar to the grocery card program, in that we purchase gift cards (there are hundreds of different choices) up front and receive a rebate to the BPA. You can view the participating retailers here <http://www.shopwithscrip.com/> , just click on shop and you can browse through all the participating retailers. 90% of that rebate goes back to your Incidental Expenses Account. Please email Stephanie McLeod at giftcardcoordinator@gmail.com for more information.



WJHS BPA Board of Directors 2022-23

The Band Parent organization annually elects a board of directors. Below, you will find the 2022-23 Board of Directors.

Position	Name	E-mail
President	Jessica Brown	westbandpresident@gmail.com
Vice President, Ways and Means	n/a	westbandvpwaysmeans@gmail.com
Vice President, Operations	Dawn Starling	westbandvpoperations@gmail.com
Vice President, Large Events	Daniel McLeod	westbandvplargeevents@gmail.com
Treasurer	Adam Starling	wjhsbandbpa@gmail.com
Financial Secretary	Amy Peters	westbandfinsec@gmail.com
Secretary	Suzanne Weldy	westbandcommunications@gmail.com
Band Parent At Large	Katrina McNeill	schedulingpnc@gmail.com shugg6@aol.com
Band Parent At Large	Claude McNeill	cdm34@hotmail.com