

2020 - 2021 WCHS

Band Parent

Guide

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WCHS

Band Parent

Guide

Our goal with this guide is to better inform you, the parents and guardians of our band students. Too many times, seasoned band parents assume everyone knows what we have learned over the years. We want to pass our knowledge on to you. We want and need your input so we can consistently improve our relationship as band parents to the best band in the land!

The Wilson Central Band Boosters Club, Incorporated exists to aid, but not make policy for, the Wilson Central Band Program. The objectives of the Wilson Central Band Boosters are to promote interest in the Wilson Central Band, to assist the directors in maintaining the band, and to cooperate with the Wilson Central High School Administration. We also strive to encourage and motivate the band students. Finally, we assist in financing the band programs.

As you read through this Band Parent Guide, we hope it will answer many questions you have, but if you have further questions, we're all here to help one another. Refer to this Guide throughout the year – this guide has been compiled based on our experiences over the years. The best way to support your band student, the band, and the band boosters is to be informed!

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Message from the Boosters

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Let me welcome you to one of the most exciting band programs in the State of Tennessee!!! You and your child are about to become part of a well-rounded, award-winning band! Though the history of the Wilson Central High School Marching Band may be short, it is a program building a tradition of strong values, outstanding musicianship, and fabulous performances, whether they are on the field or on the stage. We strive to provide our students with a quality band experience while keeping band fees low. Our directors' vision is to have a well-rounded band program that is successful in marching, concert, jazz, and chamber music performances and as boosters, we whole-heartedly support that goal!

Volunteerism is a very important part of our program. We need your help and we aren't afraid to ask you for it. There are numerous jobs where we need volunteers, from pit crew to help move equipment at our games and contests to those who hem and maintain our uniforms to those who work all our fundraising events. In volunteering in any capacity, from chaperoning to helping load and unload equipment to working Titans' games, you will have the opportunity to spend time with a great group of young people while helping them obtain their dreams and goals!

If you have any questions after reading this guide, please feel free to ask any of the Boosters. We're here to support each other and this great band program. We love our band!

Emily Sweeney, 2020-21 WCHS Band Booster President

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How to Stay Informed

What you'll quickly discover with the Wilson Central Band is that there are always a lot of things going on – rehearsals, events for students and parents, performances, etc. The best way to know what is going on is to participate in all of our different communication forums.

We have an e-mail distribution list that the directors and the Boosters use throughout the year. It's called Charms. At registration, we'll get your e-mail address and add you to this group. Throughout the year, you'll receive updates on the band. If for some reason you don't receive these e-mails, please contact Emily Sweeney at emisweeney1@gmail.com to be added to the group.

We also have a Facebook group that informs parents, students, alumni, and others about the band's activities. Just search on Facebook for Wilson Central High School Band. You will be asked a couple of simple questions we use to screen people before adding them to the closed group. Please make sure you answer the questions or you will not be granted membership.

So whether it's the Charms website, the band website, the e-mail distribution list, or just plain ol' word of mouth, it is our goal that you stay informed throughout the year of all of the band's – and the Band Boosters' – activities. We always welcome new ideas to improve communications too!

2020-21 Booster Contacts

Position	Name	Contact Phone	E-mail Address
General Information			
Band Room		453-4600 x3077	
Band Director	Stacy Jernigan		hornerjernigans@wcschools.com
Band Director	Carter Noblin		noblinc@wcschools.com
2020-21 Executive Board			
President	Emily Sweeney	(615) 415-8823	emisweeney1@gmail.com
Vice-President	Gina Waters	(615) 969-4187	ginasmithwaters@gmail.com
Vice-President of Fundraising	Shannon Nehus	(615) 478-2643	shannonnehus@icloud.com
Treasurer	Sharon Spraker	(615) 583-9634	sharonspraker@yahoo.com
Assistant Treasurer	Kylene Jones	(256) 503-6332	kylenej@comcast.net
Secretary	Casey Brown	(615) 429-5102	caseykbrown5@gmail.com
Coordinators			
D&D Events Concessions	Carol Stevens	(615) 286-1324	carolstevens615@gmail.com
LP Field Concessions	Shellie Meador	(615) 829-9408	shellie_meador@yahoo.com

Marching Season

Marching Season in the Wilson Central High School Band is the busiest time of the year. It begins with a two-week band camp in July, where students learn the fundamentals of marching, the beginnings of their new show routine, and begin to renew or build new bonds with fellow students.

Here are some important things to know about marching season.

Marching Rehearsals

- Follow the schedule provided by the band directors.
- Please ensure your child always brings plenty of water to rehearsal.
- You are always welcome to come watch our rehearsals!
- Please be patient when rehearsal is dismissed as the students must reenter the building to store their equipment.
- Use extreme caution driving in the parking lot area. There are often many practices, games, and other events going on when we finish rehearsals, so it's often a crowded place to be.
- Please remember that attendance at all our rehearsals is vital, is required, and does impact your student's grade. Please refer to the WCHS Band Performance Agreement for our specific attendance policy. Do remember that if your child misses rehearsal due to a doctor/dentist appointment, a note from the doctor/dentist will be needed in order to excuse the absence from rehearsal.

Home Football Games

- Often the band will have a short rehearsal on the practice field before getting dressed for the game.
- The band dresses at the band room. Please ensure your child always has all their appropriate uniform wear at school (clean band shoes, clean black socks, gloves, appropriate band shirt, etc.)

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- Band Members take position in the seating area on the home team side on the far end of the bleachers after performing the Star Spangled Banner and Fight Song as they welcome the team onto the field. We encourage all our band family to sit near the band at all our games.
- The band performs the show during half time.
- After leaving the field the band is generally released for the duration of the third quarter.
- The band regroups before the beginning of the fourth quarter to support the team on to victory.
- The Band Boosters strongly encourage the parents of band members to be good sports, to cheer for the Wildcats, and to cheer “loud and proud” for both of the bands!
- The band will be dismissed as a group from the stands. Following that dismissal, they are expected to return to the band room, store their instrument and uniform properly, and help clean the band room. So please be patient!
- Leaving – Please leave slowly and carefully. Sometimes people are running without watching you. Wear your seat belts and come back next time!

Away Games and Competition Departure

- The band members should arrive at WCHS at the times indicated on the schedule the band directors give the students. These schedules are generally emailed out by Wednesday of each week we travel.
- They must help to load all their equipment onto the band trailer, return to the band room for dismissal, and take a seat on their designated school bus. Boys and girls are not allowed to sit in the same seat on the bus. Chaperones are on every bus; if you would like to volunteer to chaperone, please contact the Chaperone Chair.
- The attendance roll is called on the buses before the bus leaves for a game and before they return home.
- The band buses and trucks leave for the away games/contests and they return per the schedule the band directors provide.

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- There are people willing to carry others to the away games and contest. If you need a ride, ask around. There are usually people going with room in their vehicles for others.

Away Games and Contests Return

- If you wish to take your child home from an away game or competition, Ms. J or Mr. Noblin must see you with your child. Then your child must inform their bus captain they won't be riding the bus home. They must also have someone agree to unload their instrument and/or uniform upon returning to school.
- Follow the schedule for pickup provided to the students by the band directors. Usually the buses and equipment trucks arrive back at the school per the schedule.
- Many times the equipment truck arrives at school before the buses. Any parent is welcome to assist in unloading the equipment; *we always need help loading and unloading*. Just let the pit crew at the back of the trailer know of your willingness to assist. They will tell you how best to help. Your assistance will help the students be able to leave more quickly upon their return.
- Band members are required to store their equipment and uniform before being allowed to leave. Also, they are usually asked to clean the buses and band room on a rotating basis: i.e., girls clean the band room while boys clean the buses.
- Leaving – Please leave slowly and carefully. Sometimes people are running without watching you. Wear your seat belts and come back next time.

Competitions

These can be some of the most memorable moments your children and you will ever have. You will laugh, cry, feel elated and dejected. Below are some major points we'll cover.

- Please carry cash money for contest tickets, food and/or souvenirs for an all-day contest. Most contests do not accept checks or credit cards.
- Often, on contest days, the band rehearses early in the morning before we load the trailer and travel to the contest.
- You are welcome to follow the buses and trailer in a caravan to the competitions. Please be aware, only a limited number of support vehicles carrying band related items are allowed to park with the buses and trailer. Please do not pass between buses, as we like for the buses to stay together.
- Ms. J and Mr. Noblin are extremely busy on contest day. If you have questions please see an "experienced" band parent before asking them, and then of course they will help if nobody else can offer an answer/solution.
- If you cannot make the contest, please send your child with enough money for them to purchase meals (often at a concession stand). Sometimes we will organize and bring food when we will be eating multiple meals in order to save some money.
- Parental help is needed in aiding the children in getting dressed with the proper accessories on their band and guard uniforms.
- Please be aware, every competition schedule can be VERY different. Some are shorter days (like the Lebanon Competition) while some days, we do 2 performances and may be gone as long as 16-17 hours. You can trust the schedule for arrival times back to the band room after contest. They have been off by only a few minutes in the past few years.
- PLEASE HELP UNLOAD WHEN WE GET HOME! These are long days, and we are all ready to get home.

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How to watch a marching band contest

If you are attending a marching contest for the first time, we wish to point out some interesting facts on just what a band contest is all about.

- Everything is done to bring out the most in the music.
- Try to keep an overall view of the performance and not concentrate on any one portion. The entire show is geared to expressing the music as presented by the band, both the playing and the marching.
- The most important individual/individuals on the field while the band performs is the field commander/drum major. Each field commander has a distinctive style; he or she has to know when to control the band and when to control the crowd. At times the field commander can be a showman, but at all times they must be in absolute control of the band.
- The flags provide the most visual portion of the show – they set the stage for the musical presentation. They are not restricted to any certain part of the field. Each movement is coordinated with the marching of the instrument players.

Contest Etiquette

- It proper for everyone to show appreciation for the other bands participating in the contests that we attend. Their students also work hard to prepare for their performance.
- Please refrain from making negative comments about other bands. People are observant of where people who do come from!
- Don't enter or exit the stands during a band's performance.
- Remember...CHEER LOUDLY!!!!

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Concert Season

After marching season ends, there is still over half the school year left! Many parents forget about how valuable concert season is. While marching season is flashier and there are performances almost every week, sometimes more than once a week, concert season focuses more on musicianship. Here are some things to know about concert season.

Rehearsals

Just like in marching season, rehearsals are very important during concert season. The music is often challenging to the students, and we encourage you to encourage your band student to practice at home if possible. Here are some important reminders about concert rehearsals:

- Follow the schedule provided by the band directors.
- You are always welcome to come watch our rehearsals!
- Please be patient when rehearsal is dismissed as the students must put away instruments.
- Use extreme caution driving in the parking lot area. There are often many practices, games, and other events going on when we finish rehearsals, so it's often a crowded place to be.
- Please remember that attendance at all our rehearsals is vital, is required, and does impact your student's grade. Please refer to the WCHS Band Performance Agreement for our specific attendance policy.
- There are private lessons often available, and the directors will let you know about these opportunities. Seasoned, professional musicians provide private lessons to our students.

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- As stated previously, students are strongly encouraged to practice their instrument at home during concert season. Academic performance always comes first, but even 15-30 minutes of daily practicing after homework is completed benefits not only your band student but the entire band.

Concert Etiquette

Just like marching season, there are a few rules when watching a concert. Most parents know these things, but here they are:

- Often musical pieces have more than one movement. For that reason, the best way to know when the band has completed a piece is when the director either puts his/her hands or baton down to their side, when they turn around, or when they get off the podium.
- Dress for band concerts is generally business casual – slacks, etc. Wear what you might wear to a nice restaurant or to a church service. Our students dress up in tuxedos and dresses (or white shirts and black bottoms) for concerts.
- Please turn off cell phones, laptops, iPads, and other devices for concerts so that you and your friends and family can devote your attention to the band (and so you won't disrupt other people enjoying the concert).
- If you or your family need to leave during a concert performance, please do so between selections.
- Just as in marching season, show your appreciation for other groups that perform at the conclusion of their pieces.
- Sometimes parents can help out at concerts as well. Look for opportunities to stay involved. Opportunities may include providing concessions for concert-goers, chaperoning at the state band assessment, etc.

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Concert Schedule

There are usually 4-8 concert performances throughout the year. Make sure you check the calendar periodically to find out when and where these performances are. Normally, concert performances include:

- Christmas/Holiday performance
- Spring Concert
- Evening with the Arts, a school-wide fine arts event
- MTSBOA annual assessment
- Combined WCHS-Southside-Gladeville Concert

Just remember – concert season can be as fun as marching season for parents and students! Stay involved!

How YOU can help

Volunteers

Yes, we need your help! Parents are needed and their help is wanted in a variety of jobs. These are jobs that must be performed in order for this organization to be successful. Sometimes, it appears as though we have all the help we need, when in reality we desperately need more people to lighten the load. Following is some information on the various jobs that must be accomplished. Look them over, pick out one or more that interests you and please join us. Our kids depend on all of us to help.

Uniforms

Help is needed each year with getting students fitted into their marching and concert uniforms. Often, basic alterations (mostly hems, letting out hems) must be done in order to ensure the proper fit. Also, even if you aren't comfortable doing the sewing, we always need help with things like washing uniform pants, etc.

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Help is need with organizing, setting up and cleaning up all our potluck dinners, competition meals, post-concert receptions, and band banquet. Often this may involve helping determine which sections bring what food items, picking up necessary paper goods/ice, etc. This group also helps to ensure we maintain a supply of bottled water throughout the marching season to take to football games and competitions.

The band banquet is one of our best events throughout the year. At the end of the year, we have a meal, celebration, and student recognition ceremony in our main cafeteria. Help is needed in planning the event, decorating, etc. This is a big event and requires lots of help to make the evening the fun and memorable event we want it to be.

Pit Crew/Loading & Unloading

The Pit Crew assists with getting pit instrument equipment, podiums, props, drum line stands and flags onto and off of the field during football games and contests. It is a very important job and must not be taken lightly. The safety of our students and care of our equipment is foremost with this job.

- Members are encouraged when possible to dedicate themselves to the full season from August to the end of October. It is helpful when everyone is used to the routine. However, we will NEVER turn away a helpful set of hands.
- Help is needed at the band room following away football games and contest for the loading and unloading of the equipment trailer.
- Generally, if you are a regular pit crew worker, you and only you are allowed free admittance to football games and contest. However, just because you are a pit crew member doesn't guarantee free admittance to all games and contest. Individual stadium rules apply when we're on the road. So please always come prepared to pay admission, just in case!

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- Home game operations for the band are different than away games. Students will often practice prior to getting dressed into uniform. Following practice, the pit equipment will need to be moved either from the practice field or band room to the stadium.
- Following the game, your help is needed in helping the students get everything back into the band room.

AWAY FOOTBALL GAMES

- In many ways the away football games are different for the band.
- Usually, we begin loading the trailer about 30-45 minutes before the students load the buses. We need all booster hands on deck to make sure our trailer gets loaded properly and on time. There will be experienced parents on hand to direct the instruments. Your help is needed to get the instruments loaded along with the uniforms, flag, accessories, podiums, etc.
- Following the performance and game, the equipment will need to be reloaded on the trailer for our return trip home.
- WE REALLY NEED HELP AFTER THE GAME UNLOADING THE TRAILER AT THE BANDROOM! Those of us who have loaded twice and unloaded once could use the assistance of all parents at the band room upon our arrival home.

COMPETITIONS

- Trailer loading and unloading for contests is exactly like away football games. Help is needed at the band room and at the contest sites.
- “Pack and Load” will occur at the time set by the directors. The directors publish a schedule for each contest. If your student does not bring one home they are usually emailed out by Wednesday of contest week or there are usually some extras in the band room. Help yourself.
- PLEASE HELP US UNLOAD WHEN WE GET HOME!

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Chaperones

- Chaperones are required every time we travel.
- Please be aware, these chaperoning spots often go quickly. We sign up on a first come basis.
- Because we take buses to all away games and to the contests and special events, there are many opportunities to help out.
- When chaperoning, you will be asked to maintain reasonable order/behavior on the buses and in the stands and perform other important tasks, like assisting students in preparation for their performance.
- It's often helpful to bring things like safety pins, rubber bands, etc. in order to help our students when dressing in their uniforms.
- Official Chaperones often get in free to games and competitions, but please be prepared to pay just in case! Remember, chaperone passes will go first to those signed up as official chaperones!

Fundraising

Obviously this band program cannot operate without money. The support the school system provides each year falls well short of the amount required to operate a band program of this size. Currently our general operating budget is approximately \$100,000 each year. We try to keep the budget as low as possible while still providing optimal opportunities for our students.

Over the years the boosters and directors have worked very hard to keep our fundraising efforts to a minimum. There are generally two types of fundraisers, those that raise funds for the entire band (general fund, uniforms, equipment, etc.) and those that raise funds to help defray band fees.

Attend the monthly band booster meetings or watch for e-mails on these opportunities. In the past, fundraising opportunities to support the entire band have included yard sales, ornament sales, events at local restaurants, car washes, etc. Past fundraising opportunities to help defray individual band student expenses have included working Tennessee Titans concessions, working WCHS basketball concessions, and others. These fundraisers change from time to time, so the best way to know what is currently going on is to ask other parents, watch for e-mails, or attend meetings.

10 Ways to Support the Band

Without your support the Wilson Central High School Band could not be the quality band that it is. Here are 10 things that you can do this year to help support the Band!

10. Encourage your band student to achieve high academics. We want them to achieve academic AND musical excellence!
9. Encourage good citizenship with your band student in how they treat others.
8. Participate in a fundraising event during the year to benefit the band. Your time = \$\$\$ for the band.
7. Join parents and students at one of the home football game tailgates. These are fun and you can help serve the students.
6. Encourage your band student throughout the year – let them know how their hard work is paying off!
5. Help load and unload equipment or help carry props out on the field during halftime shows.
4. Attend all of the performances – football games, competitions, and concerts. Show them why we “love our band.”
3. Encourage your band student to practice his/her instrument. Practice makes perfect!
2. Attend Band Booster Meetings each month during the year. These usually last only an hour.
1. Get involved in support activities throughout the year. The whole band depends on it!

The 2020-2021 WCHS Band Parent Guide is a publication of the Wilson Central High School Band Booster Club, Incorporated; views, opinions, and statements in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Wilson Central High School or the school district.

Information contained within this guide is subject to change during the year.

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