**Band Parent Information**

Welcome to the WSHS Band Community! I am truly excited to be working with your students this year. Below you will find all the information regarding Band at West Seattle High School.

**Uniform Guidelines:**

**Concert Band**: Black dress pants/skirt, black dress shirt/blouse, black dress shoes and black socks.

**Marching Band (Football Games, Parades):** Comfortable, completely black tennis shoes. Uniforms are provided by the school and are worn over clothing. Plan to wear something comfortable under the uniforms that will not make you too hot. WSHS Band hats provided at band camp are used at football games and some parades.

**Pep Band (Basketball games, pep assemblies):** Band T-Shirt (provided mid-year), WSHS Band Hat, jeans and comfortable shoes.

Financial aid is available for students that need assistance purchasing uniform pieces.

**Performance Schedule:**

Please see the attached performance calendar for the year. I try to get as many performances on the calendar early to avoid any possible schedule conflicts. Please compare our performance calendar with yours and let me know about any possible issues you may encounter. Performances are a part of your student’s grade, so it is important that I know in advance if a student needs to be excused from a performance. If a student needs to miss a performance, you, the parent/guardian, must excuse your student in writing two weeks in advance of the performance date. You may send in a written note or notify me via email.

**Fees:**

The music program receives little funding from the school district. We need to raise money for busses, registration costs at festivals, money to purchase new equipment and music, etc. Because of the high cost of busses, we need to ask parents to pay a $35 transportation/field trip fee to help us offset the cost of these expenses. You can make the payment by logging into SchoolPay on the Source or by sending in a check with your student made out to WSHS Music. Your student will need to take the check to the fiscal office (in the main office) to make the payment. Financial aid is available if you need it.

**Travel/Field Trips:**

If you are interested in chaperoning any of our field trips, please let me know on the attached volunteer sheet. I will get you the appropriate chaperone paperwork for you to fill out. Our trip for the 2018-19 school year will be to Victoria BC. We have done this trip several times before and it is a terrific experience for your students. More information will be sent home the first full week of school. Travel is NOT a requirement of participation in band. Financial aid is available for students that need it.

 **Fundraising Info:**

We do several fundraisers throughout the year. Most of our budget comes from fundraising or through fees paid to help us offset costs. Our two major fundraisers are our “Direct Donation” drive using the fundraising platform Snap Raise and our Big Band Dance. The Big Band Dance is an annual fundraiser that takes place in February. We will be looking for volunteers to help with planning and running the event. Please see the attached volunteer sheet to let us know what you might be able to help with. If you have thoughts/ideas about fundraising, please come to one of our music booster meetings and let us know! Our first booster meeting is October 9th at 6:45 at C&P Coffee on California Ave. I will be notifying you about upcoming booster meetings via email.

**Instruments:**

For students that do not own or rent their instruments, WSHS has a limited number of instruments to loan out. Occasionally the need for a particular instrument is greater than our inventory and some of our instruments are not of very high quality. If you are able, renting an instrument from a music store such as Kennelly Keys or Metropolitan Music are great options and offer rent-to-own programs on quality instruments. I would advise you to NOT purchase an instrument from online retailers or department stores without checking with me or another instrumental music teacher first. There are a lot of instruments that are of poor quality that are available online or from large department stores that instrument repair places will not work on due to their poor construction and the lack of replacement parts. When in doubt or the deal seems too good to be true, check with me first. If you or a family member have an instrument that you would like to donate to the school, please contact us.

I am truly excited to be working with your students this year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions/concerns. Email is the best way to contact me (etthomas1@seattleschools.org) or you could call me at (206) 252-8945. The events calendar on our music department website is always up to date if you have questions about when a performance, booster meeting, etc. is happening.

Thanks,

Ethan Thomas

206-252-8945

Etthomas1@seattleschools.org

[www.wshsmusic.org](http://www.wshsmusic.org)

**Parent Homework/Volunteer Opportunities**

We will need volunteers to chaperone field trips throughout the year. Please indicate if you are able/interested in chaperoning any of the following single day field trips:

\_\_\_ Saturday, Sept. 22nd – Husky Band Day (all day)

\_\_\_ Sunday, Oct. 28th – West Seattle Junction Harvest Festival (AM only)

\_\_\_ Friday, Nov. 23rd – Macy’s Holiday Parade (AM only)

\_\_\_ TBD (mid-week in March – During the school day) – Concert Band Festival

**Other Volunteer opportunities/needs:**

**Football:**

We play all our home football games in West Seattle (Southwest Athletic Complex SWAC – 2600 SW Thistle St. – Across the street from Chief Sealth HS). We save money by meeting at the stadium on game days instead of meeting at WSHS, changing into uniforms, and taking a bus to the stadium. This saves our program approx. $400-$500 per game but it also means that we need help on game days to transport uniforms and large instruments to the stadium and back to the school after the game. We load equipment immediately after school (3:35pm) and then meet at the stadium at 6:00pm. After the game (around 9:30pm) we take equipment back to the school. As a volunteer with the band you will get free admission to the game. We can use parents and/or students with vehicles to help with equipment on the following games:

\_\_\_ Friday, Sept. 14 – Huling Bowl vs Chief Sealth HS

\_\_\_ Friday, Sept. 21st – Game vs Nathan Hale HS

\_\_\_ Friday, Oct. 5th – Game vs Ingraham HS

**Big Band Dance!**

This annual event is a fundraiser for the whole music program (Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Ensemble). We need help with a multitude of items including: set up, food, advertising, raffle baskets, drinks, etc. This is a large and fun event which provides a lot of funding toward financial aid and general support for the program. Please let us know if you can help us in any way and/or if you have specific skills you could contribute.

\_\_\_\_ I can help! Just let me know what needs to be done.

\_\_\_\_ I can help! I am really interested in helping with:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please detach this portion and return to school by 9/10/18

**Important!**

Most of my communication home is done through email (reminders about upcoming events, field trip details, booster meetings, etc). Please provide your email address below so that you can be added to my distribution list (if you were on my distribution list last year there is no need to put your email address in unless it has changed):

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**