

2016-2017 WALT WHITMAN MARCHING BAND SEASON PARENT GUIDE

Welcome to all new and current marching band families .
The following handout is a general outline of what to expect in the upcoming season.

1)Band Camp

August 17-20th - will take place at the high school

- Thursday, Aug 17th - 12:30pm - 9:30pm
- Friday, Aug 18th - 12:30pm - 9:30pm
- Saturday, Aug 19th - 9:00am - 6pm
- Sunday, Aug 20th - 9:30am - 6pm, Parent Show and BBQ 5 pm
Details about meals and what to bring will be announced by band staff.

2) Leadership Camp

Drum major, field majors and all section leaders are invited to a leadership camp which takes place in Pennsylvania July xxh to xxth . More details to follow .

3) Band Parent annual breakfast

To kick of the season and get to know each other a senior parent opens her/his home for a fun welcome breakfast for the parents beginning of each year. A signup sheet to bring a goodie will be available at our first BPA meeting. If there is senior parent who would like to host please let us know . On August 19th. after you drop off your kids to band camp make your way to a yummy breakfast. This as a great way to get to know all the parents / guardians of our wonderful band in a relaxed and fun way.

4) Competitions

- US Bands There are 6 competitions this year

- One overnight to Allentown PA
- We will be hosting a home show on Walt Whitman High School's field under the lights .
- All dates will be posted on board and WWHSMB.com parent site.

There is a charge in to watch the competitions - we will let you know cost when we are advised.

When we go to competitions we all like to sit in close proximity and wear our school colors - and clap scream and yell for our wonderful kids - so look out for your new friends and lets all sit together More info later.

The students will travel to this competition by luxury bus with the staff and some teachers who volunteer to chaperone. - they are requested to bring their luggage to the school either the day before or morning of travel - the administration will check suitcases as is customary for safety.

We will book a hotel for the band families . Band members usually stay in separate hotels at the request of the staff.

The BPA will provide lunch and dinner for the students on one of the days. The kids will need some spending money -\$50 or so should suffice.

There are usually 4 students to a room - and obviously boys and girls will room separately . More in depth detail to follow -

5) Parades

There are at least 4 parades in the upcoming year -

Huntington Awareness Day Parade -

Columbus Day parade

March St Patrick's Day Parade date to be determined

May Memorial Day Parade date to be determined

Students are strongly encouraged to attend the parades .

The band also marches in the Homecoming Parade and plays at half time for some of the football games.

6) Dues

BPA dues of \$40 should be handed in as soon as possible .

7) BPA Website

Our BPA website is continuously updated.

This is a fun filled informational site with everything you need to know about our upcoming season. It will be continually updated with information and photos of the students throughout the season.

The site address is WWW.WWHSMB.COM

9) BPA Meetings

We try to hold meetings on night of practice, usually 8 pm and last an so you can pick up your child after practices.

Should you not be able to make these meeting the minutes from each meeting will be emailed to every BPA member .These meeting will be very informative with much detail about all listed here.

These meetings are a great way to get to know other families and to find ways to be a part of this awesome band . They will be very informative and minutes will be available at every meeting should you have missed the prior meeting .

7) Banquet

At the end of every season the BPA have a banquet for the students in their honor and to recognize each and every student's accomplishments throughout the season.

This year the Banquet will take place in the South Cafeteria which will be decorated beautifully, will have a DJ and yummy dinner for the kids.

The awards ceremony and slide show of the highlights of the season will take place in the PAC for the students and parents and staff probably around 9pm.

After the awards we will all retire to the South Cafeteria for desserts and coffee .

The date for the banquet will be announced.

8) Senior Scholarships

Annually the BPA awards a number of seniors with a scholarship - amount depending on funds at the time but usually \$300-\$500.

Senior students may apply for the scholarships by filling out an application.

The student's application will be anonymous (each senior will be assigned a color or letter to maintain their anonymity) Scholarships are chosen by the assistant principals. The scholarships will be announced at Walt Whitman senior scholarship night with all the other seniors.

9) Fundraising

A big part of the BPA is fundraising for the band - this helps to offset the many costs that can accumulate throughout the season - eg. t shirts, shoes, gloves , colorguard incidentals, colorguard flags, instruments, and on and on.

This year we have compiled a list of fundraisers we plan on doing - there is a large variety and most of them are fairly simple. The good thing for many of them is the profit made by the individual student/parent goes directly into the student's account which in turn help diminish the monies needed to be put out. Not one of these fundraisers are mandatory however it is only in the best interest of the student/parent to take part.

The following is a list of what we plan on doing -

Individual Fundraisers

- Chocolate Bar sale - 100% profit to student account.
- Yankee Candle sale 100% profit to student account.
- Gift cards 100% profit to student account
- Plant Bulb Sale 100% profit to student account
- Prestige Gifts 100% profit to student account

Group Fundraisers- list will be provided

- Family Zumba, Movie night, Car Wash, and Car Wash with flea market
- Restaurants -?

These fundraisers can help everyone cover band costs.

If you can donate some time to help us with 1 of these fundraiser please see one of the board members. We could really do with your help and thank you in advance.

11) Student Accounts

Each student has their own individual account and monies for every fund raiser they participate in will go into this account which will help to offset costs incurred throughout the season.

10) Spirit Wear and Show Shirts

A collared shirt in our school colors will be provided to every member of the band courtesy of the district. These shirts will be worn for parades . New members will receive the first shirt by district. Additional shirts may be purchased.

A show shirt will be provided to every member of the band and will be worn under uniforms for every competition - this shirt will be paid for by the BPA.

Theses shirts will also be available to purchase if any family members would like one.

The BPA executive board is as follows;

Karen Riha - Co President
Rena Abruzzesse -Co President
Stacy Rise- Secretary
Jason Fisher - Treasurer
Kelley Koch - Historian

BPA email address - BPA@WWHSMB.COM

BPA website - WWW.WWHSMB.COM