



Welcome to the crazy life of a band parent! Your children are about to become very active in band and while at times it can seem overwhelming, it is one of the most rewarding experiences they will have while a part of WHS.

This document is intended to answer some of the many questions you will have as a rookie parent. We hope to cover a lot. However, if you have additional questions, please reach out and let us know. Along with getting you the answer, we can add the question here for the next person.

## Contacts and Information:

### Director of Bands:

Valentine Kuntz

[vkuntz@monroetwp.k12.nj.us](mailto:vkuntz@monroetwp.k12.nj.us)

(856) 262-2435

### Assistant Director:

Bill Graff

**Website:** Up to date schedules can be found on the band webpage:

<http://www.williamstownbands.com/>.

### WBPA (Williamstown Band Parent Association) Board Members:

President - Naomi Visconti

Vice President - Rakisha Cooper

Treasurer - Angela Otlowski

Secretary - Dawn Granit

Email - [williamstownbpa@gmail.com](mailto:williamstownbpa@gmail.com)

Facebook - Search for WBPA Information Page

**\*Note-** For information only, not adding posts

**Section Parents:** If you have any questions, you can also reach out to your section parent for assistance.

Battery/Drums - Heather Brophy

(856) 761-7192 Text is best method

[hbrophy71@gmail.com](mailto:hbrophy71@gmail.com)

Pit -Heather Brophy

Woodwinds -Sandra Stinsman

(856) 343-9994 Text is best method

[lushie420@comcast.net](mailto:lushie420@comcast.net)

Brass -Denise Straub

(609) 410-0189 Text is best method

[dstraub8@yahoo.com](mailto:dstraub8@yahoo.com)



Guard

-Nancy Dickinson

(609) 332-4002 Both text and email are good methods

[nancydickinson7@gmail.com](mailto:nancydickinson7@gmail.com)

**Remind:** remind notifications will allow us to send you up to date notifications to your cell

Marching Band- Text @bravesband to 81010

WPBA- Text @wbpa2019 to 81010

**\*Note:** You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @bravesband'.

**Twitter:** [@wtownbands](https://twitter.com/wtownbands)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/user/WilliamstownBands>

## WBPA:

The function of the WPBA is to support the band director with all of the musical groups that the school offers throughout the year. This includes but is not limited to:

- Fundraising
- Supplying donations (food, supplies, time etc.)
- Building props
- Repairing equipment
- Driving Uhauls to games and shows
- Contacting entities for donations
- Working at home shows (concessions, ticket booth etc.)

This does not include:

- Chaperoning- Policies have changed and band parents will no longer ride buses to events with the kids
- Reprimanding inappropriate behavior

## WPBA Meetings:

Every month we have a WPBA meeting open to all parents. This generally falls on the first Tuesday of the month at 8 PM. They are scheduled on Tuesdays since you will be coming to



pick up your child at 9 and will be at the school anyway. The meetings are usually an hour or less and cover all aspects of supporting the band. Mr. Kuntz addresses the group regarding recent and future band functions and the rest of the meeting is a discussion led by the board covering the remaining details. We strongly advise attending these meetings to make sure you receive all pertinent information that your child may not have mentioned to you previously.

## Band Practice:

To be successful, these kids practice. A lot. No really, they practice more than any other activity in the school. And while it is intimidating to parents when they first see just how much is expected from them, we are all here as veterans to say that the kids love it! When a practice is cancelled, even one of the 12 hour days, these kids are not happy. Your children are tougher than you realize if you just give them the opportunity to grow.

Some things to keep in mind:

- Please notify Mr. Kuntz in advance via email if you know of any absences prior to the season.
- If there is an unscheduled absence due to sickness or family emergency, email him as soon as possible so he is aware of the situation and can make adjustments accordingly.
- Drop them off 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. While practice may start at 6 PM, they should be prepared and ready to go at that time, not just arriving.
- When the calendar says that practice ends at a certain time, add 15 minutes to that time. For example, if the time shows as 9 PM, be prepared to pick them up at 9:15. They start cleaning up at 9 and then Mr. Kuntz may have some things that need to be discussed. It is frustrating when you show up at 9 (some of us in our PJs) only to realize they aren't coming out yet.
- Have them come prepared! Pencil, dot book, music, instrument, and water. Make sure they have everything needed for a great practice.
- Mr. Kuntz will send weekly reminds listing what is happening that week once the season starts. Please read over these as there will be information regarding food that they may need for that week's events. This may be a bagged lunch or money to purchase food at concessions. Sometimes we will supply them with food but request them to bring a few dollars to cover the costs. Other times we will have potluck dinners.



## Parent Preview:

At the end of band camp there will be a short parent preview show. This is an exciting time to come and see what your child has been working so hard at over the hot summer months. Please take this opportunity to come out and enjoy the parts of the show that have been completed up to this point. While it may not be complete at that time, you will get an idea of what direction the group is heading.

Prior to the preview show, we will also be serving a potluck dinner for the students and their families. Please join us this year on Sunday 8/18 for the potluck but if you can't make that the preview starts at 7 PM. Donations are greatly appreciated.

## Chaperone Information:

High school policy is parents are not authorized to volunteer as chaperones. The techs, band director and assistant director are the chaperones for all trips going forward. There is no need for parent volunteers to ride busses to games and competitions. The school also requests that when the kids are in a group setting ie. football games and competitions, that minimal contact is made with students to avoid distractions.

Parents are allowed to be present when assisting with pot luck dinners and feeding students as long as all kids are being fed. When at band functions, the kids should be eating together and should not be removed from the group for special food given by parents. The uniforms are expensive and since they are new, we would like to avoid any stains from unapproved food or drinks.

The band also provides one band shirt per student which is blue and includes the W logo on the front and the ensemble on the back. There are times when students will be requested to wear the shirt instead of the uniform. Ex. Memorial day parade. Please make sure the student keeps theirs safe for future events.

## Uniform:

On the subject of the uniform, the Board of Education was kind enough to provide the entire band with sorely needed new uniforms. The WPBA has purchased garment bags, using money that has been fundraised, to safely keep the uniforms from harm.



The uniform bags include a mesh pocket to hold and aerate shoes. Along with the pocket, there are handles on both the bottom and top of the bag so the students can carry them without dragging the bag across the floor.

Your student is responsible for proper care of the uniform while in use. Uniforms, shoes, gloves and all other parts are not brought home after performances and are stored in the band closet. This avoids members leaving something at home on performance days.

The band provides new shoes to rookies. Going forward, if items are lost, damaged or outgrown, the student is responsible for replacement of that item with the exception of the actual uniform.

## Events:

There are several types of events that the band attends. Marching band supports the football team during the season so they are present for all games. They will perform the halftime show for home games. At away games, they play pep music in the stands.

While we do support the football team, the real exciting part of marching band is the competitions. This gives the band the opportunity to perform in front of people who want to come and watch bands compete among their peers. We encourage parents to attend both games and competitions to see what it is all about. There is a cost of admission for both activities for spectators. Mr. Kuntz will make announcements prior to the competitions regarding ticket sales and pricing. When offered, purchasing directly from Mr. Kuntz will benefit the band as we receive some of the proceeds.

There are generally concession stands where food is served. Sometimes, other things are sold as well. Most shows offer candy grams and/or air grams. They are generally \$1 to \$2 and let you show appreciation to your student. Candy grams are given out after the show is over, usually on the bus trip home. Air grams are announced for the entire audience to hear as the band enters the stadium. The kids usually love (or get embarrassed by lol) the attention.

This year we will be competing at TOB (Tournament of Bands) events. You can find information regarding TOB from <http://www.njatob.org/>. If you would like a breakdown of each events schedule, you can go directly to <http://windi.njatob.org/share/seasons/>.

TOB Group classification:

Bands will be grouped according to the number of players in the band proper as follows:

- Group 1 - up to 30 musicians and a maximum of 30 auxiliary
- Group 2 - 31 to 50 musicians and a maximum of 50 auxiliary



- Group 3 - 51 to 75 musicians and a maximum of 75 auxiliary
- Group 4 - 76 or greater

There are three levels of performance classification that group may elect to participate:

1. **OPEN CLASS** This level is what has been offered in the past – bands will compete throughout the season for TOB scoring. The Open Class offers a balanced emphasis on repertoire/composition and achievement/excellence. Open Class Bands conclude their season with the annual Region Championship and qualification for the annual Atlantic Coast Championship.
2. **A CLASS** Tournament of Bands A Class offers a scoring system that is unique, and has significantly different expectations than that of the traditional Open Class. Design and repertoire curriculum are aligned with reasonable expectations for bands which are new to the competitive arena, with new directors or staff members, and for directors who are actively developing basic skills and musicianship. The TOB A Class scoring parameters reward the bands for excellence and achievement based on the curriculum of this class. This season concludes with the annual Region Championship and qualification for the annual Atlantic Coast Championship.
3. **FESTIVAL CLASS** This level will introduce bands to TOB – bands will compete, but at more of an exhibition level with awards of bronze/silver/gold, based on a rating program without the announcement of a numeric score or place. Student education, development, and staff training will be emphasized. Each band and staff will receive educational and instructive commentary related to new performers and staff. This season concludes with the annual Region Championship, still following the rating system.

We also perform at parades throughout the year. We will be at the Monroe Township Halloween parade, the Cape May Christmas parade and the town's annual Memorial Day parade. These are a part of the calendar and attendance is expected.

## Bussing to Events:

Moving the band is a big undertaking. We travel in several busses depending on how many members there are. We also rent Uhauls to carry equipment to make sure everything arrives safely and isn't put in harm while traveling on the busses.

Students are expected to ride on the bus to and from the events. It is understood that there are certain circumstances when you may have to either drive your child to or from an event due to other obligations. Mr. Kuntz must know this will be happening in advance of the date via an email from the parent (not the child).



Busses are broken up by sections and are not picked at random. Guard will be together, pit, battery, winds etc.

## Spirit Wear:

In addition to any uniform expenses that may arise due to loss or wear, there are other out of pocket costs as far as clothing and such. However, these costs are strictly voluntary. In the future, we will be handing out order forms for spirit wear. This allows the students and their families to purchase gear and apparel with the band logo. The spirit wear sale also functions as a fundraiser as well. There are some years that we also offer winter varsity style jackets to the students but again, they are not a mandatory purchase.

## Volunteering:

Here is where you as the parent can do your part in supporting the band. We understand that everybody is busy in their day to day lives. If we can have each parent volunteer in any way they can, it will make the load lighter for everybody. You may not realize it but you most likely have a skill that the band can use. Each year, a sheet is handed out for you to fill out and let us know what you have to offer.

Some volunteering opportunities:

- Building props
  - Repairing equipment
  - Driving U hauls to games and shows
  - Contacting entities for donations
  - Working at home shows (concessions, ticket booth etc.)
  - Serving food during potlucks
  - Manning back to school night tables selling fundraisers
  - Repairing uniforms
  - Washing uniforms
  - Moving props and pit equipment onto the field during shows
- \*Note-** There will be a limited amount of openings to assist with moving equipment onto and off of the field this year. When positions open, a sign-up will be made available.



## Donations:

During the season, we will send out notifications of upcoming potluck meals. We accept donations for these meals and the children really enjoy the get together. They are usually served in the high school cafeteria. As you can guess, it takes a lot of food to feed a hungry group of teenagers this large. You may already have a special dish you would like to make or if time is short, you can pick up something at the store. All donations are greatly appreciated.

During the year, we will make requests for donations of snacks and water as well. We are always accepting water as it is something we are continually handing out. If you happen to see a sale and you would like to make a contribution, feel free to pick some up and send it in with your child.

Let's make this a great year for our kids! We look forward to getting to know you all in the near future!