



Dear Incoming Westside Band Students and Parents,

On behalf of all the band staff here at Westside HS, I'd like to welcome all incoming Westside Band students/parents. Hopefully, I can answer your questions that you might have about Westside, summer band camp, fees, important dates, etc. Please do not hesitate to email me at jbrunson@houstonisd.org. I would love the opportunity to speak with you and address any concerns or questions you may have.

*****We are hosting a New Wolf Band Member meeting on April 30th at 6:30 pm via Zoom. I'll take this time to go through common questions that students and parents ask this time of year.**

Time: Apr 30, 2020 06:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9047984133?pwd=aGw3Q01hQzRWMnRWaENteXV3RUZrUT09>

Meeting ID: 904 798 4133

Password: 12345

I highly recommend reading this letter carefully - all the information is important!

You are about to become a member of one of the best organizations at Westside High School! Popular reasons why students/parents love being in the Westside Wolf Band:

- **The bands are fantastic!** We have a place for every student in our program – no matter the quality of the musician! Based on the student's audition, they will be placed in one of three ability-based ensembles: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, or Concert Band.
- **Awards & Recognition!** The Wolf Marching Band receives consistent first division ratings and advances to the Area UIL Marching Contests. The concert groups receive consistent sweepstakes/first division ratings at UIL Contest. TCGC/Indoor Percussion group receives the highest ratings possible throughout the season.
- **So many different opportunities for a musician!** Wolf Marching Band, TCGC/Indoor Percussion Ensemble, AP Music Theory, Jazz Band, Three Concert Ensembles, Individual Contests, Solo & Ensemble, All State-Region Band, and more!
- **Students learn lifelong skills!** We teach our students to be patient, disciplined, responsible, punctual, and respectful while teaching them to be great leaders and musicians.
- **Great for college applications!** Colleges love students that are committed to a seven-year (middle school through high school) band program. Most students take over important leadership roles in the Wolf Band when they are upperclassmen which is incredible for their resume and future scholarship opportunities!
- **Students find a place to belong!** All our band students are a part of something that is important! Many freshmen drown their first year in high school. Band gives the students friendship and community before the first day of school ever starts!

FAQ/Info:**Audition/Class Placement:****How do I sign up for band?**

1. Sign up for BAND on your course selection sheet. (Ask your Westside Dean for help) ***If you accidentally (or rethinking it!) didn't choose band, it's not too late. E-mail Mr. Brunson!
2. If you are NOT from Westbriar, if you haven't already, please fill out this form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdoi11LElbwtFgewnulf5Zqh9ljU7ROAoZ3Qo1-7RTr9NOX9g/viewform?usp=sf_link We will add you to our e-mailing list. We want to make sure you are getting information!
3. We don't have auditions! All students can join band! We just want to make sure we put you in the correct class based on your ability. Therefore, we ask all students to submit a video of the below music. HISD students will submit their video through the Future Wolf Band Flipgrid on Teams – Use Flipgrid code: futurewolfband. All other students will email a video of the music/video to Mr. Brunson. Please have videos sent by May 22nd. ***Percussionist, please contact Jeremiah Salisbury at jsalisbu@houstonisd.org If you miss the deadline, no worries! Music is located here: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1dmd5zzqyLBTQgtVRREt6LH54wYhjaYXI>
4. Students & Parents – Join the Band App! This is where we will communicate in the upcoming months. Sign up Info below. Check our Band Website Calendar for our summer band camp! You will receive several emails and Band app posts in the coming months.
5. Show up in August! It's that easy!

I want to be in band....but is MARCHING band required?

Yes. All students enrolled in a band class at Westside High School will march in the Wolf Marching Band. It's one of the most fun experiences that you will have in high school! It's a large time commitment but it **goes by quickly**, ending in early November. Students will march in highly competitive contests, football games, and parades. **Marching students receive their FINE Arts & PE credit.** Don't be concerned about conflicts with other organizations. Please have this conversation with Mr. Brunson via email.

When do I start Summer Band Camp?

All students are required to attend the summer band camp. I highly encourage you to visit and become familiar with the Wolf Band website: www.wolfband.org. From there, go to the “Calendar” tab. Please make any summer plans based on the summer band calendar. These are canceled. **The summer band schedule is on the calendar. Once we have other dates, we will update them on the website.** We are required to start rehearsals before school because we have our first football game the first week of school, which means we have a lot to do in a really short time! We will prepare you! **All you have to have are tennis shoes, a water jug, sunblock, outdoor gear (sunglasses/hat), and a positive attitude! Again, you are required to attend every rehearsal. Please email Mr. Brunson if you think there is a conflict with your schedule as soon as possible.**

Do freshman students start earlier?

All incoming Freshmen will meet with the Wolf Band Leadership Team & Directors and take two days to devote time solely to our newest members so they don't feel too overwhelmed once full rehearsals start. The two dates for **Freshman/Cub Camp** are **July 30th, & 31st from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm**. After that, full band rehearsals are Mon-Fri from August 3rd through August 21st. The end times will vary depending on the week, but you can find all that information and more on our website: www.wolfband.org. Just click the “Calendar” tab and you'll find our entire summer band rehearsal schedule, all of our games, and many other band-related events.

Does the Wolf Band take big trips?

Yes! Our hard-working students deserve an incredible trip! We usually take a trip every-other-year. In the past, we have traveled to Orlando, Florida.

How much are band fees, and what are they for?

All students pay for a one-time annual band fee. This fee includes most essential things throughout the marching/spring season including food for all games and contests, marching shoes, flip folder, lyre, two t-shirts, entry fees, music, etc. We

don't "nickel & dime" you at Westside; we issue one fee that pays for almost everything. Upperclassmen fees are cheaper because they don't need new marching shoes, flip folders, etc. We will send the band fee breakdown when it's approved. Fees range from \$150-\$250. We are one of the cheapest organizations on campuses because of our successful fundraisers.

Social Media Presence/BAND App

We try very hard to send as much information as possible, in as many ways as possible, due to a large number of students in our programs. For that reason, we ask students and parents to like/follow the following accounts:

*****All Wolf Band members (parents are welcome too!) are required to download the BAND App -**

<https://band.us/n/a6ab32TbfdteJ>

Facebook - [WestsideHSBand](#).

Instagram - [whswolfband](#)

Rehearsals during the school year

Once school begins, we will have weekly rehearsals throughout the week. It's important for every student to attend every rehearsal. We do not cover any of this material inside (impossible because we meet separately) of the school day. We have made an exciting change for the upcoming marching season. Every student will attend two rehearsals each week.

Monday - Guard & Percussion Only

Tuesday - Winds Only

Thursday - Full Band

*****This will be our "regular weekly" schedule. It will change based upon the football schedule. Once we receive the football schedule, all weekly rehearsals will appear on the Wolf Band website/calendar.*****

Physicals

Finally, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and Houston ISD require students involved in outdoor/athletic activities to have a physical done. Here you have two options: you can get one done by your own physician, or you can sign up for your physical to be done on campus. They are only \$20. We are offering ONE option this year: **DATE TBA** If you decide to get your own physical, you are REQUIRED to use the following form. **Physicals are due August 1st - no exceptions.**

Physical Form (please print):

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S_MgWfa6MIZAdxpa519RDm3WASSZvOSg/view?usp=sharing

I hope I have answered most of your questions. I also hope that you are excited about being a Wolf Band Member because we are excited about having you join our team! You are about to become a part of one of the most successful programs at Westside HS. Again, please do not hesitate to email me with any questions that you might have.

Thank you, and Go Wolves!



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Westside High School
Director of Bands
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