

Washington-Liberty Marching Band Handbook 2024-2025

Matthew Sedatole, Director

Welcome to W-L Bands and Color Guard!

The Washington-Liberty Marching Band program is a highly successful marching band and color guard. For students and parents new to the band program there are important things to be aware of.

As marching band and color guard members, you are ambassadors for W-L High School. Please remember you are expected to follow all school rules for behavior at all times.

The marching band season is intense. This handbook will provide you with information you need to know to make it easier to manage. If you have any questions during the season, please don't hesitate to reach out to Band Booster Leadership for guidance.

We are very excited to meet you and have you in the Marching Band!

W-L Bands At a Glance 2024-25

MB - Band Camp, Monday-Friday Aug 12-16, @ W-L (all day)

MB - Home Football Game, Thursday Aug 29, @ W-L

MB - TAG DAY, Saturday Sep 7, @ W-L

MB - Home Football Game, Friday Sep 13, @ W-L

MB - Home Football Game, Saturday Sep 21 (vs. Yorktown), @ W-L

MB - Herndon Showcase of Bands, Saturday Sep 28, @ Herndon HS

WE - SRO Auditions, Monday Sep 30, @ TJHSST

MB - South County Invitational, Saturday Oct 5, @ South County HS

MB - Home Football Game, Thursday Oct 10 (Middle School Night), @ W-L

MB - Oakton Classic, Saturday Oct 19, @ Oakton HS

MB - APS Marching Band Showcase, Wednesday Oct 23, @ Wakefield HS

MB - Home Football Game, Friday Oct 25 (Homecoming AND Senior Night), @ W-L

MB - District 12 Marching Band Assessment, Saturday Nov 2, @ **TBD**

WE/CB/JB - Winter Showcase Concert, Wednesday Dec 11, @ W-L

WE - All District 12 Band Auditions, Saturday Jan 11, @ McLean HS

WE - All District 12 Band, Thursday-Saturday Jan 30-Feb 1, @ Oakton HS

WE/CB - Pre-Assessment Concert, Thursday Feb 27, 6:30pm @ W-L

JB - Mason Jazz Festival, Saturday Feb 15, @ GMU

CB - APS Concert Band Assessment, Thursday Mar 20 (W-L Hosting)

WE - District 12 Band Assessment, Mar 21-22 (W-L Hosting)

JB - Jazz Pyramid Concert, Wednesday April 9, 6:30pm @ W-L

WE/CB/JB - Spring Trip, **TBD (April)**

WE/CB - Solo and Ensemble, Friday-Saturday Apr 25-26, @ Cooper MS

WE/CB/JB - Spring Showcase Concert, Wednesday May 14, 6:30pm @ W-L

JB - Kenmore Jazz Cafe, Friday May 16

MB - Music Reading Session, Thursday June 5, 6:00-8:00pm @ W-L

WE - Graduation Performance, Wednesday June 4, @ DAR Constitution Hall

MB = Marching Band
WE = Wind Ensemble
CB = Concert Band
JB = Jazz Band

The Marching Band and Guard will practice on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from August 20 to November 2. The Guard and Percussion section rehearsals may vary. **Please Note: Any changes to the schedule will be communicated as soon as possible.**

Communication

List Serv

All communication about concerts, events, fundraising, volunteer needs, trips, and weekly schedule is given through the **W-L Band Google Group**. Information comes from both Mr. Robinson and the band booster leadership. Join the listserv by going to <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/w-l-band> or contact the Webmaster directly. ***Both students AND parents should join the listserv as soon as possible.***

Social Media or Apps

We use the Remind app to communicate during trips.

Directory

We compile a directory of students in the Marching Band and Color Guard to help with car pools and contacting each other. **Please fill out the contact form so we have up-to-date information before band camp starts.**

Website

The Band website has information about uniforms, boosters, fundraising, contacts, and schedule. Go to the W-L High School webpage, click on “performing arts”, then on “band” or go to: <https://wl.apsva.us/welcome-to-w-l-band/>.

MARCHING BAND CAMP INFORMATION

Marching Band Camp and Rehearsal Required Attire:

For band camp and after school rehearsals, students are required to wear:

Athletic apparel

Tennis shoes (no sandals, no boots)

Baseball or bucket hats if desired

Sun block

Students must bring their own refillable water bottle

Band Camp Dinners and Snacks

Please read emails from the listserv for which days will be catered by the Boosters and which days students need to bring lunches/snacks.

**** Dr. Sedatole expects students to be in their seats and ready to play 10 minutes *before* any stated start time ****

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM/APPEARANCE EXPECTATIONS

W-L Marching Band students are assigned uniforms to wear during the marching season. Uniforms come in set sizes and often do not fit perfectly. We match students to the best available uniform. Uniforms can be altered but the fabric **MUST NOT BE CUT**. Students will be fitted for their marching uniform during band camp.

Marching Band Show Shirt

Students are given a Show t-shirt which is needed throughout the entire school year. These feature the Marching show theme graphic. Students are encouraged to design the Show Shirt. Submit ideas to Dr. Sedatole for consideration at the beginning of June for consideration.

Marching Band Shoes

All students need marching band shoes. Sizes will be taken at the music reading session in June of the previous school year, and an order will be placed over the summer. New shoes cost \$40. Students may use their shoes from previous years provided they are in good condition.

Band Apparel Available for Purchase

Band apparel is available online. Ordering information given through the listserv. For volunteers, merchandise can be helpful to wear when chaperoning events.

ACTIVITY FEE AND REQUIRED PURCHASES

Marching Band Activity Fee

The Marching Band activity fee is **\$200** and is *due on August 16, 2024*. The fee covers uniform cleanings, competition registrations, and bus transportation to all competitions. Free and Reduced Lunch students will pay **\$100**.

* all checks made to: W-L Band Boosters *

MARCHING BAND EVENTS

Required attendance for students - the band relies on every student being present to perform its show.

Summer Sectionals

Most instrument sections will hold rehearsals during the summer. They are organized by Section Leaders, who will send information directly to the student. These are not mandatory but are a great opportunity to meet your section and to work on the music. Students are expected to have their music memorized for the first day of Band camp.

Marching Band Camp

This **mandatory** camp for all Marching Band and Color Guard members weeks. The schedule is announced (**via the listserv**) prior to the start of camp. Students should have the music memorized by the first day of camp. There is a performance for friends and family at the end of camp.

Rehearsals during School- Marching Season

Typically, the marching band rehearses Tuesdays and Thursdays after school and Wednesday evenings. Rehearsals are graded and mandatory, and run until early-November – if you're not able to attend a rehearsal you must inform Dr. Sedatole. All absences must be communicated 4 weeks prior to the conflict. Whether an absence is excused or not regardless of when it is communicated is at the discretion of the director. Barring an emergency, *no absence will be excused within 4 weeks of the conflict.*

Arlington Marching Band Showcase

This weeknight in mid-October is an opportunity for W-L, Yorktown, and Wakefield High Schools to perform their field shows for each other, and the Arlington community. Middle School pep bands perform tunes in the stands. It's a fan favorite!

Friday Night Home Football Games – September through early November, 5pm to 10pm

The band performs the National Anthem before the game, its field show at halftime, and supports the football team with pep tunes throughout the game. Parents serve dinner after the run-through rehearsal in the afternoon. Parents work the pit crew for the show.

Saturday Competitions

Students and parent volunteers travel by bus to 4 competitions throughout the season. Times vary, but it is often an all-day commitment.

BAND FUNDRAISERS

The W-L Band program holds only two fundraisers during the year – all bands and Color Guard students are required to participate in both.

Tag Day – September

All Marching Band and Color Guard students canvass the W-L neighborhoods asking for donations. Students always canvas in pairs and new marchers are paired with current students. Funds collected will be used for instruments, music, Color Guard costumes, scholarships, and other expenses throughout the school year. This year Tag Day is on **Saturday, September 7th**.

Fruit and Nut Sale - October - December

All students involved in the band program (including Jazz, Guitar and Guard) are required to sell fruit and nuts. Band students may fundraise over the minimum requirement, to pay toward their spring trip costs. Color guard raises funds for its Winter Guard program. Sales take place from early-October through mid-November. Fruit delivery and distribution takes place the last week in November. Band members also work shifts at the Holiday Bazaar.

BAND BOOSTER PARENT INFORMATION

The W-L Band program is a highly successful compilation of many groups: Marching Band and Color Guard, Symphonic Band, Concert Bands, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Big Band, and Jazz Lab. We have an active parent booster system that allows these groups to operate and perform successfully! Volunteering provides a great opportunity to watch your kids while they develop and grow as performers and to meet other band parents.

All communication is done through the W-L Bands listserv. Join by going to <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/w-l-band>.

Volunteer needs are greatest from August until November and for fundraising events. We use Sign-Up Genius to fill needs and information is sent out on the **listserv**.

August to Early September

Marching Band/Color Guard Camp – breakfast and lunch are provided for each day of band camp.

September & October

Tag Day - requires parents to drive students around neighborhoods from 9 to 2 pm. Parents are needed to count money when they return.

Marching Band/Color Guard at Home Football Games - parents needed to help with Pit Percussion logistics and to serve dinner prior to the game. Volunteers are not required to pay the entry fee into the football game.

Marching Band Competitions (Saturdays) - parents needed to chaperone, assist with uniforms, and assist with Pit Percussion logistics during competitions.

November & December

Fruit and Nut Sales - Each student has a quota to meet and may fundraise over the requirement to offset the cost of their Spring trip - students have even sold enough to cover their full trip fee. All parents are needed during this fundraiser to count money, verify orders, supervise unloading of the truck and distribution of fruit and nuts to students for pickup and delivery (students deliver to their customers).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY DETAILS

Marching Band Camp

Volunteer needs include:

- **Donations of food** - can be sent in with your child or brought in during the setup of the meal.
- **Set up, serve and clean up** - Usually a 1- 2 hour commitment.
- **Uniform fitting** - assist in fitting students' uniforms and organizing uniform bags. Several hours over several days.

Tag Day Fundraiser

Parents are needed to:

- **Stuff envelopes** for students to place in doors. 1-2 hours, depending on attendance.
- **Drivers** on Tag Day to move students through neighborhoods. Commitment is usually from 9 am to 1 pm.
- **Money Counters** to verify contributions brought in. Generally 12 to 2 pm, depending on the return of the drivers.

Home Football Games

Parents are needed to: serve food to the Band and Guard prior to the game and assist Pit with moving equipment on and off the field for halftime. These jobs include free entrance to the football game.

- **Pit Crew logistics:** move and arrange (with help of students) instruments set up at the front of the field (the pit), drum major stand, and any props needed on the field. Once

performance is over, assist in breaking down and returning instruments, stand, and props to the band room. Time commitment starts prior to game to move the equipment from band room to field holding area, and then from the end of the 2nd quarter to after halftime.

- **Set up and serve dinner, water, and cookies** - prior to the game. Once food has been served, collect trash and make sure everything is cleaned up.

- **Donations of water and cookies** - can be dropped at the band room after school or just before the game.

Arlington Marching Band Showcase

Parent chaperones are needed to: assist with uniforms, load and unload equipment, and with Pit Crew logistics.

Marching Band Competitions

Parent chaperones are needed to: assist with uniforms, load and unload instrument/props truck, assist with Pit Crew, distribute water and snacks to students as needed, and ride the bus to and from competition (unless other arrangements are approved).

Fruit and Nut Sale

Parents **may** be needed to:

- **Delivery supervision** - supervise the students unloading the fruit truck. Students do all lifting and moving. Usually takes 45-60 minutes after school the day of delivery.

- **Pizza servers** - serve pizza and water to students after the fruit truck has been fully unloaded. About an hour commitment to set up, serve, and clean up.

- **Fruit and Nut distribution** - two afternoons and evenings after the fruit has been delivered. Parents supervise and verify orders before they go out the door. Students work in teams to gather orders and load in cars. Shifts last 1-2 hours.

- **Holiday Bazaar** (first Saturday in December) - assist and supervise students as they sell off the remaining stock of fruit and nuts.

Please consider choosing the “Washington-Liberty Band Boosters” as your **Amazon Smile charity**. We receive a portion of what you spend – at no extra cost to you – and those dollars and cents really add up!