



Frequently Asked Questions

What is involved in joining the Pirate Marching Band?

You must be committed to attend band camp, all rehearsals and performances, and to give your best effort at every one. Band camp runs the last week in August for 6 days – 1 day at school and 5 days away at Fairview Lakes, NJ. Rehearsals are Mondays and Thursdays 5:15-8:15pm and Wednesdays 3:15-5:15pm, from September through mid-November. During this fall season, the band performs at every varsity football game and attends about 7 competitions. Expect to be rehearsing and performing one full weekend day. In the spring, the band performs in parades – Plainsboro Founder's Day, West Windsor Memorial Day and Princeton University P-rade. Every other year, the band also goes on tour in the spring. While touring is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged and a lot of FUN!

What is expected of the parents/guardians?

Every parent/guardian is automatically a member of the WW-P Band Booster Association. Each band family is expected to volunteer for at least one Booster Team – banquet, chaperone, fundraising, lighting, meal, pit, prop, publicity or sewing. The goal of the Boosters is to make the band experience more fun and run smoother for both students and their families. This can only happen if everyone does their fair share.

We also encourage the parents/guardians to attend the competitions. Tickets can be purchased through the Boosters or at the event gate. We sit together to loudly cheer and clap for the band. Strong cheering sections are a big influence on the judges. This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, make new friends and enjoy a day of great music and theatrics. Your children work so hard to perfect the show. Let's show them our pride and appreciation!

Where does the annual band fee and fundraising money go?

The annual band fee of \$370 goes toward paying for band camp (55%), for meals and events such as movie night (15%) and for supplies such as props, uniform accessories, T-shirts, minor repairs (30%). The Boosters and the band run several fundraisers throughout the year – airgrams in the fall, bake sales in the fall and spring, car washes in the summer and parade fees. These monies are used to cover the cost of the banquet, the cookout and parents' day so that we do not have to charge separately for these family events. Any additional fundraising dollars are used to support activities that directly benefit the band, such as Winterguard and a small scholarship fund.

The West Windsor-Plainsboro school district funds transportation costs, uniform purchases and cleaning, musical equipment purchases, sheet music and USSBA fees.