

West Carteret HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

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Patriot Band Member:

Welcome to the West Carteret High School (WCHS) Band! We applaud your decision to be a part of a high school group that not all students have the opportunity to experience. Membership in this distinguished organization is an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The WCHS Band consistently maintains a performance standard of excellence while providing each individual with an opportunity for growth.

This comprehensive band program needs students who are dedicated, determined, and optimistic. Patriot Band members are dedicated to the performance of great music to the maximum of their abilities. Students are dedicated to their fellow band members, WCHS, and their community. They are determined to work hard and diligently within this disciplined group, and have pride in all of their accomplishments. Band members are determined to persevere when things get rough, and optimistic that through hard work and practice, they can be a part of excellence.

The *WCHS Band Handbook* is designed to outline the organizational and procedural aspects of the Patriot Band. In this handbook you will find information regarding items such as ensembles offered at WCHS, policies, rules, and regulations. Please read through the handbook and familiarize yourself with the information. You will come to rely on it heavily throughout the coming year.

Looking forward to another great season!

Andrew Wright

I. ENSEMBLES AT WCHS

Throughout the school year, musical opportunities abound as fun and exciting means to obtain an excellent music education. The rewards of being a member of an award winning organization can far exceed your greatest expectations. Most importantly, participation in the performance ensembles of WCHS allows students to work as a large family striving to obtain one goal: excellence.

The Tradition of West Carteret High School Marching Patriots (Fall Semester)

The Tradition encompasses all the students in the band program and color guard. It is the Marching Patriots and is the most visible ensemble of our organization. Whether they are performing at Pep Rallies, Football Games, or Parades, our marching band is the musical ambassador of West Carteret High School. May want to clarify that this is the “class” that the student signs up for in the Fall Semester?

The Pride of West Carteret (Fall Semester)

This new ensemble is now the competitive experience for West Carteret Band and Color Guard students. The Pride of West Carteret is the Competitive Outdoor Performance Ensemble that includes some rehearsals/practices/afterschool rehearsals and Saturday Competitions. During the school year this ensemble runs through October. Students from the Tradition will make up Pride.

West Carteret High School Concert Band (Spring Semester)

The Concert Band is primarily made of freshmen and sophomores and performs Grade 4 and 5 level music. They present 2 concerts per year and participate in the NCBA Music Performance Adjudication.

West Carteret High School Symphonic Band (Spring Semester)

The Symphonic Band is primarily made of Juniors and Seniors and performs Grade 6 level music. They present 2 concerts per year and participate in the NCBA Music Performance Adjudication.

West Carteret High School Jazz Band

The Jazz Band is primarily made up of “new to jazz” students where they begin to learn the building blocks of jazz music and improvisation. They primarily begin rehearsing after marching band season is over the first of November and continue through 2nd Semester. They perform at a variety of events and festivals throughout the year.

West Carteret High School Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble is primarily made up of “seasoned” jazz students where they play more complex jazz selections and are comfortable with improvisation. They primarily begin rehearsing after marching band season is over the first of November and continue through 2nd Semester. They perform at a variety of events and festivals throughout the year.

West Carteret High School Jazz Combo

The Jazz Combo is a small group of students made up of students from the jazz ensemble who play out in the community throughout the year.

West Carteret High School Winter Guard

Winter Guard students are made up of a select group of students from the Color Guard. They practice during the school day and after school toward the end of 1st semester and through March in the Spring Semester. They have weekend competitions and performances throughout the months of February and March.

West Carteret High School Winter Percussion

The Winter Percussion is made up of select students from the band program who practice after school beginning toward the end of 1st semester and continue through March in 2nd Semester. They have weekend competitions and performances throughout the months of February and March.

II. Curricular and Co-Curricular Ensemble Specific Information and Expectations

The Pride of West Carteret

Schedule Requirements

June 8-9 Mini Camp

August 3-8 Band Camp and August Rehearsal Dates

Additional Percussion Summer Dates (See below)

Additional Color Guard Summer Dates (See below)

After School Practices on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 3pm-5pm through October

Friday Night Football Games

Saturday Competitions and Camp Days

Summer Camps are a necessary and important part of the process, as we prepare for our performance schedule in the Fall. Each facet of the Pride (Winds, Percussion, and Color Guard) will hold some camps together and some camps separate. Please see your section's information below.

Winds Camp

June 8-9th - 8am-12pm

August 3rd-8th-8am-5pm

We will have a mini camp June 8-9 from 8am-12pm to start fundamentals, music, and determine numbers. This camp will allow our brass and woodwind students the opportunity to focus on basic fundamentals of sound, including warm up routines for the marching band season. This camp also gives students an opportunity to get a head start on the competition show music. Camp will run from 8am-12pm. Attendance is mandatory for all brass and woodwind students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the band directors, as soon as possible. Full Band Camp is August 3rd-8th from 8am-5pm with a 45 minute lunch break.

Percussion Camps and Rehearsals are listed below:

May 26th - 3:30pm-5:30pm
June 3rd - 3:30pm-5:30pm
June 4th - 3:30pm-5:30pm
June 8th - 8am-12pm (With the Winds)
June 9th - 8am-12pm (With the Winds)
June 16th - Front Ensemble 4pm-6pm Battery 6pm-8pm
June 23rd - Front Ensemble 4pm-6pm Battery 6pm-8pm
June 30th - Front Ensemble 4pm-6pm Battery 6pm-8pm
July 14th - Full Percussion 4pm-7pm
July 21st - Full Percussion 4pm-7pm
July 27th - July 31st - Full Percussion Camp 9am-5pm
August 3rd-8th 8am-5pm
August 11, 13, 18, 20 - 6pm-8pm

As with the wind camps, the percussion students will work on individual technique and endurance needed throughout the season. Students will begin rehearsing the competition show music, as well as warm up routines that will be utilized during the marching band season. Full Camp days will have an hour lunch. Students need to bring a lunch, water bottle, and comfortable athletic clothes. Attendance is mandatory for all percussion students, both pit and battery. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with the band directors, as soon as possible.

Color Guard Camps and Summer Rehearsals are listed below:

June 8-9-5pm-9pm
June 18th - 5pm-9pm
June 25th - 5pm-9pm
July 2nd - 5pm-9pm
July 16th - 5pm-9pm
July 30th - 5pm-9pm
July 21st-23rd, and 25th - 9am-8pm
August 3rd-8th - 8am-5pm
August 11, 13, 18, 20 - 6pm-8pm

As with the instrumental camps, the guard students will work on individual technique and endurance needed throughout the season. Students will begin rehearsing the competition show requirements, as well as warm up routines that will be utilized during the marching band season. Attendance is mandatory for all guard students. Please communicate any conflicts you may have with Emily or Goober and the band director, as soon as possible.

Full Ensemble Marching Band Camp (August 3-8) is one of the most important weeks of the entire band season. Attendance is an absolute must for all participating students. With the help of additional staff, students will be able to give a concentrated effort as they learn a good amount of

the competition show in one week's time. In addition to solidifying music performance and guard work, much of the week is spent reviewing the basics to marching and learning drill for this season's competition show.

Everyone will rehearse from 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of band camp. Lunch will be from 12:00-12:45pm each day. Students need to bring their lunch from home and eat at school. On the last day of camp, Saturday, parents are invited to watch a preview of what the students learned during camp.

Due to the heat and vital rehearsals during this time, the following items are needed for Band Camp:

Required:

- three-ringed binder with plastic sheet protectors for all music
- pencil for music and drill sets
- small, personal water cooler - with name written in permanent marker. The school supplies ice and water. No sharing!
- comfortable tennis shoes with socks. No one will be allowed to go barefoot at any time, due to fire ants and other safety hazards.
- lots of patience with a good, caring attitude!

Strongly Encouraged:

- light-weight, light-colored clothing, rain wear
- sunglasses and hat
- sun block for skin and lip balm for the lips
- bug spray/lotion – Be careful not to combine bug spray with suntan lotion as this causes an adverse skin reaction for some people.

Rehearsals for the Pride are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, whenever school is in session throughout August, September, and October. There is a direct link between the amount of quality practice and the success of the band.

Attendance at afterschool rehearsals is a must. One person not in attendance can distract the progress of the entire organization. Open communication is the key to any successful group. The band director must be notified in advance, when possible, of any absences. In addition to a student being absent from school, the only excused absences are personal illness or death in the family. A written note from the parents and/or physician must be presented to the band director. Students involved in other school activities need prior approval from the director for any absence from rehearsal. Work, however, will not be an excused absence under any circumstances, as our band schedule is published well in advance.

Tardiness to rehearsals will also impede the progress of the band. All rehearsals begin and end at designated times. On the occasion that tardiness is inevitable, communication with a staff member or section leader is mandatory. This is done to allow parents and students the opportunity to coordinate personal schedules with the rehearsals. Should continued conflicts arise, a conference with the director might be in order. Please try to make appointments on Wednesdays and Fridays during September and October.

Competition Performances are an important evaluation tool for The Pride. Each competition gives the staff and students valuable feedback on the progress of the marching program. Rehearsals

are planned by the information received from the judges, as well as student and staff reactions to the performance. Competition performances reinforce the belief that the process is just as important, or even more important, than the final results.

Below is a listing of the competition schedule of the Marching Patriots for 2014:

- Competition Tentative - September 26th
- Northside HS Jacksonville NC Tentative – October 3rd
- Bands of America Regional, Myrtle Beach SC – October 9-11 (Overnight 2 Nights)
- Swansboro HS – October 24th
- Crystal Coast Classic, Havelock – October 31st 2026

A complete itinerary will be sent home by the band students usually each Tuesday on the week of the trip. This itinerary will include a time schedule, eating arrangements, a complete listing of competing bands with times, telephone numbers where we can be contacted throughout the day and evening, driving directions, and an estimated time of arrival. A complete performance schedule is included in this packet. Parents are encouraged to ask their child for the itinerary each Tuesday!

There will be one overnight trip and one with charter buses this fall:

- Bands of America Regional in Myrtle Beach – October 10
 - Leave WCHS on October 9. Stay in Myrtle Beach on October 9 and 10. The estimated cost of this trip is approximately \$100-\$125.

The Tradition of West Carteret Marching Patriots

Schedule Requirements

August Band Camp 8am-12pm

Home Football Games

Parades

Christmas Concert

School Performances are a vital facet of the Marching Patriots. All members of the band must attend all home football games, parades, as well as other scheduled events. The only excused absences are a school conflict, personal illness or a death in the family, pending a note from the parent or physician. In the event a student must miss a performance, communication with the director is mandatory and it should be done, when possible, in a timely manner. A complete listing of known performances is provided in the WCHS Band calendar – which can be accessed through the Band App and on www.westcarteretbands.com

Students will receive an updated Holiday Performance Schedule before they leave for Thanksgiving. Parade times and dates do sometimes change from year to year. Occasionally, we are called on to perform at a community event on short notice. We will send home a written announcement as well as a Band Blast to each band family, in the event an important performance is requested.

III. WCHS Concert and Symphonic Bands (Spring Semester)

Students are placed into either Concert or Symphonic Band. These two bands meet during the school day, throughout the spring semester. The concert season is a vital aspect of the band program. It is when musical training is at its peak. Whether in Concert or Symphonic Band,

students are challenged to give a purposeful approach to their home practice and classroom rehearsal.

Concert Band is an ensemble designed to perform Grade IV music at our NC Music Performance Adjudication (MPA), which takes place in March. In general, most Freshmen and Sophomores are enrolled into this section of the band. Occasionally, more advanced students will use this ensemble as an opportunity to “double” on a new instrument.

Symphonic Band students are challenged to perform Grade VI music at MPA, which is the most advanced music – normally performed by collegiate bands. This level of music demands a high intensity of musicality and maturity from each participating student.

When individuals within the band grow musically our ensembles will follow suit. WCHS band students are encouraged to challenge themselves to prepare for the *All District Band* auditions, which take place in January. Also, *Honors Band Credit* is offered to the most advanced band students, who excel in musical performance. The details for Honors Band Credit will be provided for students interested in this opportunity.

IV. Winter Guard (Spring Semester)

Winterguard is a performance activity that combines dance, theater, and equipment work into a choreographed show performed indoors. Often called the “sport of the arts,” winterguard is an extension of color guard from marching band season, but performed in gyms during the winter and spring months. Preparations for Winter Guard begin toward the end of 1st semester with auditions and practices beginning in November. Winter Guard is a class 2nd Semester and is composed of students from the fall color guard. While Winter Guard is not required it is highly recommended for all guard students to participate so they can continue growing as performers during 2nd semester. Their competition season runs from February through March.

POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS

Discipline and Conduct

Our level of performance, whether it is at a football game, competition, or concert, is a direct reflection of our rehearsal efforts. A band’s performance can only be as good as the best rehearsal. Band members are expected to behave at all times. Misbehavior is a poor reflection on the band, WCHS, and community. When students are focused during rehearsals our overall product improves.

In an effort to achieve a quieter, more structured learning environment, students, after repeated warnings, will be suspended from the band. Students who are disruptive, disrespectful, or uncooperative will be suspended from the band and replaced. This, in turn, will have a significant, negative effect on the class participation grade for the band student. Our directors and staff will make every attempt to be fair and consistent.

All rules and regulations in the West Carteret High School Student Handbook, which will be

distributed in August and available online at www.westcarteretbands.com , will apply to all band members. This specifically includes field trips and events in other areas. Everyone must remember that you are not only representing our band, but also our school system, our community, and your family. As goodwill ambassadors for Carteret County, we have an awesome responsibility to conduct ourselves in only the best possible way.

The entire band and guard will perform at all home **football games** and other athletic events as designated by the director. One function of the band is to demonstrate school spirit at school events, which is done both musically and vocally. Students will abide by the following rules during athletic events:

- Do not remove any of the uniform until you are told to do so by a director.
 - You may not wear any other type of cap or sunglasses while in uniform.
 - Remain in your designated area and be aware of what is going on down front.
 - Be prepared to react quickly and immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director. Keep band instrument in your hand at all times.
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- Stand cheers will not be played unless rehearsed and approved by a director.
 - Absolutely no gum chewing or inappropriate language by anyone.
 - Use the 3rd quarter break and be in the designated area before the 4th quarter begins.
 - All band members are expected to remain for the entire football game. Following the game, students will be released after final remarks and instructions are given by the director and staff. Please do not ask for an exception!

Failure to do all of the above will result in the band losing their break during the next game. During football games, the band has a reserved section in the home bleachers (south side) and the area will be designated by a roped off area, prior to game-time. Band members only will sit in this area and there will be no food or drinks allowed in the area. No non-uniformed guests will be allowed to sit in the band section due to space limitations. Please, do not stand on the bleachers!

Out of town **trips** offer the students an opportunity to compare themselves with bands from other areas and regions. These trips are educational, as well as fun. The primary concern of the student should be to represent the school to the very highest degree. Some of the general rules of these trips are:

- Listening devices are only permitted on the buses if headphones are used. Please remember that many times the buses are not secured and you are taking a risk that someone may steal your equipment.
- Skateboards and gaming systems that require the use of a hotel television are never allowed on any band trips.
- Food or drinks will only be allowed as long as everyone uses the trash bags that will be located on each bus. This privilege will be taken away if people throw trash on the floor.
- Trash must be put in the trash bags. Only screw-top drinks will be accepted. A fee of \$50.00 is charged per bus when an activity bus is returned dirty.
- Only use the front, side door of the bus. Do not run from the buses and never use the back emergency exit door of the bus.
- Seniors will always be allowed to exit the buses first.

Dressing will usually take place in dressing rooms provided by the guest schools. Sometimes

dressing facilities may not be available and arrangements must be made to dress on the bus or outside. Students are encouraged to wear clothing that can make layering easier when this occurs.

The chaperones are a direct link between the director and the students. Please do as they say! Do not question the chaperones and a kind “thank-you” will go a long way. Always use good judgment, common sense, and patience. Remember it is awfully difficult to make all of us happy at the same time when everyone is both mentally and physically exhausted. The key word is flexibility.

Students will be assigned to buses and chaperones will be positioned in the front, center and rear sections of each bus. Chaperones will have specific instructions from the director as to the rules and are here to insure that each band member is well supervised as we travel. Band students will have the opportunity to switch buses once they find someone to switch with before a trip. An allotted amount of time will be given for bus changes on Monday and Tuesday before each trip.

All band members are required to ride the bus to the band performances and competitions. If parents drive separately and wish for their child to return home with them in their private vehicle, a permission slip, obtained from the bus captain and signed by a parent, must be presented to the bus captain supervising his/her bus following the performance.

BUS SIGN-OFFS - The student must be signed off in person by a parent or legal guardian following the event with their bus captain. This cannot be done in advance. This will ensure a proper head count and that no one is left behind. Carteret County Schools policy dictates that we follow these procedures. Please do not ask for an exception! Competitions often end late at night and things become very hectic as all of the bands are packing up to head home. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. Students riding the buses home, following a competition or performance, are encouraged to bring a cell phone to use to call home for ride pick up once we are near the school.

Grades

Students will be constantly evaluated in class and before/after school on material that is to be prepared as a group and through individual practice. The great thing about band is that we are accepting of everyone, regardless of his or her musical ability unless they are a discipline problem, have a bad attitude, or lack serious work ethic.

A six weeks average will consist of an accumulation of the following types of grades:

- **Daily Participation Grades** - Participation grades are daily/weekly assessments. Students who consistently follow instructions in rehearsals, who come to rehearsals with their music assignments prepared, who abide by behavioral norms in class and on the marching field (not talking at inappropriate times, respecting teachers and peers, etc.), and who have all of their required supplies on hand will earn a participation grade of 100. Points will be deducted at the director’s discretion for not adhering to one or more of these components.
- **Check Offs** - Performance evaluations of the music or other assigned materials. Students will check off their music assignments for a band director on a regular basis; integrating marc time, horns up and down, holds, movement, etc. whenever appropriate. Students are allowed multiple opportunities to gain full credit on check off. It is our desire and expectation for students to challenge themselves and replay until they have reached the highest grade of 100. A student will be granted additional time to make up a missed pass off due to illness or a family emergency, but he/she must communicate with a band director as soon as possible in order for this to occur. Check offs are not restricted to the marching band show music and may consist of other materials such as body movements associated with the marching show, scales, and warm-up exercises.

- Performance Grades – Students are expected to be at all performances. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a zero for that performance grade that could result in the removal from band at the end of the semester. There will be alternate students waiting to fill in available spots due to absenteeism. Again, communication with the director is the key.
- Below is a description of the grade percentage breakdown for a single six weeks average:
 - Daily Grades (30%) – Daily Grades and Rehearsal Attendance
 - Performance Participation (30%) – Football Games, Marching Band Competitions, Concerts
 - Test Grades (40%) – Check Offs, Scales, and Warm-Up Material

It is our plan to assess students’ musical growth and progress according to the following timeline:

- 1st Semester – Check offs on specific cuts of the show music, pass offs on Warm-Up studies (memorized), and check offs on body movements that correspond to the marching band show at specified tempi.
- 2nd Semester – Check offs on ALL of the MPA and Concert music incorporating all stylistic elements, as well as the performance of specified scales and technique studies.

Students in band class are required to take both semesters of band. Two units of credit are awarded at the end of second (spring) semester. If a student drops band for second semester, no credit is awarded for first semester. Color guard members do have the option to take color guard class for one or two semesters.

Appearance in Uniform

The Marching Patriot uniform is a symbol of pride for the band. Out of respect for our community, WCHS, and the Marching Patriots all students will follow the same guidelines for appearance while in uniform. Each band member will be instructed on how to wear and care for your uniform or color guard costumes. Shoes, socks, and gloves will be inspected at each performance.

Band shoes for the band and guard will be ordered by the band director at the end of August (\$35.00). No one will be allowed to perform without the proper footwear. Each band member is required to purchase a band t-shirt to wear under the band uniforms (\$10.00).

Each Pride performer will purchase their costume. These costumes are personal in nature and worn for one year only, depending on the theme of the year’s marching band program. Most of these costumes are based on dance attire and are considered the personal property of the performer since clothing of this nature should not be shared. A band and color guard uniform, which is used for parades, will be provided by the band at no cost.

Summer uniforms are worn often during the first few football games at the beginning of school and at Spring/Summer parades and performances; including: pep rallies and early season football games. The Summer uniform consists of the band t- shirt, khaki/tan colored above the knee length shorts, white socks and tennis shoes. We also wear this attire while traveling as a group.

Please follow these simple rules when wearing band and guard uniforms.

- All uniforms/costumes should always be stored at school and not be taken home except during the holiday parade season as instructed by a director.

- “Uniform moms” will always distribute uniforms/costumes. Never grab a uniform on your own as you may accidentally pick up the wrong one since they all look the same.
- Be careful as you change into the uniforms/costumes not to step on the fabric of the uniform/costume. Sheets are usually spread out on the floor or ground to stand on while the students are dressing into their uniforms.
- Never eat or drink while in uniform/costume. A drink is permitted immediately following halftime served by the band boosters.
- Never lean against any object while in uniform/costume.
- Uniforms/costumes must be worn zipped and fastened completely, unless instructed to wear “halfs” (jackets off) by a director. The straps to the bibbed pant should ALWAYS be up across the shoulders. When this does not occur, students step on the cuffs of the pants leg.
- ALWAYS return your uniform/costume back to your rack mom promptly and neatly. We are unable to load the semi until all uniforms/costumes are properly returned! Uniforms/costumes not hung correctly will be returned back to you for correction.
- There should be no jewelry worn when in uniform/costume for a uniform look. Members with pierced ears are allowed to wear the posts only. Guard students will have to cover their earring with a bandaid to prevent a flag from accidently getting caught on it and potentially cause injury.
- We must insist that all band members wear long (tall), black socks. Ankle socks are not allowed, as this has been a problem in the past especially during concerts and parades.
- Females and males with long hair are required to wear your hair up when in uniform. Hairnets will be distributed to those who break this rule. Hair buns must be worn on the top, center of the head in order for the shako to fit correctly.
- Only natural colored hair is permitted for performances.
- There is never ever any running allowed while in uniform. We must maintain a “classic look” at all times.
- Refrain from shouting, yelling or talking loudly while in uniform except when cheering for our athletic teams. No profanity is ever allowed!

Communication

Communication is vital to the success of the WCHS Band. There are several different resources for up-to-date communication: the WCHS Band website, WCHS Band Facebook Page, Band Blasts, and the Band App.

WCHS Band Website

The most current band information can be found on our band website at: westcarteretbands.com. The website is extremely useful in the event of poor weather conditions when an outdoor marching band performance is in question. Make sure you bookmark the web address and remember to use this great technology often as it makes our lives much easier!

WCHS Band Facebook Page

This Facebook page will be the quickest way to communicate with all of our band members, their families, boosters, and band/guard alumni. So ... we encourage you to “like” this page to stay in touch with the very latest updates in the West Carteret Band World! If you are not on Facebook, we respectfully ask you to join.

WCHS Band Blast

Our goal is to collect email addresses of all band boosters and supporters so that we can communicate electronically! Please let Mr. Wright know immediately if you are not receiving blast emails.

WCHS Band App

The Band App is an app that functions similar to social media but is a quick easy way for us to get information out. Please sign up and allow notifications. I promise we will not spam you:). There is a Parent App and a Member App. You are certainly welcome to join both if you like.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Although the Board of Education and the Band Boosters pay most of the expenditures incurred by the band program, several items are the responsibility of the parents and students.

Some examples are:

Winds and Percussion Students

Shoes	\$ 35.00
WCHS Band T-Shirts	\$ 10.00
Gloves	\$3.50
Costume Top and Accessory	\$50

Color Guard Students

Shoes	\$35
WCHS Band T-Shirts	\$10
Undergarments	TBD
Hair Supplies	TBD
Makeup Supplies	TBD
Flag Bag	TBD
Costume	Approximately \$100

Students are responsible for the necessary accessories:

- Reed students: Vandoren Reeds, minimum strength of 3; Cork Grease; Swab
- Brass students: Valve Oil and Slide Grease. All valves and slides must be in working condition.
- Trumpet players are expected to own a metal, straight mute for concert season.
- Percussion students: there could be additional band dues for drum supplies
- Color guard students: there are additional dues for costuming

Music supplies can be purchased from the following sources:

- Fuller's Music 252-638-2811 or www.fullersmusic.com
 - A representative from Fuller's Music visits WCHS every Wednesday
- Woodwind & Brasswind www.wwandbw.com
- Amazon.com is also a competitive resource for supplies

Fundraising Policy

All students are expected to participate in fundraisers throughout the year. Many different fundraisers are offered throughout the year providing many opportunities for our students to raise money for his/her personal student account and the general band account. The band operates on a budget in excess of \$100,000 above and beyond what is allotted to our band program by the county. Because of this, it is vital that everyone participates in fundraisers.

Therefore, if our band program is going to perform and compete at the level we are all accustomed to, we need to enact accountability from each band family. Consequently each band member will be responsible for a \$300 band fundraising assessment for Pride members and \$150 for Tradition Only Members. The more fundraising the student is involved in, the faster he or she can pay the assessment and begin earning money for his/her trips.

We have scheduled the following fundraisers and plan to add more opportunities:

- Discount cards will begin distributed during band camp. These discount cards have been in great demand during the past few years. They are extremely easy to sell!
- Citrus Fruit and Apple sale in late October/early November
- Raise Right
- Instaraise

As you can see, every opportunity will be available to fundraise and we hope this band assessment will not be a hardship on anyone. This way our band program can be financially secure and we will be able to continue to hire the finest teachers to come and instruct our marching band in addition to being financially stable enough to purchase much needed instruments. We have many students who fundraise enough to cover all trips and assessments and do not pay “out of pocket” for trips.

We know and understand that at times the financial obligation may be heavy, but no member will be denied the opportunities of our organization due to financial difficulties. Please email or talk privately with us to work on a plan. Our communication will be kept strictly confidential. Families who have multiple children in band will receive 25% off per child.

Student Accounts

In an effort to help the parents and students afford band trips more easily, individual accounts have been set up for each student. No other fees are paid out of this account. Please read carefully this information since there has been some confusion in the past. The Board of Directors has worked diligently to clarify this process.

Information concerning your child’s student account can be obtained by e-mailing Dorothy Howell at: treasurer@westcarteretbands.com. Student accounts can only be used for student fees. We do recommend that you fundraise the entire amount and more so that you can carry over a balance to the following year. It is, however, your choice. Remaining money in a graduated student’s account may be willed to another student in the band if requested. No money will be refunded to a graduate or to a student who does not continue in the band program.

Our online student account system is called My Music Office. This will allow everyone to access their student account information on-line by signing into a password protected web-site. Each band student will be given login information. Please review your account regularly. Any fees or credits will show up there where you can access via the web. You can make payments online, via check by placing in the safe in the front of the band room or cash by placing in an envelope with your child's name on it and what it's for. When paying via cash, make sure to give it to Mr. Wright where he will count and give you a receipt. The money will then go into the safe.

General Band Account

Most of the money raised by the band boosters is used in the key area of instruction. It is our philosophy that more individualized instruction is the key to the success of the band. This “extra” instruction stretches the limits of each performer and the performers become even better performers, which they can enjoy for a lifetime. The other money raised is used to design the marching band show, to pay for props and flags. We also use this money as entry fees for competitions and festivals.

This is a huge commitment by the band boosters. The amount paid for our drill and color guard instructors alone totals over \$2,800.00 each month. The other instructors for September and October totals approximately \$6,000.00. This does not include band camp! Our band equipment and repairs, semi tractor-trailer maintenance and fuel, and all of our marching band props, and practice field turf expenses are all paid from band booster earnings.

Our biggest source of revenue is the Direct Solicitation Campaign conducted each fall by the band boosters. We hope each parent will agree to contact an area business or community person in a renewed effort in hopes of acquiring additional financial contributions for our band program.

PARENT INFORMATION

WCHS Band Boosters

Much of what we do would not be possible without your support and the tremendous work by the band boosters! All parents are invited to become members of the Band Boosters. Meetings are held quarterly.

The role of the band boosters is to raise money and to provide materials and services necessary for a highly competitive band program. Their services include chaperoning trips, organizing and fitting the uniforms, sewing flags, building props, driving buses and equipment vehicles, solving logistical problems, providing financial support through fundraising activities, and numerous other major and minor tasks. This organization is not one that makes policy, disciplines students, or decides expenditures. Those decisions are the role of the band director, school principal and the school system's administration.

Parent volunteers are a necessity during the August band camp. There are a variety of needs during the week, such as serving beverages and special treats each day, ice down and distributing cold cloths around students' necks, administering minor first aid, and many other matters that often arise.

During home football games band parents are encouraged to sit on the opposite side of the aisle from the band section. Please wear your official band shirts and caps when attending games, whenever possible, to show support for our students. Band boosters that are assisting with moving equipment, distributing band uniforms, or assisting the color guard, should come by the uniform room when you arrive at school before the game to be "stamped" for admission into the football game.

The Boosters also serve drinks to the band as they come off the field after half-time shows. Parents will be asked to send two-liter drinks during the fall and your help in serving them quickly to very hot and thirsty musicians and performers will be appreciated.

Competitions and Trips

Parents are also encouraged to attend the competitions as the Pride has the opportunity to perform before thousands of people throughout the competition tour. Cheering sections are very important too! We do ask parents to cheer at the appropriate times. Please refrain from using noisemakers. The students are the musicians, so please do not do anything that will distract from the quality of their performance. Band parents are asked to wear their WC apparel and be nice to the band parents from other schools. Please do not be "poor sports" in the event you do not agree with the judge's results. We must remember what we are teaching the band members through our example. The goal of our band is to perform our very best. We feel strongly that the process is as important as the end results. We feel it is more important to teach life skills while we rehearse and perform our music and routines.

All band members must ride to the event on the buses with the band to ensure that we all arrive at the same time. Following a band performance a parent can only take their child from the event. Carteret County Board Policy prohibits students riding with anyone other than a parent or guardian. Copies of this release form will be available from each bus captain on each trip we take. Bus

sign-offs cannot be done in advance and must be done in person from only the bus captain of the particular bus the band member rode to the band event on that day. This will ensure we have an accurate bus list so no student is accidentally left behind. Your cooperation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Forms

Health/Medical Release Form – provided at parent meetings in May

Please fill out both of the below forms found on the next pages and return it to the director before June 8, 2026. Be sure all insurance information is completed. This must be returned before a band student can participate and travel with the band. It applies for the entire Summer 2026 and 2026-2027 school year.

**WEST CARTERET HIGH SCHOOL BAND
HEALTH/ MEDICAL RELEASE FORM**

STUDENT NAME _____

STUDENT ADDRESS _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

HOME TELEPHONE _____ WORK TELEPHONE _____

PARENT CELL # _____ SECONDARY CELL # _____

INSURANCE CO. _____ POLICY NUMBER _____

MEDICAIDE # _____

ALLERGIES FOOD _____

DRUG _____

DRUGS CURRENTLY TAKING _____

DOSAGES _____

HEALTH LIMITATIONS _____

HEALTH LIMITATIONS _____

STUDENT'S PHYSICIAN _____

PHYSICIAN'S WORK TEL. _____

PERMISSION FOR TREATMENT

_____ being legal guardian or parent of _____
do hereby give my permission for emergency treatment of my child in the event of accident, injury,
or illness in the event that I can not be reached by telephone.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

STUDENT/PARENT CONTRACT

The student and parent/guardian are required to sign a copy of this document stating that you understand what is required of you as a West Carteret Band Member.

WEST CARTERET HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONSENT FORM

NAME: _____

SECTION: _____

STUDENT AGREEMENT:

I have read and discussed the requirements and regulations of the WCHS Band. As a member of this organization, I agree to abide by the requirements and regulations of the group as well as the school rules as stated in the West Carteret Handbook. I understand the policies governing grading, attendance, tardiness, attitude, and discipline.

SIGNED: _____

DATED: _____

PARENT AGREEMENT:

I have read and discussed with my child the rules and regulations of the WCHS Band as outlined in the Band Manual and the West Carteret Handbook. I give my child permission to participate and will help enforce all requirements and regulations of the group. I do understand the grading, attendance, tardy, and discipline policies of this band program and will encourage my child to honor this commitment in band. I also understand this commitment is a yearlong class and I support the commitment that is involved.

SIGNED: _____

DATE: _____

Calendar

The **2026-2027 Calendar** is found online at westcarteretbands.com and on the band app.