

New Band Family F.A.Q.'s

How do I audition for concert band and jazz band? When are auditions?

Audition music for jazz band and concert band will be posted on this band website in mid-April. Auditions will take place at the end of May. It is undecided at this time if auditions will be on video or in person. Details will be posted in April regarding audition procedures.

Do I need to audition to be in band or jazz band?

No, any student not auditioning will automatically be placed into our youngest band and youngest jazz ensembles. However, participation in all of the higher bands is based on an audition. Thus, we highly recommend students submit an audition as they often do better than they think.

What does the band audition consist of?

Students will be asked to play a variety of scales and several pieces of music that we will provide. If we have in person auditions, students will also be asked to sightread. Those auditioning for jazz band will also be asked to do improvisation.

After auditions are completed do I need to contact my counselor to be placed in the correct band class?

No. Once ensemble rosters are finalized the director's will notify the counseling office and students will be placed into their appropriate band classes. You do not need to contact your counselor.

When will we find out the results of my auditions?

Final ensemble rosters for concert band and jazz band will be posted on the last day of school on the www.whsband.org website.

How many concert bands does Westlake have?

Currently Westlake high school has five different levels of concert band and three different levels of jazz ensemble. If enrollment is down, we will have four concert bands to ensure complete instrumentation.

When do concert bands and jazz bands rehearse?

All concert band ensembles meet during periods 1 through 5, which is 7:30 AM until lunch daily. The top jazz band, "Studio Jazz Ensemble 1" meets during the day during 5th period. Jazz 2 and Jazz 3 meet after school during 8th period. Jazz 2 begins in October and Jazz 3 begins in January.

Can my student participate in jazz band, concert band, and marching band?

Yes. We have students who participate in all three ensembles. In addition, we engineer schedules and rehearsals that avoid conflicts with our multiple ensembles. We also have students from orchestra participate in marching band and color guard as well.

Why does Westlake have so many bands and jazz ensembles?

We believe in having smaller ensembles often with one musician on a musical part. This allows students to be more accountable for their music and discourages “hiding” and “getting lost” in a larger section. We have found students develop faster in our smaller ensembles due to accountability and personal instruction. And students are surrounded by musicians who are of a more similar musical abilities.

How often are concerts at Westlake high school?

Concert bands and jazz ensembles perform at our fall concert, winter concert, festivals in March, spring concert in May, and for the top ensembles we also perform at the All-District band festival and conclude with graduation in June. Each concert consists of new music as we believe in the study and performance of a varied repertoire of literature and composers.

How much do concert tickets cost?

All tickets to band and jazz band concerts are FREE.

Does Westlake have school instruments and instrument lockers?

Yes. Westlake has a good selection of quality school owned instruments. However, we highly recommend the investment into a quality intermediate or professional level instruments for our students. All students will be given an instrument locker and lock that is located in the band room. Students are responsible for storing and locking their lockers to ensure instrument security.

How much does band cost to participate?

There is no required “payment” to participate in band. We highly encourage “spirit pack” donations to help cover our 15-member teaching staff, music, instrument repair, festival and competition registration fees, busing, administrative expenses, insurance, uniforms, tuxedos, concert dresses, our 18-wheel semi-truck, drumheads, mallets, sticks, cables, electronics, and many other additional expenses. Yes, the program is massive.

Is there an audition for Marching Band or Color Guard?

The answer is no. All students wanting to participate in marching band or color guard will be allowed to. Individual skill sets and development will determine how much of the show they will participate in during band camp.

When is Marching Band Camp?

We will likely have a few rehearsals in May/June – dates TBD. However, mandatory band camp will be from August 3rd - August 7th & August 10th - August 14th. The first day of school will be on August 18th. Students will receive partial summer school credit for this August band camp. All musicians, percussion, and color guard are required to attend. Rehearsals are tentatively scheduled from 1:00 PM to 8:30 PM with a lunch break.

Is Marching Band required for participation?

No, marching band is optional to participate in. However, those wanting to participate in marching band must be enrolled in a concert band or one of the orchestras. The only exceptions are for irresolvable scheduling conflicts.

How often does marching band practice and perform during the school year?

The regiment marching band rehearses three days a week for approximately 3 hours per rehearsal. We attend and perform at for all home football games on Friday nights. We have two Saturday rehearsals in September and then we attend six Saturday competitions through September, October, and November. Marching band season ends the week before Thanksgiving.

Do I earn PE credit for participation in Marching Band and Color Guard?

Yes. All students participating in marching band and color guard will earn one full semester of PE credit even though the season ends in November. This PE class fulfillment opens up a free period in a student's schedule. This can then be filled with any additional elective, academic class, or even a study hall.

Does Westlake instrumental music have a booster program?

Yes! We have a highly active booster organization that works to fundraise and produce funds to subsidize all of our performing ensembles.

How does the booster club raise money?

We believe in large single fundraisers occurring in each academic quarter of the school year. We begin with our huge Food Truck and Jazz Festival in October, at Conejo Creek Park. December is our annual Crescendo Challenge campaign. February brings our Ad-Book/Yearbook fundraiser. And we conclude in May with our annual Westlake Jazz Festival that hosts from 60 to 80 different performing ensembles in four different performing locations on our campus.

Will my student be asked to sell cookie dough, overpriced wrapping paper, candles, popcorn, or items from a magazine that no one wants?

No. We can't stand doing that ourselves. We believe in community events that share our music, our organizational skills, and bring together our Westlake community and

provide fun and educational experiences enjoyed by all of our students, families, and guests.

Where do I find the most up to date information?

www.whsband.org