

## Westwood Warrior Band

### FRESHMAN PARENT Guide- Fall 2020

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Welcome to the Westwood Warrior Band! My name is Julie Pitner. I was a freshman parent two years ago, and I am here to make your transition to band easier! Below are a few pieces of advice and clarification to help you navigate your first year in band. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at anytime:

**Email:** [freshmanrep@westwoodband.org](mailto:freshmanrep@westwoodband.org)

As you know, this year is like no other. *Come to the **general Band Booster meeting (through Zoom) on September 9 at 7:00 pm** to learn more about this very different season.* In this document, I have listed many events that would be happening in a typical marching season. This year, we are on hold with band competitions, and football games have yet to be determined. Read on for what details we have for this season and a sneak peak at what a typical fall would look like.

#### **SYNC YOUR CALENDAR TO THE BAND CALENDAR**

This is very helpful to both you and your student. There are instructions on the band calendar page to do so. You may have to alter the steps for your personal calendar. I did for my iOS device. Sync for WHS Band (and color guard, if applicable, for your student). Here's the link to the band calendar page:

[Westwood Warrior Band Calendar](#)

#### **BAND NOTES**

Every week the band directors email "Band Notes" to all band families, typically on Sunday afternoon. Band Notes give the schedule of events for the next two weeks plus any details needed. Take the time to review the Band Notes carefully. They can often answer any questions you have about the week's performances or competitions such as what to wear, what they need to bring, where and when they are meeting, whether or not a meal is provided, whether or not they need to bring money, what time they will return, etc. It is a very helpful document.

#### **WHAT IS BOA?**

Rev 08/2020

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Typically at this time of year you would be hearing the initials “BOA” a lot. BOA stands for Bands of America. Take a look at the [BOA website](#) to see what it is all about! *This year we will not be competing in BOA competitions.* Read on to learn more about what you might expect to see next year! BOA days are marching band competitions and take up the whole day for the students. Be prepared! The end of September, October, and the first weekend of November are full of competitions that are full day events! Also, it’s great to have a BIG cheering section at all competitions. We highly encourage parents to come and cheer on the band!! Your students want you there to see them perform! Performance times will be announced ahead of time. You do not have to be there all day.

The Westwood Band website has a good guide to the [scoring in the competitions](#). Take a look and see what the judges are looking for.

### WHAT IS UIL?

UIL stands for University Interscholastic League and involves Texas athletics and music programs and competitions. The rules we follow (such as rehearsal time allowances, the now-required physicals for the students, and the rules for the time length and content of the show) are put in place by UIL and are statewide. The Westwood Band usually participates in UIL marching contest in the fall and concert/sightreading contest in the spring. More information about UIL is found [here](#). *Unfortunately, this fall Westwood Band will not be competing at the UIL Marching Contest.*

### What is DCI?

DCI stands for Drum Corps International. Students ages 14-21 audition to spend their summers marching in a drum and bugle corps made up of percussion, brass, and color guard. There are drum corps from all over the country. These corps learn and rehearse a show then travel to DCI shows all over the United States competing. At the end of the summer, there is a final show where all drum corps compete. Westwood has had a number of students participate in drum corps. A few are marching this summer, as well. Check out the [DCI website](#) for more information!

*In the past during band camp, the band has had a social evening when your students have the opportunity to come to the band hall after rehearsal one Friday and watch the semifinals of the final competition of the summer. It is truly spectacular to see! Students who march with DCI are the best of the best in the marching band world!*

### GAME AND COMPETITION TICKETS

In a typical year, the band attends and performs at football games (10 a year). Students love for you to come and cheer on their team and their halftime performance! You can buy **football game tickets** at the gate, or your student can buy the tickets for you ahead of time at a slightly reduced price at school. You may also be able to buy online through RRISD. Try [here](#) if you want to buy football tickets online. If the previous link does not work, go to the [Westwood Website](#) and go to the A-Z Index. There is a heading for football tickets. Click on that, and you should be able to get tickets online.

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Tickets for **marching competitions** can be bought at the gate and sometimes online. The [Round Rock ISD online store](#) is a good place to begin looking for tickets to band competitions and Festival of Bands (an exhibition put on by all RRISD marching bands). Students want their parents and families there cheering on the band. Plan to go to as many performances as you can. You will love seeing how the show progresses and improves with each performance!

If you subscribe to Flomarching.com, you can live stream BOA marching competitions that you are unable to attend. There are plans from \$12.99/month and up, and you can cancel at any time.

Also, check the [FAQs](#) on the band website. There is lots of useful information there!

The following is the marching season schedule all in one place with notes about events that are not self-explanatory.

### **BAND CAMP**

*We had virtual band camp this year, but following are the notes for a typical summer at band camp.* The times vary from day to day. Students need a lunch, snacks, and water every day. Also, parents trade off on providing snack for their student's section after rehearsals on certain days. Sign ups will be sent out by your section parent. Snacks are given out in the parking lot by the band hall after rehearsals. Parents have a sign for their section (something simple on a poster board with the name of the section) and serve the snack from their trunk... or if they're super enthusiastic, a table! Students will come find their section- you just have to be there ready for them!

### **BAND CAMP SCHEDULE NOTES**

The start times listed are the times that rehearsal *begins*. If students show up right at the start time, they are late getting started. Plan to get them there 15 minutes early so they are ready to go at start time. As they say in the Westwood Band, "If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late!"

***Following is the schedule of what band camp would have looked like this summer and will likely look like next summer:***

**May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>**- Color Guard Camp- 10:00am-3:00pm  
Percussion Camp- Times TBA

**July 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**- Color Guard Camp- 9:00am-2:00pm  
Percussion Camp- Times TBA

**13-hour days** are: TBA. These days are **8am-9pm**!! Typically, dinner is provided on those days. Check with your student to make sure. They need to bring a lunch, snacks, and, of course, water.

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**Section Colors:** During band camp, there are times that each band section wears its signature color- at practice and for social events (such as Band Olympics). Your student will want to have a shirt in their color:

Altos: Orange

Baritones: White

Color Guard: Tye Dye or rainbow

Clarinets: Gray

Flutes: Blue

Low Reeds: Green

Mellos: Purple

Percussion: Black

Trombones: Light blue

Trumpets: Red

Tubas: Pink

**Week of 7/27:** Plan for 8:00 am -5:00 pm, but check the band calendar for the exact times.

They can change during camp days depending on what school staff development is required of the band directors.

7/27:

7/28:

7/29:

7/30:

7/31:

8/1: 8:00-5:00 First Show Rehearsal

**Week of 8/3:** Plan for 8:00 am -5:00 pm, but check the band calendar for the exact times. They can change during camp days depending on what school staff development is required of the band directors.

8/3:

8/4:

8/5:

8/6:

8/7:

8/7: DCI Semi Finals Watch Party!!

**Week of 8/10:** Plan for 8:00 am -5:00 pm, but check the band calendar for the exact times.

They can change during camp days depending on what school staff development is required of the band directors.

8/10:

8/11:

8/12:

8/13:

8/14:

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**Week of 8/17:** Plan for 8:00 am -5:00 pm, but check the band calendar for the exact times. They can change during camp days depending on what school staff development is required of the band directors.

8/17:

8/18:

8/19:

8/21: Exhibition Night: In a typical year, students perform for parents and friends what they have learned of the band show. It is a preview of what they will continue to practice and perfect and present at football games and in competition. This is usually held in the Warrior Bowl- the football field with bleachers located on the school grounds.

### FALL SCHEDULE NOTES 2020

This year is, of course different, but a typical week's schedule during a typical marching season is :

Monday: Rehearsal 4:45-7:45

Tuesday: Rehearsal 4:45-6:45

Wednesday: No rehearsal

Thursday: Rehearsal 4:45-6:45 (There are 4 Thursday game days this year. We will follow the game day schedule on those days.)

Friday: Game Day (or rehearsal if the game was on Thursday)

### Game Days:

***This year, games will look very different. There will not be a halftime performance, and a small pep band and small group of color guard members will attend each game. Transportation is limited to those students whose parents are unable to take them to the game. Most students will provide their own transportation to the games this year. All students will not attend all games. Directors will determine which students attend each week. Seniors will have priority and will attend most games. Hopefully, all freshmen will get to attend at least one football game. We are waiting on the schedule to be finalized.***

During a normal year on game days, students are expected to come at 7:15am for a before-school rehearsal (rehearsal starts at 7:30, but they're late if they show up right at 7:30!). They stay after school, have dinner, and are bussed to the game. They will return to the school after the game. They will most likely arrive around 10:30-ish. You will be notified when they are on their way back to Westwood. If you get to the school before the busses do, do not pull into the driveway and park in the carline by the band hall. That is where the busses unload. Park in the lot or on the street.

**\*\*There will be exceptions to this schedule, so pay attention to Band Notes for exceptions and changes that come up!** Example: We have a few Thursday night games this year. The schedule for Thursday night games is the same as Friday games. Most of the time when there is a Thursday game, there will be a Friday rehearsal.

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**March-a-thon:** *This year, we are not sure if we will be able to have a March-a-thon or how it will look if we do have one. It could be virtual. Keep an eye out for news on the March-a-thon front. Read below to see how a typical year would go.*

**March-a-thon:** This is an all-day event! Ahead of time, students collect pledges from donors for their marching time on the day of March-a-thon. This is the first big fundraising event of the year. (Two years ago, students raised money to buy a semi-truck and trailer to transport marching band equipment to competitions and games. Now the band can avoid renting numerous box trucks for each performance.) This fundraiser enables our band program to maintain its excellence and to continue to grow.

The students have a 4-hour rehearsal at Kelly Reeves Athletic Complex followed by an evening performance of their show in full uniform! Plan to be there next year! You will have opportunities to take pictures of your student in uniform on the field afterwards.

### December:

**Region Band Auditions: 12/11 (after school) and 12/12 (all day):**

**Region band auditions *will* happen**, but will likely be virtual- students will record their audition music and send it in. Students will work independently throughout the fall on this music. Details will come later in the fall. Typically, students go to a school in the region and audition. They might audition on Friday evening or on Saturday. If they go on Saturday, they arrive and check in in the morning and wait until their assigned time to play. All students auditioning on a specific instrument are assigned a number and go into the audition room together. The judges are behind a curtain and have each student play a portion of each of the three etudes. Once everyone has completed the audition, the students are released to wait for the results. Depending on what time their instrument auditions, students may be finished in the morning or may be there a good portion of the day.

### Winter Concert:

Also, there will hopefully be a winter concert for all four concert ensembles. Date TBA.