

Know the Score

Newsletter for the Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Program

Fall 2006

WELCOME TO MUSIC BOOSTERS!

We wish to invite all Whitman instrumental parents and guardians to participate in the Music Boosters group. The Music Boosters' purpose is to support the instrumental music teachers with our time and talents. The Whitman music program would not be the high quality that it is without all the help and support given by parents.

We meet three times each school year, in early September, late November/early December and early March. Please plan to attend these meetings to learn about upcoming events, hear committee chair reports and discuss outstanding issues relevant to the music program. Additionally, we prepare three newsletters (Fall, Winter, and Spring) to convey important information to our music families.

New this year is the online **Whitman Instrumental Group**, a Yahoo-groups list-serve that will let us email notices directly to instrumental families (in lieu of using Whitnet which provides information to the entire Whitman community).

If you would like to volunteer for the instrumental program, please watch for email and newsletter announcements of the boosters' volunteer needs throughout the year or contact any of the listed committee chairs.

2006-2007 Committee Chairs

Co-Chairmen	Diana Deem	229-8263
	Wendy Marberg	320-6187
Treasurer	Maria Beck	229-7815
Secretary	Leslie Shedlin (Raim)	320-5859
Newsletter		
Editor	Mandy Katz (Massey)	915-0999
Mailing	Kathleen Sahn	320-6677
Tuxedos	Libby Noyes-Palmer	365-5852
Garden Party		
Hosts	Ann & Tim Mealey	365-5620
Invitations	Susanna Membrino	229-1154
	Susan Wexler (Engler)	229-0156
Food/Volunteers	Alejandra Vallejo (Carnie)	229-0128
Winter Concert	Rana Khan (Ansari)	365-0239
	Suzanne Abu-Sharr	320-6181
Awards Night	Francesca Slesinger	320-9470
	Mary Quigley (Hitz)	229-2998
Historian	Douglas Pearson	229-6395
Music Trip Luggage		
Check-in	Donna Roberts	229-8606
Festival of the Arts	Anne Hollander (McCreery)	229-7277
	Jennifer Hohenboken	765-9194
Judges' Luncheon	Kathleen Sahn	320-6677
Music Web Page	Anne Hollander (McCreery)	229-7277
Whitman Instrumental		
Group Moderator	Carol Freedman (Seeber)	229-7070



MUSIC BOOSTERS MEETING

Thursday, September 19, 2006
in the Band Room at 7 pm.
All parents are urged to attend!

BAND CAMP

Attention all freshmen! Band camp will be held at Whitman the week before school starts on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, **August 22, 23 and 25**, from 10 am to 2 pm. Attendance is important, as students learn the music they will play at Whitman's home football games. They also learn the marching routine – including how to march and play at the same time! Students new to Whitman are also invited to attend. Participants should meet in the band room. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Allen at 301-320-6542.



Garden Party

Sunday, October 8



Mark your calendar because you won't want to miss this! Once again, it is time to get together for an afternoon of good conversation, delicious food, and terrific music provided by our students.

The annual instrumental music Garden Party has become a highlight for music program families. It is a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and meet new faces while being entertained by some of our own Whitman students. Ann and Tim Mealey have graciously agreed to host this year's event. You will be receiving your invitation soon, so save the date: *Sunday, October 8, 4-6 pm*. Please help support our only fund raising event!

UNIFORM UPDATE

Marching Band – A New Look!

The new jackets are in and the letter sweaters are gone! To make sure students are dressed appropriately for the weather, the rest of the uniform has changed a bit as well. For warm-weather games, students will wear their new black t-shirts (being provided by the instrumental music program) with khaki slacks, black dress shoes and black socks. On colder days, the students will be asked to wear white mock turtlenecks and the same khaki slacks, black dress shoes and black socks.

Concert Uniforms

For concerts, Advanced Band and Advanced Orchestra members wear white dress shirts, black **dress** pants or skirts, and black **dress** shoes. Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, and Jazz Band men wear black tuxedos; women wear concert dresses.

Female musicians will be fitted during the first two weeks of school for brand new dresses. The dress is black, sleeveless with a mid-cut scoop neckline, and fitted through the waist with a flared skirt. A velvet bolero jacket accompanies it. The combination costs \$100 per student. If you have questions about dresses or if you can assist with fittings, please call Jen Hohenboken at 301-767-9194, or email her at hohenboken4@yahoo.com.

All boys must provide their own white tuxedo shirts (pleated front with wing-tip collar) and black tuxedo bow ties. Male students will be fitted with their tuxedos early in the semester. Please address questions about tuxedos to Libby Noyes-Palmer at 301-365-5852, or email her at ppen@aol.com.

SPRING MUSIC TRIP

This year's spring music competition trip to Chicago will take place from *early evening* Wednesday, March 28, through Sunday, April 1. As always, groups traveling will be Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphonic/Concert Orchestra. An informational packet, including the itinerary, cost, and payment schedule, will be distributed to students in early September.



WHITMAN INSTRUMENTAL GOES ONLINE

This year, for the first time, we are creating a Whitman Instrumental Yahoo Group to email information about the band/orchestra program and the Instrumental Music Boosters. This is similar to online groups established by the choral boosters, theater parents and some sports teams. Hopefully, this will eliminate the use of Whitnet for most instrumental music announcements. All participating families (parents, guardians and students) are invited to join. We hope to achieve 100% participation in this group, so please **send your contact information** to Carol Freedman at cfd2@verizon.net. Indicate your name(s), the name(s) of your instrumental music student(s), and your email address or addresses.



COUNTY & STATE ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS

HOW LAB FEES ARE SPENT

Each instrumental student is required to pay a lab fee in order to participate in the Whitman music program. This lab fee ensures that the students do NO fundraising and that all monies go directly to the music program. (Standard fundraising projects typically pass along half of funds raised to the sponsoring company.) The Whitman lab fee allows students to devote 100% of their music time to creating the excellent music that is well known at Whitman.

This year the fee has seen a modest increase. (The last fee increase was in 2002.) Among the many items that the lab fee helps to cover are:

- Bus transportation to all local festivals and to the graduation ceremony
- Festival fees
- Marching band jackets and t-shirts (new this year)
- Professional musicians to work with our students
- Music scores for all ensembles
- Occasional new instruments for the department
- Repairs to department-owned instruments
- Replacing worn-out tuxedos and buying additional sizes as needed
- Awards banquet food and awards
- CD recording and copying
- Professional growth and development courses for music teachers
- Newsletter printing, envelopes and postage
- Website expenses (new this year)

Please see the enclosed half-sheet regarding the lab fee and send your payment today. The deadline for payments is September 18.

PRIVATE MUSIC LESSONS

Having trouble finding a teacher for your child? Call Mr. Allen, Ms. Alvey or Mr. Chadwick, at 301-320-6542, for the county-sanctioned list of music teachers.

The audition process for county and state ensembles is not complicated. Each year many Whitman students audition with tremendous success. We encourage all of you to consider trying out for one or more ensembles. To help you succeed, here are a few tips and dates to remember:

Audition materials come out early, during the first week of school. Materials for state and county are the same, so it is a one-time preparation.

Prepare! Don't procrastinate. County jazz auditions are September 25; junior county and state auditions are November 6 and 11; and senior county and state auditions are November 14 and 18. These auditions are very competitive, so it's important to get an early start on preparation. Set up a practice calendar and pace yourself from the beginning. Periodically record your efforts and critique your progress. Practice in front of a mirror and play for friends and family.

Seek help! Your private teacher is your best resource! If you need help finding a teacher, please talk to Mr. Allen, Ms. Alvey or Mr. Chadwick as soon as possible.

MARCHING AND PEP BANDS

Each band class becomes a marching band for one or two home football games. The students in Symphonic Band, Concert Band and Advanced Band are required to perform at the following games: Symphonic Band (9/8 and 11/3); Concert Band (9/29 and 10/13); and Advanced Band (10/19 or 20). There will be a mandatory practice from 5-7 pm the day before each game. Our student conductors this year are Shana Ferguson and Andrew Berger.

Again this year, the student-initiated Pep Band will also participate at all football games and at pep rallies throughout the year. It is a very popular addition to showing Whitman school spirit at events. Participation in the pep band is voluntary.

Come to a game and hear your student play!

CALENDAR

Note: All dates/times are subject to change.
Updated information will be posted on WhitmanInstrumentalNet.

August

22,23,25 Band camp, 10 am–2 pm
21-26 Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra auditions

September

7 Back-to-School Night, 7 pm
8 Home football game vs. Gaithersburg, 6:30 pm
19 Music Boosters meeting, band room, 7 pm
25 All-County Jr. & Sr. Jazz Band auditions, 4-9 pm
29 Home football game vs. Quince Orchard, 6:30 pm

October

8 Music Boosters Garden Party, 4-6 pm
13 Home football game vs. B-CC, 6:30 pm
19 or 20 Home football game vs. Springbrook, 6:30 pm
TBA All-State Sr. Jazz audition [video](#) due

November

3 Homecoming football game vs. Churchill, 6:30 pm
6 All-County Jr. Band/Orchestra auditions, 6-10 pm
11 All-State Jr. Band/Orchestra auditions, time TBA
14 All-County Sr. Band/Orchestra auditions, 6-10 pm
16,17,18 Fall Musical
18 All-State Sr. Band/Orchestra auditions, time TBA
30 Music Boosters meeting, band, room 7 pm

December

9 All-County Jazz Festival, 8 am-5 pm
14 Winter Instrumental Concert, 7:30 pm
15 Music assembly for students and teachers

January

25,26,27 All-State Sr. Jazz band focus weekend, Towson University

February

3 All-County Band & Orchestra Gala Concert, B-CC HS
22-25 All-State Sr. Orchestra, All-State Jr. and Sr. Band, Morgan State University

March

6 Music Boosters meeting, band room, 7 pm
9 County Ensemble Festival, Paint Branch H.S., 4-10 pm
10 County Solo Festival, Paint Branch H.S., 9 am-5 pm
13 County Symphonic Orchestra Festival, 8 am-3 pm
16,17* Chantilly Jazz Festival
16,17,18 All-State Jr. Orchestra, Frederick
20 County Symphonic Band Festival at Whitman, 8 am-3 pm
23,24* James Madison University Jazz Festival
28,29,30 Spring Music Trip to Chicago

April

1 Spring Music Trip to Chicago
17 County Concert Band Festival, 8 am-3 pm
19,20,21 Whitman Talent Show, 7:30 pm
24 State Orchestra and Band Festival

May

5 State Solo & Ensemble Orchestra Festival
12 State Solo & Ensemble Band Festival
16,17 Whitman Festival of the Arts
21* Instrumental Music Awards Night & Dinner, 6:30 pm

* Dates are tentative.