

**Instrumental Music Boosters Meeting**  
**Thursday September 21, 2012**  
**Minutes**

Amy Golen, Instrumental Music Booster's Chair, welcomed everyone, introduced Ms. Alvey and Stephanie Wheeler (UMD student teacher), and announced that this Booster meeting would be one of two this year, with the second being in late February or March and focused on the Music Trip in April.

Amy then went through the list of Subcommittee Chairs and Volunteer Openings, which can also be found on the music department website ([www.waltwhitmanmusic.org](http://www.waltwhitmanmusic.org)). There are several committees that have openings and Amy encouraged parents to think about volunteering for one, the openings are:

- Giant Certificates (with Robin Frankel)
- Concert Dresses (with Kathy Staudaher)
- Winter Concert Reception (with Kathy Staudaher)
- Arts Festival Liaison (completely open)
- Awards Night (with Jessica Weintraub)

Amy also noted that there will be postings on the music department listserv throughout the year with other opportunities to help. She strongly suggested that parents not yet on the listserv make sure they are signed up to ensure receiving important information and to encourage other music families (who may not yet be on the listserv) to do so, as well . She also recommended checking the calendar on the music department website, which has been significantly improved and has all the 2012-2013 dates of interest to instrumental music and choral parents. The website also has downloadable recordings of all performances; they are not available on CDs anymore. In addition, trip forms, the invitation to the annual garden party, etc, are all posted on the website rather than provided in hard copy. Finally, Amy asked that parents forward pictures or names of music teachers/accompanists that can be added to the site.

Amy then reviewed the instrumental music fees. There is a class fee of \$10 (limited to \$10 by MCPS) that must be paid by check (made out to Whitman HS). The payment for the music trip in April must also be paid by check. That payment can be made in installments or paid in full (\$750) upfront. Instrumental Music Booster's also asks parents to contribute \$100 (or as much as is comfortable) to support the music program through Boosters. Since Boosters is a 501(c) 3, this contribution is tax-deductible. It can be paid by check or online through [pay4schoolstuffonline.com](http://pay4schoolstuffonline.com). The \$100 contribution through Booster's is essential, it help the music department cover the cost of purchasing and repairing instruments, buying sheet music, and bringing in clinicians. It also makes scholarships possible for students who cannot afford the music trip and other expenses. The scholarships are handled by the music teachers and kept confidential. Amy reported that the budget is in good shape at this time thanks to generous contributions already in.

Ms. Alvey thanked Amy and all the parents in attendance for their support. She brought everyone's attention to some new additions to the music program, beginning with much

needed new carpet in the music room. Other upgrades include a new library system for sheet music, new portfolio holders, new cello racks, and some new instruments.

Ms. Alvey reported that All County/All-State Honors ensembles registration is underway and that Marching Band is off to a good start at football games. She also reported that 50 students have signed up for the pit orchestra for "Anything Goes." A rehearsal schedule has been distributed and will be posted soon on the music web site. Ms. Alvey said that she will be using Edline more often this year to communicate regularly with students.

There was a discussion about the music trip in April. To date 124 students are signed up. There were questions about missed work. Ms. Alvey reassured parents that most other Whitman teachers are accommodating in regard to the trip and that students do get work done on the bus rides. She also said that every year she emphasizes the importance of good behavior on the trip and the consequences of not meeting expectations.

There was also a discussion regarding concert dress. There will be fittings for both boys and girls in October. Girls now have the option of wearing black pants if they prefer. (Ms. Alvey reminded parents that girls can sell dresses they've grown out of via the listserv.) Tuxes will be provided to the boys, some may need slight alterations. Boys do need to purchase shirts, bow ties, cufflinks and studs. Ms. Alvey may be able to provide the name of a supplier willing to give Whitman a break on the cost of those items, if so she will send the information out on the list serv. (She noted that boys in Concert Band/Orchestra do not wear tuxes, they wear black pants and white shirts as they did at Pyle).

Ms. Alvey explained that the music festivals that Whitman participates in are actually assessments of the program. The festivals are set up through the county and each performance is scored by a panel of judges. By the end of the year all the music groups have performed and been assessed. Whitman will host one of the festivals, in March.

Amy suggested students consider participating in the Classical Me recital in the spring. Honors credit students must perform, but other music and choral students can choose to perform, individually or as part of ensembles.

Ms. Alvey's last announcement was that this is Whitman's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that she is tentatively working on an alumni concert in June. She has set up a Facebook page for the alumni event and more information will be forthcoming.

**Important Dates:**

Annual garden party – Sunday October 28 (4-6 PM at Laurie and Michael Wolff's house)

Winter concert – Thursday December 13

Music trip – luggage check in Wednesday April 17, depart Thursday April 18

Festival of the Arts – Wednesday May 1-Thursday May 2

Awards Banquet – Tuesday May 21