

Know the Score

Walt Whitman Instrumental Music Boosters

Newsletter, Summer-Fall 2012



IN THIS ISSUE

- Greetings from Terry Alvey, Director of Instrumental Music
- Welcome Message from the Boosters Chair
- Info on Band Camp (*Aug. 21, 22 + 24*) + Marching Band requirements
- All-County and All-State Auditions: ***plan now!***
- Checklist for Parents
- Funding Instrumental Music
- Spring Music Trip: *Myrtle Beach*
- Performance Dress Requirements
- Giant Gift-Card Fundraiser
- Instrumental and Choral Music Garden Party: October 28
- Music Boosters Volunteer Openings
- Boosters Online: Join the List-Serve! Find Us Online!

Key Upcoming Dates

---more available [online](#)*---

8/21-22,24	(mandatory) Band Camp
8/31	1 st Home Game (Band)
9/6	Back-to-School Night
9/19	Music Boosters meeting
10/28	Boosters Garden Party
4/18-21	Spring Music Trip

*<http://waltwhitmanmusic.org/calendars/combined-calendar/>

GREETINGS FROM MUSIC DIRECTOR TERRY ALVEY

I hope this finds everyone having an enjoyable summer. As we begin the 2012-2013 school year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on our past year. A million thanks to outgoing Boosters Co-Chair Francesca Slesinger for her dedication and boundless energy. Francesca has been an involved music booster volunteer for many years and served as co-chair for the past three. We know the Slesinger family will continue to be a part of the Whitman music community even as they follow Gabe's music career to Northwestern and beyond!



Our 2012- 2013 successes included 13 Whitman musicians' being chosen for MCPS Honors Ensembles, 7 musicians' selection for Maryland All-State Ensembles, and 2 students' being nominated for the prestigious All-Eastern Orchestra and Band. We received Superior and Excellent ratings for ALL instrumental ensembles at District II Festivals; Whitman's Jazz Ensemble took second place at the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival; and many of our musicians had the great opportunity to participate in a collaborative performance with the Dallas Brass at Strathmore Hall. These

accomplishments, as well as three outstanding school concerts and an awesome and musically rich trip to Nashville, made for an amazing year.

For the upcoming year, our Instrumental Music Booster program will be ably chaired by former Co-Chair Amy Golen, assisted by a strong group of dedicated parent volunteers. Along with thanks to Amy, I send a shout-out to Mandy Katz, whose behind-the-scenes savvy has made our online newsletter a must-read. Amy and Mandy have been working with other volunteers and me this summer to help make the coming year a success and bring you the information that follows.

Special thanks also go to Pastor Jeff MacKnight for lending his church, St. Dunstan's, for our two very impressive Classical Me concerts last school year. And of course, we thank our supportive parents—the excellence of this program is a collective effort. Last, thanks and kudos go to our students for their commitment to excellence and our music program.

We are excited about the upcoming year and have been busy choosing music, discussing goals for each ensemble, and planning our spring trip, which as you may have already heard, will be to compete in the Fiesta-Val Music Festival in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. I join my music faculty colleagues Jeff Davidson and Wayne Chadwick in welcoming new students and parents. We look forward to meeting you, seeing returning families, and making music together. In this newsletter and online at www.waltwhitmanmusic.org, you will find information about the instrumental program and the parent-led Music Boosters, as well as our nifty, new online calendar.

Finally, I want to thank all of you in advance for your continued support of our program. We are excited about the upcoming school year and look forward to seeing new students at Band Camp (Aug 21, 22, 24) and all of you at our first concert!

Terry Alvey

Director, Instrumental Music

WELCOME FROM THE MUSIC BOOSTERS CHAIR

On behalf of the Music Boosters, I am delighted to welcome all new and returning students and families to the Whitman Music community! School Year 2012-13 is bound to be another year of exciting events, challenging competitions, and beautiful music.

This newsletter contains essential information about the instrumental music program at Whitman and details about upcoming events. We encourage you to read it carefully, noting key dates and deadlines, and to refer to an additional resource for all things music at Whitman: the Music Boosters website, www.waltwhitmanmusic.org. Please bookmark it, and visit often to find new and archived newsletters and learn about faculty, ensembles, important dates, volunteering, the annual spring trip, how to donate, and the many accomplishments of our talented musicians. We are especially grateful to parents Mandy Katz for yet another wonderful edition of Know the Score and Devra Glowinski, our webmaster extraordinaire.



To stay informed, please also sign up without delay for our email listserv ([use this link](#)), and attend the first Music Boosters meeting of the year, Wednesday, September 19, at 7 pm in the Whitman Band Room.

Music Boosters offers many opportunities to volunteer and get involved in the music life of your student. Some jobs are big, some are small, but all are important. This is a wonderful way to support the program and connect with a terrific community of parents and faculty. There are openings noted in the Subcommittee Chair list at the end of this newsletter, and there will be opportunities to participate in various events throughout the school year, so stay tuned to the Instrumental listserve!

The Whitman Music program brings music daily to our students, families, and community. We thank our administration, faculty, and musicians for keeping the arts alive through their hard work and dedication. And we thank all of you for your continued enthusiastic support, time, and donations to help sustain their efforts.

See you in September!

Amy Golen

Instrumental Music Boosters Chair

AUGUST BAND CAMP and “FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS” (Marching Band)

For all incoming freshmen and others new to Whitman bands, Band Camp will meet from **10 am to 2 pm** on **Tuesday- Wednesday, August 21-22**, and **Friday, August 24**, in the Whitman Band Room. Students should bring a bag lunch; water will be provided. As this is the only opportunity to learn music and marches for football games before the school year begins, attendance is required for incoming freshman and other new band members. If your family has a scheduling conflict, please contact Ms. Alvey at 301-320-6542 or [Terry S Alvey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Terry_S_Alvey@mcpsmd.org).

Should Marching Band veterans also be there? Attendance is optional for returning band members, but they are more than welcome to come receive music and help the newcomers, if inclined!

The Whitman Marching Band performs at all home football games. The first game includes Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble, with Concert Band joining for the remaining four home games. Note that homecoming this year is October 12. See the music [website calendar](#) for all other home game dates and Marching Band call-times. Band assignments and updates will be made available at the start of the year in class and posted on our [website](#) and the Instrumental Music listserv—one more reason to [sign up](#) today!

HONORS ENSEMBLE AUDITONS

Why? All-County and All-State groups bring together young musicians who want to challenge themselves, work with new conductors, and socialize with peers from other schools. Participation is a great way to energize your student’s play and practice; even the auditions are a learning experience.

What? All-County ensembles rehearse weekly for five weeks starting in early January before performing for family, friends and others in early February. All-State ensembles meet over one weekend later in February – with a two-night hotel stay – to prepare a public performance presented at the close.

When? Ms. Alvey will distribute audition music soon – in early September. Students should begin practicing it as soon as possible, working on it with private teachers if possible. And they should be aware of the following sign-up deadlines and audition dates:

- Sept. 21 All-State sign-ups due to Ms. Alvey (all grades)
- Oct. 5 All-County Juniors (grade 9) *sign-ups* due to Ms. Alvey)
- Oct. 12 All-County Senior (grades 10-12) *sign-ups* due to Ms. Alvey
- Nov. 8 All-County Junior Band/Orchestra (grade 9) *auditions*
- Nov. 10 All-State Junior Band/Orchestra (grade 9) *auditions*
- Nov. 13 All-County Senior Band/Orchestra (grades 10-12) *auditions*
- Nov. 17 All-State Senior Band/Orchestra (grades 10-12) *auditions*

INSTRUMENTAL PARENT CHECKLIST

To support your students and help the Instrumental Music Department maintain quality teaching, please take note of these essential fundraising and other activities, many of them organized by the Music Boosters:



- **Attend the Music Boosters' meeting**, Wednesday, September 19, at 7 p.m. in the Band Room. Hear from Ms. Alvey and parent volunteers about plans for the coming year.
 - **Join the WhitmanInstrumental listserv** if you're not already on it. This is the only way to receive important updates and the best way to communicate with other instrumental music participants. To join, send your name and email with names and grades of your music students to Boosters Chair Amy Golen, agolen@verizon.net, or use [this link](#). Put "Join WhitmanInstrumental" in the subject line.
 - **Review the calendar** on page one of this newsletter and (expanded) [online](#), so you won't miss important dates.
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- **Pay the required \$10 class fee and please also contribute** the much-needed, voluntary suggested donations of \$100 or a lesser or higher amount you can afford. (See FUNDING THE MUSIC PROGRAM, below, for more.)
 - **Volunteer** for Whitman Music Boosters by contacting Amy Golen (agolen@verizon.net). For openings, see the subcommittee list at the end of this newsletter.

FUNDING THE MUSIC PROGRAM

MCPS guidelines limit class fees to \$10/year for music classes, with additional assessments permitted for music festival entry fees and transportation. The total from these fees falls well short of the amount needed to maintain the excellence of our program. To make up this shortfall and avoid repeated, time-consuming fundraising throughout the year, *the Music Boosters ask families for a one-time, tax-deductible, contribution of \$100 per student* in addition to the mandatory \$10 class fee.

This is a voluntary contribution. We welcome and greatly appreciate any amount you can give. These fees support students by helping to pay for uniforms, sheet music, instrument maintenance and repair, stipends for guest teachers and clinicians an annual CD recording, the spring awards banquet, and scholarships for students unable to participate without assistance, among other needs.

TO DO:

By September 6, pay the required \$10 student fee. Make checks payable to *Walt Whitman High School*. Please give your check to Ms. Alvey at Back-to-School Night on September 6 OR have your student

deliver it during the first week of school OR or mail it, *attn: Ms. Terry Alvey, Music Dept. to: Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda, MD 20817.*

At the start of school or any time after, make your tax-deductible donation (voluntary) by any of the methods above or online, per the instructions below. These instructions can also be found on our [website](#).

REMINDER: Please do not combine payments! The \$10 required fee must be paid separately from any additional (tax-deductible) contribution. It must be paid by check only. Donations, however, can be made by check or, as follows, online:

1. Log onto www.pay4schoolstuffonline.com.
2. Select "Click here to create a new account." *Or, if you have registered previously, sign in and go to step 4.*
3. Sign up your student(s) as indicated. (If you are not a parent, sign up using your own name.)
4. Under "Pay For" column, click "Select" under the name of your instrumental music student.
5. Next to "Instrumental Music," click "Select," and choose the suggested donation amount or "Open Donation Amount." *Donations of every size are greatly appreciated.*
6. While signed in, you may also make donations or payments to Whitman PTSA, Athletic Boosters, Speech and Debate Team, and the WHS Education Foundation.
7. At checkout, use a credit card or your PayPal account.

If you encounter problems registering, email Music Boosters Treasurer Yuriko Gandolfo for help: ymagori@verizon.net.

Thank you, in advance, for helping maintain Whitman's dynamic music department as an inspirational home for our children, ensuring a high caliber of musical arts at Whitman for them and our community!

SPRING MUSIC TRIP to *Fiesta-Val* in Myrtle Beach

This year's music trip heads to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on ***April 18-21, 2013***. Along with several Whitman choral groups, the contingent will include members of Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble. Information about fees, registration, and other details will be provided on our website and at Boosters meetings.



PERFORMANCE DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Here are concert-dress requirements for all groups. For ensembles requiring uniforms, distribution is handled by parent volunteers. (To offer to help with fittings or related tasks, see the subcommittee list at the end of this newsletter.)

Note that students in all ensembles will require **black dress shoes** to go with the following:

- **Marching Band** (including **Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band** and, **Concert Band**): Uniform tees and jackets provided for students to wear with their own *jeans* and *black sneakers*.
- **Concert Band**: Men wear their own *white dress shirt with black dress slacks*. Women wear their own *black skirt or slacks with white top, or black dress*.
- **Symphonic Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Concert Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble**:

Men: Each student will receive a tuxedo in his size for use until he graduates, outgrows it, or leaves the music program. The tuxedos are worn with students' own *pleated tuxedo shirts with wing-tip collar, black bow tie, cufflinks, and black metal studs*. Inexpensive sources for these accessories include Syms, Men's Warehouse, Filenes Basement or online outlets. Men may wear their own tuxedos, provided they are black with standard lapel. (No shawl collars or double-breasted jackets, please.) Students should keep their tuxedos clean and in good repair.



Women: In September, Music Boosters will fit students who don't already own them for concert gowns with matching bolero jackets. Students are required to purchase these; they are \$110 each, new, but it's often possible to purchase one from music program alumnae via the listserv or other inquiries. And in a first, women this year will have the option of purchasing a tailored pants suit.

GIANT SUPERMARKET GIFT-CARD FUNDRAISER

NOTE: Volunteer co-chair needed now!

This program needs one more volunteer organizer to partner with parent Robin Frankel. Responsibilities are periodic, not year-round, and easily handled by phone and email. If you can help, email Boosters Chair Amy Golen at agolen@verizon.net.

Do you buy groceries? Do you ever buy them at Giant?

If so, you can support the Whitman Instrumental Music program every time you shop *without spending an extra penny*. As a community service, Giant sells gift cards (or *scrip*) to Music Boosters at a discount. We then sell these to you and others in the community at face value. The Boosters reap five cents on the dollar.

During the school year, gift cards will be made available for purchase in denominations of \$25, \$50, and \$100. (They're also useful as gifts or donations to the needy.) Information on purchasing will be circulated via the listserv.

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

The Music Boosters Garden Party – this year on Sunday, October 28 – has long been a mainstay for instrumental music families. Parents and faculty can meet and mingle while enjoying good food and the music of student musicians in a Whitman home.

Following our successful 2011 event, this year's party will be open to parents and faculty in both the instrumental and choral music programs, and our invitation *will not solicit donations*. We hope that by that time families will have already paid the required fee and made voluntary donations as described above in "Funding."

To save trees, funds, and volunteer time, invitations will be sent electronically, so please be sure to [join our listserv](#). The Garden Party relies on the generosity of a volunteer host family, your contributions of savories and sweets, and your good company for its success. We hope you will join us for this Whitman music community event.



The whole problem can be stated quite simply by asking, 'Is there a meaning to music?' My answer would be, 'Yes.' And 'Can you state in so many words what the meaning is?' My answer to that would be, 'No.'

Aaron Copland

2012-2013 INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS Subcommittee Chairs and Volunteer Openings

Working closely with faculty, Boosters support music activities and programming throughout the school year. To volunteer, please see the list below for openings and contact Amy Golen.

Chair	Amy Golen	agolen@verizon.net
Treasurer	Yuriko Gandolfo	ymagori@verizon.net
Secretary	<i>OPEN</i>	
Jazz Band Coordinators	Jim Lystad Laurie Wolff	james.lystad@beconet.com wolff8540@yahoo.com
Concert Dresses	Kathy Staudaher <i>OPEN</i>	staudaher@verizon.net
Men's Uniforms	Jodi Rasch Jim Lystad	tsunamibands@aol.com james.lystad@beconet.com
Music Trip	Laurie Wolff	wolff8540@yahoo.com
Annual Garden Party		
<i>Coordinator</i>	Laurie Wolff	wolff8540@yahoo.com
<i>Hosts</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	
Newsletter	Mandy Katz	mmkatz63@gmail.com
Winter Concert (reception)		
<i>Coordinator 1</i>	Kathy Staudaher	staudaher@verizon.net
<i>Coordinator 2</i>	<i>OPEN</i>	
Awards Night	Jessica Weintraub	Jessica.Weintraub@fda.hhs.gov
Historian	Andra Armstrong	aharmstrong@yahoo.com
Arts Festival Liaison	<i>OPEN</i>	
Giant Certificates	Robin Frankel <i>OPEN</i>	robinf1118@gmail.com
Webmaster	Devra Glowinski	devraglowinski@yahoo.com
Website Coordinator	Andra Armstrong	aharmstrong@yahoo.com