



## Westlake High School Marching Thunder

To: All parents of prospective 9 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade Band Students

From: Brek Mangelson, Director of Bands; Jeremy Megginson, Asst. Director

Re: 2017 Marching Thunder

Can you smell roses yet???? We are so excited for this upcoming marching season and for the opportunity for the Marching Thunder to represent all of Utah in the 2018 Tournament of Roses Parade in sunny Pasadena, CA! This informational letter is intended to give you a brief overview of the marching band program, as well as explain the expectations, fees, and schedule associated with participation in the group.

First and foremost, marching band is so much fun! Along with that fun, however, comes an expectation to work VERY hard! Being in a nationally competitive marching band requires a considerable amount of time, sacrifice, and diligence. Unique to this season also is the opportunity to be in the first band ever from Westlake to travel to Pasadena, CA and to march in the “grand daddy of them all”- the Rose Parade, on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. This will be a life-changing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for your student to perform on live television in front of millions of viewers on New Year’s Day! You, along with your whole family, if you’d like, can come as well to cheer us on! What better way than this to bring in the New Year? Specific information about the Rose Parade, as well as the costs and the requirements for the trip, will be discussed in this letter and attached for your review.

It’s important to understand that unlike many schools around the country, field show marching band is NOT required here at Westlake High School – it is a completely optional group separate from the concert and jazz groups in the band program. All students can join our marching band and march in the parades and pregame shows at halftime, but only those who pass off all of their music and drill requirements, and pay their fees in full by the prescribed time will be eligible for an actual drill spot in the competitive field show band. Several students may begin the season as an “alternate.” Alternates fill in spots for students who quit, are ill, injured, on vacation etc. Just as an athletic team selects more players than can be on the field or court at a given time, in marching band we need to do the same. These students help with props and logistics as well, and are absolutely vital to the success of the overall program. Many schools have as many as 20-30 alternates. Historically here at Westlake, we’ve had no more than 3-5. This year we have more depending on final numbers. The drill design works best with certain even numbers in sections due to symmetry and other geometric factors.

The competitive field show is learned in the summer and the group performs the field show at various competitions throughout the state and region (and this year at Bandfest in Pasadena, CA the weekend before the parade). If you choose to “opt in” and have your student participate in the field show marching band, you and/or your child will be responsible for the fees and tour costs (including the Rose Parade trip) associated with the group. These fees are disclosed on the contract that must be signed and adhered to, and traveling with the group is REQUIRED for those that choose to “opt in” to be a member of the marching band.

Practices during the school year are entirely after school. Since it is a school activity and sport, for those that choose to, your student may register and pay for the PE elective class “marching band,” so that they can receive actual credit for their involvement. Registering for the class is not required. The district fee to register for all performing arts classes is \$50.

Fundraisers will be limited and geared towards those that will be the most profitable for your student. The Westlake Band Booster’s Association is working tirelessly on putting these together and information will be provided to all participants in the band as soon as it becomes available. Information regarding this year’s fundraisers, and how the profits will benefit your student, will be located on the fundraiser page of the band website- [www.thunderband.com](http://www.thunderband.com). At least one fundraiser is generally geared towards the individual student to offset their fee costs, and others will be for the whole band. Your participation is not required, but rather highly encouraged and expected.

### Schedule

Each year to start off the season we have a “Step-Off” meeting for all the students and their parents. This meeting is mandatory and is extremely important so please do whatever you can to be there. This year it is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 2nd, at 7pm** in the WHS auditorium.

The practice schedule for the marching band can be viewed on the calendar link at [www.thunderband.com](http://www.thunderband.com). In summary, during the school year, the marching band’s practice schedule is as follows:

- Two after school rehearsals from 3:00-6:00 pm on Mondays and Thursdays.
- One evening rehearsal from 5:00-9:00 pm on Wednesdays
- 3:00-5:00pm the day of every home football game if rehearsal isn’t already happening that day (games are usually on Fridays).

The spring/summer schedule can be found on the Thunderband website as well. Fundamental weekly sectionals will begin in March or April and continue throughout the spring and early summer. Rehearsals and Basics Camp (for ALL members) will not begin until Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. All rehearsals from this point forward for the remaining of the season are required for ALL marching band members. Rehearsals and camps are essential so we may prepare for the Days of 47’ parade that first week, our competitive field show, pregame show, and ultimately the Rose Parade. Your student is allowed 3 total absences to be used at your discretion throughout the season. They can be requested according to the guidelines in the contract, but remember they cannot be during

any of the required camp weeks listed below. Please do whatever you can to be at most, if not all, of the practices and performances throughout the season.

### **Camps/Clinics Days:**

Leadership Retreat (student leadership only)- June 1-3  
Percussion Camp- June 5-9  
Basics Camp- July 17-21  
Percussion Field Show Camp- July 25-28  
Band Camp- July 31-August 4  
Pre-Game Camp- August 8-10  
Cleaning Camps- September 9 & 16

The competitive-field-show band is scheduled to perform at and/or compete in the following competitions:

Weber Review at WSU  
Bridgerland Band Invitational at Utah State University  
Rocky Mountain Invitational at Brigham Young University  
Nebo Tournament of Bands at Payson H.S.  
Mt. Timpanogos Marching Band Invitational at Pleasant Grove H.S.  
Wasatch Front Marching Invitational at Herriman H.S.  
The Davis Cup at Davis H.S.  
The UMEA State Marching Band Invitational at Dixie State University  
Bands Of America Regional Championships at Desert Hills HS  
Bandfest, Pasadena College, Pasadena, CA

All of these tentative dates are currently listed on the thunderband.com calendar online.

### **Costs**

Like many other programs, the costs of buses, trips, competitions, uniforms, instruments, equipment, staff, food, etc. amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars. We have the biggest operational activity budget in the high school due to the number of students involved. We do everything in our power to budget carefully and spend every dollar wisely and for it's intended use only. If your student wishes to "opt- in" be a part of the marching band, the fee is \$825. This fee includes the basic marching band fee for participation, the trip to state finals in St. George, and a uniform rental fee. Here is a breakdown of the fees for your reference:

#### **Competitive Field-Show Band Fee Breakdown (based on 175 students):**

Uniform rental fee (to offset future uniform purchases)	25.00
Uniform- shirt, gloves, etc. that the students keep	24.00
Equipment, Drill, Music, Supplies, Misc.	211.00
Camps and Clinics	280.00
Transportation	75.00
Competitions and Application Fees	35.00
State Championships/BOA Regional (St. George)	<u>175.00</u>

**TOTAL** **825.00**

If your student is new this year, an additional fee of \$38 and \$42 is also required for a purchase of our marching DTX shoes as well as our band polo. These do not need to be purchased each year (**only if your child is new**, or another size is needed due to growth). The shoes and polos need to be the same brand and design for all the students and we want the cheapest price, so we will order them for your child in bulk in the spring. Measuring and sizing for these items will take place at the Step-off meeting in May. Students playing a school marching instrument will still need to pay the \$70 rental fee (for the year- per instrument) as designated by the district for all equipment/instrument rental use. There will be an order placed for all color guard necessary items as well for those new students.

### **Registration & Deadlines**

To register your student for marching band, the process is NEW this year, but is the same for all UHSAA athletic teams. Go to the “Register My Athlete” website and follow the instructions indicated on the attached handout. You will notice this year that one of the required items that need to be completed this year is a physical. This is standard for most athletic teams but new for us this year. Due to the physical demands and length of season this year we want to ensure that all students get checked and cleared by their primary care doctor before drill numbers are submitted. For example, the Tournament of Roses parade is 5 ½ miles long itself, and around 7 miles total if you count the staging before and after the parade. The actual physical form needed to be filled out is on the register my athlete website. Please only use this form. Others will not be accepted. This physical needs to be completed and turned in to the athletic office no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**All basic registration information on “Register My Athlete” must be filled out by February 15<sup>th</sup>.** Along with completing this information, a required non-refundable deposit of \$100 should also be paid to the finance office at WHS by this contract deadline of February 15, 2017. All remaining fees will not be due until July 14<sup>th</sup>. Please do not attempt to pay these fees until after July 1, 2017. All tour fees for the Rose Parade will NOT be paid to the school, but rather to BRT- Bob Rogers Travel.

### **Rose Parade**

We are headed to the Tournament of Roses Parade in sunny Pasadena! If your student chooses to “opt in” and participate in the marching band, one of the requirements is that they commit to go on the Rose Parade trip. Why? One of the requirements of participation in the Rose Parade is to perform at Bandfest the weekend before, at Pasadena College. We will be performing a field show at this performance and we need everyone present to perform the show without any holes. Westlake is one of only 12 bands chosen from around the world to march in the Rose Parade this year. Usually it is only one band chosen from each region around the country and 1-2 international bands. This is a HUGE honor to be selected, and is considered to be the pinnacle marching parade opportunity in the marching band activity. The date of the actual parade is January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 but the dates of the trip for us will be December 27, 2017- January 3, 2018. We’ve received bids from ten different companies over the past couple of months and ultimately we’ve selected Bob Rogers Travel to be our tour company for this trip. Attached to this letter you will find all of the initial information regarding the Tournament of Roses Parade including:

1. Student Costs

2. Chaperone/Parent/Family Costs based on various room configurations
3. "Fan Only" package- no travel, hotel, food, etc. included. - Only 3 tickets where band performs- Rose Parade Grandstand ticket, Bandfest, and Disneyland.
4. Registration information
5. Costs & Payment Schedule
6. Proposed Initial Itinerary
7. Travel Insurance Information if interested

**The deadline to register for the Rose Parade tour with BRT is also February 15<sup>th</sup>. A \$100 deposit is due immediately upon registration.** This is due to needing to confirm rooms and grandstand tickets for the parade. Understand that this deadline is nonnegotiable. Any questions regarding deadlines, different payment arrangements, etc. need to go directly to BRT, not myself or Mr. Megginson. We have no control over those tour related matters.

### **In Summary- How To Join Marching Band?**

1. Fill out the marching band contract online at Register my Athlete (by Feb. 15)
  2. Pay \$100 to WHS finance office (by Feb. 15)
  3. Register for Rose Parade Tour at BRT website (by Feb. 15)
  4. Pay \$100 deposit at BRT for Rose Parade trip
  5. Continue to pay trip fees at BRT (see attached fee schedule)
  6. Completed Physical form due to athletic office (May 1<sup>st</sup>)
  7. May 1<sup>st</sup>- drop deadline for MB (after this deadline you will be responsible for all basic fees)
  8. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, pay remaining \$725 fees for marching band- NO PAYMENT PLANS!! (Must be paid in full by July 14<sup>th</sup>)
- \*\* Please turn in a copy of your receipts to me in the band room office.**

Music will be distributed to your student at the weekly sectionals throughout the spring to begin practicing. We as a staff will listen to each student play the music they have been working on periodically. We are merely checking to make sure each student has taken this opportunity seriously, and that considerable work has taken place to learn the warm-ups, parade tunes, and field show music. We do not expect the music to be memorized yet or be 100% accurate and complete. Drill numbers need to be finalized the beginning of May so we are listing the drop deadline as May 1<sup>st</sup> if you wish to remove your student from participation.

We realize this is a lot of information at once. Weekly emails will be sent out to give you important updates, reminders, and information to keep you and your child in the loop and informed. Please read these emails consistently in their entirety. We are going to have section parents this year to help keep parents involved and informed as well. More information on how this program will work will be discussed at the marching band Step-Off meeting in May.

Again we are so excited for this year! We understand this is a significant time and financial commitment to have your student participate in Marching Band. We commit to make it a memorable experience for everyone. Marching Band will change your student's life positively in countless ways. It truly is worth every penny and the sacrifice to choose

to have your child involved. We hope you will consider this opportunity to have your student(s) be a member of the Westlake High School Marching Thunder this year.

Go Thunder!

Respectfully,

Brek Mangelson  
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Westlake High School

Jeremy Megginson  
Director of Percussion,  
Westlake High School