



West Milford Band Parents Association

December 2020



Bushido 2020

DeMoulin Invitational - 3rd Place
Zildjian-Vic Firth - 4th Place
Remo Invitational - 2nd Place
Nationals - 4th Place

Dear Band Families,

Our Marching Season has come to an end, and we could not be happier with the results. Not only did the students perform well at all of our competition recording sessions, but they gave our whole community something beautiful and uplifting in some very trying times.

We can measure this season's successes in three ways. The first way is by looking at the competition results, which I think speak for themselves:

DeMoulin Invitational-3rd Place (79.00)
Zildjian-Vic Firth - 4th Place (77.33)
Remo - 2nd Place (84.67)
NJ States - 2nd Place (91.33)
Nationals - 4th Place (90.5)
Grand Finale - 2nd Place (95.42)

Another measuring stick is community support and mood. Every Wednesday night we had more people than the week before. Many of them had no perso Be a person of integrity Lead by example (Meet the standard you are holding others to) Strive for excellence without arrogance Do your best Treat everyone with dignity and respect Tolerate honest mistakes from people who are doing their best Speak well of others (Rumors undermines human dignity) Seek the truth (Rumors and unverified anecdotes undermine morale) Keep a sense of humor and be able to laugh at yourselfal tie to the band, but just wanted something uplifting and "normal" to attend. Each week I saw people leaving our recording sessions with a spring in their step and a smile in their eyes. Being able to see our efforts bring comfort and encouragement to so many was very rewarding, and I know it was a weekly high point in the lives of many.

The last measurement is the achievement and growth of our students. Our kids are better musicians and marchers than they were when the season started. They are better leaders. They are a closer community. They care about the folks around them. They exceeded the expectations of themselves and their directors. Not only did they do a good job with a challenging show, they also maintained the integrity and reputation of the program. In a time of uncertainty and fear they showed the world that the Highlander Band is alive and well.

Eyes with pride,

Dr Mac

HIGHLANDER BAND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

BE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY



LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Meet the standard you are holding others to



STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE WITHOUT ARROGANCE



DO YOUR BEST TREAT EVERYONE WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT



TOLERATE HONEST MISTAKES FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE DOING THEIR BEST



SPEAK WELL OF OTHERS *Rumors undermines human dignity*



SEEK THE TRUTH *Rumors and unverified anecdotes undermine morale*



KEEP A SENSE OF HUMOR AND BE ABLE TO LAUGH AT YOURSELF

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CONNECTIONS

DR. MAC's SCHOOL NOTES

<http://new.schoolnotes.com/xpages/view/308590>
(look up West Milford High School/ Dr. Brian McLaughlin)

BAND WEBSITE

www.wmhighlanderband.com

FACEBOOK GROUP



West Milford Highlander Band Parents Association
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WMBPA/>
(closed group – ask to join!)

GOOGLE CLASSROOM

Various ensemble pages provided to students

YOUTUBE PLAYLIST



HIGHLANDER BAND STAFF

Dr. Brian McLaughlin & Matt Gramata, Directors

brian.mclaughlin@wmtps.org
matthew.gramata@wmtps.org

Matt Leitner & Joe Smolinski, Associate Directors

matthew.leitner@wmtps.org joseph.smolinski@wmtps.org

Mike Monacelli, Percussion Instructor

Michael.monacelli@wmtps.org

Peter Shaver, Color Guard Instructor

Peter.shaver@wmtps.org

Kristy Smolinski, Bagpipe Instructor

kristy.smolinski@wmtps.org

WMBPA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Darren Schutte

darren@theschuttes.com

Vice President: Mike Brigante

banddad2022@gmail.com

Treasurer: Meredith Hall

hall.meredith12@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Angie Macdonald

angie.macdonald29@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary: Annette O'Mahoney



Your Holiday Shopping Can Make a Difference
Simply Choose West Milford Band Parents Association

Message from THE PRESIDENT...

As President of the West Milford Band Parents Association, I would like to thank everyone for their help and participation in this year's Marching Band season. I, along with the entire Executive Board cannot thank everyone enough for making this season successful and memorable despite the restrictions and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. From our parking lot meetings, outdoor awards viewing, fundraisers, football games, Senior Night tailgate and especially the Wednesday night competition recordings in the stadium complete with candygrams; everyone stepped up, volunteered, supported and cheered on our beloved Highlander Marching Band.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is still here and with that we face new restrictions. The Holiday sights and sounds brought to the town by Tag Day will not be possible this year. In addition, our Tattoo will be virtual with various Pipe Bands including the Pipes & Drums of the West Milford Highlander Band, Clifton Marching Band and of course the Highlanders Marching Band, look for information soon on this. However, both Winter Guard as well as Indoor Percussion are planning their programs for the upcoming season.

Our next parents meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 16th at 7PM, it is a good possibility that this meeting will be virtual. We will be sure to let everyone know the venue.

For the most up to date information we suggest that you join our Facebook Group and follow our website.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/WMBPA>
<https://www.WMHighlanderBand.com>

Darren Schutte
President, WMBPA

**West Milford
Highlander Band**
Tradition, Community, Excellence

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JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Auditions must be
submitted by
Monday 12/7.

*Stay tuned for
Rehearsal start date!*

[Matthew Gramata](#)
Instructor
@wmjazznj



INDOOR PERCUSSION

Indoor percussion season is upon us, and we are incredibly excited to begin rehearsing our 2021 production - *The Greatest Show*. This year's theme will bring the circus to West Milford High School. The ringmaster will take audiences on a journey where they will be wowed by circus acts set to the music of the movie musical, *The Greatest Showman*, as well as a new take on old big top classics.

This year's season will be completely virtual and we hope you will tune in to watch the students perform and compete in regional and national circuits against the top competition in the country! Welcome to The Greatest Show on Earth!

Instructors: [Michael Monacelli](#) & [Matt Leitner](#)
@wmpercussionnj

PIPES & DRUMS



Rehearsal every Sunday 3 - 5 pm *unless announced otherwise*
Bagpipe Club at Macopin every Wednesday 2-3:30 pm

Instructors: [Joseph Smolinski](#) & [Kristy Smolinski](#)
@wmhpb



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IMPORTANCE OF FUNDRAISING

Yikes! Yup, we said it. Naturally after the year we've just experienced, everyone feels pretty disheartened. Cancellations of so much including many traditional Band fundraisers means that heading into 2021 the band is going to be dangerously low on funds. Seriously.

So where does the cash that is raised go? Aside from the individual student accounts important stuff is purchased. Items that are the backbone of our award winning program. Things like our magnificent props, The Beast's maintenance/insurance, bus rentals, band banquet, scholarships, awards, treats & goodies, and someday the purchase of new raincoats (*boy do we need new raincoats!*).

Any unique fundraising ideas? Email them [to the WMBPA E-Board](mailto:wmbpa@wmbpa.org). Thank you for your generous support!



PLACING AN ORDER

- Email your ShopRite gift card order by scheduled due date to:

wmbandshopriteorders@gmail.com
(this is a new email address for ordering)

- Denominations are \$10, \$25, \$50, or \$100.

Indicate which amount and how many.

- Provide your cell phone number so I may text a reminder of the pickup date/time and contact you with any questions about your order.
- Provide your name and your child's name to credit their account.

SHOPRITE GIFT CARDS

wmbandshopriteorders@gmail.com

NOV/DEC Order info

Pickup at: WMBPA
Monthly Meeting
Pickup date/time
December 16, 2020 @7pm

DEC 2020/JAN 2021

Orders Due by:
12/30/2020
Payment due/Pickup on
Jan. WMBPA Meeting

JAN/FEB 2021

Orders Due by 01/30/2021
Payment due/Pickup on
Feb. WMBPA Meeting

PICKING UP AN ORDER

- Payment is due at pickup.
- Provide payment in an envelope with "Shop Rite Order" and your name printed clearly. Include Phone.
- To facilitate quick deposits, please plan to pick up on scheduled date. If you anticipate an issue picking up on time, please contact me prior to the pickup date.
- Alternate pickup arrangements will be made in case of meeting cancellation, school quarantines, or weather issues.



DATES TO REMEMBER

DECEMBER 2020

12/01	Indoor Percussion-Battery/Visual	6-8 pm
12/02	Butter Braid Pickups	TBD
12/03	Indoor Percussion-Front Ensemble	6-8pm
12/05	Indoor Percussion Front Ensemble	9-10:30 am
12/05	Indoor Percussion-Battery Only	10:30-12 pm
12/06	Pipes & Drums	3-5 pm
12/07	Jazz Ensemble-Auditions Due	
12/07	WMBPA Executive Board Meeting	7 pm
12/13	Pipes & Drums	3-5 pm
12/16	WMBPA Parents Meeting	7 pm
12/16	ShopRite Gift Card Pick Up @ Mtg	
12/20	Pipes & Drums	3-5 pm
12/24-1/4	Winter Holiday – Schools Closed	
12/30	ShopRite Gift Card Orders Due	All Day

CANCELLED

Tag Day
Winter Concert
Hoagie Sale

POSTPONED
NEW DATE COMING SOON

Virtual Tattoo

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LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE CREW!

First I would like to thank everybody who helped with prop construction and with marching band Crew. It was a pleasure to work with such dedicated parents.

What an unusual year for prop building and Crew participation! I think we should give a lot of credit to the band directors, and the school administration for working through solutions that permitted marching band to occur. From my perspective as a parent, our district did an admirable job of making the band season happen, given all the conflicting, confusing, and constantly changing directives being given by the state. I am grateful that my son had the opportunity to participate this season. I think it was the only thing he could count on in this turbulent year.

To say the least, the props this year were an ambitious project! This was further complicated as we had such a late start, which was caused by uncertainty as to whether or not there would even be a marching band season, and whether there would be funding available for the props. A lot of parents came together to make these props happen in a very short time.

During fabrication of the Torii gate, everybody was working on various pieces. Most of the parents working on props had seen an artistic sketch provided by the band directors of what they wanted. Some saw my dimensioned fabrication sketches. Even when we first assembled it on the ground, nobody had any idea, myself included, what that prop looked and felt like when it was finally assembled and stood up for the first time at a football game. Wow! For me, it was a thrill to see the prop fill in around the show. It was always there in the director's vision of the show. In all the practice sessions and early performances, the band was working around an invisible prop. To see that first performance work seamlessly with that massive obstruction on the field was truly a testimony to the precision that our band achieves!

It was also a strange year for crew. Normally we are loading and unloading trucks in addition to assembling, disassembling and transporting props. The crew is a dedicated team though. I frequently found myself busy addressing some issue during assembly, while the rest of the assembly was happening by this team of dedicated parents working together. This year's prop was a challenge during football games, as there is limited time for assembly, and we had a lot of big parts.

There is a great deal of satisfaction working on crew, which is probably why we have so many veterans on the team this year. Props and Crew are some of the few ways us as parents get to contribute to the actual show as facilitators. We have several senior parents on crew and will be needing lots of new members next season!!

Mike Brigante, Crew Chairperson



THE WORLD'S FINEST VOLUNTEERS

The Highlander Band celebrates the best volunteer base on the planet! Volunteering creates some pretty incredible lasting friendships and you get to participate in something your high school kid is passionate about. So many projects can use a hand. The beauty of volunteering for the band is that you can give as much or as little time as you like. Not sure where to reach out? [Email the EBoard](#) and we'll hook you up.

WMBPA COMMITTEES

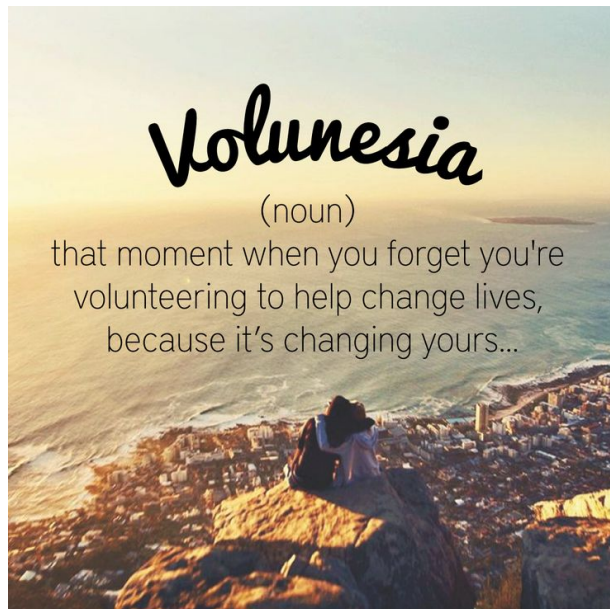
Show Props & Sewing
Band Banquet
Concession Stand
Hoagie Sale
Macopin Band Day
General Volunteer
Poinsettia Sale
Senior Night
Tag Day
Webmaster

Band Camp BBQ
Cheesecake Sale
Equipment Crew
Hospitality Committee
Merchandise
Military Tattoo
Publicity Committee
Shop Rite Gift Cards
Uniform Committee

Volunesia

(noun)

that moment when you forget you're
volunteering to help change lives,
because it's changing yours...



Volunteers



*They don't necessarily have the time;
they just have the heart.
Thank You!*