

Wheeling Park High School Band
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Q:** *Am I a member of the Concert Band or the Marching Band?*
A: Well...Yes! Bands rehearse, play concerts, perform at ceremonial and community events, march parades, perform at football games, etc. This is what bands do and this is what we do. All band members perform at all band performances whether they be indoor, outdoor, in state, across state lines...Whatever. There is no real difference between the membership of the Concert and Marching Bands. The Band is the Band is the Band.
2. **Q:** *Can I participate in band and athletics at WPHS?*
A: Not only can students participate in WPHS sports and band but students are encouraged to participate in several other activities such as speech and theater, clubs, other music ensembles, students government, honor classes , etc. Our program is designed to allow students to rehearse and perform with our band without sacrificing participation in other WPHS sanctioned sports teams and activities.
3. **Q:** *What is the financial cost for participating in the band?*
A: Each band student will be charged a nominal fee for uniform requirements. There are required personal wardrobe items such as shoes and shirts that must be purchased. *Money will never prevent a student from participating in our band.* We provide several opportunities for students to earn the money necessary to meet any financial requirements. Students who are experiencing difficulties but truly wish to participate will find little trouble in securing their membership. We are most understanding of these matters and all students' situations will be held in confidence.
4. **Q:** *I am taking many Honors classes. Will I have the time to participate in band and maintain the class workload?*
A: First off, almost every music student traditionally opts for Honors classes. Music students are motivated and used to organizing their time and working hard to achieve well defined goals. Park Band members have won the SSAC Academic Achievement Award for the highest grade point average in West Virginia on seven occasions including in 2009. Academic achievement is a hallmark of our Music Department. In short, our kids think it's cool to get good grades and do well in school.
5. **Q:** *How will I ever fit all the classes I want into my schedule?*
A: This has become increasingly more difficult thanks to the increased graduation requirements of federal programs such as *No Child Left Behind*. We in the Fine and Performing Arts Department of WPHS work together to allow students the maximum amount of scheduling flexibility so they can do the things they want to do. We have many strategies that we can customize to an individual's needs. If you are having a particular problem or conflict, send Mr. Garrett an email at pagarrett@access.k12.wv.us and begin the resolution process.
6. **Q:** *Can I also participate in Steel Band or Jazz Ensemble?*
A: Steel Band is open to anyone who attends all the Monday afternoon practices, scheduled performances and can perform the required music on their assigned pan. Interested students can contact Mr. Bell at SBperc4u@comcast.net for more information. Jazz Ensemble is open to students who play sax, trumpet, trombone, drum set, piano, bass or guitar by AUDITION ONLY. The audition is competitive and members will be selected based on their ability to perform the required skills rather than filling the ensemble to capacity. Audition requirements and information is listed on our band website. Students may arrange for audition by contacting Mr. Garrett at the email listed in question number 4. Please note that Jazz Ensemble members also perform with our Concert and Marching Bands on their wind or percussion instruments.