

Walton Band



2017-2018
Handbook

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A Word from our Directors

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Walton High School Band program! You are now part of a music program that has a rich tradition of PRIDE and excellence. Our mission is to provide a wide variety of musical opportunities for your students.

The award-winning Marching Raider Band's fall 2017 season will include football games, parades, the Cobb Exhibition, local marching competitions, a trip to the Bands of America Regional Championships in Atlanta, and a trip to the BOA Grand National Championships in Indianapolis. In addition, our four concert bands will perform winter holiday concerts in December.

During the Spring Semester, Walton's Winter Guard will have a busy competition season, and our four concert bands and our two jazz bands will again participate in the Georgia Music Educators Association's group performance evaluations (festivals) and perform spring concerts.

As your directors, we are committed to building on past success to make our 2017 - 2018 season a successful and memorable one.

An integral part of our program's success is parental involvement through the Walton Band booster club organization. The band parent boosters support our program both administratively and financially. These cooperative booster club efforts enable students and parents to develop bonds that permeate throughout our band program. There are many wonderful rewards to reap through your active involvement in our program.

Please also support our students by attending each performance. The unity of our program is a result of being music minded and supporting the entire band program. We depend on you to share your time, talents and enthusiasm to help make the Walton Band program a one-of-a-kind experience for every student. We are both looking forward to another successful year! Musically yours,



J. Michael Back, Director



John Palmer, Assistant Director

2017-2018 WBPA Board of Directors

Band Director

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Band Representatives

Dean Hudadoff	hudadoff@bellsouth.net	404-539-7026
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Color Guard Representatives

Barbara Beauchamp	Scoutmom5213@gmail.com	678-662-6040
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Student Leadership

Student leadership is essential to the success of the Walton Band. Leaders assist the band directors with instruction of marching skills, disseminating important information to their sections, etc. In the spring, leadership classes are offered to all students interested in becoming leaders and drum majors. Leaders are expected to be role models for their peers, should anticipate additional time commitments, and should be willing to take the initiative to go above and beyond to ensure the success of the program.

Band Officers

President	Will Kulpa
Secretary/Treasurer	Maggie Baker
Drum Majors	Colette Frickey, Sam Lovell, Alex Lewin, Dylan King

Leaders

Flute	Christina Agramonte, Maggie Baker
Clarinet	Rachel Colon, Caroline Embleau, Mason Quick
Alto Saxophone	Robert Bruce, Richard Creasman, Grace Laney
Low Reed	Kaylynn Hiller
Trumpet	Hayley Buckley, Duncan Farquhar, Zack Herring, Daniel Hudadoff, Peter Keys, Will Kulpa
Mellophone	Cal Hughes
Trombone	Jack Bussjager, Liza Shakhmatova
Baritone	Ian McClish
Sousaphone	Matthew Baitcher, Zack Hixon, John Perry, Ashley Stonely
Percussion	Grace Caruso, Brendan Hemmer, Alisa Kepner, Philip Colt, Chris He, Rachel Underwood
Color Guard	Lily Ensley, Avital Shimon, Elizabeth Wilkerson

Band Awards Banquet

The annual Band Awards Banquet is held each May. This year-end celebration is a time for all marching band students, concert-only students, Color Guard students, and their families to reflect on a successful year. The banquet also marks the presentation of band awards, the presentation of scholarships, and the announcement of band leadership for the coming year.

Band Pictures

Individual and group pictures in full uniform are available for purchase each year. Order forms are included with the marching/band camp packet. Forms and payments are collected at the pre-band camp mandatory meeting held in July. All marching band members are expected to participate in the group and sectional pictures, but are not obligated to purchase these photos.

In addition to these photos, hundreds of photos will be taken at all events by volunteer band photographers. These pictures will be available for free downloading and can be accessed online through the band website at <http://www.waltonband.org>.

Communication

Weekly E-Blast

A weekly update is sent to all members on the email distribution list. These updates include information pertinent to that particular week with regard to every aspect of the program – performances, events, trips, fundraising, uniforms, meetings, volunteer opportunities, etc. You may subscribe to this list by visiting <http://waltonband.org/eblast>.

Parent Meetings

Walton Band Parent Meetings are held approximately once a month on a designated Monday at 7:00 pm in the Band Room. Parent meeting dates are published in advance and listed on the band calendar. These meetings provide important information about upcoming events, trips, and volunteer opportunities. The meetings also offer an easy way for parents to place orders for our various fundraising programs such as SCRIP gift cards and Walton Band Spirit Wear. Our band directors give monthly updates and

reports as well. Parents of all students in the Walton Band program are urged to attend.

Website

Please visit our website at <http://www.waltonband.org> for news articles, E-Blast back issues, forms, calendars, band photographs, and other program information.

In-Class Communications

As with any program of this size and activity level, details are subject to change with regard to reporting times, uniform requirements, rehearsal and sectional times, etc. In order to provide students with the most up-to-date information, the band directors will regularly share information with students during class. *The directors expect students to take responsibility for sharing this information with their parents.* Please remind your student of the importance of bringing this information home.

Community Service Hours

Throughout the year there are numerous opportunities for students to volunteer at Walton Band events such as fundraisers, work day projects, and so on. These activities not only help out the band, but also allow students to earn community service hours at the same time. It is each student's responsibility to coordinate the recording of their community service hours with the appropriate parent committee chair.

Football Games

Overview

The Walton High School Marching Raider Band performs at all Walton home and away football games. Performances usually occur at halftime, but may be scheduled pre-game on some occasions. Cobb County football games are typically scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm. The band will march into Raider Valley approximately 30 minutes before kickoff of all home games.

Parent PRIDE Tailgating

After each home game, our Parent PRIDE committee organizes a snack and dessert tailgate party. The Parent PRIDE team will provide tables and drinks, while parents are encouraged to bring snacks or desserts to share. These gatherings are a fun way to get to know other band parents and students while waiting for the post-game traffic to disperse.

Football Season Tickets

Many band parents purchase season tickets with reserved seating for home games and sit in the section next to the band. The season ticket package includes:

- Complimentary meal at the annual Band/Football Dinner (1 pass per ticket)
- Parking pass (one per family, subject to availability)

Fundraising

The Walton Band is a very active, nationally recognized band program that provides numerous music opportunities for our students. Cobb County provides funds for a small portion of the annual expense (only about 10%), and the Walton Band Parents Association, Inc. (WBPA), our band booster club, coordinates fundraisers throughout the year to provide the remaining balance. Our successful fundraising efforts keep our participation costs low and are vital to the success of our award-winning music program. All parents are expected to participate in fundraisers as outlined in the parent commitment form.

Letter Awards

All band students have the opportunity throughout the school year to qualify or earn points toward a Walton High School Letter. Upon achieving the required number of points, the students will receive a formal certificate and a Walton Letter. Subsequent yearly awards are gold bars to attach to the Letter. Senior students who have lettered and have continuously participated in marching band and concert band will be eligible to receive a Senior Plaque. Senior Color Guard members who have lettered and have continuously participated in marching band and Winter Guard will also be eligible to receive a Senior Plaque. Additional awards are presented at the discretion of the Band Directors.

Please see following table for details on letter point values.

Letter Point Values

Event	Points	Who Participates
Rookie Week	1*	Rookies & Leaders
Band Camp at Walton	1	All
Band Camp at LaGrange	1	All
Post-camp Rehearsals	1	All
Marching Rehearsals	5	All
Games	1 each (10 total)	All
Contests	1 each (3 total)	All
Exhibition	1	All
East Cobber Parade	1	All
Homecoming Parade	1	All
Concerts	1 each (3 total)	All
Festival (LPGE)	2	All
Festival Rehearsals	3	Symphonic I & II
Jazz Band	2*	Those selected
WBBD	1	All
Fruit Sale (\$)	1	All
Fruit Sale truck help	1*	All
Garage Sale help	1*	All
Spring Concert (\$)	1	All
Jazz Festival help	1*	All
Taste of East Cobb help	1*	All
Solo & Ensemble Festival	1*	All
Honor Band/All-State Audition	1*	All
Honor Band Participation	1*	Those selected
All-State Participation	1*	Those selected
ASYO/MYSO/AYWS	1*	Those selected
GHP State Audition (music)	1*	Those selected
GHP Participation (music)	1*	Those selected
Private Lessons	2*	Those selected
Winter Guard	3*	Those selected
Other Fundraisers	1 each*	All

* Indicates bonus points

Letter Point Values (cont.)

Total Potential Points	
Symphonic I & II	35 (not including bonus points)
Concert I & II	32 (not including bonus points)
Color Guard	26 (not including bonus points)
Total Points Needed to Earn Walton Letter Award	
Symphonic I & II	33
Concert I & II	30
Color Guard	24

Fine Arts Diploma Seal

Walton has been accepted to award the State of Georgia's new fine arts diploma seal beginning with the Class of 2017. This seal recognizes graduating seniors who have been involved with fine arts excellence and show dedication to the arts. Requirements include being enrolled for credit for all four years, participating in fine arts related extra-curricular activities, obtaining 20 hours of community service related to the arts, and completing a capstone presentation explaining your experiences in the fine arts programs at Walton.

Tri-M

Tri-M is the National Music Honor Society organization that recognizes seniors who have been involved with band, chorus, or orchestra for all four years of high school with a pink cord to be worn at graduation. Students must be of high character and complete community service, performances, and program service each semester of their senior year.

Recruiting Rising 9th Graders

The Walton Band welcomes all 8th graders in band to our annual 8th Grade Night, which takes place at a designated home football game each fall. This is a fun evening and a wonderful opportunity for us to meet and greet 8th

grade families. It's also a chance for the 8th grade students to get a glimpse of what it's like to be part of the Walton High School Marching Raider Band.

During the spring semester all 8th grade band students and their parents are invited to a special orientation meeting for the Walton Band program. A Rookie Handbook that contains important information for rising 9th grade band students is distributed at that orientation meeting. The meeting includes presentations by the Band Directors, student leaders, and parents. There is also an opportunity for Q&A.

Band Camp

Walton's annual summer band camp is designed to help marching band and Color Guard students learn critical marching skills and achieve musical excellence, and is an experience like no other. Band Camp is conducted over a two week period near the end of summer break – one week at Walton High School and one week on the campus of LaGrange College.

The two weeks of Band Camp are critical to the success of the fall marching show, as students receive intensive daily music and marching instruction from Walton's Band Directors and staff of expert instructors. While in LaGrange, a team of volunteer parent chaperones reside in the dormitories with the students and are there to support all practices and activities. Each evening in LaGrange is reserved for mandatory social activities.

All marching students, including rising freshmen, are required to attend both weeks of Band Camp. Families of marching band students are expected to arrange their summer travel plans accordingly.

College Scholarships

The Walton Band is proud to offer college scholarship opportunities to our students. These scholarships are funded entirely by the generous donations from the band's current member families as well as alumni students and families. Donations can be sent to:

Donations c/o Walton Band
1590 Bill Murdock Road
Marietta, 30062

Donations can also be made online at <http://waltonband.org/donate>. Donations are collected at the annual Winter Holiday Concerts. The three available scholarships are as follows:

Memorial Scholarship

The Memorial Scholarship is given in honor of band parents that have passed away while in service to the Walton Band program. These individuals dedicated a great deal of time to our program, and it was the wish of their families and the directors to offer financial aid to a rising college freshman in their honor.

Robert J. Cowles Scholarship

The Robert J. Cowles Scholarship is awarded to a graduating band senior committed to pursuing a major in music for his or her post-secondary education. Qualifications and requirements for application for this scholarship will be made available to students.

This scholarship fund was created and is maintained in honor of Robert J. Cowles, Walton High School's first Band Director.

Jacoby Leadership Scholarship

The Jacoby Leadership Scholarship is presented to our drum majors in the form of financial assistance with the cost of summer Drum Major Camp. The scholarship is presented in memory of Andy Jacoby. Andy held many offices and leadership positions during his years in the Walton Band, including the office of Co-President. Andy passed away after many years of faithful service to the Walton Band. He dedicated himself to making leaders of parents and students. It was his desire and the desire of his family that a scholarship be created to recognize and reward student leaders.

Band Fees

Band fees are collected yearly beginning at Spring Concert/Commitment Day and are used to cover the costs of band camp, equipment, instructors, and other necessities for the band program. Parents are expected to meet the payment schedule outlined in the commitment day paperwork and to make payments on time. Color Guard members should review the Color Guard section on page 19 for additional details concerning payments.

Band Fee Refunds

The following rules apply with respect to refunds for those students that withdraw from the band program:

- Students must notify the Band Directors of their intention to withdraw from band. Determination of refund will be based on date that directors receive notification.
- Students that withdraw by 12:00pm on Friday, July 14th, 2017 are entitled to a full refund of all paid band fees.
- Students that withdraw after the July 14th deadline but by 12:00pm on August 11th, 2017 will be entitled to a refund of 50% of their non-band camp fees. In such cases, band camp co-directors will supply the dollar amount to be used in this calculation.
- Students that withdraw after the August 11th deadline are not entitled to a refund.

Please note that trip refunds are handled in the trips section later in this booklet.

Financial Hardships

While there are no scholarship funds available for payments, other payment arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis by contacting the WBPA Co-Presidents. All such discussions and resulting decisions and arrangements will remain confidential.

Student Accounts

All students have the opportunity to earn credits in an account set aside for them by participating in fundraisers such as Walton Band Business Directory, Fruit Sale and the SCRIP gift card program. The amount of Student Account credits is determined by the Band's Board of Directors. Student Accounts are treated similarly to store credits, and are not cash or savings accounts.

Earning Student Account Credits

Throughout the year, certain fundraising events are designated as opportunities to earn credits for Student Accounts as an incentive to encourage student participation. Some, such as SCRIP sales, go almost

entirely to student accounts where others, such as Walton Band Business Directory, use a formula to indicate what amount (if any) is to be credited to student account. Each fundraiser that contributes to student accounts will publish the formula used in the paperwork announcing the fundraiser.

Using Student Account Credits

Student Account credits can be used to pay for many band-related expenses including Band Camp, band fees, trip costs, Band Banquet and Spring Concert. Other band-related expenses may qualify, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, on a case-by-case basis.

Student Account credits **may not** be used for expenses related to Walton Band Business Directory or Fruit Sale, or for purchasing fruit, raffle tickets, Band Spirit Wear, Taste of East Cobb tickets, etc. Also, Student Account credits **may not** be used to purchase concert or Banquet tickets for anyone outside of the student's immediate family.

Leftover Credits

When a student leaves the band program, transfers, or graduates from Walton High School, all remaining credits in the student's account are transferred to the band's general fund. The only exception to this rule is when there is another participating family member from the same household, in which case the remaining balance would roll into that student's account.

Rules Governing Student Accounts

- Student Account credits **are not** payable in cash to students or family members at any time. Likewise, cash deposits cannot be made into student accounts.
- Student Account withdrawals are subject to the final approval of the Band's Board of Directors.
- The Walton Band reserves the right to withdraw any available credits in a student's account and to apply that amount toward any of the student's unpaid fees. In addition, any returned checks for insufficient funds may result in a withdrawal from student account equal to the bank fee plus the original amount of the check.

- Student Account withdrawal forms are available on the Walton Band website at <http://www.waltonband.org> and are regularly included in weekly e-blasts.
- To obtain your student account balance contact Mary Embleau (student accounts coordinator) at membreau@outlook.com.

Trips

Local Band Trips

In order to participate in any Walton Band program trip, each student must have submitted signed copies of all required permission forms. The commitment packets for marching band and concert-only contain all the necessary forms.

Transportation costs for all local band trips are paid for through payment of the student's band or Color Guard participation fees.

Special Trips

Band students are usually provided with an opportunity to take an out-of-town trip. While these trips are voluntary, students are strongly encouraged to participate, particularly in the case of trips that involve competitions. Trip selections are geared to allow as many students as possible to participate. The timing of these trips may vary, depending upon the performance opportunity presented.

While each trip will involve one or more performances, trips are also considered a reward to the students for their hard work in the program, and will include fun activities. Students are encouraged to build up their Student Account credits by participating in the appropriate fundraising programs to help offset their individual costs of these trips.

Chaperones

Trip chaperones are made up of parents of active band students. Selection is based on several important factors that must be considered for the good of the group. These factors may include having a certain percentage of rookie chaperones to help perpetuate the level of experience, first aid personnel, uniform handlers, performance support crews, and the

appropriate ratio of male to female chaperones. Approval of the list of chaperones rests with the Band Directors, the trip steering committee, the trip directors, and Walton High School's Principal.

Trip Steering Committee and Trip Directors

Once a destination has been selected, a trip steering committee is assembled by the Band Directors to plan the details of the trip and to put together a trip budget. The Band Directors also appoint trip coordinators that will act as the leaders for all logistical details while the trip is in progress.

Trip Commitment

Students indicate their commitment to attend a trip by completing the necessary commitment paperwork and making the required payments by the specified **commitment date**. Any students that do not submit the necessary materials by the commitment date are assumed to be not attending. Cases where a non-attending student changes their mind after the commitment date passes and wishes to attend will be handled on a case by case basis with the following rules:

- Student will be added to the trip if possible, but it will be at the discretion of the Band Directors and trip directors. Factors for acceptance will include whether it is too late to add additional participants and whether or not there are available slots.
- If there are more late-applying students than there are trip slots available then students will be taken on a first come, first served basis.
- Added students will be responsible to turn in all necessary paperwork and payments immediately upon acceptance.

Trip Payments and Terms

Participating students will pay a trip fee that is estimated to cover only the costs of the goods and services that are part of that trip. Depending on the size of the trip it may be one payment or it may be several payments broken up by month. Please note that for some trips, an up-front deposit may be required to secure resources such as airline reservations.

Refunds

Once the vendor commitments with respect to a trip are made, the Walton Band becomes financially liable to the vendor for payment. For that reason **refunds cannot be made once financial commitments have been made to a travel agent or trip vendor.** If a student decides not to attend a trip they have previously committed to attend then a determination of whether or not it is possible to issue a refund will be made at that time.

Uniforms

The Walton Band program requires every participating student to be outfitted with the appropriate uniform.

Marching Uniforms

For marching season, all band students wear the Walton Band marching uniform. The uniform for wind instruments and percussion consists of a marching jacket, black bibber pants, and gauntlets. Students in these sections are fitted for their uniforms in July during the week of Band Camp at Walton. All students wearing this uniform are required to purchase a shako (marching hat) or beret (sousaphones only), a black Walton Band poly dri-fit t-shirt, black marching shoes and black gloves. These accessories are available for purchase at the time of the fitting and throughout the marching season. Students are also required to wear solid black socks that rise 6" or more above the ankle with their uniforms.

The uniform jackets, bibbers, and gauntlets stay at school and are distributed to students prior to each game or marching event. Students are not permitted to take their uniforms home with them.

Color Guard Uniforms

Color Guard members have new uniforms each season that highlight some aspect of the marching band show. Guard members are measured for their coordinating costumes for both fall and winter seasons (see Color Guard section on page 19 for details on fall and winter seasons).

In addition to show costumes, the Color Guard uniform includes the following elements: a guard duffle bag; guard warm-ups; approved black-colored rehearsal outfits; and a discreet unitard worn under the costume. For female participants makeup and hair accessories may also be required.

These items are part of the uniform but not included in guard fees. It is possible for items to be used year after year (such as a duffle bag) and in that case they will not have to be purchased every year.

Uniform Call

Before each event, the Band Directors will give the students the time to report to the Band Room for the Uniform Call (usually 20-30 minutes before the start of the Student Meeting) to dress for the performance. All students will be expected to report to the Band Room at the time of Uniform Call, and will be expected to be in uniform prior to the start of the Student Meeting.

Students should arrive for all marching performances dressed in their black Walton Band poly dri-fit t-shirt, shorts, black socks and marching shoes. Students should also bring with them their shako (hat) and black gloves (for all games and marching events) as well as their personal garment bag (for all away games, exhibitions and competitions). Guard members are given specific instructions for hair, makeup, and costumes by the Color Guard instructors before events.

During the Uniform Call, each student retrieves their jacket and bibbers from the uniform racks and their assigned pair of gauntlets from the bins. Racks will be located in either the Band Room or the Theater, and will be arranged by section. Each student is assigned a unique uniform set (jacket and bibber) and is responsible for keeping his/her set together. Each uniform set has a hanger with the student's name, section and uniform assignments. All students have responsibility for their own hangers, and must place them back on the proper rack after they get dressed.

Uniform Care

Every student is expected to take good care of his/her assigned uniform by hanging it properly on his/her assigned hanger so it can air out and maintain the presses. Students will be shown how to properly hang their jacket and bibber, and they will be expected to do this after each event. It is never acceptable for students to throw uniform pieces over the racks, hang them sloppily, or hang them on the rack inside their garment bags. The garment bags go home with the students after each marching event. It is the students' responsibility to ensure their assigned uniform jackets and bibbers are hung together on the correct hangers, and placed in the correct racks for their

respective section. Gauntlets must be paired together and placed in the proper bin. Parent volunteers will be on hand after all games and performances to monitor uniform care and assist the students as required.

After all home and away games and other marching events, students must immediately return to the Band Room to store their instruments and hang up their uniforms on the appropriate rack for their section before they can be dismissed. Students will not be allowed to linger in the Band Room after games or other marching events in their uniforms.

Concert Uniforms

For concert season, girls are fitted for long black concert dresses and boys are fitted for concert tuxedos. Dresses and tuxedos are distributed in late fall prior to the winter concert. Girls are required to wear black, closed-toed, dressy shoes and boys must wear plain-toed black shoes and socks for all concerts. Boys are required to purchase a tuxedo shirt, which will be available for purchase at the time of the fitting.

These dresses and tuxedos will be checked out by the students and kept at home for the duration of the concert season. Naturally, it is expected that all students handle their assigned dress or tuxedo with care, but the Uniform Committee will manage all dry cleaning procedures.

Color Guard

Color Guard is divided into two seasons: fall marching season, where the guard is a part of the marching band to add visual artistry to the marching show; and Winter Guard, where the guard competes on its own at various indoor venues. These are two separate seasons, both with their own fee and uniform requirements. Winter guard is only open to fall guard and marching band participants.

Participants in marching season are required to pay band fees plus an additional amount for the season's uniform. Winter Guard participants pay a separate participation and uniform fee separate from band fees for that activity. Fees and details for Winter Guard are listed in a separate communication apart from this handbook.

For information about fall Color Guard uniform requirements see page 17.