



Greetings From your Walton Band Co-Presidents

For those returning to the band this year – welcome back, we're so happy you've returned! For those new to the program – a big welcome to you from the Walton Band family!

We have already begun preparations for the 2017-2018 marching and concert seasons, and we look forward to sharing an exciting year together with each of you. With band camp, a fantastic fall marching show, at least ten football games, a fall trip, and several concerts and marching competitions on the Walton Band calendar, it promises to be another memorable year for the students in the Walton Band!

You have been asked to make your checks payable to **WBPA**, and we thought you'd like to know what that's all about. *Walton Band Parents Association, Inc.* is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose sole purpose is to support Walton High School's instrumental music programs both financially and administratively. All band parents are full voting members of this booster organization.

The annual operating budget for our nationally recognized band program greatly exceeds \$300K, yet we receive less than 10% of these costs through funding from Cobb County. Therefore, our students and parents work together throughout the year to raise the additional funds needed for the approximately 300 students who participate in the marching band, four concert bands, two jazz bands, color guard, winter guard, full orchestra and other ensembles.

While a portion of these funds will be generated through student fees, much of the money needed to operate the band program will come from our fundraising efforts throughout the year. Not only are the Band's fundraising activities vital to the success of our program, they also help us keep the participation fees as low as possible. Several of our fundraisers will also offer your student the chance to earn credits to his or her Student Account, which can then be used to pay for a portion of the trip fees, marching and camp fees, and/or various other band-related expenses. Some of the best fundraising opportunities for your student to earn Student Account credits are the Walton Band Business Directory, Fruit Sale, and our SCRIP Gift Card program.

Needless to say, there will be a lot of work to be done during the year, and we expect that you will get involved along with all of your fellow band parents as we strive to sustain our award-winning band program. We know how busy life is, but time spent helping the band is time spent investing in your student's musical education. There are many ways that you can help support our efforts, and if you aren't sure how, don't be afraid to ask. Please make plans to get involved in supporting the Band - you may be surprised at just how much fun you will have!

We are very excited about the upcoming year's marching and concert seasons, and we both look forward to getting to know all of you!

Your Band Co-Presidents,

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