

Music Boosters Meeting

September 22, 2010

The music boosters co-chairs, Jay Kaufman and Francesca Slesinger introduced themselves, as well as board member Amy Golen.

Volunteer Needs

Most of the volunteer positions have been filled, but there are three left:

1. We need one freshman or sophomore parent to help with the awards banquet, which will be held around May 19th.
2. The most immediate need is for someone to help with the concert dresses for the girls.
3. We need one freshman or sophomore parent to help with the holiday concert food service and coordination.

Interested parents should contact Jay or Francesca.

Going Paperless

The Music Boosters are going paperless. Parents should check the website for information about the music program (www.waltwhitmanmusic.org), and make sure that they are signed up for the list-serve.

Budget Fees Update

Previously, everyone paid a \$115 fee for students in the music program. The county has now mandated a maximum fee of \$10. The program survives on donations. Parents of students in concert band are asked to contribute \$50. All others are asked to contribute \$75. Everyone must pay a minimum of \$10, but Jay and Francesca encourage parents to be generous, as the music program has many built-in, unavoidable expenses. Parents can pay online, or by check made out to Walt Whitman Music Boosters.

The only other fundraiser that the Boosters are conducting now is the Giant gift card drive. You can purchase Giant gift cards at face value. Giant donates \$5 for every \$100 gift card. Interested parents can write a check payable to Walt Whitman High School, and turn it in to Ms. Alvey, or mail it to Susan Park, 8405 Rayburn Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817. The order deadline was September 24, but has been extended to September 30.

Dress requirements

There is a new tuxedo policy. At the end of the year, seniors must return tuxes or pay for them, or they will not be allowed to graduate.

Dress requirements for concerts:

Concert Band

- White dress shirt and dark tie for male students
- Black dress pants or skirt
- Black dress shoes and black socks

Concert Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Symphonic Orchestra, Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble

Male students:

Provided by the school:

- Black tuxedos

Provided by the student:

- White tuxedo shirt, with pleated front and wing-tip collar
- Black tuxedo bow tie
- Black dress shoes

Female students:

Provided by the student:

- Black dress and jacket ensemble (purchased through the school for approximately \$110)
- Black dress shoes

Orlando Music Trip

The first payment for the trip was due on September 17. Parents can make a one-time payment of \$675, or payments of \$175 on September 17, \$175 on October 29, \$175 on December 10, and \$150 on February 25.

The students will leave by bus the evening of April 13 and drive through the night to Florida. Students will miss school on Thursday and Friday of that week. They will be staying at the Springhill Suites Marriott Village. This trip is just before spring break, so if parents want to have their child leave from Florida, rather than taking the bus back to Whitman, they can arrange that by writing Ms. Alvey a note. The Music Boosters meeting in the spring will cover this trip in great detail, and additional information is available on the music website.

Auditions/Concerts

The students should already have signed up for the county and state band auditions. The deadline to sign up for auditions is September 24.

The winter concert will be held on December 15 for all instrumental groups.

The jazz ensemble will perform at Brookmont on October 28. Ms. Alvey made a CD of the jazz ensemble's performance at Brookmont last spring, which she will mail to the seniors who graduated and distribute to the continuing students.

Ms. Alvey has also made a CD of other notable live music performances from last year that she will be distributing to the students who participated in those concerts.

“Classical Me” will be held on February 8, at St. Dunstan’s Church. It is an opportunity for choral or instrumental, groups, or soloists to perform. Students do not have to be in the Whitman music program in order to participate.

Students who want to participate in the Sideshow pit orchestra are encouraged to volunteer, although seniors will be given priority. The show will be held from November 18-20. Rehearsals will be held from Tuesday through Thursday from approximately 2:20 to 3:15 for the weeks leading up to the show. In the week immediately before the show, the students rehearse until approximately 10 p.m. each night.

Questions?

Please first check the website. Next contact Jay or Francesca. If you want to contact Ms. Alvey, she prefers phone calls or texts to emails.