

West Milford

**Highlander
Band Program**

Tradition, Community & Excellence





Matt Gramata
Director of Bands



Anthony Paterno
Associate Director of Bands



Matt Leitner
Visual Director



Michael Monacelli
Percussion Director



Joseph Smolinski
Pipe Band Director



Mary Duffy
WMBPA President



Erica McPartland
7th & 8th Grade Band Director

Welcome to one of the BEST programs in New Jersey

- The Marching Band, Jazz Ensemble, Indoor Percussion and Indoor Guard have won championships at the State, Regional, and National level
- The Wind Ensemble has earned numerous GOLD ratings and has been selected to the NJ State Gala Festival which solidifies the top ensembles in the state
- Our students have been accepted into Area, Region, All State, All Eastern and All National Honor Ensembles as well as top colleges/universities in the country
- Our program gets to do things no other organization gets to do



**Why should I
be a part of the
West Milford
High School
Band?**



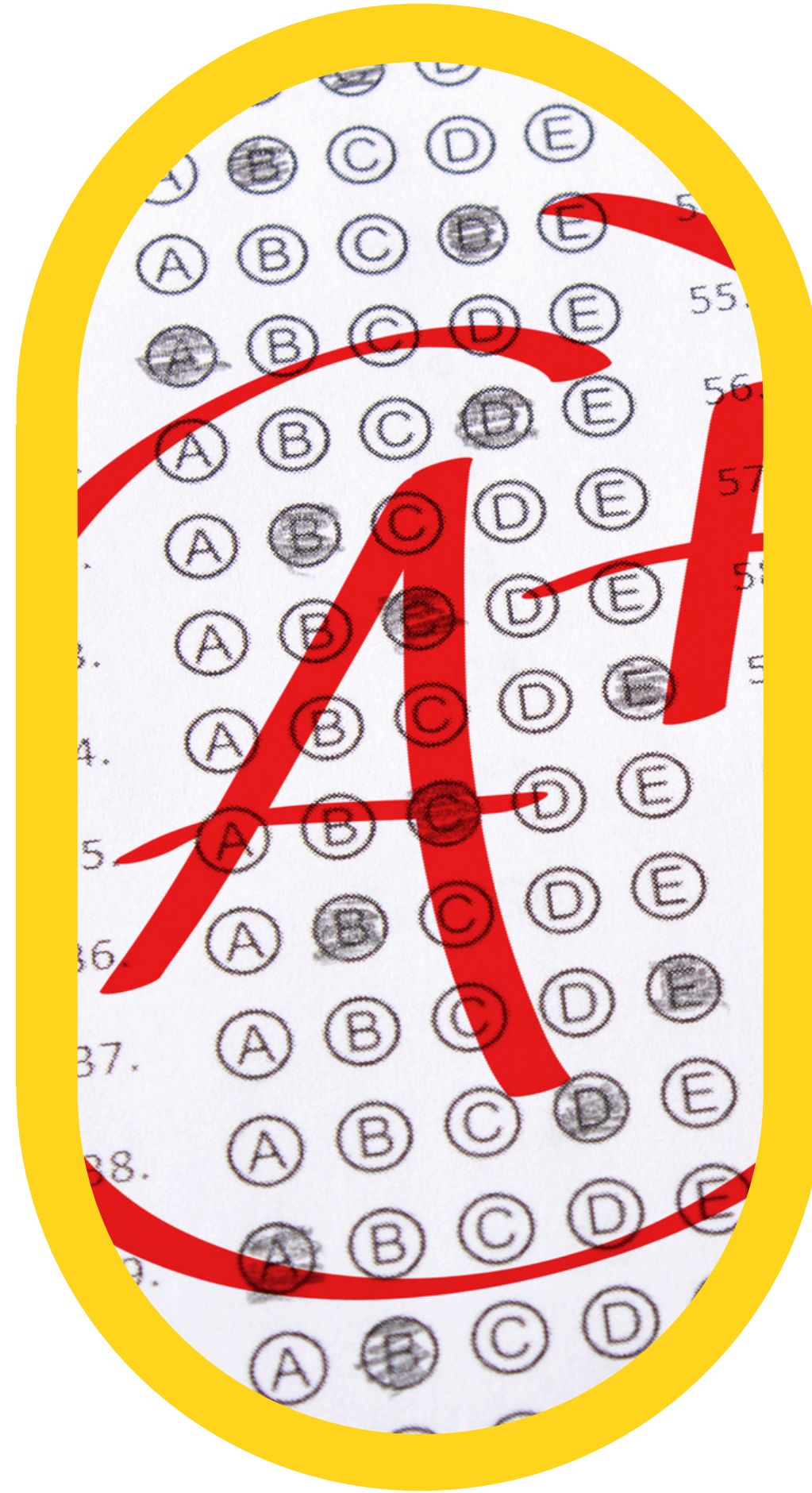


College Recognition & Leadership

- College recruiters specifically target students who participate in band based on the individual character those students possess.
- Additional scholarship opportunities available for students to play in college music ensembles, not necessarily as a major.
- Our program emphasizes leadership development and character building at its core to help produce A+ level citizens

We lend a helping hand...and we're smart!

- The band program consistently has students ranked in the top 5 of their class
- Many of our students are enrolled in band take honors or AP classes
- The band program holds its own in-house tutoring program!
- Our students have been accepted into some of the best colleges/universities in the country





COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- M.I.T.
- Princeton University
- Cornell
- Johns Hopkins
- NYU
- Miami
- Seton Hall
- Ohio State
- Penn State
- Carnegie Mellon
- Bucknell
- Boston College
- Syracuse
- Maryland



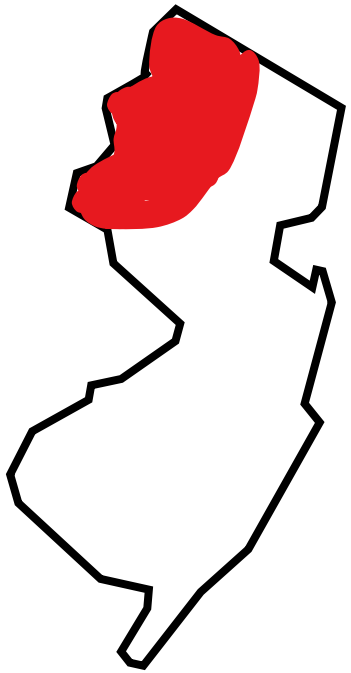
TOP MUSIC SCHOOLS

- Julliard
- Manhattan School of Music
- Berklee College of Music
- Arizona State
- Indiana
- Oberlin Conservatory
- New England Conservatory
- Eastman School of Music
- Hartt School of Music
- North Carolina School of the Arts



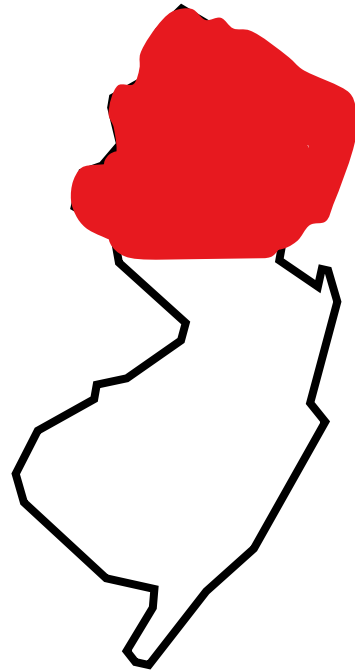
HONOR ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

Since 2004-05



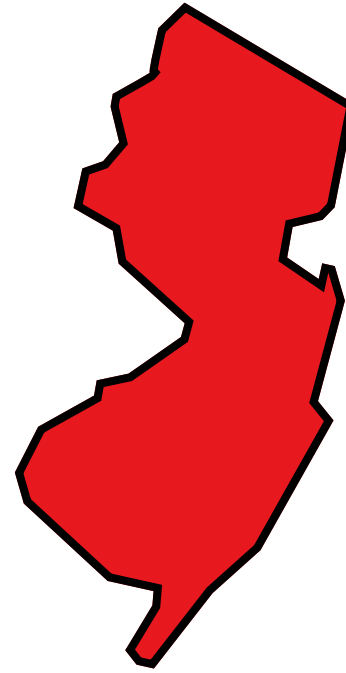
All-Area

240



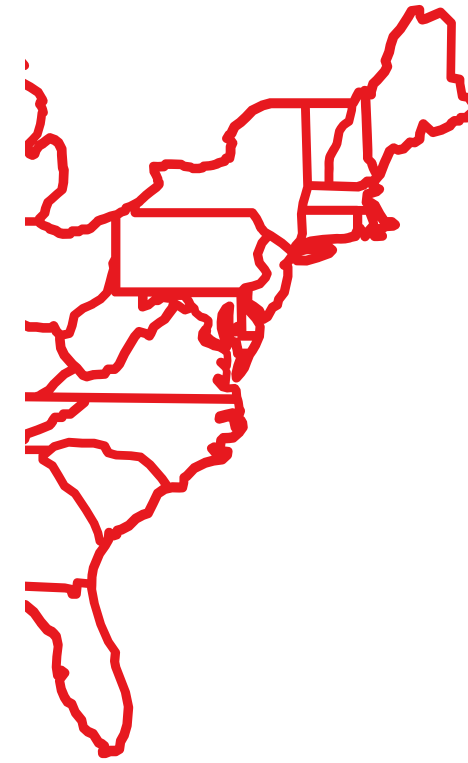
All-Region

111



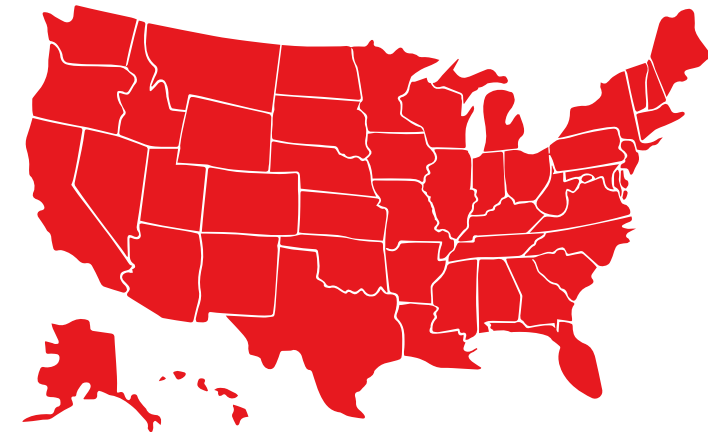
All-State

41



All-Eastern

5



All-National

3

Once In A Lifetime Opportunities



**WHERE WILL
BE GOING
NEXT YEAR?**







**And then
in 2028?**



TELEPHONE

← Trafalgar Square

Lambeth Bridge →



West Milford Band Trip Rotation



Other Ensemble Trips/Festivals
Indoor Perc/Guard - WGI Dayton, OH
Jazz - National Jazz Festival
Concert Band - Festival/Clinic



**SCOTLAND
TRIP
2028**

**DISNEY
WORLD
2026**



How unique is our music program?

There are between 400-450 high schools in the state of New Jersey

NJ High Schools

with same ensemble structure as
West Milford H.S.
(26 Schools)

Bergenfield H.S.	Kingsway Regional H.S.
Brick Township H.S.	Mahwah H.S.
Bridgewater Raritan H.S.	Matawan H.S.
Cinnaminson H.S.	Millville H.S.
Eastern Regional H.S.	Nottingham H.S.
Egg Harbor H.S.	Nutley H.S.
Elizabeth H.S.	Old Bridge H.S.
Fair Lawn H.S.	Pennsauken H.S.
Fort Lee H.S.	Robbinsville H.S.
Highland Regional H.S.	Southern Regional H.S.
Hopewell Valley H.S.	Toms River H.S.
Immaculata H.S.	West Milford H.S.
JP Stevens H.S.	Woodbridge H.S.

CONCERT BAND

MARCHING BAND

JAZZ BAND

INDOOR PERCUSSION
(marching)

INDOOR COLOR GUARD

Competitive Circuits

Premier circuits West Milford ensembles participate in



Concert Band

**NJMEA
STATE GALA**

**Qualification
signifies top 12
ensemble in NJ**



Jazz Band

**NJAJE STATE JAZZ
FINALS**

**Largest jazz circuit
with prelim/final
format**



Marching Band

USBands & BOA

**Largest & most
competitive
marching
circuits in the US**



Indoor Perc/Guard

WGI

**Largest & most
competitive indoor
circuit in the US**

NJ High Schools

**with same competitive structure as
West Milford H.S.
(4 Schools)**

**Bridgewater Raritan H.S.
Elizabeth H.S.
JP Stevens H.S.
West Milford H.S.**

CONCERT BAND
NJ State Gala

MARCHING BAND
USBands & BOA

JAZZ BAND
NJAJE State Festival

INDOOR PERCUSSION
WGI

INDOOR COLOR GUARD
WGI

Highlander Pipes & Drums

- Macopin Pipe Club
- Community Involvement
- U.K. Trip Clinic Opportunities





PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES



CONCERT BANDS

In Class

All Year Ensembles



MARCHING BAND

Fall (Co-Curricular)



JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Winter-Spring

(Co-Curricular)



INDOOR PERCUSSION

Winter

(Co-Curricular)



PIPES & DRUMS

All Year

(Co-Curricular)



HONOR ENSEMBLES

Area, Region, All State, etc.



CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

Duets, Trios, Quartets, etc.



INDOOR GUARD

Winter

Chamber & Honor Ensembles



- Flute Ensemble
- Clarinet Choir
- Saxophone Quartet
- Brass Ensembles
- Brass Quintet
- Percussion Ensemble
- Duets, Trios, Quartets, Quintets, etc.
- North Jersey Area Band
- NJSMA Region Band
- NJSMA Region Orchestra
- NJAJE Region Jazz Ensemble
- NJ All-State Band
- NJ All-State Orchestra
- NJ All-State Jazz Ensemble
- NAFME All-Eastern Band
- Bands of America National Honor Band of America



WEST MILFORD HIGHLANDER MARCHING BAND





Who Are We?

- We are a **TEAM**
- We are a **VARSITY** team
- We are a team where **EVERYONE** participates all of the time. There is **NO** bench.
- We are the **MOST SUCCESSFUL** team or program in West Milford High School

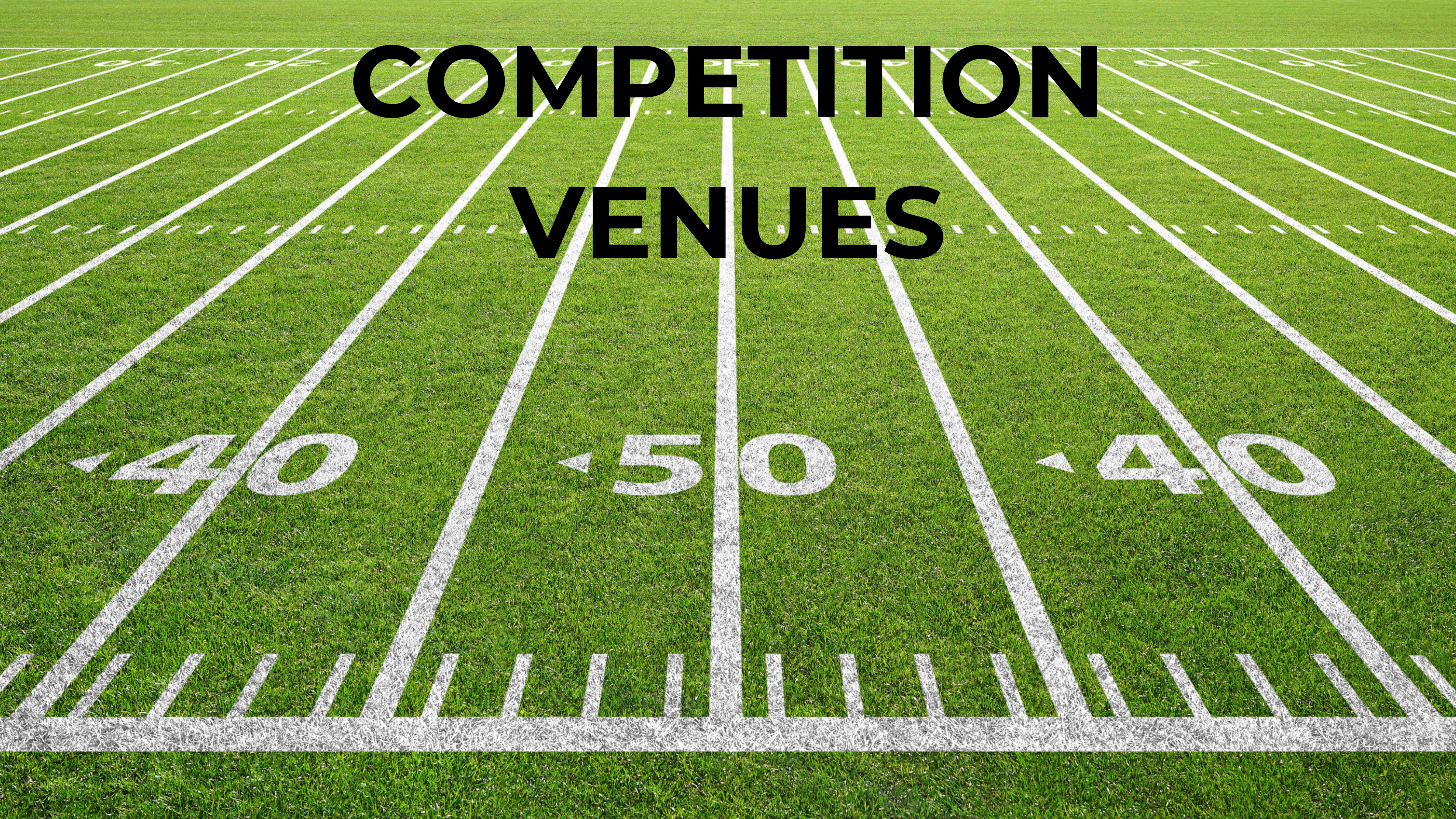
FRIENDS!



ORGANIZATION SUCCESS



COMPETITION VENUES





SPORTS v MARCHING BAND

(schedule breakdown)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fall Sport						
15-20 hrs practice	2:00 - 4:30 (5:30 Football)	2:00 - 4:30 (5:30 Football)	2:00 - 4:30 (5:30 Football)	2:00 - 4:30 (5:30 Football)	2:00 - 4:30 (5:30 Football)	8/9 - ???
6 days/wk	2:00-6/7 (if game)	2:00-6/7 (if game)	2:00-6/7 (if game)	2:00-6/7 (if game)	2:00-6/7 (if game)	Differs with sport
Marching Band						
12 hrs practice		2:00 - 4:30 (Winds/Guard)	6:00 - 9:00		2:00 - 4:30	3hr am rehearsal
4 days/wk		6:00 - 8:30pm (percussion)	Full Band Turf		Football Game	Time varies on competition time

THE MUSIC PROGRAM & SCHEDULING

HOW TO GET BAND IN YOUR SCHEDULE NEXT YEAR



Music Program & Scheduling



Marching Band
70% of students



Concert Band
(Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble)



Applied Band
9th Grade Only
Not eligible for trips
Satisfies Required Performing
Arts Credit for Graduation

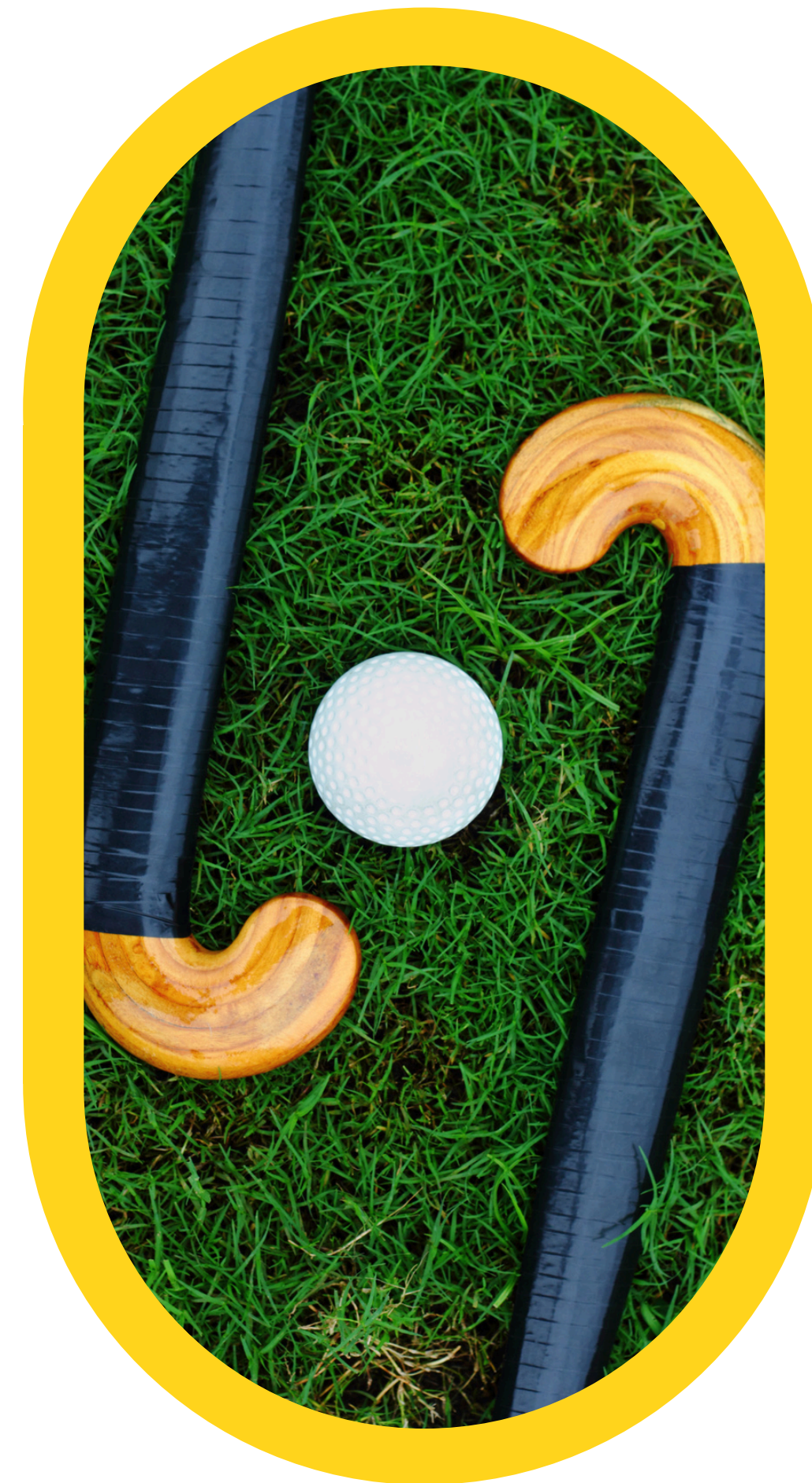


Fall Sport
30% of students

Football
Cross Country
B/G Soccer
Field Hockey
Girls Tennis
Gymnastics
Cheerleading
Girls Volleyball
Etc.

Fall Athletes & Music

- Creates a well rounded & cultured student
- Music participation **HIGHLY** recognized by colleges/universities
- Opportunity for unique experience not available for other students
- Studies on music & test scores
- Why put down your instrument?





OPTION 1:

The Easy & Most Common

**Just sign up for band
as your elective...easy
as that**

OPTION 2:

If you want to take multiple electives, you can substitute an elective for world language

WMHS requires 1 year of world language to graduate

Students often defer their world language and take later in the HS career





OPTION 3:

If you want to take multiple electives, you can substitute your lunch to take other electives

Close to 50% of our students do not take a lunch

Students eat during passing time or in class (at teacher's discretion)

West Milford H.S. vs. PCTI Band

The facts explained





PCTI Instrumental Music Explained

- Students in “music trade” gets a “shop” period (roughly 2 periods/80+ min)
- Shop periods organized by grade (approx. 10-15 students in each shop grade)
- Majority non band instrumentalists
- This class is NOT BAND
- Focus is mainly music theory, ear training, music history, some playing
- One performance of all shop classes

PCTI Band Pt II

Concert Band

- Is an EXTRA-Curricular activity
- Begins in November
- Meets twice a week 3-5pm
- Conflicts with athletics
- 3-5 Performances annually
- Performs music grade 2.5 - 3
- No lesson program



PCTI

Extra-Curricular

Meets 2 days a week 3-5pm
starting in Nov.

No Lesson Program

Performs Grade 2.5 - 3 Music

Music "Shop" Class as part of
instrumental track...No Band

West Milford

Co-Curricular

Meets 46 min DAILY

One 46 min pull out lesson a
week

8th Grade Band - Grade 2.5 - 3
Symphonic Band - Grade 3 - 4
Wind Ensemble - Grade 4 - 6

Music Theory/Piano
separate course

Indoor programs

Marching Band
Concert Band
Jazz Band

West Milford vs. PCTI

Band Accolades



- **Concert Band:** Multi NJ State Gala Ensemble, NJMEA Performing Ensemble, Metropolitan Wind Band Invitational Ensemble
- **Marching Band:** 6 State Championships, 2 National Championships, 4 Yamaha Cup/Ludwig Musser Classic Championships, USBands Open Class & Bands of America circuits
- **Jazz Ensemble:** Berklee Jazz Festival Winner, All-Eastern & NJMEA Performing Ensemble, Consistent NJ State Finalist/top 3 ensemble
- **Indoor Percussion:** WGI Regional Finalist, USBands Circuit Champion
- **2024 Area Band Members: 17**
- **2024 Region Band Members: 10**
- **2025 All State Members: 3**

- **Concert Band:** Past participant in North Jersey Concert Band Festival
- **Marching Band:** Participates in Tournament of Bands circuit
- **Jazz Ensemble:** NJ State Finalist
- **No Indoor Percussion Group**
- **No Indoor Color Guard**
- **2024 Region Band Members: 0**





Is trading for “a trade” worth the trade off?

Regardless of not having a “trade program,” our students are been admitted to the finest colleges and universities for their desired field (trade)

If your child' committed to music and their passion lies with the arts, then West Milford is the place to **best** further your child's musical journey.

Band Parent Association

- Welcome to the BAND FAMILY!
- Confidence & Leadership
- Achievement
- Ways to get involved





A Message from Ms. McPartland

"I wholeheartedly support the WMHS Music Department and the many opportunities the Highlander Band offers for our students' musical journeys. I encourage all students to give it a try during their freshman year, even if they feel apprehensive; high school brings many new experiences, but one thing that will remain familiar is the comfort of knowing the WMHS band directors who have nurtured their talent and the reassuring structure of daily rehearsals.

The exceptional staff cultivates an inspiring environment that fosters both talent and creativity, making the transition to high school music seamless and exciting. Our students thrive under their guidance, discovering new skills and deepening their love for music alongside dedicated peers. Students should embrace this opportunity to continue their musical journey with the WMHS Band Program it's an experience that will enrich your child's lives and foster lifelong friendships!"



**We were all in
your shoes**



Thank You

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