



Welcome to Woodside Music

A Guide for Music Families · 2026-27

Prepared by the Woodside High School Music Booster Organization (WHSMBO)

★ New material added (October 2)

- ♪ Hometown Holidays (Sat Dec 12) now lists the marching band, jazz band and orchestra.
- ♪ Corrected photos: the Orchestra section now shows the orchestra, and the Jazz Band section has its own photo.

Fall 2026 · Updated October 2, 2026



🎵 A Note from Mr. Gaydos

Welcome New and Returning Parents!

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and learning about the program ins and outs! It takes a village to run the program. The more hands on deck we have the easier it gets! We have some great goals and events ahead and I hope to see you all in the future booster meetings, concerts, festivals, gigs, and other performances! Welcome to the Woodside High School Music Program!

Nick Gaydos, Director of Music

🎵 The Program at a Glance

It's a big year for new families. Nearly half of this year's music students are ninth graders.

96

students in the music program

44

freshmen

4

groups: band, orchestra, jazz, choir

6

students in two groups

🎵 Who's in each group

Group	Class(es)	Students	Freshmen	10th	11th	12th
Marching & Concert Band	Band II (22), Advanced Band (12)	34	20	6	5	3
Orchestra	Orchestra	30	12	3	12	3
Jazz Band	Jazz Ensemble	30	9	8	5	8
Choir	Choral I (7), Choral II (1)	8	3	4	1	0
Whole program (unique students)		96	44	17	22	13

Group totals add to 102 because six students are in two groups (four in band and jazz, one in band and choir, one in jazz and orchestra).

🎵 Instruments in each group

Group	Instruments this year
Marching Band	Piccolo, flute, tenor and baritone sax, trumpet, mellophone, trombone, sousaphone, percussion (including front ensemble), drum major



Concert Band	Flute, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, percussion
Orchestra	Violin, viola, cello, double bass, piano
Jazz Band	Alto, tenor and baritone sax, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, drums and vibraphone
Choir	Soprano, alto and tenor voices

Help us fill out our sound! Our band has no clarinets, alto saxes, oboes, bassoons or euphoniums right now. The clarinet is often called "the violin of the band" because it carries so much of the melody. If your student plays one of these, used to, or is curious to learn, please tell Mr. Gaydos. We may have school instruments to borrow.

Thinking about switching? Many great players start on one instrument and move to another. Students who play flute, trumpet, piano or another instrument can often pick up a related one quickly, like flute to oboe, trumpet or trombone to euphonium, or any woodwind to clarinet or saxophone. In a band our size, one player on an instrument we're missing adds a whole new color to the sound and has an outsized impact on the group. If your student is curious, talk with Mr. Gaydos. It's a conversation worth having.

Students without their own instrument can check out a school instrument. Ask Mr. Gaydos. Families should plan for the small supplies that wear out, such as reeds, valve oil, slide or cork grease and drumsticks.



Marching band is where freshmen are most concentrated. Twenty of its 34 members are ninth graders, so new students will have plenty of company learning the ropes.



♪ Meet Mr. Gaydos

Nick Gaydos is the Director of Music at Woodside High and leads every group in the program. He started at Woodside in fall 2022. He grew up in Southern California and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education from California State University, Fullerton.

His priorities for the department are musicianship and inclusivity. He wants Woodside Music to be a healthy, successful place for students of every skill level. Outside school he plays in the Woodside Village Band, a local community band, where you'll find him on trumpet, his favorite instrument; he also plays oboe and piano.

Contact: ngaydos@seq.org. Email is the best way to reach him.

♪ The Four Groups

♪ Marching & Concert Band (Band II and Advanced Band)

Every group gets its music training during its class period. Marching band also rehearses outside the school day, because learning to march the show takes extra time on the field. In the fall the band marches. It plays at home football games, parades and Saturday field competitions. After the marching season ends in November, it becomes a concert band for the winter and spring concerts.

- ♪ **Regular rehearsals:** Mondays 4–6 PM and Tuesdays 7–9 PM, through the end of marching season (the last listed rehearsal is Nov 17).
- ♪ **Home football games:** Friday nights. See "Game Night" below.
- ♪ **Competitions:** Four Saturday competitions (see the calendar). These are long days, usually from late morning to near midnight.
- ♪ **Hometown Holidays:** The marching band also performs at Redwood City's Hometown Holidays (Sat Dec 12).

♪ Orchestra

The string orchestra has 30 students this year: 12 freshmen, 3 sophomores, 12 juniors and 3 seniors. It's made up of violins, violas, cellos, double basses and piano.



- ♪ **Rehearsals:** The orchestra rehearses during its class period in the school day. Mr. Gaydos announces any extra rehearsals.
- ♪ **Performances:** Winter Concert (Fri Dec 4), Hometown Holidays (Sat Dec 12) and the Spring Concert (Fri Apr 30).
- ♪ **Hometown Holidays:** Hometown Holidays is Redwood City's free annual holiday celebration downtown. Our marching band, jazz band and orchestra perform, so bring the family and make a day of it.



- ♪ **Call time:** One hour before the concert for the Winter and Spring Concerts, and one hour before stage time at Hometown Holidays.
- ♪ **Calendar:** The orchestra has its own public calendar, "WHS Orchestra" (see Online Resources).

♪ Jazz Band

The Jazz Ensemble has 30 students spread across all four grades: 9 freshmen, 8 sophomores, 5 juniors and 8 seniors. Four of them also play in the marching and concert band. The band has saxophones (alto, tenor and baritone), trumpets and trombones, backed by a rhythm section of piano, guitar, bass, drums and vibraphone.



- ♪ **Rehearsals:** The Jazz Ensemble rehearses during its class period in the school day. Mr. Gaydos announces any extra rehearsals.
- ♪ **Performances:** Winter Concert (Fri Dec 4), Hometown Holidays (Sat Dec 12) and the Spring Concert (Fri Apr 30).
- ♪ **Jazz Festival:** This year the Jazz Ensemble performs at the jazz festival at College of San Mateo. The date is coming soon.
- ♪ **Gigs:** Select students also play private gigs in small combos.
- ♪ **Calendar:** Jazz doesn't have its own calendar, so watch for updates from Mr. Gaydos.

♪ Choir

Choir has 8 singers across Choral I (7) and Choral II (1). Admittedly, it is the smallest, but it is the one with the greatest growth on the upsurge, and we're excited about it. Its size also makes it a good place to get lots of individual attention. This year's choir has sopranos, altos and one tenor, so tenors and basses are especially welcome.

- ♪ **Rehearsals:** Choir rehearses during its class period in the school day. Mr. Gaydos announces any extra rehearsals.
- ♪ **Performances:** Winter Concert (Fri Dec 4) and the Spring Concert (Fri Apr 30).
- ♪ **Calendar:** Choir doesn't have its own calendar, so watch for updates from Mr. Gaydos.



♪ What We've Done So Far This Year

The school year is only a few weeks old, and the program has already been busy.

Date	What happened
August	Band Camp. Several days of marching fundamentals and music, 9 AM–2 PM, to get the band ready for the season
Sat Aug 22	Car Wash. Our biggest fundraiser so far (see below)
Thu Aug 27	Back to School Night performance
Sat Aug 29	Football Tailgate and the Sequoia game. The boosters hosted a tailgate before the home opener against our crosstown rival, Sequoia. Woodside won and kept the Log, which we've held since 2023. The Log is the rivalry trophy that goes to the winner of this game each year and the anchor of the football season.
Fri Sep 4	Football vs Carmel. A tough loss against a strong Carmel team.
Fri Sep 25	Football vs Wilcox. A win, with an exciting end-zone interception and a blocked punt, both of which led to scores.

♪ Spotlight: The 2026 Car Wash

Wash+me

This year's car wash was a partnership with **Wash Me**, a local Woodside business that does interior and exterior cleaning for homes and businesses. Wash Me donated two of their trucks and four of their employees to wash cars alongside our students and parents. It was a tremendous success. We washed about 150 cars and raised about **\$6,700**, compared with about \$2,300 the year before.

We're grateful to Wash Me. If you need cleaning for your home or business, please support them.

♪ Do you own or work at a local business?

The Wash Me partnership shows what a single local connection can do. If you own a business, or work somewhere that might want to sponsor, donate services or partner on an event, we'd love to hear from you. We're also always open to fundraising and event **ideas**, not just volunteer hours. Email **outreach@woodsidemusic.org** or **secretary@woodsidemusic.org**.



The 2026-27 Calendar

These dates come from the program's Google Calendars as of September 29, 2026. Always check the live calendar, because times do change.

Date	Event	Who
Sat Oct 3	Feste Del Mar competition (San Jose). Call 9:30 AM, perform 2:00 PM, awards 9:45 PM, bus leaves for WHS 10:30 PM, back around 11:30 PM	Marching band
Sat Oct 10	Liberty competition (Brentwood). Call 2:00 PM, bus leaves 2:30, warm-up 5:00, perform 6:00 PM, awards 9:00 PM, bus leaves 9:30, back at WHS around 10:30 PM	Marching band
Thu Oct 15	CBDA All-State audition deadline (optional; \$55 audition fee). The California Band Directors Association selects top high school musicians from across the state for its All-State Honor Bands. Students audition with a recording, and those selected rehearse with guest conductors and perform at the statewide conference in the winter. It's a great goal for serious players. Ask Mr. Gaydos if your student is interested.	Interested students
Wed Oct 21, 7:30 PM	Booster meeting (Zoom). All parents welcome	Parents
Fri Oct 23, 6 PM	Homecoming football game vs Burlingame	Marching band
Mon Oct 26, 5 PM	Flag football senior night	Marching band
Fri Oct 30	Selby Lane Halloween Parade 3:30 PM; dinner break 5:45 PM; Senior Night football vs San Mateo 6:30 PM	Marching band
Sat Nov 7	Harvest Festival	Boosters
Fri Nov 13 / Nov 20	Possible football playoff games (TBD)	Marching band
Sat Nov 14	American Canyon competition (Napa). Walk on the Wildside is the same day, 9 AM–2 PM	Marching band / boosters
Wed Nov 18, 7:30 PM	Booster meeting (Zoom)	Parents
Sat Nov 21	Championships , Lincoln High School, Stockton	Marching band
Fri Dec 4	Winter Concert	All groups
Sat Dec 12	Hometown Holidays . Hometown Holidays is Redwood City's free annual holiday celebration downtown. Our marching band, jazz band and orchestra perform, so bring the family and make a day of it.	Marching band, jazz band, orchestra
Wed Dec 16, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 17, 7:30 PM	Booster meetings (Zoom)	Parents
Winter/spring 2027	A spring fundraising event. We're planning something fun, and details will come soon.	Families



Fri Apr 23 – Sun Apr 25, 2027	 Spring trip to Disneyland. Includes a Sunday meet-up with the Orange High School band. Details coming soon	Participating students
Fri Apr 30	Spring Concert	All groups
Wed May 19, Jun 16, 7:30 PM	Booster meetings (Zoom)	Parents

🎵 Game Night: Home Football Games

Home football games are some of the most fun nights of the fall. A typical Friday looks like this:

Time	What happens
5:00 PM	Students gather to hang out and have pizza
6:00 PM	Call time: uniforms on, instruments out, warm-up
7:00 PM	Kickoff. The band plays in the stands
Halftime	The marching band performs its show on the field, along with the cheer squads

Families are welcome to come and cheer.

Orchestra, jazz and choir families, this means you too! Friday night lights is a real part of the high school experience, for students and parents alike. There are two home games left this season, and they're great nights to see the marching band, cheer on the Wildcats and meet other music families in the stands.

- 🎵 **Fri Oct 23, 6 PM:** Homecoming vs Burlingame
- 🎵 **Fri Oct 30, 6:30 PM:** Senior Night vs San Mateo

🎵 Food for the students

At events, we'll typically look for food donations for the students. That could be pizza before a game, snacks for a competition bus, or water on a hot day. Requests go out in booster emails ahead of each event. It's one of the easiest ways for a new family to pitch in.

🎵 What a Competition Day Looks Like

Using Feste Del Mar on October 3 as an example, students report at 9:30 AM and warm up in the early afternoon. Fourteen bands are competing, and Woodside performs at 2:00 PM. The show itself is short, about 10 minutes. Students stay for the awards ceremony at 9:45 PM and get back to campus around 11:30 PM. Plan for a pickup near midnight.

A meal is provided for students, but they should also bring money for concessions. Concession sales are how the host school raises money, so buying a snack is a nice way to support them.



What to pack, based on the band's standard list:

- ♪ A hat, sunscreen and a refillable water bottle (no disposable bottles or cups are provided)
- ♪ Instrument, music, and spare reeds, oil or sticks
- ♪ Money for concessions (a meal is provided)
- ♪ Street shoes for when they're not performing (students perform in their marching band shoes)
- ♪ Warm layers. The uniform gives good protection from the cold, but evenings can get chilly while waiting for awards.

♪ **Come Cheer Us On!**

Competitions are open to the public, and families are welcome at the performance, the awards ceremony and everything in between. Two times matter: our **performance time**, when the band takes the field, and the **awards ceremony** that evening. Wear orange, sit together, and make some noise!

- ♪ **Sat Oct 3, Feste Del Mar:** we perform at 2:00 PM, and awards are at 9:45 PM. Admission is \$15.
- ♪ **Sat Oct 10, Liberty:** details to follow.
- ♪ **Sat Nov 14, American Canyon:** details to follow.
- ♪ **Sat Nov 21, Championships at Lincoln High School, Stockton:** details to follow.

♪ **The Big One: Our Spring Trip to Disneyland** 🏰



The highlight of the year is a trip to Southern California, planned for three days, **Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25, 2027**. Our musicians will perform, learn from professionals, and spend time together at Disneyland. For many students, it's the trip they remember long after graduation.

The program has done this before. In 2024-25, the whole music department went to Disney Imagination Campus and recorded Disney music in professional studios. This year's trip builds on that. On Sunday, our band will meet up with the Orange High School band for a shared performance. It's a real performance trip, and it's also a chance for freshmen to bond with upperclassmen in all four groups.

Detailed information is coming soon, including the itinerary, cost, payment schedule and how to sign up. Families will get it at a parent information session this fall. Watch the booster emails and the WHSMBO Events calendar for the date.



A trip this size needs a lot of help from parents. We'll need chaperones, drivers and people to help with planning and fundraising. If you're interested, email **secretary@woodsidemusic.org**.



♪ About the Boosters

The Woodside High School Music Booster Organization is a parent-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit (Tax ID 82-5394788). The school gives music a modest budget. The boosters cover what it doesn't, including instrument purchases and repairs, uniform upkeep, transportation, sheet music licenses and performance fees. Every board member is the parent of a music student.

The boosters are here to support the students, and also to make the experience richer for the whole family. That means game nights, concerts, trips and events where parents get to know each other, cheer together and be part of the music community for all four years.

♪ We need new parents

The boosters run on parent volunteers, and every spring some of our most active parents leave when their seniors graduate. This year, one board member and two of our most active volunteers will be leaving. Freshman families have four years ahead of them, which makes you the future of the boosters. No experience is needed. Come to a meeting, pick one event to help with, and see what fits.

♪ How to get involved

- ♪ **Come to a booster meeting.** Meetings are held monthly on a Wednesday at 7:30 PM on Zoom. The date and link are on the WHSMBO Events calendar.
- ♪ **Volunteer at an event.** Help at football games, competitions, concerts and fundraisers such as the car wash, Walk on the Wildside and a fun spring event we're planning.
- ♪ **Chaperone or drive.** Volunteering with students requires district volunteer clearance. Level 2 is typically enough for most volunteering, and Level 3 is for parents who want to drive other students. Apply using the [SUHSD volunteer application](#). Clearance takes some time, so apply well before the event you want to help with.
- ♪ **Donate.** Give online at [woodsidesmusic.org](https://www.woodsidesmusic.org), or mail a check payable to Woodside High School Music Booster Organization, 199 Churchill Avenue, Woodside CA 94062. Donations are tax-deductible.

♪ Your booster board

Name	Role	Email
Roger Dettloff	President	president@woodsidesmusic.org
Gina Krigbaum	Secretary (general questions, newsletter)	secretary@woodsidesmusic.org
Laurel Dettloff	Treasurer	treasurer@woodsidesmusic.org
Brad West	VP of Technology (website)	webmaster@woodsidesmusic.org
Sean Tippet	Board member at large	sean_tippet@woodsidesmusic.org
Sponsorships and business partnerships		outreach@woodsidesmusic.org



Online Resources

Resource	What you'll find
woodsidesmusic.org	The music program and booster website, with news, donations and board info
woodsidesmusic.org/mrgaydos	About Mr. Gaydos
woodsidesmusic.org/incoming-wildcats	Information for new students
woodsidesmusic.org/calendar	The program calendar
woodsidesmusic.org/gallery	Photos from performances and events
woodsidesmusic.org/scholarships-for-seniors	Senior music scholarships
Google Calendars	Public calendars anyone can view or subscribe to: WHS Marching Band , WHS Orchestra , WHSMBO Events
Canvas	Class schedules and assignments from Mr. Gaydos
Instagram @whs_musicdept ; Facebook "Woodside High School Music Boosters"	Photos, reminders and shout-outs
YouTube @WoodsideMusicDept	Performance videos
cbda.org	All-State Honor Band audition information (optional)
District volunteer clearance	Level 2 to volunteer, Level 3 to drive. Use the SUHSD volunteer application ; questions to dhines@seq.org

Staying in the Loop

- ♪ **Google Calendars:** They're public, so anyone can follow them. Click to open, then add them to your phone: [WHS Marching Band](#), [WHS Orchestra](#), [WHSMBO Events](#).
- ♪ **Canvas:** Mr. Gaydos posts class schedules and assignments there.
- ♪ **Website:** woodsidesmusic.org
- ♪ **Booster email:** secretary@woodsidesmusic.org (for general questions and volunteering)
- ♪ **Booster emails and newsletter:** These come from secretary@woodsidesmusic.org. Families on the class roster are added automatically, so there's nothing to sign up for. Add the address to your contacts so emails don't land in spam, and if you're not getting them, write to that address.
- ♪ **Social media:** [Instagram @whs_musicdept](#); [Facebook "Woodside High School Music Boosters"](#); [YouTube @WoodsideMusicDept](#)



Family FAQ

My student has never marched. Is that OK? Yes. Most of the marching band are freshmen this year, and the program is built for students of every skill level.

Can my student be in more than one group? Yes. Six students are already in two groups this year.

How is the program paid for? 100% of program expenses are covered by donations and fundraising events. That's why every family's help matters, whether you give, volunteer or come to a fundraiser.

Who do I ask? Ask Mr. Gaydos about anything to do with music, class or the schedule. Ask the boosters (secretary@woodsidemusic.org) about volunteering, fundraising and donations.