Woodside Music Family Guide

2026–27 School Year

For all Woodside music families

★ Inside

- ♪ **Which class to choose** on your course request: Band II, Orchestra, Jazz Ensemble or Choral I
- ♪ The four groups, band requirements and the 2026–27 calendar
- ♪ The spring Disneyland trip and how families can help

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♫ 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

♫ Choosing Your Music Class

Course requests are made each spring with counselors. Write the **exact class name** on the course request. Every year some students sign up for the wrong class, so this table is the one to follow. (Class names are from the 2026–27 WHS course catalog.)

Group	Class to choose	What to know
Band (marching & concert)	**Band II**	**One year-long class:** marching in the fall, then concert band after marching season ends in November. Band II is the only band class for freshmen (Advanced Band is grades 10–12). Suggested: reading music and 1+ year on an instrument. Includes pep band and marching performances. **Band camp is required** (Aug 5–7). **Fall-sport athletes:** talk to Mr. Gaydos (ngaydos@seq.org) before joining band.
Orchestra	**Orchestra**	Grades 9–12, all levels.
Jazz	**Jazz Ensemble**	Grades 9–12. By department recommendation; reading music and about 2 years of experience are suggested. **Ask Mr. Gaydos** about Jazz Ensemble.
Choir	**Choral I**	The class for freshmen. No experience required.
Guitar	**Guitar I**	Grades 9–12. Basic classical guitar technique and reading music. A separate elective, not one of the four performing groups.

♪ How the course request works

- ♪ **When:** in early spring each year. SUHSD counselors hand out a paper course request form at the middle schools.
- ♪ **How:** take it home, write the exact music class name, and return it to your middle school. Changes are possible in May.
- ♪ **Feb 1, 2027, 4 PM** is the deadline for **Open Enrollment only** (families outside the Woodside boundary; apply through seq.org Open Enrollment). It is not a course request deadline. Zoned school? Try SchoolFinder (schfinder.com/SUHSD).
- ♪ **Questions?** Email Mr. Gaydos (ngaydos@seq.org). Digital Music Production is a different class, not a band or choir ensemble.

♫ The Program at a Glance

Woodside Music has four groups, **band, orchestra, jazz and choir**, all led by Mr. Gaydos. Students of every skill level are welcome, and new families are always joining.

♪ Instruments in each group

Group	Instruments
Band: marching (fall)	Piccolo, flute, tenor and baritone sax, trumpet, mellophone, trombone, sousaphone, percussion (including front ensemble), drum major
Band: concert (winter & spring)	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! We are always looking for clarinets, alto saxes, oboes, bassoons and euphoniums in the band. 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 a great place for new students to start. They learn the ropes together, and no marching experience is needed.

♫ 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

♪ Band: marching in the fall, concert band after (Band II and Advanced Band)

Band is one year-long class, and it is where freshmen choose **Band II**. 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 marching season ends in November, it becomes a concert band for the winter and spring concerts.

Marching band requirement	What to expect
Band camp (required)	Wed–Fri, Aug 5–7, 2026, 9 AM–2 PM in the band room.
Rehearsals	Mondays 4–6 PM and Tuesdays 7–9 PM, from Sep 8 through mid-November.
Competitions	Saturdays, required and usually all day. Dated competitions are in the calendar; additional Saturday competitions run through mid-November, with dates from Mr. Gaydos.
Home football games	All home games: Fridays, plus one Saturday (Aug 29). See "Game Night."
Home basketball games	Pep band basketball dates: ask Mr. Gaydos.
Parades and events	Selby Lane Halloween Parade (Fri Oct 30, after school), Hometown Holidays (Sat Dec 12, Redwood City), Woodside May Day Parade and San Carlos Hometown Days Parade (dates to be announced).
Fall sports	If your student will play a fall sport, please talk to Mr. Gaydos (ngaydos@seq.org) **before** joining band.

Equipment: A U-Haul is being rented to haul the band's equipment. **Questions?** Email band@woodsidemusic.org.

♪ Orchestra



The string orchestra is made up of violins, violas, cellos, double basses and piano, and it welcomes all levels.

- ♪ **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 is open to students in all four grades. 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:** The Jazz Ensemble performs at an all-day jazz festival on **Fri Nov 20, 2026**. Volunteers needed; details from Mr. Gaydos.
- ♪ **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 (Choral I and Choral II) is our smallest group, but it has the greatest growth ahead, and we're excited about it. Its size also makes it a good place to get lots of individual attention. All voices are welcome, and tenors and basses are especially needed.

- ♪ **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.

♫ Kicking Off the Year: Summer and Fall

The year starts before school does. Here is what's coming first. Details will also go out in booster emails.

Date	What's happening
Wed–Fri, Aug 5–7	**Band Camp** (required for marching band), 9 AM–2 PM in the band room. Several days of marching fundamentals and music to get the band ready for the season
Sat Aug 22	**Music Student Car Wash**, 8 AM–3 PM, at the drop-off location near the tennis courts. Setup is at 8 AM and washing starts at 9 AM. All music students are asked to attend. It is our biggest fundraiser (see below)
Thu Aug 27	**Back to School Night performance**, 5 PM
Sat Aug 29	**Football Tailgate** at 12:00 PM, a student and parent social in the WHS parking lot, then **Football vs Sequoia** at 1:00 PM (home opener). A great way to meet other band students and parents. Sequoia is our crosstown rival, and the Log is the rivalry trophy that goes to the winner each year. Woodside has held it since 2023.

♪ Spotlight: The 2026 Car Wash with Wash Me

Our car wash is a partnership with **Wash Me**, a local Woodside business that does interior and exterior cleaning for homes and businesses. Wash Me is donating two of their trucks and four of their employees to wash cars alongside our students and parents. All funds raised support the music department. 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. Always check the live calendar, because times and dates can change.

Date	Event	Who
Wed–Fri, Aug 5–7	**Band Camp** (required), 9 AM–2 PM	Marching band
Sat Aug 22	**Music Student Car Wash** with Wash Me, 8 AM–3 PM, near the tennis courts	All music students, families
Thu Aug 27	Back to School Night performance, 5 PM	Performing groups
Sat Aug 29	Football Tailgate 12:00 PM; Football vs Sequoia 1:00 PM (home opener)	Marching band, families
Fri Sep 4	Football vs Carmel, 6 PM	Marching band
Tue Sep 8	Regular rehearsals begin: Mondays 4–6 PM and Tuesdays 7–9 PM, through mid-November	Marching band
Fri Sep 25	Football vs Wilcox, 6 PM (home)	Marching band
Sat Oct 3	**Feste Del Mar competition** (San Jose). Call times to be announced (they change for every event)	Marching band
Sat Oct 10	**Liberty competition** (Brentwood) (watch the 2024 show). Call times to be announced (they change for every event)	Marching band
Thu Oct 22	Homecoming rehearsal with the cheer squad, 7 PM	Marching band
Oct 22 – Nov 3	Cookie dough fundraiser. Orders are due Nov 3	Families
Fri Oct 23	Football vs Burlingame, 6 PM (Homecoming, home)	Marching band
Fri Oct 30	**Selby Lane Halloween Parade.** Band call 3:30 PM; the parade steps off at 4:00 PM at Idyllwild and Santa Clara Avenues, and the band plays a few songs in the Selby Lane parking lot afterward. Then a dinner break at 5:45 PM and **Football vs San Mateo**, game at 6:30 PM (home)	Marching band
Sat Nov 7	**Harvest Fest**, WHS small gym. Student helpers sell items with the boosters. Sign up for a shift	Boosters / student helpers
Fri Nov 13 / Nov 20	Possible football playoff games, 6 PM, if the team qualifies	Marching band
Sat Nov 14	**American Canyon competition** (Napa). Walk on the Wildside is the same day, 9 AM–2 PM	Marching band / boosters
Fri Nov 20	**All-day jazz festival**. Volunteers needed; details from Mr. Gaydos	Jazz Ensemble / boosters
Sat Nov 21	**Lincoln Review of Champions** (Stockton): the championships	Marching band
Through mid-Nov	Additional Saturday competitions. Dates from Mr. Gaydos	Marching band

Fri Dec 4	**Winter Concert** (watch last year). Call time is one hour before	All groups
Sat Dec 12	**Hometown Holidays** (watch last year). 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
Wednesdays through December	Dine Out nights at Sushi+ and Corner Table	Families
Winter 2027	Pep band basketball dates: ask Mr. Gaydos	Marching band
Thu Apr 1, 2027	Dinner Fundraiser	Families
Fri Apr 2 – Sun Apr 4, 2027	🏰 **Spring trip to Disneyland**. Planned Fri Apr 2 – Sun Apr 4, 2027; dates to be confirmed. Includes a Sunday meet-up with the Orange High School band	Participating students
Fri Apr 30, 2027	**Spring Concert**	All groups
Spring 2027	Woodside May Day Parade and San Carlos Hometown Days Parade. Dates to be announced	Marching band

Booster meetings: the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM on Zoom (Sep 15, Oct 20, Nov 17, Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20, May 18, Jun 15). All parents are welcome. Zoom link.

♪ Game Night: Home Football Games

Home football games are some of the most fun nights of the fall. Games are on **Fridays**, with one **Saturday** game (Aug 29), and the marching band plays at every home game. A typical game night goes like this:

When	What happens
Before the game	Students gather to hang out and have pizza
Call time	Uniforms on, instruments out, warm-up
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! Game night is a real part of the high school experience, for students and parents alike. It's a great night to see the marching band, cheer on the Wildcats and meet other music families in the stands.

- **Sat Aug 29:** Tailgate 12:00 PM, then vs Sequoia at 1:00 PM (home opener)
- **Fri Sep 4:** vs Carmel, 6 PM
- **Fri Sep 25:** vs Wilcox, 6 PM (home)
- **Fri Oct 23:** Homecoming vs Burlingame, 6 PM (home)
- **Fri Oct 30:** vs San Mateo, game at 6:30 PM (home)
- **Fri Nov 13 and Nov 20:** possible playoff games, 6 PM, if the team qualifies

♪ Food for the students

Meals are not guaranteed. Food at home football games and competitions may come from food trucks or volunteer families, so students should bring snacks, water and money. We also look for donations like 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

Competitions are on Saturdays and are long days. The show itself is short, about 10 minutes, and students stay for the evening awards ceremony, so plan on a late pickup. Call times to be announced (they change for every event); watch for them in booster emails and from Mr. Gaydos.

Meals are not guaranteed; food may come from food trucks or volunteers, so students should bring snacks, water and 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
- Snacks and money for food trucks or concessions (meals are not guaranteed)
- 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! **Chaperones** are also needed at competitions (district clearance required, quick and free).

Expect a ticket price (about $15 at Feste Del Mar and Liberty). We will share ticket details ahead of each competition.

- ♪ **Sat Oct 3, Feste Del Mar (San Jose)** and **Sat Oct 10, Liberty (Brentwood):** call times to be announced (they change for every event).
- ♪ **Sat Nov 14, American Canyon:** details to follow.
- ♪ **Sat Nov 21, Lincoln Review of Champions, 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 **Fri Apr 2 – Sun Apr 4, 2027; dates to be confirmed**. 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 new students 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 in the 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 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. New families have 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 on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM on Zoom: https://seq-org.zoom.us/j/94943162358?pwd=V4SYhAB8dgbr6BqSVcXcvIcLKmmKfV.1. Dates are also on the WHSMBO Events calendar.
- ♪ **Volunteer at an event.** Help at football games, competitions, concerts and fundraisers such as the car wash, the cookie dough fundraiser, Walk on the Wildside and the spring dinner fundraiser. Join the monthly booster meeting to hear what's needed.
- ♪ **Chaperone at competitions.** Marching band can only operate with parent volunteers. Volunteering with students requires district volunteer clearance (quick and free). 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.
- ♪ **Sign up to bring food.** Volunteers help feed students at home football games and competitions. Watch the booster emails for sign-ups.
- ♪ **Share our fundraiser.** The Social Media Fundraising Guide has a donation link for each group and ready-made posts (woodsidemusic.org/fundraising-guide).
- ♪ **Questions about band?** Email band@woodsidemusic.org.
- ♪ **Donate.** Give online at woodsidemusic.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@woodsidemusic.org
Gina Krigbaum	Secretary (general questions, newsletter)	secretary@woodsidemusic.org
Laurel Dettloff	Treasurer	treasurer@woodsidemusic.org

Brad West	VP of Technology (website)	webmaster@woodsidemusic.org
Sean Tippett	Board member at large	sean_tippett@woodsidemusic.org
Sponsorships and business partnerships		outreach@woodsidemusic.org

♫ Online Resources

Resource	What you'll find
woodsidemusic.org	The music program and booster website, with news, donations and board info
woodsidemusic.org/mrgaydos	About Mr. Gaydos
woodsidemusic.org/incoming-wildcats	Information for new students
woodsidemusic.org/calendar	The program calendar
woodsidemusic.org/fundraising-guide	Social Media Fundraising Guide, with a donation link for each group
band@woodsidemusic.org	Questions about marching band
woodsidemusic.org/gallery	Photos from performances and events
woodsidemusic.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
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:** woodsidemusic.org
- ♪ **Booster email:** secretary@woodsidemusic.org (for general questions and volunteering)
- ♪ **Band email:** band@woodsidemusic.org (for marching band questions)
- ♪ **Booster emails and newsletter:** These come from secretary@woodsidemusic.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. The program is built for students of every skill level, and new students learn the ropes together.

Is band camp required? Yes, for marching band. It is held Wed–Fri, Aug 5–7, 9 AM–2 PM.

My student plays a fall sport. Can they be in band? Please talk to Mr. Gaydos (ngaydos@seq.org) **before** joining band.

Which class do I put on the course request? Write the exact class name: **Band II** (marching and concert band, one year-long class), **Orchestra**, **Choral I** or **Jazz Ensemble** (ask Mr. Gaydos). See "Choosing Your Music Class."

Can my student be in more than one group? Yes. Students sometimes take more than one group, such as band and jazz. Talk with Mr. Gaydos about your student's schedule.

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, and email band@woodsidemusic.org with marching band questions. Ask the boosters (secretary@woodsidemusic.org) about volunteering, fundraising and donations.