

WESTVIEW GOLD BOOSTERS

A GLOSSARY FOR PARENTS

(MB-Specific to Marching Band)

All GOLD Parents/Boosters: Not only are band/orchestra/color guard parents the ones who supply the raw material for the band in the form of their children, they also manage the logistical activities that keep the band running. The kids generally appreciate how hard the parents work and frequently say “thank you”, things not often seen in the typical herd of teenagers. Being a booster member gives you a vote toward how monies are spent as well as other perks. Also other band parents are rich sources of information on Westview academics, the college application process, and other areas. See also **Fundraising Opportunities** and **Volunteer Opportunities**. Actually, pretty much just see the rest of the Glossary.

Marching “Band Dads” (and Moms, too): This is a group of dedicated parents (See **Volunteer Opportunities**) who load the Drumline and pit equipment, and props onto a trailer, set up gear for the musicians prior to performances, then remove afterwards. These parents end up with skills that could allow them to mobilize an entire army on a moment’s notice. Our band requires a lot of equipment to be moved to each competition to support the show. This is an activity that builds muscle – and camaraderie. Look for those wearing the all-too-precious “BAND DAD” t-shirts!

Bagging uniforms (MB): What students do with the uniforms (See **Uniforms**) when they take them off after each performance. Each student is assigned a specific bag and uniform with his/her name on them. Uniforms must be hung up correctly and promptly so they are ready for wearing in the next competition. Lessons in folding and hanging pants are given.

Black socks: A key part of the uniform and one that is very likely to go missing at crucial times – i.e., before a competition. It’s essential that students do not have white socks showing between their black pants and black shoes. Buy a few black socks in the event that some disappear during the course of the marching season.

GOLD Camp: Camp is a week-long event in August before school starts consisting of the kids getting to know each other through activities and practice. This is where the band and color guard kids learn how to march in formation for parades and field shows. This is where orchestra kids start learning repertoire for the year. The parents will also have an opportunity to get to know each other through volunteering and attending activities that may be planned for them through the Boosters or their kids’ sections (see **Sections/Sectional**).

Chaperone (MB): The role parents play in the band is not one of babysitting or discipline; our student leadership sets high expectations for behavior and manages the band. However, with a group this large, we always need to be prepared for things that require an adult to help make something happen or provide guidance. We make sure that a chaperone is present on each bus when traveling to ensure the kids always have an adult they can turn to. We will need a few chaperones for some trips, as well as at our local football games.

Coffee Concerts: An opportunity for families to come into the Band room and sit with your student to experience what he/she listens to and watches during a performance. An informal, casual event during your students’ band/orchestra period. This usually takes place in late May.

Color Guard: The group of tireless athletes who provide visual interest to the field show through the use of costumes, flags, sabres, rifles, dancing, and props. (see **Winter Guard**).

Competitive/Non-Competitive Band: Westview offers two types of involvement for students. All band and color guard members participate in the Westview Football Games, parades and GOLD shows (See **GOLD Shows**). Competitive Band and color guard members participate in the competitive field shows (see **Field Show Competitions**) during the fall marching season; Non-Competitive Band members do not.

Concert Season: Season after Marching Band during second half of the school year (January-June). Groups fall into several sections: Orchestra, Concert Band 2 (Freshmen band), Concert Band 1, Wind Ensemble (audition required), and

Winter Guard (color guard). There are also other band opportunities available, such as jazz band, pep band, pit orchestra/band (for musicals presented at the school). Music Festivals (music competitions) and our very own Solo & Ensemble Festival also occur during this season.

DCI: Stands for Drum Corps International. A group of various professional-level bands, including Color Guards, made up of college age students that perform and compete nationally each summer. They march in formations and positions that are amazing. Westview alumni have participated in these groups. See DCI.org for more information.

Dinkles/Drillmasters: The black soft-soled marching shoes (designed to facilitate marching footwork) that your child will wear for performances. Purchased by first year marchers at the beginning of the season when uniforms are fitted.

***Donation:** The money each family is asked to provide to offset operating costs. For the non-competitive band and orchestra, this includes music, repairs, and outside section coaches (each student benefits!) and for marching band and color guard it also includes drill choreography, transportation, and uniform upkeep. PUSD provides our amazing teachers and our facility...we have to provide the rest!

Drill (MB): Is the actual choreography of the field show. It involves development of the patterns in which the band will march while playing the show music. The drill is written with each band member represented by a specific dot. If a band member is not available for a show, it creates a hole where the dot is and affects the visual aspect of the performance. Each dot is essential to each performance!

Drill books (MB): (See **Drill** for description of dots.) A book that your child will be carrying at all times during GOLD camp and bring to rehearsals after that. Each student's book is unique and is marked with the positions he/she is supposed to be in at each relevant point in the show. An example of a dot description would be "Two steps to the right of the 50-yard line and ten steps behind the front sideline."

Executive Board: This group of students are nominated and elected by fellow GOLD members and is the student-version "right hand" of the band director. Please see **GOLD Leadership**.

Field Show (MB): This is the performance piece that the band starts learning at camp and performs and refines throughout the marching season. Each year's show has a specific name and a specific theme, with music and choreography chosen to reflect that theme.

Field Show Competitions (MB): Saturday events involving a number of marching bands performing and competing in a particular high school's stadium. Bands generally compete against other bands in their "class" – a distinction which is made based on the number of band members. Parents and family members can go and watch these performances for a nominal charge that benefits the hosting school's music program. You'll see bands ranging in size from a few dozen to more than 300, and performance themes that encompass everything imaginable. See **Stadium Seats**.

Field Show Shirt (MB): Students order a T-shirt each year by sections with the show name, the year, and related artwork on it. These can be worn underneath uniforms to soak up the sweat, to show pride, and to help parents keep track of students after performances.

Football Games (MB): Specific Fridays during the fall in which the Westview football team has a home football game that, from our perspective, is conveniently fit in around the band's halftime performance. All or part of the show is performed either at halftime or sometimes after the game. During games the band students sit together and play music to give the fans something to listen to while watching the football activities.

***Fundraising Opportunities:** Options for students (and parents) to earn money to contribute to the general band fund. Examples include purchasing Dudley's Bread, various restaurant nights, Snap-Raise, Mattress Sale and purchasing Scrip orders (see **Scrip Orders**), our Winter and Spring GOLD Shows (see **GOLD Shows**), and a variety of other activities. Some involve active selling and purchasing of food items, others can be earned simply by getting and using a gift card for your shopping – and asking other family members to do so.

General Fund: Account used for the entire GOLD program, funded by a variety of sources including general fundraising activities and donations. Money from this account is used for purchases like new instruments & uniforms.

GOLD Leadership: The students responsible for all (Drum Major) or parts (Captains; Section Leaders) of their group. Leadership also includes both elected positions (see **Executive Board**) and appointed positions (VP Events, VP Recruitment, VP Fundraising, etc.), for which students apply and interview. Committees (recruitment, fundraising, etc.) and stage crew are also considered Leadership.

GOLD Shows: The students prepare a show two times a year: Winter and Spring, each with a specific theme involved. Orchestra and band are involved in the production and held in the Westview Performing Arts Center over two days (Thursday/Friday). Each section performs as a group, in addition to the band as a whole. Color guard also gives performances. These shows are a great fundraiser for the group.

High Brass: A band section consisting of the trumpets and marching French Horns.

*** INFORMATION:** GOLD disseminates information via (in priority order) the GOLD Website Calendar, GOLD Website Announcements, GOLD Facebook pages, the emailed Weekly Update, and Section Parents/Students. You are encouraged to link your calendar to the GOLD Google calendar, check the GOLD website "Announcements" link, and sign-up for the current year's GOLD Facebook pages. For details, see "*GOLD Information and Where to Find It*" under the GOLD website "New Parent" tab.

Lockers: Assigned spaces in the band room where students can keep their instruments if they are not taking them home. If your child is missing something, the first question to ask is: "Have you checked your locker?"

Low Brass: The section of the band that contains the trombones, the euphoniums and the sousaphones.

Marching Band Season: An important part of the year that starts in early August and runs through late November. Some of the competitions in the past have been located at the following high schools/areas: Rancho Bernardo, Mt. Carmel, Mira Mesa, Del Norte, Vista, Chula Vista, and Riverside. The season peaks in October/early November, which is when most competitions occur. The remaining activities for December involve preparing for the Winter GOLD Show.

Orchestra: In the fall, our orchestra consists of strings only, violins, violas, cellos, and basses. In the spring during concert season, GOLD also has a full orchestra, adding in woodwinds and brass instruments for a full sound. Our orchestra students are top notch, performing very high level repertoire.

Parades (MB): The band marches in two-three parades per year. These include the Rancho Bernardo July 4th Parade (for current members), the Poway Days parade (Fall), and Disneyland (November).

Percussion: It has two components. The Drumline consists of the kids who actually march, with various types of drums strapped to them. The Pit is set up on the sidelines and its members do not march, but rather play non-marching instruments such as Marimbas, Chimes, and Vibes. While the Pit members do not get the physical exertion of marching, that is compensated for by the continual need to move/load/unload heavy pit equipment.

Plumes and Shakos: Shakos are the band members' hat for their uniforms. Plumes are the fluffy white decorative accessories that are stuck onto the band members' shakos before they perform. Between appearances they are carefully stored and managed by our uniform coordinator. The plumes are very soft, very white, and very susceptible to destruction by water and/or contact with teenagers. Thus they are applied at the last possible moment before performances and removed as quickly as possible after performances.

Podium: This is the large folding platform that the drum major stands on to conduct the band.

Rebate Account: is an account held by the Boosters for a family as money accrues from fundraising events such as Scrip Orders (See **Scrip Orders**). This money is tracked by family and can be applied toward that family's suggested donation. If a family does not request to apply their account balance to their family's suggested donation by the time their student(s) graduate, the balance is automatically reallocated to the overall GOLD program.

Scrip Orders: A fundraising opportunity that allows Westview GOLD families and friends to purchase gift cards with a portion of the purchase going to the student's **Rebate Account**. Payment and a printed order summary must be

submitted for the order to be processed. Orders are taken at the beginning of the month and gift cards are usually delivered within two weeks.

SCSBOA: Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association: <http://www.scsboa.org/>

Sections/Sectionals: Each group is made up of sections by instrument. The day to day direction for most band/orchestra activities will come from the section leaders; the kids will frequently warm-up or rehearse with just their section and their coach (Sectionals). When a student is unsure about anything, the first call or text should always be to their section leadership.

***Sense of Accomplishment:** What students will feel after they realize how much they have learned and how hard they have worked. What parents will feel when watching the band/color guard/orchestra improve from performance to performance and knowing that their hard work helped make that improvement possible. Also occurs when a given student remembers his/her black socks without being reminded or finally learns how to bag their uniform.

Stadium Seats: Folding seats (with backs) that can be purchased at a sporting goods store or through Westview and are then brought to games or competitions. They attach to the bleachers to allow parents to sit for long periods of time without needing physical help to exit the stands at the end of the event. Highly recommended.

Uniforms: Marching Uniforms: These are NOT purchased, but assigned to each student in band, to stay with them throughout their involvement in the program. Color Guard Uniforms: Uniforms are show/theme based. Different attire is needed for marching season and winter guard. Travel Uniforms: Black (WV GOLD) Polo shirt and khaki shorts used for informal events. See website for purchase: <http://www.companycasuals.com/westviewband/start.jsp> Orchestra and Band during **Concert Season** will have different outfits to wear.

***Volunteer Opportunities:** Your chance to say "I'm with the band." Countless opportunities exist and come in all different shapes and sizes. Without parent volunteers the band wouldn't be able to function. You can chaperone home football games or field show tournaments. You can monitor the band room during afternoon/evening rehearsals or help with the end of the season banquet and awards. You can contribute food to special events or volunteer to be a Booster board member, chairperson, or coordinator. All opportunities allow you to see how hard your child works and to get to know other parents while offering an invaluable contribution. There are opportunities that fit all kinds of work schedules. And many companies offer leave time for volunteer work since the band is a non-profit entity.

***Web Site:** <http://www.westviewgold.org> The place to find forms, the all-important calendar, lots of information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, Booster information, and fundraising. Donation links and the GOLD webstore can also be found here.

Westview Gold Tournament (MB): GOLD's main fundraising event (occurs in November). This is a Field show tournament that our program sponsors. Many schools from all over the county come to perform and compete (see **Field Show Competitions** for more info). Students and parents can sign up in various capacities such as working the concession stands, becoming an usher, helping visiting bands navigate our campus, working in the kitchen to prep the concession food, and manning the first aid table. Profits from this event go into the Westview GOLD fund to help with the cost of running the GOLD program (benefiting ALL of our students) throughout the year.

Winter Guard: Unlike traditional color guard, winter guard is performed indoors usually in a gymnasium, on a large basketball court-sized tarp known as the Floor. Performances make use of recorded music rather than a live band or orchestra, and last between 5 and 8 minutes. Winter guard ensembles commonly perform at judged competitions officiated by local and regional associations such as WGI (Winter Guard International) or WGASC (Winter Guard Association of Southern California).

Woodwinds: A band section comprised of clarinets, saxophones, & flutes. Oboes & bassoons (double reeds) are then included after completion of the marching season/Thanksgiving, during the concert season.