

# General Notes Online!

A Publication of the Wooster High School Music Department

## A Magical Experience For WHS Band & Orchestra

Disney magic is real. Over two hundred Wooster High School music students saw this first hand as they performed at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida this past April.

The long bus ride was quickly forgotten after arriving in the gorgeous Florida weather. Yes, there were incredible sights to see, great moments with friends and staff and more fun than you can shake a stick at, but the highlight for many was a Marching Band performance down Main Street USA in the Magic Kingdom. Disney estimated that of the crowd that day, there were over 35,000 on the parade route to view our performance...Wow!

String Orchestra members were treated to a special clinic given by the Disney staff. The "You're Instrumental" workshop thrust the students



into a recording studio where they learned the importance of "getting it right the first time." With microphones perched clearly in front of them, they found themselves laying down a soundtrack to an animated Disney feature, complete with mood changes and timelines.

The students and staff would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to all the parents and community members who made this trip possible. Your kind donations made this unforgettable experience a reality.

A trip such as this is not measured in dollars and cents but in the stories shared by students and the memories that will last forever.

## Parents and Students, Please Look Over The Enclosed 2004-05 Instrumental Music Calendar

We need your help in making sure students are well informed of all their responsibilities over the coming year. In an attempt to make this as easy as possible, we have included with this newsletter the entire year's events in the Instrumental Music Department.

Please go over this calendar with your son or daughter and check this with their other school activities and your family's activities. Please let us know of any concerns that you may have **as soon as possible**. This will make it much easier for us to resolve potential conflicts. Keeping open the lines of communication is what makes everything work smoothly. We've also included the Band Camp letter along with this mailing as well as a Concessions help letter. Please look these over carefully too. We look forward to a fantastic school year. Until then, please enjoy a nice, relaxing summer.



## Pay to Participate Fee and Financial Assistance

The Wooster Board of Education, as part of the budget balancing process in February of 2004, has adopted a Pay to Participate fee for Music, The Blade, Speech, Drama and Athletics. The \$100 fee for music must be paid prior to August 9th and is to be paid in the WHS Main Office.

The Pay to Participate Contract for Music is included with this newsletter. It should be completed and returned with the payment made to the Main Office. If your family has a financial situation that could benefit from assistance, please consider applying for aid through the attached form as well.

## Budget Cut Dust Is Beginning To Settle... Now What?

To say the least, this past year has been a very challenging one. The torturous process of cutting 3.6 million dollars from the Wooster City Schools budget has ended and now we are faced with the realities of the difficult decisions that were made. There will be changes this year in just about every aspect of the Wooster City Schools, including the music program. From bus travel, to staff cuts, to loss of critical programs such as 4th grade strings, and Women's Chorus at the High School, the reality of this mess is beginning to hit us all.

One thing is for sure, however. We are blessed with a top-notch music staff, all of whom possess great enthusiasm for teaching the students in this school system. The drive towards excellence will still be there in everything that we do — in every performance, in every rehearsal, in every classroom. And yes, we all will continue to have a great time making and learning about music! This is still one of the greatest music programs in the state.

If you would like to help with uniform distributing in August, contact Anita Mykrantz at [amykrantz@sssnet.com](mailto:amykrantz@sssnet.com)

**Important Information Inside!**

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