

Hamilton High West

Band Parents Club

Parent Handbook

Tradition, Pride, and Excellence



Welcome to the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club

Hamilton High School West has the longest running Marching and Concert Band Program in the Hamilton Township School District. It has grown annually and we look forward to our numbers increasing annually. The Hamilton High School West Hornet Marching Band has been known for many years as the “Pride of Mercer County.”

The Hamilton High School West Hornet Marching Band consists of the instrumentalists and band front. The marching band performs together at all HHW football games, competitions, the Cavalcade of Bands, travel performances including all competitions, Music in Motion, parades, and the annual band trip. Students can also perform in the Symphonic Band. Jazz Band is formed after Marching Band season and participants need to audition to become a member of this ensemble. These bands perform several times a year.

Mission

The Hamilton High West Band Parents Club (HHWBPC) supports the educational and musical goals of the Hamilton High School West Hornet Marching Band through its work with the program’s directors and advisors to enhance student’s musical and social skills through the performing arts and musical events that are not part of the regular school program.

Goals

The goals of the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club are:

- to raise funds to support Club activities
- to provide scholarships to music students
- to enhance the school’s music program by participating in and hosting musical events

Commitment

The members of the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club are committed to the allegiance of their children, the Band Director’s and Principal of Hamilton High School West, and fellow members for the sake of the music education and personal growth of every band student.

Organization

Officers nominated from the general membership at the April monthly meeting and elected by majority vote at the Annual Meeting in May manage the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club. The Officers hold the positions of President, First Vice President (Membership), Second Vice President (Fundraising), Third Vice President (Field Crew), Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Sergeant at Arms. The Immediate Past President also serves with the Officers.

The Officers of the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club are assisted by an Executive Board of up to **15 members nominated from the general membership and elected by a majority vote at the June meeting. Each member of the Executive Board chairs an operational committee.**

The Hamilton High West Band Parents Club is governed by a Constitution and By-Laws. Both documents are available to you, upon request to the HHWBPC President or the Band Directors, and are on our website, www.hornetband.org.

Membership

Full membership is offered to the parents or guardians of students participating in the Marching Band, Color Guard and Drill Team units at HHW. Full membership dues deem full membership, eligibility to participate as an Officer or member of the Executive Board, and the privilege of the right to vote for all club decisions and activities. Fees collected for full membership cover financial obligations defined in the Constitution for the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club, as well as defer the expenses of an annual operating budget and expenses for selected activities.

Associate membership is offered to any alumni Marching Band student, alumni Marching Band Parent, and friends of the organization. Associate membership dues deem active membership without right to vote or eligibility to participate as an Officer or member of the Executive Board, but eligibility to participate in acts of service for the club. Fees collected for associate membership contribute exclusively to the annual Hamilton High West Band Parents Club scholarship fund.

Committees

All parents **MUST** participate in annual club activities. This requirement includes the Home Competition (*Cavalcade of Bands*) and ONE other committee. You will be assigned to these committees and are asked to help support our students by fulfilling your assigned duty. Many committees organize and host the events of the year. Full members are eligible to Chair committees and Co-Chairs are encouraged whenever possible. The following committees are organized throughout the year:

Band Camp

With assistance from a committee of parents, the Band Directors and Advisors of the Marching Band conduct a summer instructional camp that is mandatory for all members during the month of August.

Band Nurses/EMT's

A team of nurses/EMT's is required for each field event, including halftime performances and Cavalcade, travel performances including Music In Motion and parades, and the annual trip.

End of Year Picnic

Marching Band and Band Front students are invited to attend our annual picnic. Parents organize and supervise the picnic by providing an organization team, chaperones, and food service.

Band Parents Social/Trip to Atlantic City

The Hamilton High West Band Parents Club hosts a parent's social event each Spring. All full and associate members and their adult guests may attend for the price of admission. A committee organizes this event.

Band Parents Trip

Band parents and their families and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend the annual band trip. The parents' itinerary coincides with that of the students, but is booked and priced separately. The parent's trip is coordinated by a member of the HHWBPC through an independent travel agent.

USSBA Home Competition (*Cavalcade of Bands*)

This annual competition celebrates marching band in a competitive atmosphere of music and critique. The event is by far the club's biggest annual event and money-maker. It is held every September or October and this type of fund-raiser has been part of the Hornet tradition for over 30 years. More than a dozen committees are arranged for opportunity for every parent to participate in this event.

Concerts

Instrumental students participate in Symphonic and Jazz Bands that assemble several times throughout the year to perform. A committee of parents manages admission to each concert through ticket sales prior to each performance and sells logo items.

Ad Book

A chairperson is required to collect ads and assemble the ads for print. Ads are due at the time of collection of Band Camp fees. Each member's family is obligated to purchase ad space in our annual Ad Book. **If this ad requirement is not met, the student's account will be charged.**

Logo/Fifty-Fifty

Members of this committee are responsible for the selling of logo items at football games, concerts, and other club events. This committee will also be responsible for the printing and distribution of Super 50/50 ticket packets.

Septemberfest

This event helps to fund the club's expenses for the year ahead. A coordinator is responsible for the operation of food stands and collection of the donation items. Members must help work at them.

Field Crew

The Hamilton High West Band Parents Club receives assistance, at no cost, from the Hamilton Township Board of Education for the sake of transporting instruments for performances away from home. This includes football games, Music in Motion, and parades. Under the direction of the Third Vice President, a large committee of HHWBPC members serves as Field Crew to provide assistance loading and unloading instruments and equipment for all performances

Fundraisers

Parent Club Fundraiser: Throughout the year, fundraisers provide ample opportunity to defer or subsidize the expense of Marching Band activities. Annually, the HHWBPC selects profitable endeavors to participate in, and a parent from the Fundraising Committee chairs each activity. These funds are used to defer expenses incurred. Also, these funds provide scholarships to graduating seniors.

Student Fundraiser: Specific fundraisers are provided to the students to subsidize their band expenses. An account is maintained by the Band Parents Club for every individual in the band.

Hair Braiding

Female members of the Marching Band wear a French Braid for all performances. For those that need help, braids are done by a committee of parents prior to each performance in the Band Room. Report times are announced prior to each performance.

Scholarships

Senior students from the Marching Band whose parents or guardians are full members in good standing of the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club are eligible to receive scholarships at the end of their senior year. Scholarships are offered annually based on availability of funds from the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club budget.

Website

By committee, the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club maintains a website of information at: www.hornetband.org

Meetings

Monthly meetings of the membership of the Hamilton High West Band Parents Club are held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm in the Band Room. Executive Board meets at 6:00pm, prior to the General Membership meetings.

Performances

The Marching Band performs during halftime at all home football games, and before kickoff at away games. They also perform at the annual USSBA Home Competition, Steinert Music in Motion, all competitions, St. Patrick's Day parade, Memorial Day parades, and during an annual band trip.