



# West Lafayette Bands

<https://wlbands.com>

## Director's Corner

### Upcoming Events:

**Spring Band Festival**  
All bands  
MAY 14  
6:30PM

**Summer Band**  
Grades 5-8  
JUNE  
1-29

**Marching Band Music Rehearsal**  
JUNE  
1-20

**Marching Band Camp**  
JUL 25  
-AUG 6

### Directors

Don Pettit  
[director@wlbands.com](mailto:director@wlbands.com)

Clayton Henady  
[henady@wlbands.com](mailto:henady@wlbands.com)

### 2016-2017

**Booster Board**  
Emily Ohland, President  
[president@wlbands.com](mailto:president@wlbands.com)

Jeff Adams, Treasurer  
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Kelly Marshall, Secretary  
[secretary@wlbands.com](mailto:secretary@wlbands.com)

Andy Milam, Website/IT  
[webmaster@wlbands.com](mailto:webmaster@wlbands.com)

Dawn Parks, Marching Band  
[marchingband@wlbands.com](mailto:marchingband@wlbands.com)

### Band Boosters Meeting

May 17th, 5:30 pm  
WLHS Band Room

Welcome to the first West Lafayette Bands Newsletter! This is our way to stay in contact with current students, parents, alumni and friends. In this first edition we will get you caught up on the happenings over the past few years and share our recent successes.

In Fall 2012 Mr. Matt Conway (director from 2002-2012) left WLHS to take a position with Purdue University bands and Mr. Don Pettit was hired to fill his position. He left the band in a good place, with about 250 students in grades 5 -12, consisting of a total of 6 band classes. Since that time, we have made some wonderful progress while continuing to maintain a tradition of excellence.

Because of a continued increase in participants, a second band director, Mr. Clayton Henady was added this past school year. Our 6 - 12 grade band enrollment for 2016-17 is at 296 students plus we estimate 85 students will join the 5th Grade Beginning Band in August. That means there will be nearly 400 stu-

dents enrolled in the WL Bands next school year!

The high school has two bands, one of which is the auditioned Wind Ensemble that competes in the ISSMA State Qualification contest each year. I am proud to say that our Wind Ensemble made the state finals in 2008, 2014 and this year, 2016, meaning that we earned a spot among the top 16 concert bands in Indiana. This is quite an accomplishment considering that this competition is not based on a class system, meaning we compete against schools with several thousand students versus our 688 current student enrollment.



We also have a volunteer extracurricular marching band program that has been steadily increasing in participants. For the 2016 season our marching band (The Sound of West Side) has 92 members. The Sound of West Side performs at all home football games and parades as well as com-

petes in the Indiana State Fair Band Day competition where we have made the finals ("The Night Show") by earning a spot in the top 16 (out of usually 45 bands) in years 2011, 2014, and 2015!

Our Happy Hollow, Junior High and High School bands all perform each year at the ISSMA organizational contests. West Lafayette has not had a single band of any grade level receive less than a Gold rating at an ISSMA contest since 2003! And, since 2006 we have had 16 bands earn a "Gold with Distinction" rating, ISSMA's highest ensemble honor outside of being a state finalist.

As you can see, the West Lafayette Bands have been busy and our students are performing at a high level. We want to make our community and our alumni proud and at the same time continue to offer great opportunities for our students at West Lafayette. We thank you for helping to create this tradition of excellence and we will do our very best to ensure that the West Lafayette Band Program continues to maintain a high level of quality for many generations to come.

RDP!  
Mr. Pettit and Mr. Henady



## Julia Bell

(see page 3)

# WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WL BANDS!

## DONATE TODAY

Text wlbands to  
33923

OR

Go to [wlbands.com](http://wlbands.com)  
Click on *Donate*

*The WL Bands are supported by the school corporation and the generosity of donors. We have been fortunate to experience a steady increase of student participants but along with growth comes growing pains. To be able to maintain our tradition of excellence, update school-owned specialty instruments, and outfit our talented marching band please consider joining in the WL Bands fundraising opportunities.*

## SCRIP PROGRAM

Scrip is a no-sell fundraiser. We aren't asking you to buy anything you don't already buy, or shop anywhere you don't already shop. We are asking you to consider paying for your purchases in a slightly different manner.

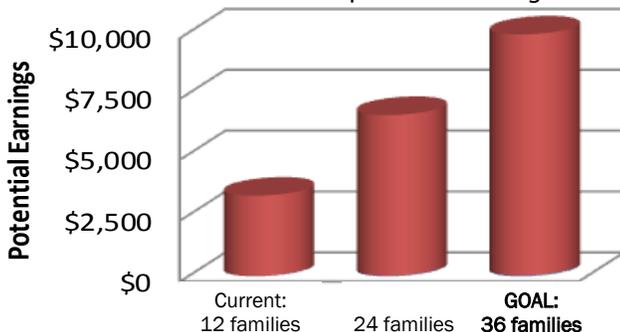
**Scrip is a gift card fundraiser.** The Band Boosters buy gift cards at a discount and then we sell them at face value. The profit is split 50/50 between your student's band account and the band program. It is a win-win.

This can really add up for the students and the band program. The student's account can be used for anything band related, such as new instruments, private lessons, supplies, or band trips.

For complete information go to [www.wlbands.com](http://www.wlbands.com) or contact [scrip@wlbands.com](mailto:scrip@wlbands.com)

The WL Band Program earns, on average, \$3,300 annually through the SCRIP Program. Currently 12 families regularly participate in the SCRIP program. Our goal is to triple family participation by December 2016.

Triple the number of families, triple the amount of funds earned for the Band! Please help us reach this goal!



## What you can do NOW!

Do you shop at PayLess? If so, please register your PayLess rewards card for the PayLess Community Program. Through this program, PayLess gives back to help communities grow and prosper. The more participation we have, the more funds we earn. Please help us reach our fundraising goals! Go to [www.wlbands.com](http://www.wlbands.com) and click on fundraising/boosters for more information and how to register your card.



## Upcoming Opportunities

- ◆ Show your support for WL Bands while wearing the latest apparel, gear and accessories. Coming soon.... an online WL Bands Gear Store!
- ◆ Join us for dinner! We are partnering with local restaurants to support the WL Bands. Watch for emails with details!

## SEATBACKS at PURDUE FOOTBALL GAMES



Join us for this fun fundraiser!

WL Band volunteers staff the Seatback Customer Service Booths at home Purdue football games. The team works for 4 hours

- 2016 Purdue Home Games**
- September 3
  - September 10
  - September 24
  - October 15
  - October 29
  - November 12
  - November 19

renting and installing seats, and answering questions. Student and parents can work the games that fit into their schedules.

The profit is split 50/50 between your student's band account and the band program.

Watch your email for sign-up opportunities.

**Questions? Contact [fundraising@wlbands.com](mailto:fundraising@wlbands.com)**



# JULIA BELL '14

## Alumni Spotlight Interview

What have you been doing since you graduated from West Lafayette High School?

*I just completed my sophomore year at the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music! I am majoring in Trumpet Performance, minor-ing in Conducting, and working towards a certificate in Arts Administration in the School of Public & Environmental Affairs.*

How did your experiences at WLHS prepare you for life after graduation?

*My time at WLHS was extremely effective for preparing me to be a college student. I participated in every band activity I could in high school: concert band, marching band, pep band, jazz band, symphony orchestra. I was always doing something music related and balancing my schoolwork with trumpet time. This was key in preparing me for college. I am still a lot busier now than I was in high school, but I am glad I had the experience of juggling all of my activities. High School also prepared me so well for the process of getting into and being in college. I've found the writing and speaking skills I developed in high school to be extremely useful in college, and they have helped me have successful interviews, essays, and proposals. I also felt prepared for all of my academic classes. Even if I am unfamiliar with the course subject, the skills I learned in high school set me on the right path to being able to study effectively and take on the challenge without getting too overwhelmed.*



***We invite all WL Bands alumni  
to go to [www.wlbands.com](http://www.wlbands.com)  
click on Alumni and  
complete the  
alumni registration form.***

What have you done or experienced of which you are most proud? *The Jacobs School of Music has an organization called Classical Connections that brings musical performances to some of the underserved areas of the Bloomington community. Classical Connections recruits students in the Jacobs School of Music to perform for and interact with audiences at assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters, etc. I worked with them as a creative programmer and emcee for their concerts, but have recently become Vice President of the organization! This is an exciting way for me to help the community and get experience in Arts Administration.*

Can you tell us about your upcoming trip to Italy? *I sent in an audition tape earlier this year, and was ecstatic when I received my acceptance to participate in the Mediterranean Opera Studio Festival this summer. MOSF is a six-week long program in Sicily, Italy. We will be performing 3 different operas, as well as separate symphonic and solo programs. I will be soloing in one of our concerts, which I am extremely excited for! We will perform each of the operas multiple times, each in a different part of Sicily. It will be a great opportunity to travel and get more experience playing in a pit orchestra.*

If you could go back and do high school all over again, what would you do differently? *I don't have too many regrets when it comes to high school, but I do think I could have had a more open mind and taken my stress level down a few notches. I believe it is important to be open to new ideas. I initially started college as a Music Education Major, which I subconsciously knew wasn't exactly the right path for me. I had always wanted to play trumpet, but was not sure I was comfortable with majoring in something where it is very difficult to score a job after graduation. A lot of my peers and their families had the mindset that your major in college needs to be something like Engineering, Law, Medicine, etc., and that if you don't get straight A's and an extremely high SAT score, you're in trouble. I now realize that, though good grades are crucial to getting into college, I could have stressed about them a lot less.*

*I thought that in music school, you were either a Performance Major or a Music Education Major with nothing in between, which is not the case at all. After exploring more options, I finally realized I could still take some Music Education classes with a conducting minor. I also realized that Arts Administration is something that really interests me, and I get to major in trumpet, which was my dream! I did not know anything about Arts Administration before I came to college. Either way, it all worked out, so I don't really regret anything, but I think the earlier you can open your mind and explore your options, the better.*

Do you have a personal hero or someone that you really look up to? *I have a lot of people that I look up to, which include my music teachers both in high school and in college. All of my band directors in high school: Mr. Conaway, Mr. Pettit, and Mr. Waltz, played a key role in sparking my love for music and showing me how powerful music can be. My high school trumpet teacher, Steve Robinett, was always encouraging of everything I wanted to do and motivated me to perform at the highest level possible. Andy King at Purdue University gave me the opportunity to play in Purdue's orchestras in high school, where I discovered my love of orchestral playing. Now, my trumpet professors at Indiana University, Edmund Cord and John Rommel, have pushed me to achieve musicality that I didn't know I was capable of and raise my standards for myself.*

*Most trumpet players have a few trumpet heroes as well, and mine are definitely Maurice André and Phil Smith. Maurice is one of the most musical solo trumpet players I have ever heard, and Phil Smith is the former principal trumpet of the New York Philharmonic. I am constantly listening to their recordings.*