



Varsity: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) What is the Walled Lake Performance Ensemble?

- WLPE is a competitive marching ensemble. It is very similar to a marching band that performs indoors. WLPE learns and perfects the same show throughout the season.
- There are three sections involved: the front ensemble (mallet percussion, timpani, synthesizers, and other concert percussion instruments) the battery (marching drums and cymbals) and the color guard (dancing, flag, rifle, and sabres)
- In Walled Lake, we currently have 2 ensembles that you can think of as Varsity and JV teams.
- WLPE is a shared district activity that is open to students in the district from grades 6-12. It is run under the umbrella of the Walled Lake Central Music Boosters.

2) How do I audition? Are there "cuts" for WLPE?

- Simply put, you just need to show up and you will be given a spot. WLPE does not cut anyone that wants to be in the group. You do have to commit to the financial obligations involved. High School wind players that want to be in the group are welcome, but we do handle that on a case-by-case basis as sometimes it is not beneficial for a wind player to be in the group for their musical development. Middle school wind players are not allowed to play a percussion instrument in the group, but you can join the color guard. If you have never done music and are not in a musical ensemble, you can still join!

3) What are the different teams I can join in WLPE?

- The JV Ensemble is WLPE's beginning level group. It is comprised primarily of 7th-9th graders.
- The Varsity Ensemble is WLPE's advanced level group. It is comprised primarily of 10th-12th graders.

4) What musical instruments are available to play?

- marching snare
- marching tenors
- marching bass
- marching cymbals
- synthesizer
- drumset
- marimba
- vibraphone
- glockenspiel
- xylophone
- timpani
- mixer operator
- bass guitar
- auxiliary percussion

5) What are the costs involved? What do I get for the money?

- Fees for the upcoming season are not finalized, but usually the JV is \$300-\$400 and the Varsity is \$900-\$1,100. This will be finalized closer to the season starting.
- There are some scholarships available and you can reduce costs with our personal sponsor letters.
- Costs include basically everything (travel, most food while traveling, instruction from professional teachers, show design costs, show costs, practice space, uniform, etc..)
- We also teach many leadership skills with the main idea of teaching students how to go from a dependent person to self-sufficient to collaborative to selfless.

- We encourage you to really think about what you get for the money. This is a 5-month long season and one of the highest performing ensembles in the world. A 1-week trip somewhere or a summer camp would likely cost more than that.

6) What is the schedule?

- There is a tentative schedule on the WLPE webpage. The full schedule won't be released until November.
- The Varsity generally rehearses on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. The JV generally rehearses on Mondays, Wednesdays and occasionally other days of the week.
- There are some rehearsals over breaks (Varsity) and you must make an effort to attend all of these.

7) Where does the group rehearse?

- Most rehearsals are at Walled Lake Central HS, which is the sponsoring school for the group. Occasionally we will rehearse at a different local school.

8) Can I be in WLPE if I play a winter or spring sport?

- Yes! The only sports that conflict in a major way are basketball, swimming, and skiing. All other sports have minor conflicts. There is an overlap of 3-4 weeks for spring sports that you will have to work out, but we have had WLPE members in soccer, softball, baseball, golf, and track.

9) What do I get out of it by joining?

- There is a lot you get out of it. You will be taught by professional educators that do this for a living. You will become a much better musician and performer because of WLPE. You will meet new people and form lifelong relationships. You'll get to perform in front of many people. You will learn how to become a better leader and you will learn how to take ownership for yourself. You will truly learn what it takes to be great at something and to know what it takes to be one of the best in the world at something.

10) What are some facts about WLPE?

- WLPE competes in 2 circuits – MAPA (Michigan Alliance for Performing Arts) and WGI (Winter Guard International).
- Percussion and Color Guard has competed for 20 years. This will be the 2nd year combining.
- The Percussion and Color Guard have combined won 24 State Championships and been a WGI finalist 14 times.
- WLP has performed for many charity events (Jammin' for Joseph, Passion for Like, etc..) and has put on clinics.
- WLP is endorsed by multiple companies: Yamaha, Innovative Percussion, Zildjian, and Remo. Basically, every instrument we play on and every stick/mallet we use is endorsed.
- WLPE has had many students go on to perform and now teach in many of the top ensembles in WGI and DCI.
- WLPE is insanely fun and one of the most rewarding things you will do in high school! This is a fact based on the many years of students that have gone through the program.