

# WH BANDS

Dear West Hall Band Family,

Since June of 2016, I have had the pleasure to serve West Hall High School as the Director of Bands. I have been blessed by the experiences, students, families, colleagues, and music from the past 9 years. After careful consideration, I have made the difficult decision to pursue a new opportunity in my career. I have accepted a Director of Bands position with a Gwinnett County High School for next school year. While I was not actively seeking to leave West Hall, this opportunity aligns with what is best for my family and me.

This was a tremendously difficult decision. The band program at West Hall has become an extension of my own family. Together, we have navigated many significant moments—celebrating the adoption of my children, overcoming the challenges of leading a program through the pandemic, supporting one another through the grief of losing a beloved band member, opening a new Fine Arts Center, commissioning a new wind band and percussion ensemble composition, and sharing countless unforgettable musical experiences. I am heartbroken to leave West Hall, but I am so proud of all that the band family has accomplished since 2016 and I am honored to have been a part of that growth.

The West Hall administration is already in the process of seeking a new band director, and I have offered my assistance during the hiring process to ensure a smooth transition. I am confident that we will find someone great to continue investing in the band program and the music education of our students. The program is strong, the students and their families are incredible, and I have no doubt that it will continue to thrive and be a central part of the Spartan community. The legacy created by Mr. Ernie Phillips and the traditions that we added to it, provide a strong foundation for the next band director to carry forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this organization. I wish nothing but success for West Hall and the band program. I treasure the experiences and time that I have spent in Sparta and I appreciate all of your support over the past 9 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to teach your children and be involved in their lives. I truly believe in the phrase, “Once a Spartan, Always a Spartan.”

We are ALL IN. We are WEST HALL.

Much Love,

*Katy Wilson-Fields*