

# We Got the Beat Youth Percussion Band Handbook

## Welcome to We Got the Beat Youth Percussion Band!

This is your guide to the group. Here are some things you need to know about WGTB.

*We Got the Beat is an independent, non-profit (through JazzFresno) community-based organization.*

## WGTB Mission Statement

We Got the Beat provides a comprehensive musical experience for youth that enriches lives and builds community.

## WGTB Vision Statement

Participants of diverse backgrounds develop music appreciation, performance skills, proficiency on a variety of percussion instruments, learn to improvise, compose and teach music, and to care for their instruments. These skills build creativity and self-confidence and teach lifelong values of discipline, cooperation, leadership, responsibility, and community.

## COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS IN WE GOT THE BEAT!

## Member Responsibilities

Being a member of WGTB means that you agree to:

- **Act like a professional** – listen, help pack and unpack, load equipment, and represent the group with pride and maturity.
- **Be persistent** – You must **try** in order to have success. Don't give up on yourself or your band. Have a positive attitude; smile, share, cooperate, help and be nice to your fellow Beaters!
- **Be dependable** – Know your parts and come to rehearsals and performances **ON TIME!**

**DEFINITION OF “ON TIME”:** In the music world, showing up **EARLY** is considered **ON TIME**. Showing up at the time of rehearsal or performance is considered **LATE**. Please **PLAN** to be **ON TIME**.

## Behavior

Misbehavior while at our practice space, during rehearsals or at gigs will not be tolerated. When a Beater is with WGTB in rehearsals, at performances, or any time they are wearing a WGTB shirt, they are representing our group. We pride ourselves on professional behavior. Individuals with consistent behavior issues may be dismissed from the group.

## Rehearsals

REHEARSALS ARE NOT OPTIONAL. **The more time your Beater misses in rehearsal or performance the less they feel part of the group.**

### Rehearsal Times

- **ROOKIES** group practices on Tuesdays of each week from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
- **SECONDARY** group practices on Wednesdays of each week from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm

## Performance Attire

**All performers must have the following:**

- **Solid black** pants with **SOLID BLACK** socks (no other colors, sport stripes, belts, etc., on pants or socks, please)
- **Solid black** shoes (no other colors on shoes, please. Place black tape over other colors if necessary)
- WGTB 2025-2026 Performance T-Shirt (purchased in September)
- **Please do not deviate from this uniform as everyone is expected to look alike!**

### Optional Attire:

- **Solid black shorts** with **black socks** (for casual, warm weather gigs)
- **Solid black long-sleeve turtleneck/mock/t-shirt** to wear under official WGTB shirt for cooler weather gigs
- **Solid black skirts/skorts** (extra-short skirts/skorts are NOT OK!)
- **WGTB Baseball hat** (these are the only acceptable baseball hats to wear when WGTB performs)
- **WGTB Visor** (these are only acceptable visors to wear when WGTB performs)
- **WGTB Beanie** (these are the only acceptable beanies to wear when WGTB performs)

## Tuition

**Contract Year:** August through the end of the CUSD school year

**Tuition:** \$1,100.00 (that breaks down to \$110.00 per month, for 10 months, August 1st through May 31st).

**When do I pay?** You may choose to pay the total amount now (\$1,100.00), half now and half in January (\$550.00 each) or monthly (divided into ten \$110.00 payments). Your first payment is due the first week in August that you begin attending rehearsals. Payments for the upcoming month will be due the last rehearsal of the previous month. (For instance, your October payment is due by Wednesday, September 24th, 2025. Your last payment will be due by April 29th, 2026.)

### Accepted Payment Methods

- Cash to Brenda directly
- Check payable to Brenda Myers
- Online through the WGTB Member Portal
- Paypal: [wegotthebeat@me.com](mailto:wegotthebeat@me.com)

**If your child needs to leave the group in the middle of the year for any reason, the balance of the tuition becomes due at the time the student departs the group.**

## Fundraising Goal

Every family (regardless of how many Beaters are in ensembles) is asked to generate at least \$250.00 a year in fundraising.

### This can be accomplished by:

- A **donation** made to JazzFresno for We Got the Beat
- **Online donations** can be made through our website
- Selling **Jamba Juice 2-for-1 cards**. These are available at rehearsals. Just ask one of the parent helpers or Brenda for cards.
- **Selling tickets** to our annual BIG Show
- **Donating snacks**, buying meals, etc., when WGTB needs them (please submit digitally on the Member Portal Website, or give labeled receipts with your Beater's name to the parent helper or Brenda at rehearsal)

- **Finding WGTB a grant.** A percentage of the grant will be given in credit to the family who is responsible for the grant.
- **Finding and arranging WGTB an especially lucrative gig.** A percentage of the amount will be added in credit to the family responsible for the gig.
- **Having a parent-run fundraiser**
- Any other **fundraising opportunities** that come up throughout the year.

All fundraising money goes directly toward making WGTB a more enriching program for your kids.

## Who's Who – 2025/26 WGTB Staff

<b>WGTB Executive Director</b>	Brenda Myers	(559) 930-1784 wegotthebeat@me.com
<b>Music Director</b>	Roman Rivera	(559) 326-4772 romanplaysdrums@gmail.com
<b>Assistant</b>	Brandy Ruelas-Moore Ensemble, soloing	(559) 916-0616 brandyruelas@gmail.com
<b>Parent Helpers</b>	Rookies – Tuesdays	Becky Field (559) 393-1036
	Secondary – Wednesdays	Lauren Lieder (559) 244-1489 Rebecca Jones (559) 286-6444
<b>Trailer Hauler</b>	We could use someone other than Brenda who can pull a trailer, back it up, park, etc.	

WGTB is a parent-volunteer based organization, and we need your help to make things run smoothly! Please contact Roman to find out what you can do to become more involved today!

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