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WOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Thursday, May 21, 2026

1. Welcome
 - a. Reading of the board norms
2. Public Comment
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Principal's Report presented by Cotton Bryan
 - b. Minutes from April 2026 meeting
3. Reports & Presentation of Committee Charters
 - a. Student Update – Oakes Ulrich
 - b. Faculty Update – Rachel Lawrence
 - c. Finance Committee Report – Courtney Cabe
 - d. Foundation Report – Jessica Oliver
 - e. Communications Committee Report – Doreen Messick
 - f. Personnel Committee Report – Rachel McInerney
 - g. Board Development Report – Charmaine Terregino
4. Business
 - a. Old Business - None
 - b. New Business -
 - i. Board Elections results
 - ii. Community Survey results
 - iii. Sibling Admissions Policy (vote needed)
5. Closed Session
 - None
6. Adjournment Session
 - Action Taken/Voted
 - Adjournment

Principal's Report

May 21, 2026

Oh, the Places They're Going to Go

May 1st is still an important date in college admissions as it's the last day for seniors to commit to colleges for next year. For our current seniors, here's the most recent accounting:

Appalachian State University (5)

Central Carolina Community
College

Davidson College

Davenport University

Duke University

East Carolina University

Gap Year

McGill University

Meredith College

NC State University (6)

Penn State

Perdue University

Sewanee, University of the South
UNC Chapel Hill (7)

UNC Charlotte

UNC Greensboro (2)

UNC-Wilmington

University of South Carolina

University of South Carolina

Beaufort

Virginia Tech

Wake Tech

Wellesley College

Hiring Update

We've hosted a slew of candidate visits this past month. I'm happy to report that we have signed contracts for three full-time positions:

School Counselor

Elementary Teacher (2)

Searches that remain open:

Exceptional Children (E.C.) Teacher

Elementary Teacher

High School Biology and AP Biology

More candidates/finalists will be visiting next week.

Health Care Negotiations

In our preliminary budget that the Board passed in February, we had increased the line item for health care by 8.5%, knowing that we'd have a more accurate number in May once we went through our annual renewal.

Blue Cross Blue Shield initially sent a quote that far exceeded our estimate. It was the largest single-year increase that we've ever faced. BCBS cited three reasons for the increase:

- 1) Our team's claims are up. We're using more health care, and some within our group have some very high claims.
- 2) Inflation. Everything in the medical field is more expensive. Costs/Prices throughout the field are up.
- 3) When the subsidies for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) policies were dropped, many people could not continue their coverage and came off of insurance. People needing a lot of health care tended to stay on their insurance, so the general pool became smaller and sicker.

Given the high quote, we shopped the policy with two other carriers, United Health Care and Cigna, and then went back to BCBS to see if they could offer any rate relief.

Eventually, we landed on an increase that represents a 15.1% increase. Where we had budgeted \$542k, we will need to increase this expense line to \$575k.

Benefit Auction

We were at a new location with our largest number of attendees ever. It was a fun and joyful night. Many details to follow in Jessica Oliver's report, but Woods families, once again, showed that they have no problem fundraising while fun-raising.

The new venue had many strengths, but it's a vulnerable setting in terms of wind and weather, so we will be at a new location, a dream location, next April. Get ready for The Evermore on April 23rd!

The Foundation's goal of raising \$545,000 was a true BHAG (pronounced Bee Hag, a term coined by leadership guru Jim Collins to denote a Big Hairy Audacious Goal). They have now blasted through that goal and find themselves north of \$600k for the year for the first time ever. This achievement means we will be able to offer our highest year-end supplement to faculty in June. Thank you Foundation Board! And thank you to all Woods families and sponsors who have contributed to the Annual Fund and the Auction!

Spring Sports

Most of our sports seasons have concluded for the year, but our varsity women's soccer team's season lives on! Our undefeated team plays in the final four this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. across the street at Briar Chapel Park. If they win that game, they will be in the 1A state championship finals.

Many of our track and field athletes did very well at last week's state finals.

Our middle school girls' soccer team won their conference championship 4-0 last week!

Woods Charter School
Board Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2026

Voting members present: Courtney Cabe, Doreen Messick, Amy Garrett, Alex Protzman, Michelle Pearlstein and Charmaine Terregino

Non-voting members present: Rachel Lawrence (Faculty Representative), Oakes Ulrich (Student Representative), and Cotton Bryan (Principal)

Absent voting members: Rachel McInerney

Non-voting members not present: none

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm and was held in person, with guests having the option to watch via Zoom.

- Public Comment: None
- Norms reiterated
- Consent Agenda: No Changes

Principal's report <i>Cotton Bryan</i>	Principal report highlights: • All returning faculty received contracts last week. ◦ Reviewed open faculty positions and process for application • Benefit Auction will be tomorrow, April 17, 2026 • 8th graders concluded their Blue Ridge Assembly Field trip to Black Mountain. 7th graders visited Trinity Center on the coast to study ecology • Playground will need to be replaced sooner than later. The full Principal's Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Minutes from February Meeting	Additional Comments: None
Action Taken	A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Amy Garrett, seconded by Courtney Cabe, and unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

- Reports

Student Update <i>Oakes Ulrich</i>	Oakes Ulrich gave updates: • Sophomores are prepping for potentially first AP exams • Student Council held Spring Spirit Week including Tie-Dye Tuesday and Waffle Wednesday • Spring sports are underway including girls Varsity Soccer & Track and Field. • Juniors took ACT recently and are preparing for AP exams • Seniors
Faculty Update <i>Rachel Lawrence</i>	Rachel Lawrence shared updates: • Ms. Transue's first grade worked with UNC Ep Eta Environmental club to create stop #4854 on the Butterfly Highway

	• AP research students began their oral defense presentations • Rising 9th Grade Night was held last night. Additionally, 8th graders will have assistance with registering for high school courses The full Teacher Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Finance Committee <i>Courtney Cabe</i>	Courtney Cabe shared budget, revenue, and expenses for March, 2026. Highlights include: • Received last state funding has arrived therefore currently will be spending down from our net positive • Financial standing is stable and good. The full Finance Committee Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Foundation Report <i>Cotton Bryan for Jessica Oliver</i>	Cotton Bryan discussed events and financial summary including: • Foundation has raised \$435K towards Annual Fund as of March, 2026. • McIntyre's Book Fair was very successful! The full Foundation Report can be found on the school website in the board meeting packet.
Communications <i>Doreen Messick</i>	Doreen Messick gave updates • Community Survey underway. • Prelim results will be shared at May meeting. No written report.
Personnel <i>Charmaine Terregino</i>	No new updates
Board Development <i>Charmaine Terregino</i>	Charmaine Terregino gave updates. • Board elections coming up with 3 open seats (McInerney, Pearlstein, Messick) – all class one seats with new term ending in 2029 • Board Applications to be opened by next week and closing on May 3. Elections will be held shortly thereafter for one week with elections occurring via Infinite Campus. No written report.

- Old Business:

	None
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- New Business:

Discussion Title	None
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Closed Session

None	None
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- Adjournment Session

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:35 pm by Amy Garrett, seconded by Alex Protzman, and unanimously approved by all present voting board members.

Student Report
May 21, 2026

The weather's getting warmer and Advanced Placement exams are officially finished, but the year's still not quite done yet. While AP exams officially concluded last week, there are several students who are continuing to take makeup exams. Along with that, Woods mandates that all non-AP classes have finals, which along with EOGs for classes like biology leaves plenty of exams left in the school year. As a college-prep school, Woods heavily focuses on exam practice for its students which, while daunting as a freshman, definitely does help prepare students for exams as reflected by Woods' average standardized test scores compared to state and national averages.

To help alleviate some of this pressure, one of Woods' annual traditions is approaching: Cotton with Cotton. On May 16 The principal of the school, Cotton Bryan, will give out free cotton candy to students. Along with this, Stuco has invited a Kona Ice truck and will also be selling pizza. Fun yearly events like this tend to lighten up the school's mood, and Woods being a smaller school also makes these events much easier to organize and build a community. Cotton with Cotton specifically helps make the principal more approachable, and not just a figure you see when you get in trouble.

Even sooner than Cotton with Cotton, however, is Mental Health and Earth Day. This Friday, Green Team will work in collaboration with Mental Health Club to organize the annual Mental Health Day walk, where teachers have the option to allow their students to leave class in the morning and walk around the school to participate in a variety of activities. This will happen in the morning, while during the afternoon there will be Earth Day events. During the afternoon, students will participate in workshops relating to Earth Day, such as building bird houses, sustainable gardening, or DIY jewelry making.

On less of a school-wide topic, Student Council has also started interviewing possible candidates for next year. While we've not been told of any hiring decisions yet, we do all believe that there are some great candidates to replace the teachers we're losing. We love interviewing the candidates, and it's one of my personal favorite parts of being on student council. Now for the grade reports.

As the year has almost wrapped up, the freshman class has begun to hunker down and focus on finishing the year strong. Students have prepared for finals since the beginning of the year, and are confident in their testing abilities. Even through the flood of last minute projects, students continue to execute quickly, and with precision. Students are also especially excited about end of year events such as Cotton with Cotton, and the Mental Health Walk, as well as athletics like Women's Soccer. Furthermore, as the school year is coming to a close students have come closer together, and have repeatedly talked about their excitement for next year, and all the potential clubs and classes that they will participate in. In conclusion, the Freshman class has had an amazing school year, and while saddened by it, is ready to take on finals, and finish their first high school year.

Sophomores have experienced the ups and downs of the month of May! Many of us took our first ever AP exam which was exciting for some yet scary for others. Moreover as we wrap up the school year, we've started to prepare for upcoming finals or final projects. The mock trial specifically is very exciting for many Sophomores as we prepare to be a witness on the stand, give opening and closing speeches, or directly and indirectly examine witnesses for the jury. We are relieved to have a balance of projects and tests for our final grade. Furthermore mental health day and earth day festivities give our class motivation to finish the year out strong.

With the final days of May wrapping up, and so too are the final days of the year approaching, the Juniors are entering a time of the school year drastically different from previous months. With the conclusion of APs, in which many Juniors partook if not taking multiple exams, Juniors now have a period of more free-form, but still rigorous, learning. In English III, Juniors are reading *The Great Gatsby*, while in APUSH, we have started our Period 9 presentations, which are 45 minute lectures given by the students on the four decades 1980-2019. AP Calc AB and AP Psych, after the exams have ended, are starting their respective final projects, and AP Environmental Science is continuing with new material before wrapping up the year. Many Juniors enjoyed Prom this past Saturday, having fun dressing up, eating, and dancing with friends. This week, Juniors are headed to DPAC to see a performance of *Hamilton* for their APUSH curriculum, and to finish the year on a high.

As for the seniors, just yesterday we all presented our senior projects. We had students present projects that ranged from building a workshop to composing original piano music or making hand-drawn short films. We had two months to work on these projects, so it was great to finally be able to share what we learned and achieved. A lot of the senior class is also excited for both our graduation and senior dinner, both of which we give a speech at. We also had a rather impressive attendance at prom, with a large part of the grade attending making it a nice night.

Overall, May has been a difficult but rewarding month. We are now finally wrapping up classes and the year's almost at a close. As always, if you have any questions please feel free to reach out to stuco@woodscharter.org.

Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: MAY 2026

ANNUAL FUND

Our Auction took us soaring past our goal of \$545,000! Currently, our Annual Fund stands at just over \$622,000!

BENEFIT AUCTION

What a wonderful night our Auction was! The weather was perfect, the turnout was better than ever, and the mood was joyful! While most of our numbers were up for this year's Auction, both our Raise the Paddle and Live Auction numbers were down from previous years, meaning we brought in less overall than last year. However, our other fundraisers have outperformed previous years, so we are still in better shape than ever!

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Raise the Paddle	\$106,450	\$130,410	\$116,780	\$112,925	\$92,400	\$95,262	\$92,550
Live Auction	\$12,000	\$15,300	\$15,400	\$14,500	\$14,400	\$12,500	-
Silent Auction/Fixed Price/Raffle Baskets	\$69,156	\$60,352	\$53,986	\$52,175	\$40,655	\$38,001	\$28,877
Ticket Proceeds	\$4,200 (274 tix)	\$3,645 (219)	\$3,225 (233)	\$2,912 (235)	\$2,550 (188)	\$1,638 (179)	\$336 (virtual)
EVENT TOTAL	\$191,806	\$209,707	\$189,391	\$182,512	\$150,005	\$147,401	\$121,763
Sponsorships	\$18,750	\$13,000	\$10,000	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$10,250	\$13,250
GRAND TOTAL	\$210,556	\$222,707	\$199,391	\$193,012	\$160,505	\$157,651	\$135,013

Raise the Paddle saw 74 donors this year, as compared to 68 donors last year, 78 in 2024, 80 in 2023, 67 donors in 2022, 66 donors in 2021, 88 donors in 2020, 60 donors in 2019 and 52 donors in 2018. We had 409 bidders/donors (compared to 404 last year).

Other numbers for you . . .

LIVE AUCTION ITEM	VALUE	SALES PRICE
Week in the Keys	\$2,800	\$3,200 (\$5,000 last year)
4 Nights in Rumbling Bald	\$2,900	\$2,400 (same as last year)
Cotton Bryan Original	Priceless	\$1,200 (\$1,100 last year)
Top Shelf Bar Cart	\$1,000	\$1,800 (\$1,400 last year)
Oak Island Thanksgiving	\$5,000	\$3,400 (\$5,400 last year)

We've had these same offerings in the Live Auction for years now. Next year, we plan to move some to the Silent Auction and mix it up a bit! Speaking of the Silent Auction, below are the highest grossing items and the most popular items

Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

Top 15 Packages	Sold		Top 15 Most Popular Packages	Bids
6 Nights in Aruba	\$4,200		Ms. Norris' Fruit Bowl	33
Week at North Topsail	\$3,700		Needoh Basket	32
Braces from Morgenstern	\$3,000		Custom Woods Cap	32
Bald Head Long Weekend	\$2,000		October Cover Pet	21
Night at Umstead + B'fast	\$2,000		June Cover Pet	21
Bourbon Collection	\$2,000		November Cover Pet	18
Reverse Osmosis	\$1,800		April Cover Pet	17
Labor Day Myrtle Beach	\$1,700		Student Parking Spot 3	17
Wintergreen Fall Break	\$1,600		December Cover Pet	17
Pick-Up Line VIP	\$1,540		Black Walnut Charcuterie	16
Joseph Terrell House Concert	\$1,000		3 Hour Day Retreat at Hillsborough Spa	16
Oktoberfeast	\$900		Black Walnut Charcuterie	16
Medspa Regenerative Facial	\$800		January Cover Pet	16
IPL Facial Series	\$700		Woods Family Game Pass	15
Ms. Norris' Fruit Bowl	\$700		Woods Dangle Earrings	15

Our Raffle Baskets were back up this year – we sold around \$6,000 worth of tickets! Paw Punch still drove lots of interest and fun, bringing in \$1,600 in proceeds. Wanderlust sold out, bringing in a net profit of \$8,139. And, Heads or Tails was a hit, adding excitement and bringing in \$2,000.

With our numbers in, we voted for the largest eoy supplement to date at our meeting last week – a moment we are really proud of and grateful for!

NEXT YEAR'S AUCTION

And, last but not least, we have big news for next year . . . we are changing venues again! The flow was great at Ardenwood, but the weather there determines if it is a good space or a horrible one, there really isn't much in between there.

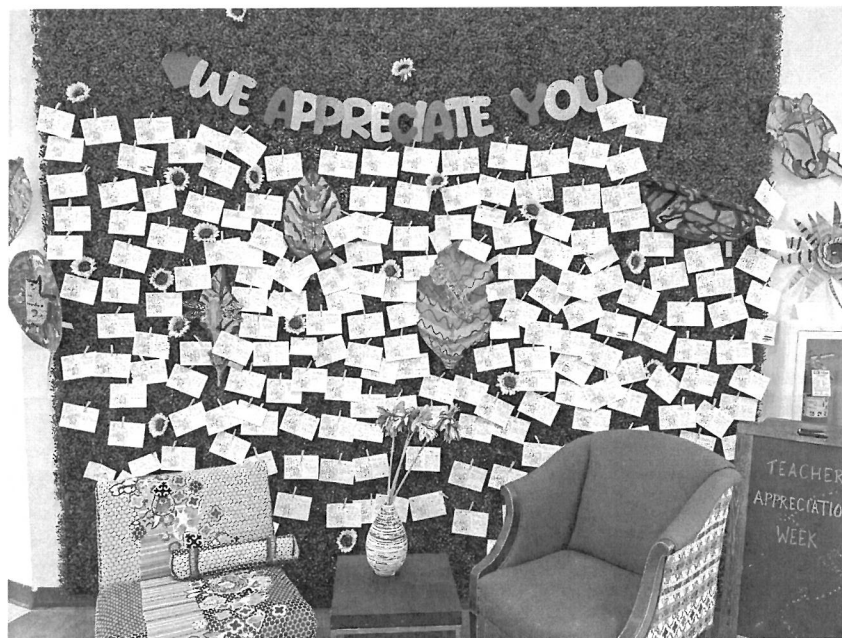
My dream venue is The Evermore: it is 18 minutes from school, GORGEOUS inside and out, the inside can hold everyone, parking is perfect, you can bring your own food and drink, but the cost was prohibitive. However, our brilliant Auction Committee came up with the idea to find a sponsor to offset the cost, and in less than 12 hours, we had one! So, next year, on Friday, April 23rd, we will be at The Evermore!



AND, Heather Rogers is booked to perform for us again! The Auction Committee has discussed changing the timeline of the night to start the program portion of the night earlier so that we have music before AND after! Stay tuned!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Lastly, the national Teacher Appreciation Week was the first week of May. To celebrate, the Foundation provided “Shout-Out” cards at a station in the school foyer to students to give their teachers shout-outs. We clipped the cards to the greenery wall. If you have time, stop and read the notes – they are heartwarming!



Woods Charter School Foundation, Inc.

NEXT YEAR'S DATES

Thurs, Sept 10	New Parents Welcome Reception
Sat-Sun, Oct 3-4	All School Campout
Wed, Oct 7	Walk to School Day
Mon-Fri, Oct 12-16	Annual Fund Week
Fri, Oct 16	Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day
Sat, Dec 5	Into the Woods 5K
Thurs, Dec 10	McIntyre's Books Shop-In Day
Thurs-Fri, Mar 18-19	Book Fair
Fri, Apr 23	Benefit Auction

2025-26 GRANTS TO WCS

Individual Teacher, Director & Dept Support	Up to \$20,000.00
Faculty Appreciation Events	Up to \$9,000.00
Curricular Materials	\$7,124.33
Student Consumables	\$22,962.62
Professional Development	\$22,092.36
Teacher Discovery Fund	\$4,677.85
Club Matching	\$404
EOY Supplement	\$307,690.84

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As of 4/30/26:

Fidelity Bank Checking: \$731,519.12 (\$217,181.32 designated) *Note that the May grants, including the eoy supplement, have not been deducted from this number.*

ETF: \$103,733.03

Woods Endowment: \$85,336.41

LPL Financial: \$55.44

May 2026 Faculty Board Report

Prepared by Rachel Lawrence, May 21, 2026

The end of the year, as always, is jam packed with special events and testing! It's rare to have a "normal" day of school in May! The high school just had Senior Project Day, where the seniors come together and present the projects they complete as part of their senior English class, is taking a field trip to see Hamilton today, has the Mental Health Walk and Earth Day celebration tomorrow, Cotton with Cotton and the Senior retreat next week, and their first round of EOCs for Biology students on Thursday!

Sophomores are going to the Chatham County Courthouse next week to present their mock trials.

The 2026 Spring Arts Celebration on Tuesday, May 19 was a beautiful night. The middle school choruses and the 3rd & 4th graders shared an hour of powerful music surrounded by hundreds of pieces of art from students from each grade, k-12. Jim Malone's ingenuity and creative touches helped elevate the evening. Over one hundred students took part in the concert and the community lingered and chatted over refreshments afterwards.

The High School Band concert will be on June 2 from 7pm-8pm on the soccer field—all are welcome, bring your families! The Ta Contento truck will be there at 6pm—come have a picnic and listen to the truly awesome sounds of the talented Music Lab crew!

7th and 8th Grade Science Updates

7th graders went to the Sound to Sea Environmental Education program at Pine Knoll Shores at the end of April. They spend two nights and three days exploring the land and sea and building memories. They dissected squid, caught critters in the sound, met an owl, a hawk, and a snake, crawled on the beach like baby turtles, and learned to identify maritime forest plants. Many thanks to all who support these overnight programs. It's a lot of behind-the-scenes work to pull these trips off and it's deeply rewarding to be able to go on the trip with the students.



8th Grade Science had a visit from the Haw River Assembly education team to learn about the Haw River Watershed and the things that affect water quality in our own town. The students did a water quality investigation of the Woods retention pond by collecting and documenting the macroinvertebrates. The cost for this program was funded by a generous parent donation. Building community partnerships with organizations like the Haw River Assembly allows us to help our students be better-informed citizens and add depth to our education here at Woods.



A message from Coach Gatcomb:

Happy Spring!

It's hard to believe we are already nearing the end of the spring athletic season. This has truly been an exciting and successful season across the board for our student-athletes.

Our middle school soccer team just wrapped up their season by beating Durham Charter School, 4-0, in the conference championship. Our Track & Field team has shown tremendous growth this season, with numerous school and personal records being broken, and will compete in the State Championship Meet on Thursday, May 14th at NC A&T.

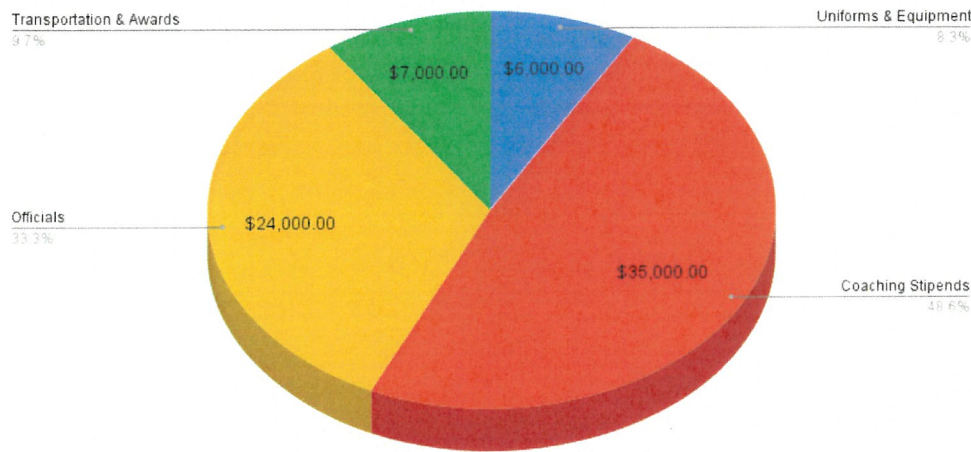
Finally, our women's soccer team is undefeated and is ranked #1 in the 1A NCHSAA State standings. The Wolves kick off their playoffs at home on Thursday, May 14th at 6:00pm and the team is fully focused as they begin their championship run. Please come out and support our Wolves!

I would also like to take a moment to address a few topics that have come up during my first year as Athletic Director at Woods. I hope the information provided is helpful, and if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your continued support of our student-athletes and athletic programs!

Department Financials

Projected Athletic Expenses 2025-2026:

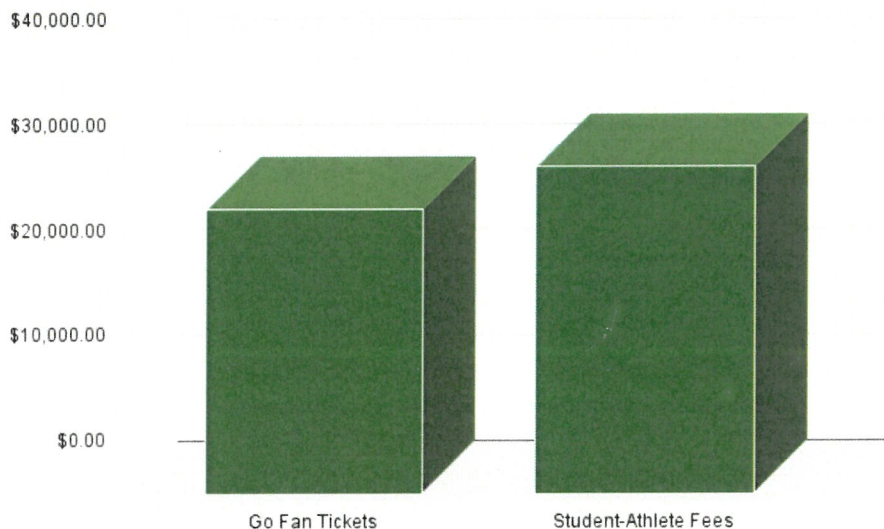
The athletic department budget is separate from that of the overall school budget. The department can only spend what it brings in through fees and fundraising. Below you will find the current and projected expenses for the Woods athletic department for the 2025-2026 academic year. Please note that these projections have been rounded up and are not exact.



2025-2026 Woods Athletic Revenue:

The athletic department has two primary sources of revenue: gate fees (generated from game ticket sales) and student athletic fees. Based on our current figures, gate fees (\$27,000) and athletic fees (\$31,000) are primarily used to cover coaching stipends and game officials. On average, head coaching stipends are \$1,200 at the high school level and \$800 at the middle school level. These expenses alone nearly exhaust our annual athletic revenue.

Additional costs—including transportation, equipment, uniforms, and postseason expenses—must be covered through any remaining funds, as well as supplemental fundraising efforts.



Department Financial Need:

Currently, the revenue we generate does not fully meet our expenses. To help bridge this gap, the department would greatly benefit from increased community support through fundraising efforts, special events, and partnerships with local businesses. Your involvement—whether through attending events, contributing to fundraisers, or connecting us with potential sponsors—plays a vital role in the continued success of our athletic programs.

We are grateful for the continued support of our community and remain committed to building a sustainable and successful future for Woods athletics.

Athletic Transportation

The school is fortunate to have access to both larger buses and a smaller 15-passenger bus; however, there are important restrictions regarding who is permitted to operate these vehicles. Operating the larger buses requires a CDL license with S and P endorsements. At this time, no members of the athletic department hold this certification. On average, it takes close to a year to obtain a CDL, largely due to the current backlog of individuals waiting to complete the required driving test.

While the smaller bus does not require a special license, it may only be driven by Woods Charter employees. Unfortunately, our coaches who are not Woods faculty are not currently classified as employees under the school's insurance policy. The athletic department is actively working with school administration and the insurance provider to explore options on reclassifying coaches as Woods employees, which would allow them to operate the smaller bus moving forward.