

## **WLHS Boosters History**

Wilde Lake High School opened its doors in 1971. There was no football team that first year, but the high school did compete in cross-country and track. In 1972, a football team was formed, beginning a long tradition of successful competitions in Howard County. In 1975, the Booster Club was incorporated and began fundraising. The initial Club was primarily composed of parents of football players who raised money to supplement the needs of the football team. Eventually the Booster Club expanded to provide financial support to any sports team that needed assistance.

Time has passed and sports have grown and changed. Title IX helped spur growth in girls' sports and led to the establishment of an equal number of girls' and boys' teams in Howard County. The School Board decided to keep the gate receipts from game entrances, but at the same time agreed to triple the budget for athletic expenses at each of the high schools. Eventually, the position of Athletic and Activities Manger was added to the high school staff, starting out as a part-time job and ultimately turning into a full-time position. In addition, HCPSS allotted each high school enough funds to hire an athletic trainer to help athletes recover from their injuries and provide assistance to injured athletes at home games.

Today, Wilde Lake High School can look proudly back on a long tradition of winning teams, graduates who became nationally recognized athletes and most recently, being chosen as Sportsmanship Award winner for Howard County two years in a row. Through all of the changes, excitement and disappointments, one phrase continues to reverberate: GO CATS!!!!!!!

*Last update: June 2017*