



Cat Slade  
Director of Bands

Wendell Middle School  
3409 NC HWY 97  
Wendell, NC 27591

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[www.wmswolvesband.com](http://www.wmswolvesband.com)  
919-365-1693  
[cslade@wcpss.net](mailto:cslade@wcpss.net)

Dear Parents and Students,

Music students are in a group like no other. They bring their individual talents and experiences into our classrooms and learn much more than how to play notes on a page. They help to enrich our culture and lives. Through participation in music, students learn teamwork, discipline, responsibility, and consideration for others.

It is our wish as music instructors to help students to develop the attitudes and behaviors that will make them productive members of our society. We want them to emerge from our programs with new abilities, strengths and confidences they never thought possible. With so much negativity facing today's youth we are all obliged to provide as many opportunities for their success as possible. Musical expression is such an opportunity.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide a guide so that our students can work on *one accord*. While the individual talents of the students are of the highest value, we are guided by common principals that lead to a successful band experience. ***Please read this handbook carefully with your child. Please direct any questions to the director.*** With the teamwork between director, student and parents we have no choice but to succeed at the highest level!

Sincerely,  
Cat S. Slade, Director of Bands

# *Band Handbook & Syllabus*

## *2016-2017*

### **Contact Information**

- [cslade@wcpss.net](mailto:cslade@wcpss.net)
- [www.wmswolvesband.com](http://www.wmswolvesband.com)
- WMS Band Office phone number: 919-365-1693
- Conference appointment times are from 7:15 A.M. to 7:45 A.M., 8:15 A.M.-9:00 A.M., or 3:30 P.M. to 4:15 P.M. Please contact Mrs. Slade for an appointment.
- Tutor appointments times are Tuesday and Thursday from 7:15 A.M. to 7:45 A.M. and 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M. Please notify Mrs. Slade in writing 24 hours in advance.
- Receive REMIND texts and/or emails. REMIND is a safe program designed for teachers and gives them a safe, easy way to send out announcements about events and homework assignments.

Text **81010** with the code for your class to receive texts.

Visit [www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com) to sign up for emails.

Download the free REMIND app to receive other announcements.

CODES – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band **@6begb** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band **@7intb** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band **@8advb**

### **Band Classes**

Band classes meet every day. In band class, topics covered are music literacy, performance skills, instrument maintenance, musician health, music theory, music history, and music law.

### **Grading**

The band grade is made of four parts:

- 55% Major Grades: Written, Playing Tests, Rehearsals, and Concerts\*
- 35% Minor Grades: Weekly Skill Development ~ Students will be graded daily on participation, work habits, attentiveness in class, playing posture, etc.
- 10% Formative Grades: Practice Logs, Written Assignments, and Homework

\*Concerts will count as two assessment grades.

Grading scale: 90-100 (A); 80-89 (B); 70-79 (C); 60-69 (D); 0-59 (F)

### **Practice Expectations**

Learning to play an instrument is such a unique experience. So that students can have an experience that is fun and productive, daily practice is necessary. Practice is done outside of class and should be done at least 5 days per week.

Practicing daily takes the difficulty out of reading music. It helps make the “chops” stronger. Students play with more confidence. In the end, students are proud of the performance and ready to advance. Beginning band students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week until January and then a minimum of 120 minutes per week. Intermediate and advanced students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes per week.

**Practice Logs are due every Wednesday.** Students will be provided one practice log during class.

Extra logs can be found on [www.wmswolvesband.com](http://www.wmswolvesband.com). Students can also put their log on a blank sheet of paper.

## **Playing Tests and Written Tests**

These are given to assess student achievement of class objectives. Written tests will be based on music theory (music notation, note naming, rhythm counting, etc.). Playing tests consist of the performance of pre-selected sections of music such as scales, method book, or concert music for a test grade. There will be a minimum of three tests per grading period. Test items are specifically selected for their merit in teaching an aspect of musical development or its significance in an upcoming concert. Playing tests are not to be taken lightly; they are as important in band class as math tests are to math class. A student stands a much better chance of receiving a satisfactory grade if the appropriate amount of practice and preparation time spent. In addition the student grows musically.

If a student is absent on the day of the test, then he/she must set an appointment to make it up. Tests must be made up before the end of the nine weeks.

## **Wendell Middle School Late Work Policy**

1. Students are expected to complete all work assigned by their teachers.
2. The following are the deductions to be used for late assignments handed in within 10 school days of the original due date.
  - a. 1 day late 10% penalty
  - b. 2-5 days late 20% penalty
  - c. 6-10 days late 40% penalty
3. A student may still earn a zero if they fail to hand in the assignment within the 10-day window.
4. The original grade should be on the assignment before deduction, so the student knows their level of mastery.
5. Working Lunch may be assigned to provide incentive for students to complete a missing assignment. Working Lunch may be assigned until the assignment is complete. If an assignment has been corrected in class; an alternate, similar assignment may be given.
6. Special consideration will be given in the case of extended absences due to injury or chronic illness.

## **Retest Procedures**

Students who do not pass a test will have an opportunity to retest provided they have completed missing work (class work and homework) associated with the unit and/or made test corrections within two weeks of the original test date.

## **Rehearsal Materials**

These materials should be brought to **every** band class:

- Instrument
- Pencil (sharpened)
- 1" black binder (just for band)
- Band book (will be kept in binder)
- 10 sheet protectors
- Loose-leaf paper
- Student Planner/Handbook

Each student has materials that are specific to the instrument they play. Listed below are those necessary items. *Please refer only to the instrument that your child will be learning.*

**Flute**  
Tuning rod, Cleaning swab

**Clarinet**  
5 Reeds, Reed guard,  
Cork grease, Cleaning swab

**Saxophones**  
5 Reeds, Reed guard,  
Cork grease, Cleaning swab,  
Neck strap

**Trumpet**  
Valve oil, Trumpet Snake\*,

**Trombone**  
Slide cream, Trombone Snake\*  
Slide Cream

**F Horn, Baritone and Tuba**  
Valve oil, Slide Cream,  
12-C mouthpiece (baritone only)

### **Percussion**

Bell set\*, Snare drum\*, Carrying case (labeled)\*, Bell mallets, 5B wood tip snare sticks, Stick Bag, More sticks will be required in advanced band classes

\*These are maintenance items. Please use and keep these items at home.

### **Instrument**

All band students are required to have an instrument. This is necessary for participation in band. Students are encouraged to purchase or rent their own instrument. This instrument can last through the college years into adulthood. Some instruments are provided depending upon the choice. These instruments are typically assigned to non-beginner students. School-supplied instruments are: baritone, F horn, tuba, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, and baritone saxophone. Students using these instruments are still responsible for providing their own specific accessories like mouthpieces or neck straps. Parents must sign a contract agreeing to take full responsibility for loss/damage to the instrument.

### **Purchasing Instruments off the Internet**

If an internet deal or a discount store deal looks too good to be true, it probably is. Many off-brand instruments that are claimed to be as good as name brands never are. These stores are not musical instrument dealers and do not offer instruments of any quality. The problem lies in the sound production and with replacement parts. Even though there may be a "guarantee," the problem is that there are no replacement parts made for these instruments, which are mass-produced in China. Because of lack of parts and ease by which breakage can occur, instrument repair technicians therefore will not work on them. "You get what you pay for" are valuable words to live by with musical instruments.

Look for the following brand names:

#### ***Brass:***

Amati, Bach, Benge, Blessing, Bundy, Conn, Holton, Jupiter, King, Olds, Selmer, Yamaha

#### ***Woodwinds***

Bundy, Buffet, Gemeinhardt, Holton, Jupiter, Leblanc, Olds, Selmer, Vito, Yamaha

### **Instrument Choices**

Beginner band students may select *flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone*. Students may audition for the advanced instruments after the December concert. These choices **MUST** be approved by the **DIRECTORS**. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!!!

### **Band Book**

All band students are required to purchase the band method book. The technique exercises and many test items will be contained in it. Music vocabulary and music history items can be found in it. The

band method book prepares the band for playing concert repertoire with the best sound and style possible. Required method books are listed below:

- Sixth Grade band: Essential Elements, Book 1: \$12.00 for wind players, \$18.00 for percussionists
- Seventh Grade Band: Essential Elements, Book 2: \$10.00 for wind players, \$15.00 for percussionists
- Eighth Grade: Foundation for Superior Performance: \$10.00 for wind players; \$15.00 for percussionists

### **Music**

Music is provided free to band students. Music may be marked on *in pencil only*. Students are expected to number the measures of sheet music. Other style markings will be given during rehearsal. Students who lose or destroy school-owned method books or music will be charged replacement fees.

### **Pencil**

A pencil is required for rehearsal. It should be kept in the case or folder and ready to use for class. It will be used to make marks on music or to do written work. Standard blue or black ink is acceptable for test-taking and journal writing.

### **Binder & Sheet Protectors**

Music will be stored in sheet protectors in binders. This will help the music stay nice and organized.

### **Student Planner/Handbook**

A Student Planner/Handbook will be assigned to each student. The Student Planner/Handbook will help organize assignments and contain hall passes necessary to leave the classroom.

***Please work out a system with your child so that he or she arrives to class prepared.***

### **Class Participation**

This is the key to a meaningful learning experience. It is also the way to develop good musical skills. Not only does it include having materials in class each day, but also good rehearsal techniques, following instructions and listening attentively. In the end these things lead to a performance each student can be proud of. A large portion of the band grade is based on the quality of each student's daily class participation.

### **Concerts and Performances**

- Band is a class meeting during the regular school day with extra-curricular commitments. These commitments include rehearsals and concerts. Public performances are a vital part of being a band member and a musician. Each band member is a "first-string" player whose presence is necessary for the success of the band "team."
- Excused absences from performances will be granted in cases of genuine emergency only. Please call if an emergency arises. Jobs, family trips, etc. do not justify absences. These grades cannot be made up. Performances are worth two test grades.
- Performance dates and times will be announced as far in advance as possible (generally a month ahead of time for performances, and two weeks prior for rehearsals). A list of scheduled events will be sent home within the first month of school. Updated schedules will be posted in the band room.

- Band students are active in several areas of the school community. We are proud to have some of the most well- rounded students in the school in our program. Should conflicts arise the following guidelines will be used:
  - o A game may take precedence over a practice or rehearsal with no penalty for that missed rehearsal provided the director has been notified at least one week in advance.
  - o The band director and the sponsor of the other conflicting school-sponsored event will handle all school conflicts.

### **Concert Attire**

The basic pieces of the concert attire are: official WMS Band black polo shirt, black dress slacks (no skirts), dark socks, and black closed-toe and closed-heel dressy shoes (no sneakers, please). A great deal of pride is taken in the band's appearance, so please make every effort to look neat and clean. Be sure to check and make sure your child's items still fit from time to time. If there are problems in getting pieces of concert clothes, please be sure to inform directors *well in advance* of performances so that we can work with you. Other more casual performances such as pep rallies will call for the uniform of band t-shirt with jeans and sneakers.

The official WMS Band black polo shirt will be ordered early in the year. The student will wear this shirt throughout his/her entire career in band at WMS. It is wise to order a size of a shirt that can be worn all three years of WMS band.

### **Transportation to performances**

On concert nights you may want to consider carpooling with other band students. This not only helps out with parking but helps to get everyone to school on time. Please also have a "Plan B" just in case the car doesn't start or a tire goes flat.

### **Excused Absences**

- Personal sickness
  - Death in the family
  - Prior written excuse approved by director and/or principal
- No absence will be excused unless notification is given before reporting time for the rehearsal or performance. Should a situation arise when a written notice is impractical (checking out of school sick). The parent should notify the director before reporting time.
- Performances and extra rehearsals are a part of the students' grade. Unexcused absences from performances and rehearsals will result in a grade reduction.

### **Private Instruction**

Students are encouraged to enroll in private lessons on their instruments. This gives them the needed individual work on instrumental details. A private lessons teacher list can be found on [www.wmswolvesband.com](http://www.wmswolvesband.com).

### **WMS Band Boosters**

Parents are encouraged to join the WMS Band Boosters. It is a non-profit organization that works to provide extra opportunities and support for Band students. The Band Boosters meet the first Tuesday of most months during the school year.