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Band Handbook 2024-2025

Contact Information

- Email: cslade@wcpss.net
- www.wmswolvesband.com
- WMS Band Office phone number: 919-365-1667, ext. 25330
- Conference appointment times are available as needed. Please contact Mrs. Slade for an appointment.
- The entire school uses Talking Points for communication.

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:

- Major Grades: Written and Playing Tests, Rehearsals, and Concerts*
- Minor Grades: Projects and Skill Development ~ Students will be graded daily on performance skills, work habits, attentiveness in class, playing posture, etc.
- Formative Grades: Written Assignments, Practicing Homework

*Concerts will count as two major 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. Practicing daily takes the difficulty out of reading music. It helps make the “chops” stronger. Students will play with more confidence. In the end, students are proud of the performance and ready to advance. Practice is done outside of class and should be done at least 7 days per week for a minimum of 15 minutes (at least 105 minutes per week).

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

The WMS Wolves Band follows the Late Work Policy put in place by Wendell Magnet Middle School.

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
- Sterisol (mouthpiece cleaner)
- Pencils
- 1" black binder (only for band)
- Band book (will be kept in binder)
- Student Planner/Handbook
- Music Stand (left at home)

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*,
Slide Grease

Trombone

Slide oil, Trombone Snake*

F Horn, Baritone and Tuba

Valve oil, Slide Cream,
12-C mouthpiece (baritone only)

Percussion

Bell set*, Snare drum*, Instrument case (labeled)*, Bell mallets, SD1 Vic Firth wood tip snare sticks, Stick Bag, More sticks will be required in advanced band classes

*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 to play alto saxophone and percussion. Advanced instruments are options 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 1 (hopefully kept from Sixth Grade Band): \$12.00 for wind players, \$18.00 for percussionists & Essential Elements, Book 2 (new): \$12.00 for wind players, \$18.00 for percussionists
- Eighth Grade: Essential Elements, Book 2 (hopefully kept from Seventh Grade Band): \$12.00 for wind players, \$18.00 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

Music and handouts will be stored in binders. This will help the music stay nice and organized. Please do not use your Core Class binder for Band. The music stands will not hold the weight of a large binder.

Student Planner/Handbook

A Student Planner/Handbook will be assigned to each student. The Student Planner/Handbook will help organize assignments.

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 excused 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 WMMS Band black polo shirt, black dress slacks (no skirts), dark socks, and black closed-toe and closed-heel dressy shoes (no sneakers/gym shoes/Converses, 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 the director *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 polo shirt with jeans and sneakers.

The official WMMS 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 WMMS 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 the www.wmswolvesband.com homepage.

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 twice during the school year and is free for all band families.