

W.B.H.S. Band Handbook



2021-22

facebook.com/groups/WBHSBands

wbhsbands.net

Introduction

EXCELLENCE = *"Doing your very best in everything, in every way."*

PRIDE = *"The ingredient which inspires us not to get ahead of others, but to get ahead of ourselves."*

Excellence and Pride are two primary components in the WBHS Band program. The achievement of those ideals requires a process involving dedication, discipline, determination, and personal responsibility.

Curricular objectives will set a clear course of study for all band members. We, as your student's band directors, are committed to every member's musical and personal growth. We invite your support and involvement in that process.

The result of participation in the WBHS Bands will include: **Greater Artistic Expression, Good Musical Skills, Critical Listening Skills, Collaborative Learning Skills, Organizational Skills, Leadership Skills, a Life-long Appreciation of Music, and a personal and group definition of EXCELLENCE and PRIDE.** It is our goal to help all band members achieve those objectives and enter their post - high school lives understanding the joy of music.

Important Note to Parents:

The form on the last page of this handbook must be detached, signed in the appropriate places and **turned in to the Band Office by FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021**

These forms will indicate that you have read the entire handbook and have given your permission for your student(s) to appear on our website(s).

Band Class Offerings

Marching Band ^(R) (Upperclassmen) *This year-long class is registered as “Symphonic Band” in Course Offerings with both East and West Counseling and meets as a marching band about half of the year.

All upperclassmen band members participate in the WBHS Marching Band. Performances include a parade/field show performed at homecoming, with a special emphasis on parades and the corps-style marching techniques, as well as various community activities. **REQUIRED STUDENT-OWNED EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORM PARTS INCLUDE: A MUSIC LYRE (TO HOLD FOLIO), WHITE GLOVES (AVAILABLE FROM THE BAND OFFICE), LONG WHITE SOCKS, AND WHITE SHOES (PURCHASED THROUGH THE BAND). STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM WITHOUT PROPER ATTIRE. ATHLETIC SHOES ARE REQUIRED FOR ALL REHEARSALS.**

Symphonic Band/Wind Ensemble ^(R) (Upperclassmen)

After marching season, upperclassmen band members are assigned to one of two concert season groups based on required chair auditions. The Wind Ensemble performs the most challenging literature available for the high school and college levels, while the Symphonic Band studies a wide variety of music of medium difficulty. These bands form the "core" of the WBHS Band program and offer the greatest opportunity for music education growth. Band members will be exposed to a wide variety of literature from which they can expand artistic and cultural horizons. Every attempt will be made to provide both challenging and enjoyable music. Lessons are a required academic part of this class.

REQUIRED STUDENT-OWNED ATTIRE FOR CONCERTS INCLUDE:

SYMPHONIC BAND: 1. A WHITE BLOUSE (3/4 length sleeves or longer), BLACK DRESS PANTS OR BELOW-KNEE SKIRT, BLACK SOCKS/TIGHTS AND BLACK DRESS SHOES or 2. WHITE, LONG-SLEEVED BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT (must be tucked in), A SOLID BLACK TIE (NAVY BLUE, GRAY OR PATTERNED ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE), BLACK DRESS PANTS, BLACK SOCKS AND BLACK DRESS SHOES

WIND ENSEMBLE: 1. A BLACK BLOUSE (3/4 length sleeves or longer), BLACK DRESS PANTS OR BELOW-KNEE SKIRT, BLACK SOCKS/TIGHTS AND BLACK DRESS SHOES or 2. BLACK DRESS SHOES, BLACK SOCKS, BLACK DRESS PANTS, BLACK LONG-SLEEVED BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT, AND SOLID BLACK TIE (NAVY BLUE, GRAY, OR PATTERNED ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE).

Concert Band ^(R) (Freshmen)

This group will include all incoming freshmen band members. It will be primarily a concert band. Required auditions for chair placement will occur during the first quarter of school. In addition, all freshman will receive marching training in the spring (during class time) and will be eligible for all other band co-curriculars including: Pulse; WB3; Brass, Wind, & Fire!; Solo & Ensemble; etc. Lessons are a required academic part of this class.

REQUIRED STUDENT-OWNED ATTIRE FOR CONCERTS INCLUDE:

1. A WHITE SHIRT OR BLOUSE (3/4 length sleeves or longer), BLACK PANTS OR BELOW-KNEE SKIRT, BLACK SOCKS/TIGHTS AND BLACK DRESS SHOES or 2. A WHITE, LONG-SLEEVED BUTTON-DOWN SHIRT (must be tucked in), A SOLID BLACK TIE (NAVY BLUE, GRAY OR PATTERNED ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE), BLACK DRESS PANTS, BLACK SOCKS AND BLACK DRESS SHOES

CONCERT SEASON DRESS REQUIREMENTS



Co-Curricular Offerings

Participation in Co-Curricular Activities

All WBHS band students have an opportunity to audition for our co-curricular offerings. These include our auditioned ensembles **WB3** (West Bend Brass Band), **PULSE** (Jazz Ensemble); and **Brass, Wind, and Fire!** (Basketball Pep Band). Non-audition groups include **Solo & Ensemble Festival**, and **Chamber Music**. With the exception of Brass, Wind, and Fire!, in order to participate in band co-curriculars, students must be enrolled in a band class offering. Occasionally students are accepted from orchestra or choir to fill instrumentation needs. With the exception of Football Pep Band and Solo Ensemble, registration with Family ID must be completed for each activity.

WB3 ^(V)

The West Bend Brass Band (WB3) is designed to provide advanced instrumentalists with the opportunity to learn about and perform contemporary brass band and traditional New Orleans jazz. Membership is based on previous participation and auditions held in the fall. Rehearsals will be after school hours at a mutually agreed upon time. **REQUIRED STUDENT-OWNED ATTIRE INCLUDES: *Jeans (not ripped) and a WB3 shirt, as well as all black semi-formal attire (at the discretion of the director).***

PULSE ^(V)

This traditional jazz ensemble is designed to provide instrumentalists with the opportunity to learn about and perform different styles of jazz including swing, Latin and funk. Membership is based on previous participation and auditions based on instrumentation requirements. Rehearsals will be after school hours at a mutually agreed upon time. **REQUIRED STUDENT-OWNED ATTIRE INCLUDES: *AN ALL-BLACK SEMI-FORMAL OUTFIT WITH A "SPLASH" OF COLOR.***

Football Pep Band ^(R)

This group performs for several Fall athletic activities. Three of the scheduled football pep band performances are required for Marching Band members, and one performance is required for Concert Band members. Beyond that requirement, all band members are encouraged to participate at the remainder of the fall activities and will receive extra credit points (freshmen), or award points (upperclassmen) for each additional activity. **NO SPECIAL ATTIRE REQUIRED. Please dress for the weather.**

BRASS, WIND AND FIRE! ^(V)

This basketball pep band is open to all band members based on instrumentation needs. In addition, a brief audition must be performed by new members at an appropriate level of proficiency for acceptance into this group. Membership of this ensemble will be determined by early November. Brass, Wind, & Fire! shirts must be purchased by each member and attendance at practice session(s) will be required. Brass, Wind, & Fire! performs at selected home basketball games, professional sporting events, and community celebrations. **STUDENT-OWNED ATTIRE INCLUDES: *THE BRASS, WIND, & FIRE! SHIRT TO BE VISIBLY WORN DURING THE ENTIRE ACTIVITY.***

Solo / Ensemble ^(V)

This is a valuable opportunity for students to advance as individuals by developing and performing solos and ensembles in an adjudicated setting. The district festival is in mid-March and state qualifiers perform in early May. A lesson on Solo Ensemble music for district festival will be in lieu of the otherwise traditional 3rd Quarter Lesson. *Students who do not perform, after signing up, must reimburse the school for the entry fee.* **STUDENT-OWNED ATTIRE INCLUDES: MODEST SEMI-FORMAL PERFORMANCE DRESS CLOTHING.**

Chamber Music Program ^(V)

An activity designed to provide advanced musicians the opportunity to learn advanced rehearsal and performance skills culminating in a public recital. Membership determined by level of musicianship and instrumentation needs. **STUDENT-OWNED ATTIRE SHOULD BE CONCERT BLACK.**

(V) = Voluntary

(R) = Required

Other Opportunities

For the following, please contact your Director.

Leadership

Drum Major, Section Leader, and Student Conductor.

Service

Music Librarians, Uniform Managers, Equipment Managers, ISICS Program, Culture Crew.

Creative

Independent study, awards committee, soloist with band at concert, secondary instrument lessons, etc.

Honors Bands

Includes those at Milwaukee, and State Honors Band.

Music Theory

Music theory classes are offered through the school course selection guide and can do a great job to supplement the music education provided by Band class (and co-curriculars) for anyone who is serious about music (especially those who might be considering a career in music). Please ask Mr. Murphy to find out more.

Auditions

IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT STUDENTS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE AUDITION PROCESS. EXTENSIVE PREPARATION IS IMPERATIVE.

Upperclassmen Concert season auditions will be held in late October. Placement in both sections and bands will be determined by a short performance of some or all of the following: an etude, sight reading, rhythm and scale. All students must audition. Previous years' chair placement does not guarantee or influence current year placement. Those who choose not to audition will be placed last chair in their section and lose grade points.

Concert Band Chair Placements will occur during the first quarter of the school year. Chair placement will be determined by a short performance of some or all of the following: an etude, sight reading and scales. All students must audition. Those not doing so will be placed last chair in their section and lose grade points.

Challenges

Challenges to improve seating will be allowed at the rate of one per every two weeks. A challenge form must be obtained and completed by both people involved with a week's notice. Challenges taking place within two weeks of a concert or contest and involving a change of chairs will result in the change taking place after that activity. **CHALLENGES BETWEEN BANDS ARE NOT ALLOWED.**

Brass Band, PULSE

Auditions for *WB3* and *PULSE* will include a brief playing example of the jazz style and potentially improvisation. **Veteran members do not need to re-audition.**

BRASS, WIND, AND FIRE!

A brief audition, consisting of a current pep band selection will be required of those desiring membership in this group. **Veteran members do not need to re-audition.**

Other Auditions

Auditions are also required each year for Drum Major, Color Guard and DrumLine instrument placement. **All current and new members must audition.** Practice sessions and/or lessons will be available to help students prepare.

General Grading System

Concert Season

<p><u>Lessons/Check-Offs</u> Weekly private practice is expected on assigned lesson and band materials. During the fall season, weekly sectionals will be required for each upperclassman band marching section. Those rehearsals will be scheduled for part of lunchtime and will count as the lesson requirement. (Students taking outside private lessons during concert season must meet or exceed the same school lesson requirement as other band students). Extra credit lessons will be worth 1 point.</p>	Summative
<p><u>Performance Outcomes</u> This includes concerts and parades as scheduled. Missed performances will only be excused with alternate assignment and excused absence forms completed and submitted one week prior to the performance.</p>	Summative
<p><u>Daily Musical Growth and Accomplishment Outcomes</u> Includes activities related to each student's growth as a musician which includes, but is not limited to: Posture, articulation/sticking, listening for understanding, teamwork, etc.</p>	Formative
<p>Notes: *Semester exams or projects will comprise 15% of the semester grade. *All students will be required to practice individually for <u>at least</u> one hour per week (during study halls, free periods, or at home).</p>	

Alternate Programming / Excused Absence Forms

If a student has an extended medical excuse for not participating, he/she must complete an alternate program form and will be assigned another activity. For absences from required performances, students must complete an excused absence form (available in the band office) and have it signed by a parent and returned to the band director one week before the performance. Alternate assignments must be turned in BEFORE the date of the performance. In addition, notes excusing absences due to illness must be turned in within one week after the missed performance. **WORK IS NOT considered an excusable absence** so plan accordingly!

School Instrumental Lessons

Freshmen band members will be required to fulfill one-to-two Lesson(s) and one Play Test per quarter. Upperclassmen band members will be required to fulfill one Lesson and one Play Test per quarter (may differ during marching season). The focus of those lessons will be improvement of individual musicianship. Skill development will center on student needs and curriculum requirements. Practice on those skills will be required between lessons.

Private Instrumental Lessons

Students will be encouraged to take lessons from a private instructor outside of school. A list of teachers in the area is available upon request; see you director for more information. **PRIVATE LESSONS ARE NOT REQUIRED, BUT ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.**

Discipline Policy

Students are expected to arrive in class with the goal of learning and participating at every rehearsal, which includes having their instrument/equipment at every rehearsal. Those unable to meet expectations will be tracked through collaboration with guidance counselors and/or principals. The ultimate result of repeated infractions may be removal from band. Parents, counselors, and school administration will be involved, as necessary, in solving repeated classroom problems.

Cell phones and mobile device use will not be permitted during class unless instructed by a director for use as tuners or metronomes. Devices used during instructional time may be held in the main office through the end of the day. A minor referral may be issued for these violations.

Band Fundraising

Fundraising provides students with an opportunity to raise money for upcoming band trips. There are typically two fundraisers. Students must abide by specific rules designated for each event. A form will be issued describing guidelines, product cost, sale dates, etc. immediately before the fundraiser begins. All students are encouraged to participate. Funds that are to be “rolled over” into another family member’s account must be requested in writing before the end of the school year. All other unused funds are transferred to other band-related funds, at the discretion of the band director.

Band Travel

In recent years, the WBHS Band has participated in a major trip every three (3) years and minor trips on an annual basis. These journeys are designed to allow our students to display their musical talents outside the West Bend area. Students will also experience personal and cultural growth by being involved in new and unfamiliar situations. Major trips are currently suspended due to the uncertainty with pandemic travel. **To be eligible for a major trip, band members must be enrolled in band class for the entire year, maintain regular classroom attendance with no un-excused absences, and must receive a band class grade of a “C” or better for the first 3 quarters of the trip year. Note: - MISBEHAVIOR PRECEDING OR DURING ANY BAND TRIP COULD RESULT IN IMMEDIATE LOSS OF BAND TRAVEL PRIVILEGES AT THE DISCRETION OF THE BAND DIRECTORS.**

School Instrument / Equipment Use

The school maintains large wind instruments and all percussion instruments for use by appropriate band members. Use of such equipment requires a sign-out procedure, as well as a district-generated rental agreement. The agreement indicates that the student accepts responsibility for maintaining the instrument and may be liable for the expense of repairs. Students are then allowed to use that instrument at home and school. Students may not use other instruments unless approved by the band director. **Billing for wind instruments will be communicated and handled by the Educational Service Center. Percussionists will complete rental agreements and pay fees to the WBHS Band.**

Students are responsible for all accessories such as slide/valve lubricants, reeds, cleaning cloths, etc.

Scholarships (Music Camp/Corps)

Summer music scholarships will be offered every year based on a written application. Those applications will be reviewed and grants will be offered in varying amounts depending on merit. Money will only be awarded to returning band students pursuing musical study. Applications must be received at the director's deadline and grants will be announced at the Band Awards Celebration.

Money for scholarship grants will usually cover only a portion of camp costs. Students applying should be willing to attend regardless of scholarship grants. Money granted will be disbursed in the fall following the camp experience. Proof of attendance must be furnished at the request of the director. Students who receive a grant and do not attend camp will not receive the disbursement and the money will remain in the scholarship account. Additionally, students who do not enroll in band the year following summer camp participation will not receive the scholarship.

WBHS Band Boosters Executive Board

The WBHS Band Boosters Executive Board is a service group of current high school band parents. The purpose of this organization is to support the band program in three areas:

1. Finances
2. Publicity
3. Activities and Events

Meetings of the officers will be monthly and twice per year (September and February) for the general membership. Please notify a director if you'd like to be considered for the following year. A successful band program needs active parental support!

WBHS Band Award System

The purpose of the band award system is to recognize co-curricular musical achievement, participation, and service to the WBHS Band Program. Awards will not be presented to students who leave the band program before the end of the second semester. Exceptions in unusual circumstances are at the discretion of the band directors. Most awards will be presented at the annual Band Awards Celebration.

<u>Type</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
Point Awards	Band Letter	Must be Sophomore status or a member for two years. Must have accumulated ten award points and attended at least one <u>voluntary</u> summer parade AND one West graduation ceremony (Grad Band)
	School Pins	<i>Note:</i> All pin and bar awards will be held until a letter is earned. The second 10 points (the next 10 points after the letter award)
	Chevron Bars	All subsequent 10 point increments
Certificate Awards	Senior Plaques	For all members who graduate from high school as a band member.
	Music Achievement Certificate	Awarded to the most outstanding freshman, sophomore, and junior members regardless of band placement.
	Most Improved Certificate	Awarded to the most improved band member(s). One in Symphonic Band and one in Wind Ensemble, and one in Concert Band.
Major Band Awards		
	<i>H. Robert Dittmer Service Award</i>	Presented to the band member(s) who has most helped the band in a nonmusical capacity. Award determined by a ratings form.
	<i>Louis Armstrong Jazz Award</i>	Presented to the band member(s) who displays outstanding jazz musicianship. (WB3)
	<i>Woody Herman Jazz Award</i>	Presented to the jazz band member(s) who displays outstanding jazz musicianship. (PULSE)
	<i>John Phillip Sousa Award</i>	A National Award presented to the senior band member(s) who displays the highest degree of musicianship and dedication to the program. This is the highest band award given. Award determined by a senior survey ratings form.

Point Table

Event		Points
A	Home Football Pep Bands, <i>per Game</i> (Beyond the grade requirement of 3)	1
B	BRASS, WIND & FIRE !	1-5
C	WB3	1-7
D	Independence Day Parade	5
E	Musical Pit Orchestra	3
F	Graduation Band	1
G	Uniform Managers	1-5
H	Music Librarians	1-5
I	Equipment Managers	1-5
J	Culture Crew	1-5
K	Chamber Music Program	3
L	Teacher's Aide (per semester)	5
M	PULSE	1-7

WBHS Bands Consent/Release Forms

Please complete the forms on this page and return to the band office by Friday, September 24, 2021.

Handbook Review / Web Page Photo Consent

I have read the 2021-2022 Band Handbook and will comply with all stated rules and policies. I give permission to have my son/daughter's photo to be used in conjunction with the band web pages' depiction of band activities.

Valid from September 1, 2021 through Sept. 1, 2022.

Student Name - First Child

Student Name - Second Child (if applicable)

Parent's Signature

Date

Student Signature – First Child

Date

Student Signature – Second Child

Date