

WHITEWATER M.S. BAND

2008-2009 HANDBOOK

www.wmsband.org

e-mail:whitewaterband@fcboe.org

770-460-3450 ext 233

Goals and Expectations

The Whitewater Band program seeks to offer each student who is interested and eager to learn an enjoyable learning experience centered around individualized musicianship and ensemble performance. A working understanding of basic tone production, rhythmic comprehension, fingerings, music vocabulary, dynamics, articulations, scales and key signatures, and rehearsal and performance of middle school literature reflect the Whitewater Band goals of achievement.

Each member of the Whitewater Band program is expected to reflect positive behavior skills during ALL classes, rehearsals, and performances.

Band membership at Whitewater is a PRIVILEGE (not a right), and should be treated as such.

Performing Ensembles/ Classes and Required Materials

6th Grade Beginning Band (7th period)

The members of this group will need to purchase:

1. Essential Elements Book 1
2. Winning Rhythms

These books can be purchased from the local music stores. Students will also need the necessary, oils, equipment, reeds, etc. for class and are responsible for these items.

Percussionists need:

1. 2B drumsticks
2. hard rubber mallets
3. yarn mallets
4. **general** timpani mallets
5. a pitch pipe (for tuning timpani)
6. a mallet bag labeled with their name on it

These percussionist's items are assembled as a kit and are available for purchase at local music stores.

6th Grade Advanced and Intermediate Band (6th and 7th period)

The members of this group will need to purchase:

1. Essential Elements Book 1 and 2
2. Winning Rhythm

Concert Band (2nd period-8th Grade)

The members of this group will need to purchase:

1. Essential Elements Book 2
2. Foundations for Superior Performance
3. 150 Original Exercises

Concert Band (5th period-7th Grade)

The members of this group will need to purchase:

1. Essential Elements Book 1 and 2
4. 150 Original Exercises

Symphonic Band (3rd period-8th Grade)

The members of this group will need to purchase:

1. Foundations for Superior Performance
2. 101 Rhythmic Rest Patterns

Symphonic Band (4th period-7th Grade)

The members of this group will need to purchase:

1. Foundations for Superior Performance
2. 150 Original Exercises

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES AND BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

Classroom behavior and expectations include:

- ✓ Be on time for all classes rehearsals, and performances! Class begins when the director steps on the podium. You are late if you are not prepared!
- ✓ Enter the band room for rehearsal in an orderly and quiet manner.
- ✓ No gum, food, or drink allowed in the band room.
- ✓ No playing out of turn.
- ✓ No talking when anyone is on the podium. This is when rehearsal and instruction occurs. Always show respect for the podium and for whoever is instructing from it by being very quiet and attentive.
- ✓ Never handle another persons' instrument. Only percussionists are to touch the percussion equipment. This will result in after school detention.

MUSICIANS WHO CHOOSE NOT TO FOLLOW THE BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS WILL BE DEALT WITH BY THE DIRECTOR. SUBSEQUENT INFRACTIONS WILL BE REFERRED TO THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL, AND COULD INCLUDE EXEMPTION FROM TRIPS, PERFORMANCES, AND DISMISSAL FROM THE BAND PROGRAM!

NON-BAND STUDENTS

Non-band friends are not allowed in the band room. The friends of band students should wait outside the band room for their friend to come out.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are the best way for students to help with their individual playing habits. They are also the best means of developing the refined, mature playing habits that help students compete for honors such as: top band membership, District Honor Band, first chair positions, and All-State Band membership. Most All-State Band members begin private instruction at an early age and study and practice diligently to achieve that honor. We encourage each middle school band member to study privately, and we have had excellent response in this area in the past. I want to encourage all parents to consider this very important advantage for your child. We are fortunate to have many fine teachers in our area. A "fundamentals oriented" teacher, one who has a proven record of successful teaching, is recommended. I will be happy to recommend a private teacher to those who are interested. I caution parents about signing up for lessons with a teacher about whom you know very little. Private lessons are not mandatory to participate in the school band program, but are highly recommended.

ATTENDANCE

Participation in a performing band class necessitates attendance at all performances and rehearsals, both during school and outside of school time. Absence and tardiness mar the effectiveness of the entire group. Adherence to a strict attendance policy is necessary for the good of the band. The following guidelines should be followed:

- ✓ When a student learns of the necessity to be excused from a rehearsal or performance, a note from the parent should be submitted at that time...not after the absence.
- ✓ When a student unexpectedly has to miss a rehearsal or performance, the student must bring a note from his/her parent to the next band function.
- ✓ All performances are mandatory.
- ✓ All performances count as a test grade.

All excuses must be in writing and must be thorough enough to clearly indicate the need for the absence. Failure to observe these procedures may affect the student's placement or enrollment in the performing band. Students removed from the performing bands will become ineligible for awards, spring trips and other band privileges.

PERFORMING BANDS

The following are the six performing bands and one non-performing group at Whitewater Middle School:

Football Band: (7th and 8th grade)

The members of this band will perform at the football games and pep rallies. To be a member of the football band the student must complete the following requirements: 1) play the audition for Symphonic or Concert Band and 2) Attend the scheduled rehearsals and games. The band is open to 7th and 8th graders.

Any student who has attended the rehearsals and performances and shown a dedicated attitude and commitment will be eligible to go on the spring band trip.

Rehearsal Schedule

The football band will rehearse one time before the first football game . The rehearsal will run from 3:50-4:50. Football games are on Tuesday.

Symphonic Band: (7th and 8th grade)

Students for this band are selected by audition. Auditions are held in the spring of each year. The symphonic band will perform at the football games, Christmas and Spring concert, festival and attend any spring trip the bands takes. MEMBERS OF THE SYMPHONIC BAND ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL SCHEDULED REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES! School related conflicts practices, etc.) should be worked out by the students. Each Symphonic Band member will be expected to attend all rehearsals AND THEN continue to the other activity. Members may attend scheduled SCHOOL RELATED GAMES when they conflict with the practice schedule. Students cannot miss performances, rehearsals, etc. for activities NOT DIRECTLY RELATED to Whitewater! Please try to schedule all necessary appointments on other days during the week, as to not conflict with after school rehearsals.

Books needed for class:

8th Grade-

- 1) Foundations for Superior Performance
- 2) 101 Rhythmic Rest Patterns

7th Grade-

- 1) Foundations for Superior Performance
- 2) 150 Original Exercises.

These books can be purchased at local music stores.

Percussionists need:

1. 2B drumsticks
2. hard rubber mallets
3. yarn mallets
4. **general** timpani mallets
5. a pitch pipe (for tuning timpani)
5. a mallet bag *labeled with their name on it*

Rehearsal Schedule

The symphonic band will start rehearsing as a group about the middle of August. This band will continue to rehearse throughout the entire year. They will rehearse on Thursday: 3:50-5:00p.m.

Concert Band: (7th and 8th grade)

Students in this group are also selected by audition. This band will perform at the Christmas and Spring Concert and may PERFORM at Band Festival. Concert Band members will also have the option of performing in the football band. If the concert band member attends all performances and rehearsals then they will be eligible for the spring trip.

Books needed for class:

- 7th Grade Concert: 1) Essentials Elements Book 1 and 2
2) Winning Rhythms.
- 8th Grade: 1) Foundations for Superior Performance
2) 150 Original Exercises
3) Essential Elements Book 2

These books can be purchased at local music stores.

Percussionists need:

1. 2B drumsticks
2. hard rubber mallets
3. yarn mallets
4. **general** timpani mallets
5. a pitch pipe (for tuning timpani)
6. a mallet bag *labeled with their name on it*

Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday: 3:50-4:50p.m. The rehearsals will start about 1- 2 months before major concerts.

6th Grade Band:

This band is open to all students who have one-year experience playing their instrument. This band will perform at the Christmas and Spring Concert and may PERFORM at Band Festival.

Books needed for class:

- 1) Essential Elements Book 1 and 2
- 2) Winning Rhythms

These books can be purchased at local music stores.

Percussionists need:

1. 2B drumsticks
2. hard rubber mallets
3. yarn mallets
4. **general** timpani mallets
5. a pitch pipe (for tuning timpani)
6. a mallet bag *labeled with their name on it*

Rehearsal Schedule

The sixth grade band will not practice after school.

6th Grade Beginning Band:

This band is open to any student who has not played an instrument before or students who are switching from other instruments. For those who have never played before, prior experience is not required. This band will play at selected concerts throughout the year.

Books needed for class:

- 1) Essential Elements Book 1
- 2) Winning Rhythms

Rehearsal Schedule

The sixth grade band will not practice after school.

Basic Band (7th and 8th Grade)

This band is a non-performing group. They will work primarily on music fundamentals during class. It is designed for students who do not meet basic playing or discipline expectations. Students who are in Basic Band will be ineligible for trips, awards, etc. They will meet with the concert band during the school day.

MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING

To remain in "Good Standing" students MUST be dedicated to the band program. Students must be at all rehearsals when not excused prior to the scheduled rehearsal. FALL SPORTS DIRECTLY RELATED TO WHITEWATER CAN INVOLVE SPLITTING TIME BETWEEN BOTH ACTIVITIES!! Non- school related sports are not excused!

OBLIGATIONS

There are some rules and/ or guidelines that will help develop the sense of responsibility and self-discipline. This will help achieve success in the band program.

1. Students should always read, have parents read, and return signed, all material sent home by the band director. All correspondence sent home is to be signed by a parent and returned promptly. This will be a consideration in the band grading process.
2. Students should read, study, and know all Whitewater Middle School rules as defined in the student handbook, and abide by them at all times.
3. Students should always make plans to be a little ahead of any announced schedule. **Punctuality is respect for the time of others.**
4. Students should take suggestions and criticism in the proper spirit. Mistakes in music hurt not only the individual performer, but also the entire ensemble.
5. Students should conform to the rehearsal and performance routine, practices, and policies as explained by the band director.
6. *Students who have uniforms are to wear the uniform in its entirety while in public. This means tie in place, shoes polished, and all parts of the uniform in place. Our goal is to show the pride we have in our band.*
7. *Band members in performing groups will need to acquire uniform items that match and complement the group.*
8. Each student is assigned a storage place for his or her instrument. It is each student's responsibility to store his/ her property in the correct location.
9. Students are to show proper care for all band property. Percussion equipment is off limits to all students other than percussionists.

10. Band members should attend each rehearsal with the following items:
 - a. An instrument in top playing condition.
 - b. All assigned music, books, and other instructional material.
 - c. Pencil
 - d. Any mutes, reeds, oil, or other needed accessories.
 - e. Any other items necessary to do a first-class job. Single reed players should never have fewer than 3 broken-in, good quality reeds. Double reed players should always have at least two properly conditioned reeds.
 - f. Brass players must have valve oil and slide grease.
11. Each member is expected to do his/ her share in helping to keep the band room neat and clean. Our facility shows the pride we take in our bands.
12. Good band members always have a clear understanding of what is expected of them. If ever in doubt, students should ask for clarification.
13. Students should constantly check the band website at www.wmsband.org for announcements, class handouts and upcoming events.

UNIFORMS

The following is the uniform for each performance group:

FOOTBALL BAND UNIFORM:

1. Band Shirt
2. Nice pair of blue jeans or blue jean shorts

SYMPHONIC BAND:

Girls:

1. Black dress-we will fit and order these dresses the first month of school
approximate cost- \$75.00
2. Black dress shoes
3. Black stockings

Guys:

1. White tuxedo shirt (student provides)
2. Tie and cummerbund (student provides)-can be purchased at formal shop, JCPenny or Steinmart
3. Black tux pants (provided by school)
4. Black tux jacket (school provides)
5. Black dress shoes(student provides) No tennis shoes
6. Black socks (student provides)

Uniform cleaning and maintenance fee for the year is \$15.00

CONCERT BAND:

1. White tuxedo shirt (student provides)

2. Black tux pants (school provides)
3. Black socks (student provides)
4. Black dress shoes (student provides) No tennis shoes
4. Tie and cummerbund (school supplies)

Uniform cleaning and maintenance fee for the year is \$10.00

6TH GRADE BANDS:

1. Band Shirt (these will be available to order the first week of school)
2. Khaki casual pants-no jeans please!
3. Brown or Black Dress type shoes
4. Dark socks

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

School Instrument Rental Fee:

We will have a rental fee for all school owned instrument. The fee will cover the end of the year check and repairs throughout the year. Mishandling and abuse of the instrument is not covered. Dents caused by the students are not covered. The student will be required to oil and grease slide and valves and maintain the instrument. The rental fee will allow us to do more preventive maintenance on the instrument. The fee is as follow:

\$50.00 per year if the student only uses 1 instrument.

\$60.00 per year if they have a home instrument and an instrument at school.

Other guidelines

- 1 Each student is expected to keep their instrument in good playing condition and clean at all times. Students are responsible for repairs that result from mishandling and abuse.
- 2 Abuse or mishandling of the instrument will be subject for the instrument to be taken away from the student. This includes dropping the instrument in class.
- 3 Students who have a school owned instrument is expected to turn in practice records.
- 4 The instrument is not to be played or borrowed by friends, family, or fellow band members.
- 5 The student shall turn in the instrument whenever requested by the director.

DISTRICT BAND FESTIVAL

The Whitewater Bands will be participating in District Band Festival the week of March 18-21, 2009, at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center (times TBA). Please mark your calendars accordingly. PLEASE CHECK ALL OF YOUR SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR THOSE DAYS, AS IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS PARTICIPATE!

PRACTICE RECORDS

1. Students are required to practice their instrument 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. A student who practices this amount will receive an A for that week of practicing.

2. Students will turn in their practice records by Monday or Tuesday of each week. Each student will be given several practice record slips. Each week they will turn in one slip with the dates of practice and amount of time practiced. Parents are asked to sign the form verifying the student has practiced that amount. Parents will need to be sure that students fill out the reports in pen.

- ✓ A student may count *private lessons and 1/ 2 of after-school band rehearsal* as practice time.
- ✓ In addition, every band member that *passes the District level Georgia All-State audition, and continues to the state level audition*, will receive *9 hours* of practice time credit towards his or her practice record for that 9 week grading period.
- ✓ Any student that *successfully makes the All-State Band* (passing both auditions) will receive *27 hours credit for the final 9 weeks of school*.

E-PRACTICE-RECORD

The E-Practice Record is an internet based practice record that allows the parents of Whitewater Middle School to submit their child's record electronically. You will receive a sign up form for the E-Practice Record. You will pick the username and password in order to access the E-practice record. If we do not receive a sign up for from you, you will be assigned a username and password. You can access the E-Practice Record at ww.wmsband.org.

GRADES

SYMPHONIC AND CONCERT BAND

Daily Class Work: 30%

Pass off's/ Playing Test and Written Test: 50%

Pass offs: Pass-offs are a list of music exercises and scales that the student has to play for the band director. The pass-offs will be done during class, but students can also play them before or after school. All pass-offs for the entire year will be given during the first week of school. Students have to play in order the exercises listed on the sheet. They can work at their own pace. However, a total of 8 pass offs have to be completed per nine weeks. If they make 2 or less mistakes on the pass-off exercise, then they receive a grade of 100. If they make more than two mistakes, then they have to play the exercise again. No credit is given for pass offs not completed. Any student completing all 50 pass offs by the spring concert, will be awarded a medal.

Tests: Students will be given playing and written test. The tests will receive a numerical grade based on 100%.

Band Homework/ Practice Records: 20%

Practice records can be submitted through the internet (see attached E-Practice record sheet) or by paper records. You can choose with method is best for you. However, I would like each family to

sign up for the E-Practice Record regardless if you use it or not. You need a username and password to use the online E-Practice record. You can also go to www.wmsband.org to get a signup form. The practice record is due either Mon. or Tues. of each week. To receive an “A” on the practice record for the week, students have to practice 5 days a week, 30 minutes a day.

6th Grade Band

Daily Class Work:

40%

Students will be given points based on preparation for class. Bringing their instrument, music and pencil will figure into the overall grade.

Pass off's/ Playing Test and Written Test:

50%

Pass offs: Pass-offs are a list of music exercises and scales that the student has to play for the band director. The pass-offs will be done during class, but students can also play them before or after school. All the pass-offs for the entire year will be given during the first week of school. Students have to play in order the exercises listed on the sheet. They can work at their own pace. However, a total of 10 pass offs have to be completed per nine weeks. If they make 2 or less mistakes on the pass-off exercise, then they receive a grade of 100. If they make more than two mistakes, then they have to play the exercise again. No credit is given for pass offs not completed. Any student completing all 50 pass offs by the spring concert, will be awarded a medal.

Tests: Students will be given playing and written test. The tests will receive a numerical grade based on 100%.

Band Homework/ Practice Records:

10%

Practice records can be submitted through the internet (see attached E-Practice record sheet) or by paper records. You can choose with method is best for you. However, I would like each family to sign up for the E-Practice Record regardless if you use it or not. You need a username and password to use the online E-Practice record. You can also go to www.wmsband.org to get a signup form. The practice record is due either Mon. or Tues. of each week. To receive an “A” on the practice record for the week, students have to practice 5 days a week, 30 minutes a day.

DEMERITS

Demerits are given to students for offenses which are in nature of nuisance rather than serious problems. Demerits are not given for offenses of a more serious nature which demand the immediate attention of the band director and/ or the school administration. Each student will begin at 0 demerits at the beginning of each 9 weeks. The following are the consequences for receiving demerits:

Demerit: Consequence:

1st- Warning

2nd- 15 min. detention

3rd- Parents Contacted

4th- 30 min. detention

5th- Office Referral

6th- Office Referral

REWARDS

Students who demonstrate the correct classroom behavior, participate in class, and show a good positive attitude will be rewarded with extra time on their practice record, extra points, demerits being erased, etc.

AWARDS

- ✓ Each band member that makes the Middle School All-State Band will be presented with a trophy at the Awards Concert.
- ✓ Each student selected to attend the District Band Clinic will be presented a bronze medal with a white ribbon signifying participation in District Honor Band.

The following awards may be earned at the District Solo and Ensemble Festival:

1. A blue medal for each Superior rating.
2. A red medal for each Excellent rating.

The following awards are given at the Middle School Awards Concert in May:

- ✓ The John Philip Sousa Award - given to the student who has made the most valuable contribution to the band.
- ✓ Outstanding 6th, 7th and 8th grade Band Member - given to the student who has distinguished him/herself as an outstanding band member through musicianship, attitude audition results, discipline, etc,
- ✓ Most Improved 6th, 7th and 8th grade Band Member - given to a band student who has made the most progress on their instrument during the year.

NOTE: Awards are not given when reprimands, disciplinary action, or unsatisfactory conduct jeopardizes the award eligibility.

WHITEWATER BAND BOOSTERS

The objectives of the Band Boosters are:

1. To arouse, stimulate and maintain an enthusiastic interest in the Whitewater Middle School Band program.
2. To cooperate with the Band Director, Principal, and the School Board to the end that the instrumental music department be brought to and kept at the highest possible degree of efficiency.
3. To assist financially in the purchase of uniforms, instruments and other equipment not regularly provided for in the school budget.
4. To help with educational trips, festivals and concerts that are approved by the school, and to aid with chaperoning.
5. We encourage all parents to take an active part in the middle school band program.

FUNDRAISING

All students are expected to do their part in fundraising. The money they raise for the band program benefits everyone including themselves.

PERCUSSION PLAYERS

The band program owns thousands of dollars worth of percussion equipment. The students may use this equipment with certain restrictions:

1. Students are responsible for putting away all percussion equipment at the end of each rehearsal. This will be used in the grading process.
2. Student found not caring for the equipment or found damaging equipment will be required to pay for the replacement of that equipment.

MICHAEL GRECH ENCORE MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

The Whitewater Band Boosters awards a music scholarship to the Encore Band Camp. The Encore camp is held in Milledgeville, Ga. each summer. The camp provides the students an opportunity to receive individual instruction on their instrument as well as participate in ensembles and concert bands.

The benefits they receive from this camp are great. The Whitewater Band will award one full scholarship to the Encore camp. In order to be eligible students need to meet the criteria listed below. An independent committee will select the winner.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. Applicant must have a 90 average or higher in band.
2. Applicant must have been actively involved in auditions for District Honor Band and/or All-State Band.
3. Applicant must have been actively involved in the GMEA Solo and Ensemble festival.
4. The application deadline will be posted in the band calendar.

ALL-STATE BAND AUDITION/ SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Information on All-State and Solo/Ensemble will be posted as they are made available. There will be an application form and a minimal fee associated with these. See Mr. Melton for details and watch the band web site.

District All-State audition forms and the application fee (\$ TBA) are due to Mr. Melton in early September 2007 (date TBA). The District level auditions are on Saturday, December 6, 2009, at Whitewater Middle Schhol). If a student passes the District audition, they would continue to the state level audition to be held on January 10, 2009, at Perry Middle School in Perry, GA. 2008 All-State for Band will be held in Savannah, Georgia March 5-7, 2009.

District Solo/Ensemble forms will be distributed when they become available in the Spring. Solo/Ensemble time and dates TBA!

Please make all checks payable to ***Whitewater Middle School Band Boosters.***

****6th Grade Students****

PLEASE consult Mr. Melton BEFORE signing up for All-State OR Solo-Ensemble!

SPRING BAND TRIP

The Whitewater football band will be taking a spring band trip during the 2008-2009 school year. This trip is open to all members of the Whitewater football band. Students will only be allowed to attend the trip if they show a superior attitude, effort and discipline in class.

WRITING CHECKS

1. When writing a check to the band boosters, please write in the memo line what the check is for. Please put all checks and money in the red box in the bandroom
2. All returned checks will incur a \$25.00 fee

BAND CALENDAR

All students are expected to post and know the dates of band events for the year. Every student received a calendar the first day of school. Missing concerts or rehearsals because a student didn't keep up with the calendar could result in the removal from that band and/ or loss of trip privileges. You can check band events on the website. It is the responsibility of the parent/ student to keep track of upcoming band events.

Expected and Optional Fees (subject to change)

Expected

1. Band Folder and Music Fee: \$8.00
2. Band Shirt- (some grades have them already) -\$17-24 depending on options
3. Symphonic Band uniform fee-\$15.00
4. Concert Band uniform fee-\$10.00

Optional Fees

1. All-State Band Audition-\$20.00
2. Solo and Ensemble-\$6.00 for Solo/ \$2.50 for each person in ensemble
3. Band Jacket-\$35.00-\$50.00
4. Band Medals-\$5.00
5. District Honor Band(if selected)-\$12.00

Class Schedule:

- 1st Period: Planning
2nd Period: 8th Grade Concert Band
3rd Period: 8th Period Symphonic Band
4th Period: 7th Grade Symphonic Band
5th Period: 7th Grade Concert Band
6th Period: 6th Grade Advanced Band
7th Period: 6th Grade Band/ Beginning Band

Please sign and return the next page

**Whitewater Middle School Band Handbook
Acknowledgement Form
2008 – 2009**

www.wmsband.org

Parents and Students:

After reading the Band Handbook (posted on the web site), please PRINT and SIGN this form acknowledging that you have read, understand, and agree to the expectations stated in the handbook. Return the signed form to Mr. Melton the first week of school.

I, _____, have read, understand and agree
(print student's name)
to abide by the policies stated within the Whitewater Middle School Band Handbook.

Student's signature

As the parent of the above-named student, I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the policies stated within the Whitewater Middle School Band Handbook.

Parent/Guardian signature

Band _____ **Period** _____