

# Concert Band (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) 2018-2019

Elizabeth Haynes, Director  
haynes.elizabeth@mail.fcboe.org  
[www.wmsband.org](http://www.wmsband.org)

Welcome to another year in the Whitewater Middle School Band! The band is a special organization that allows students to become a part of a band family upon entering WMS. Not only does this course teach teamwork but it is also designed to give each student a love and understanding of all types of music by learning to perform the best of the available band literature. The benefits of a music education are far reaching. Learning a musical instrument has been linked to higher academic achievement, higher self-esteem, increased coordination, development in creative thinking, and increased emotional development. Learning a musical instrument is also fun!

## Classroom Rules

1. **Follow all directions.**
2. **Be on time** for all classes, rehearsals, and performances. Students are responsible for knowing all the dates on the band calendar. Missing a concert, rehearsal or event because they did not check the calendar or did not listen in class is considered unexcused.
3. **Be prepared.** Have all equipment and supplies each day. Turn in assignments and permission forms when they are due.
4. **Be respectful.** Respect your fellow classmates, adults, and band room equipment. Do not have gum, candy, food or drink in the band room

## Grades

**Daily Class Work/ Participation:** **60%**

Students will be given points based on preparation for class.  
Bringing their instrument, music and pencil will figure into the overall grade. Points are not taken off for behavior, however, if behavioral issues result in a student packing up for the day, then the participation grade will be affected as the student cannot participate after packing up.

**Playing and Written Tests / Pass offs:** **30%**

**Band Homework/ Practice Records:** **10%**

Practice records are submitted online.  
A link to a Google Questionnaire will be posted on the band website ([www.wmsband.org](http://www.wmsband.org)) every Thursday and the practice records are due the following Thursday. Students and parents will fill out the minutes practiced together and submit electronically each week.

## Classroom Behavior and Expectations

Performing groups by nature require cooperation by all members to be successful. A system of progressive consequences has been developed to deal with offenses that are in nature a nuisance rather than a serious problem. These progressive consequences include:

- | <u>Step</u> | <u>Consequence</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1.          | Verbal Warning     |
| 2.          | Parent Phone Call  |
| 3.          | Teacher Detention  |
| 4.          | Office Referral    |

*\*\*These steps are for one semester. The steps will start over the second semester.*

## Performances and After School Rehearsals

Performances demonstrate what the band student has learned in class. They are the evaluative part of the curriculum. Performances are NOT optional, but REQUIRED.

**All performances count as a test grade. Parents should clear all commitments on days of concerts. All Concert Band members are required to attend performances.**

1. The Concert Band will rehearse after school on Tuesdays. Leave Tuesday open for that rehearsal day. We will rehearse from 3:20-4:30p.m. However, we will not rehearse every Tuesday throughout the year. Check the band calendar at [www.wmsband.org](http://www.wmsband.org) for exact dates.
2. To be in Concert Band students must attend rehearsal. Students can be removed from the performing band for not attend rehearsals and performances.
3. If a student needs to be absent from a rehearsal, then a note signed by the parent explaining the reason must be given to the director before the absence or the absence is considered unexcused.
4. Please try to schedule all doctor's and dentist appointments on days other than rehearsal and concert days.
5. Students have to show a positive attitude and they must contribute in class in order to perform.
6. Concert Band members who have shown a superior behavior and attitude will be eligible to go on any scheduled band trip.

### **Football Band (Symphonic Band with Optional Concert Band Members)**

The members of the Concert Band have the option of joining our Symphonic Band to play for our second home football game on September 28. The combined band will perform at the WMS Stadium. To be a member of the football band the student must complete the following requirements:

- 1) Play the audition material adequately.**
- 2) Attend the scheduled rehearsals and game.**
- 3. Have NO points deducted for behavioral problems. It is a privilege to perform at a game.**

There will be no grades given for the concert band members who decide to join the football band, however, band members must be present at the rehearsals to attend the game. Ms. Haynes will send out information closer to the game date to determine who is interested in joining.

### **Private Lessons**

Private lessons are the best way for students to enhance 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. There is a list of recommended private lesson teachers in our area on the band website. 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. Please let me know if you would like contact information for private lessons teachers.

### **Instrument and Music Storage**

1. The band room has shelves that can be used to store instruments during the day. Since shelves do not have locking doors, it is a good idea to put some type of locking device on the case. This will help in providing maximum security.
2. All instrument cases and books must be clearly identified with the student's name at all times. The completion of this will be used in the grading process.
3. Percussionists will have individual lockers with combination locks to store sticks and stick bag. The stick and stick bags can **ONLY** be stored in these lockers.
- 4.

### **Percussion Players**

In order to play all the percussion instruments, percussion students will need the following sticks:

1. Snare Sticks (5A, 2B or Vic Firth SD1)
2. Bell Mallets –plastic
3. Yarn Mallets-Yellow Yarn
4. Timpani Mallets-Vic Firth T1 General
5. Stick Bag

Local music stores offer these sticks in a stick bag for a discounted price.

Every stick must have the students' name written in sharpie on the handle. Every stick and stick bag must be stored in our new locking cabinets at the end of rehearsal. The student is never allowed to give out their combination to another student.

If students take care of their sticks, they will last a long time.

### **Band Music and Uniform Fee**

The Band Fee will include the following: band binder, band t-shirt, music fee, and uniform cleaning and maintenance fee.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$37.00 includes band binder, music fee, band t-shirt, and uniform cleaning and maintenance fee.

If you already have the band spirit shirt (not the 6<sup>th</sup> grade polo), pay this:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$27.00 includes everything above but with NO band shirt.

Because WMS Band Parents manage WMS football game concessions, we ask that each student also donate one of the following cases of Coca-Cola products:

Case of either: Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Sprite. ***SOFT DRINKS MUST BE CANS, NO BOTTLES.***

Dasani Water

*\*\*Please write your child's name on the case of drinks so credit may be received.*

### **Books needed for class:**

1. *Essential Elements, Book 2* (Hal Leonard Corporation)

2. *150 Original Exercises in Unison for Band or Orchestra* (Grover C. Yaus and Roy M. Miller)

*\*\*These can be found easily online or at your local music store.*

**Communication:** We contact parents primarily through email. If you are not receiving emails, then we do not have the correct email or the email address was not readable. Please contact us if you are not receiving emails.

### **Charms Office**

Brand new for the WMS Bands this year! The Whitewater Middle School Bands are using Charms Office as our primary source of communication with parents. A separate page will be sent to you via email (and is also in this packet) that explains what Charms is and how it works. Your child will be given their Charms ID/ Login the first week of school. Until then, you can familiarize yourself with the website by logging in with just the school ID. Email correspondence will be sent through Infinite Campus until all students are registered into Charms. At that point, all communication from Ms. Haynes will be through Charms (this should hopefully be by the second week of school.)

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## **Concert Band Upcoming Events**

**After School Rehearsals will begin in September. Please check the calendar on the band website for all band events!**

**August 8:** Bring instruments to school

**August 10:** Syllabus Agreement Form Due to Ms. Haynes

**August 10:** Case of Coca-Cola products due to Ms. Haynes

**August 13:** Have all method books in class

**August 13:** 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting, 6:00-7:00pm in WMS Band Room

**August 14:** After-School Rehearsal 3:30-4:30

**September 5:** Band Fee Due

\*\*\*\*For all remaining date please see either the calendar on the WMS Band Website ([www.wmsband.org](http://www.wmsband.org)) OR the Charms calendar ([www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com))

## **2018-2019 Concert Band Syllabus Acceptance Form**

Turn in this portion to Ms. Haynes no later than Friday, August 10 with your case of drinks.

**Please indicate that you have read and understood the following:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Concert Band Rules, Grading Policy, and Expectations

\_\_\_\_\_ \$37.00 Band Fee (\$27.00 if you do not need the t-shirt)

\_\_\_\_\_ Band Calendar (and how to access online)

\_\_\_\_\_ Required Method Books (to be used in class beginning August 13)

\_\_\_\_\_ Charms Office. I understand that Charms will be the way I can volunteer to help, how I can keep up with what is going on, and that Charms is how I will receive the weekly updates for all things WMS Band.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class Period (circle):**      2<sup>nd</sup>              4<sup>th</sup>

**I need another band t-shirt (not the polo). Please circle. YES      NO**

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Email:** \_\_\_\_\_