

**Waseca High School
Band Member Handbook
2020-2021**

Preface

This handbook describes the Waseca High School Band Program and its policies, rules, and regulations.

Band members are required to follow the policies, rules and regulations of Waseca Public Schools and the Band Program. School rules and policies are enforced at all times that a member is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by Waseca High School. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict.

The band director shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

To Band Members and Parents

Welcome to one of the most exciting organizations you can be a part of – THE BAND! The band program at the Waseca High School offers many varied performance opportunities and gives members the chance to learn with each other and grow closer to one another. We strive to offer the best available instruction and the widest array of events for our members.

Unlike most other classes, band offers a wide variety of opportunities for the student. Band is one of the few classes where excellence is not only expected, but also essential to success. Imagine if a Math teacher graded everyone in the class to the level of the weakest student! In band, everyone **MUST** perform at the highest level of excellence or a performance will sound less than.

In addition to teaching performance skills, band teaches the student to be an active, thinking person. For each note played, there are numerous considerations and instantaneous decisions to make. How loud or soft? How fast or slow? How does the note start? How does it end? Who else plays it? Am I in tune? Nowhere else in school is the demand for active thought any stronger.

Band also teaches life skills. Communication is a main component of music. The rehearsal and performance schedule of the band demands planning and time management—skills that will be valuable all through life. Goal setting, problem solving, peer interaction; all of these develop quickly as a part of the band experience.

Most importantly band serves an expression of the human experience through sound and collective music-making. This type of expression can be found nowhere else and it is as unique as the members who are in it. We all have a voice to share and for so many students this is their outlet for expression.

I strongly believe that there is a place for everyone in the band. We have hundreds of success stories. Many times, members who thought that they were not interested have become some of the most dedicated members once they have been a part of the experience. If you choose to participate, you can earn these rewards and be a part of an awesome band family. I don't know why anyone would not want to be involved in a successful band program like the one we have here.

Parents:

The band program at Waseca has established itself as one of the finest in the state, with superb performing ensembles in marching, symphonic, jazz, color guard and drum line activities.

We hope that you share our excitement in creating these phenomenal opportunities for the students. Students need to know what they do is important and meaningful. We encourage parents to be active supporters of our efforts through booster club participation, assistance in fundraising, and through volunteer work such as chaperones or Trailer Crew. We also hope that you will be visible supporters of the students by attending as many performances as possible.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you might have concerning the program. Please read all the information included. I feel incredibly grateful to be the director of this program, as I know I stand on the shoulders of giants. I'm so very excited to get the year started!

Rarely do you see such a large group of students assembled in one organization with such a strong focus on achieving excellence. Take the opportunity to get to know the instructors, other parents, and the members who make our success a reality.

Musically yours,

Sam Boerboom
Director of Bands, Waseca High School

Objectives of the Band Program

The primary objectives of the band program are:

- To encourage expression of the human experience through sound by the performance of music.
- To develop performance skills on the various wind and percussion instruments.
- To develop criteria in which to evaluate music based on critical analysis.
- To acquaint the students with music theory/history and how history and musical composition relate to students' lives and musical experiences.
- To provide for the musical needs of the school and the community.
- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of a group, enhance interaction, and develop *esprit de corps*.
- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthwhile work, a means for self-expression, and a healthy social experience.
- To foster leadership skills within each student.

Band Curriculum

CONCERT BANDS

Because the marching band performs so often in public, the concert season seems “forgotten”. This is far from being true. Concert season is the time when the majority of musical training takes place. If the band is to improve from year to year, this is the time it happens. Even the most successful marching programs are predicated on a quality concert band. Our programs main focus is concert band and is enhanced by the other activities such as marching band or jazz band.

Each band member will be placed in one of our two bands based on the number of members auditioning and the applicant's playing ability. Symphonic Band members will perform grade 6 literature and Concert Band will perform grade 4 and 5 literature. Both are classes that meet during the school day during the winter and spring. Tryouts are held in late spring and band selections are announced in May to facilitate the students' class schedules.

Two concerts are presented at the WJSHS Gym throughout the year and are open to the public. These are wonderful, well-attended concerts and you will hear challenging music. This is a great time to invite the grandparents, aunts and uncles and let them hear “what else the Waseca Bands can do”.

FALL BLUEJAY BAND

A chamber group is formed in the fall for those students not interested in the marching band. Students work on a variety of aspects of small group performing as well as perform their own compositions. They also work with the 8th Grade Band on Tuesday and Thursdays.

MARCHING BAND

The Marching Jays is a competitive field band open to all band students 9-12. It is an auditioned group but membership is not mandatory to be in the band program. Membership in the marching band requires strenuous physical exercise and the ability to play difficult literature that the activity demands. The Marching Jays perform all over throughout the fall.

JAZZ BAND

Students are encouraged to audition for a jazz band. Auditions are in December and the groups meet before school in the winter and spring only. The jazz bands perform at a variety of community events and typically compete in three festivals during the year including our very own Waseca Jazz Festival. A concert is also held near the end of the school year. Be sure to mark you calendar for this extraordinary performance. Students in jazz ensemble must first be enrolled in a concert band (unless playing a non-band instrument like guitar).

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES

During the winter chamber ensembles will be formed. ALL band members will be encouraged to perform in a chamber ensemble. Possible groups are woodwind quintet, brass quintet, saxophone quartet, horn ensemble, trombone quartet, low brass ensemble, flute choir, clarinet choir, and percussion ensemble. Chamber groups will perform as a part of the Christmas Composition Concert (CCC) with the opportunity to continue for the solo/ensemble contest in the spring.

COLOR GUARD

Students who are interested in dance, choreography, and movement may choose to audition for our color guard. The

color guard is a non-musical section that provides additional visual aspects to the performance. The color guard interprets the music that the marching band is playing via the synchronized spinning of flags, sabers, mock rifles, or other pieces of equipment and through choreographed dance.

Guard Membership

- It is suggested that current Band Members who complete a successful audition and are selected into the Color Guard continue their enrollment in a Wind Band class concurrently with their Color Guard participation for the next school year.

- A Successful Audition is required to obtain Color Guard membership during each year of participation
- Training Sessions are provided prior to the performance based auditions that are held in the spring

SUMMER INSTRUCTION

There are many nationally known summer institutes for instrumental instruction. Some of the best are Interlochen Arts Camp, Sewanee, Aspen Summer Music Program, Kinhaven, Keystone Brass Institute, and Tanglewood. There are also regional summer music camps such as the Shell Lake Music Camp. Many local universities also have music camps. Each summer the boosters provide assistance for our Drum Majors as well as a color guard representative to go to the Music For All Summer Symposium held in Indiana.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons give the student a chance to progress at an accelerated rate towards the mastery of his/her instrument. The private instructor is able to work with the student on an individual level, gearing the lessons to fit the specific needs of the performer. The student is able to hear the improvement in playing almost immediately, unlike the full band setting where players can “hide” or cover their areas of inexperience by allowing stronger players to carry the weight of the section. Students with the benefits of private lessons have a history of becoming top players in the band.

The cost per lesson varies with the instructor, as does the location. Some teach at home, others at area music stores, and some at our neighboring universities. Depending on the time, lessons can also be arranged at the high school. It is well worth the time and effort of scheduling lessons if the student can achieve greatness on his/her instrument.

A list of private instructors will be available in the Band Office upon request.

ALL-STATE HONOR BANDS

Sophomores and juniors are encouraged to audition for the all-state band in the spring. Advancing to All-State is the highest individual honor a high school musician can achieve. Band members who become All-State musicians are highly praised and honored. These students assemble in Minneapolis in February to perform at the Minnesota Music Educators Association convention and attend a camp in August.

There are many other honor bands in the area that provide an awesome learning experience for band students. Some of the best are the U of M Honor Band, St. Olaf Honor Band, Augustana Honor Band, and the Concordia Honor Band. Interested 9th graders are eligible for the Austin Honor Band held in March. Acceptance is based number of applicants and playing ability.

LARGE GROUP CONTEST

The MSHSL Region Contest is held in March. The concert bands travel to a local high school where they perform and are critiqued and scored by judges. Each band performs their concert music which is selected from a performance list and is categorized by difficulty. Groups are adjudicated according to that category and are adjudicated based on performance. Many do not understand that the Large Group Contest is open to the public. Even though performance times are sometimes inconvenient, parents are encouraged to come hear and applaud the bands.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE CONTEST

These contests are sponsored by the MSHSL and give the band member and director a good idea of how each musician is progressing individually. The local contest is usually held in March. Students receiving a Superior Rating at the local contest qualify for the State Solo and Ensemble Contest in April. Students will be given plenty of time to prepare their solo and will be given an accompanist to work with. Accompanists are paid through the band fees. Students are encouraged to participate in ensembles as well to develop their chamber playing.

PEP BAND

The pep band for winter sports is comprised of all band students, regardless of ensemble. The purpose of the pep band is to promote school spirit and provide quality music and entertainment at home sporting events. Performances each year include 5 boys/girls basketball games, plus 2 boys/girls hockey games. All members are required to play at eight events as part of their grade for second trimester. Students who play more than that will earn extra credit points towards their

grade. Members will not earn full credit if they miss part of the performance (except for winter athletes/cheerleaders), or if they fail to wear the appropriate pep band uniform.

GRADUATION PERFORMANCE

Freshman - Juniors will be expected to perform for this important ceremony. The ceremony is held in the gym on the Sunday after the last day of school.

SPRING AUDITION

The spring trimester is a very busy time for all band members. Tryouts for concert bands, marching band, color guard and drum line are all held during this time. Selection of the drum majors and service team also takes place. Your band member will be able to get information from the director regarding the auditions.

SPRING BAND TRIP

The band typically takes an extensive trip in the spring of every third year. The location of the trip varies, and our last trip was to Orlando. The primary objective of each trip is to provide a 'world class' venue in which the bands can perform, and to play for nationally acclaimed composers, performers, and adjudicators. Costs for the trip vary.

As with all band trips, plenty of adult supervision is available. Student conduct rules are strictly enforced and those not complying will be sent home at their parent's expense. You will receive complete details, which include cost, locations, times, and phone numbers prior to departure.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Students must be eligible to perform under Waseca High School's Scholastic Eligibility policy (in the WHS student handbook). Students and parents should be familiar with these policies so that questions and problems do not come up later. If a student is ineligible to perform, they are still expected to attend the event with the ensemble (unless otherwise specified by Mr. Boerboom). Don't flirt with this policy. Nothing hurts more than being ineligible to march or perform with the rest of your band family after having put in so many hours and hard work.

Marching Band

GOALS

Marching band provides an outlet for members interested in the realm of state-of-the-art design, performance, social, and competitive opportunities.

MEMEBERSHIP PROCESS

Membership is voluntary into this ensemble; however, an audition is required. The Color Guard and Percussion sections require a specialized audition and are considered a select ensemble of the group. We have a place for anyone interested in the group as long as they bring a good attitude and are willing to work. Instrumentation in any musical group is key so even though you may not get the exact spot you want, we have a spot for you and we want you in the program!

DRUM MAJOR

Members are eligible to audition for Drum Major after completion of a full season in the Marching Jays and are entering their Junior or Senior year in school. Drum Majors audition in areas that demonstrate their skills in leadership, conducting, maturity, and musicianship. Auditions are usually held in January.

REHEARSALS

Some of the rehearsal schedule falls almost entirely outside of the typical school day or before the school year has started. Once the school year has started we meet in the mornings before school and during first hour as it is also a curricular course. Marching Jay rehearsals are as follows, but not limited to:

- New Marcher Training: 3 mornings two weeks after school gets out.
- Summer Sectionals: Weekly rehearsals during June-July for every section.
- Alpha Camp: 4 hours of rehearsal to work the music and basics.
- SPAT Camp: Takes place the week before sports start. 12 hours a day to learn the field show.
- Night Rehearsals: Takes place the first two weeks of sports so they don't conflict.
- School Day rehearsals: Monday-Friday - 6:45-8:35 AM.
- Sectional Rehearsal: An additional rehearsal per week devoted to just the members particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Flutes, etc.).
- Extra Rehearsals: Typically on a Saturday in the months of September and October.
- A Detailed calendar with all rehearsal dates and times has been distributed. It is also posted on the bands Edline website:

NEW MARCHER TRAINING

Although the main purpose of New Marcher Training is to introduce incoming members to marching techniques, the full band is required to attend. The older members are a tremendous help with the teaching process while building camaraderie with the new band members. The camp is traditionally held in June after school gets out. If you anticipate any problems with attendance, please contact the director.

AUGUST CAMPS (ALPHA/SPAT CAMP)

The end of July and August is the busiest part of the band year. Attendance at this camp is mandatory so plan vacations accordingly. Speak to the directors with any concerns.

The summer band camp will consist of the most concentrated rehearsal time for the entire season. During this time, we build fundamental skills and teach a large amount of the competitive marching show. As you can imagine, this puts important emphasis on this camp. The dates and times vary, but get ready for 12-hour days. Comfortable tennis shoes, light colored clothes, and a cap are the best type of attire. It also will be helpful to have a 1 gallon water jug, sunscreen, and bug spray. Have your band member check with their section leaders for other good advice.

Some of the things happening at this camp include:

- Learning show music
- Learning drill
- Collection of camp fees and instrument fees
- Lots & lots of bonding between old and new band members.

“SCHOOL DAY” REHEARSALS

Once school starts, the Jays rehearse in the mornings from 6:45 to 8:35. This is a cherished time of the day where we get so much better. Make sure you wake up early enough to get breakfast and not be in a rush.

SECTIONALS

An additional rehearsal per week devoted to just the members particular section (i.e. Percussion, Guard, Flutes, etc.). Once school starts, the students schedule can be rather hectic. It will greatly aid your student to mark their calendar accordingly.

PERFORMANCES

The Marching Jays perform at halftime of all home varsity football games. The Jays also perform at all competitive contests and festivals; approx. five contests per season. The Pride also performs various community support appearances based on need and accessibility.

CONTESTS

We are always representing Waseca when we travel to an event and I expect our actions to reflect Waseca in the most positive light. We have made it our practice to cheer other band on and this is an expectation of the parents as well. There is room in this activity for all to be successful. Let's encourage them the as the reach for their goals. Showing thankfulness, picking up trash, and being courteous is best practice at these events.

COMPETITION PHILOSOPHY

- Contests, festivals, and other adjudicated events are important features of our band program. Through these events we obtain valuable feedback, both positive and constructive, about our progress as individuals and as an ensemble. Although we should never “live or die” by any one judge’s opinion, it is important that we learn the value of giving maximum effort for every performance and standing by the results as our best possible effort that day.
- We will gracefully accept our own successes, and we will never gloat – that would be an embarrassment to our organization and it demeans the value of competition. We also will show our appreciation and respect for the other bands, especially those who have shown great improvement, those who display the spirit of positive competition, and those who earn the right to score ahead of us.
- We will concern ourselves from week to week with one thing: “Beat Waseca” – many others will not understand that we are only trying to outperform ourselves from week to week – those are the people who will never know the true reason for competing, but will mistakenly equate winning with coming in first. We understand that we will come in first when we deserve to, based on our performance. Until then, we know that “winning” is the state of every individual having endured the process, taken the risk of competing, and performed their personal best in the pursuit of perfection.

UNIFORM

The marching uniform is owned by the school and is rented to students for the duration of the season. Students are also required to purchase a pair of marching shoes and a uniform t-shirt from 4-Season's Athletics. They should also have appropriate shorts to wear underneath their uniform pants. Boxers or other undergarments are unacceptable. For each performance, students will check out their uniform and must check it in properly after each performance. Students will be responsible for damage to the uniform which goes beyond "normal wear and tear."

CONCERT DRESS

For Concert and Symphonic Bands, there is not a uniform *per se*, but we do have a dress code which must be followed.

- Boys will have a black suit with a white shirt and black tie.
- Girls will wear all black as well. Girls could choose to wear pants/skirt and a shirt, a dress, or any other arrangement as long as it is all black. The keys to selecting a dress or skirt should be to not see their knees while sitting down. Off the shoulder tops are not appropriate concert attire. The goal of this dress code is to keep the focus on the music, not the individual. Modesty is encouraged.
- Students should have dress shoes and black socks – not sandals, flip-flops, athletic shoes, etc.
- Students may be asked to change, or not allowed to perform, if they show up in inappropriate concert attire.

For pep band performances, students are required to wear the pep band t-shirt. We will have new shirts this year that will be purchased and owned by the student. They will be purchased through the school at a cost of \$10. It is your responsibility to bring it to every pep band event. Failure to wear the shirt will result in not getting credit for attending. If a shirt is lost for any reason it will be the responsibility of the student to buy a new one from the band office.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

Students who use a school-owned instrument will pay a rental fee. These fees are used to cover the cost of insurance and maintenance on these expensive instruments, as well as periodic replacement of school-owned instruments. Even when added together over a student's instrumental career, these fees are often far below the cost of purchasing the same instrument.

All school-owned instruments become the sole responsibility of the student once they have been issued. Students are expected to treat all school-owned equipment carefully and to return it in the same condition as it was issued. Repairs and adjustments will be made at the student's expense if they are determined to go beyond "normal wear and tear," including major damages that occur as a result of misuse or neglect.

FEES

At times the financial obligation may be heavy, but no member will be denied the opportunities of the organization due to financial difficulties. Multiple scholarships are available. Please talk with the director.

LETTERING

A student must go above and beyond the call of duty to letter in band. The rubric is a merit system based on the extra measures students take to enhance their music education. A student must collect a certain amount of points to letter. The list is as follows:

Some can be marked more than once (in 2 jazz bands/2 state solos)

- ___ Member in good standing (in band for all 3 trimesters)
- ___ Marching Band (worth 2 points)
- ___ Perfect Marching Attendance (every rehearsal and performance)
- ___ State Solo/Ensemble participant (doesn't include jazz)
- ___ Jazz Band (worth 2 points)
- ___ Took School Lessons (at least 8 lessons)
- ___ Took Private Lessons (outside school)
- ___ Taught another band student (at least 8 lessons and with prior approval from Mr. Lawrence)
- ___ Outstanding jazz solo at festival
- ___ transcribed a jazz solo (Must show transcription and play for Mr. Lawrence)
- ___ Accompany a student (for solo/ensemble)
- ___ Music Listening Class
- ___ Band Camps outside of Waseca's / Honor Bands (list _____)
- ___ Student Assistant
- ___ Service Team (student leadership)
- ___ Required Pep Band attendance (at least 8 – do not include excused events)
- ___ Perfect Pep Band attendance (worth 2 points)
- ___ Auditions (All-State, College, Drum Major)
- ___ Learned a new instrument (list _____)
- ___ Back-up band / Pit orchestra
- ___ Other performing opportunities (list _____)
- ___ Helping Habits (Post Pep Band/Concert Set-up/JH Concert Crew _____)
- ___ TOTAL

****Number needed to letter will be different for each grade to reward each year invested.**

- Seniors – 5
- Juniors – 6
- Sophomores – 7
- Freshman - 8

ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS

Tardiness to band events will not be tolerated

The only excusable absences are prearranged school conflicts and those that would be excused by the school for attendance records, e.g., illness, a death in the family, or a religious holiday. **WORK IS NOT AN EXCUSED ABSENCE.** Please share the schedule with your employer. Individual needs will be addressed as they occurs. This system is subject to modification by the director.

Performance no shows will result in the lowering of one letter grade on his or her report card.

For all absences, the following procedure must be followed by the student and parent:

- The director must be notified in advance.
- An absence request form must be filled out (in back of handbook)
- For illness, a parental note or doctor's note must be submitted.
- Although cleared by the school office, absences from a band event that same day must be cleared with the director as well.
- In extreme cases, a phone message may be left on the band answering machine with a follow-up personal call.
- Follow-up is the sole responsibility of the student

The mere filing of an absence form does not constitute approval. The above policy is cut and dry in regard to what is excused.

CONFLICTS WITH BAND

Resolving conflicts between band and other activities or events is the responsibility of the student. Rehearsal and performance schedules are given out in advance so that arrangements can be made. Students should have the calendar and be aware of all band dates well ahead of time as to identify possible conflicts. It is the policy of the band director to

assist students when conflicts arise. Work is never an excuse for missing any band activity. In regards to non-school related activities such as off-season sports commitments, the policy is that school related activities come first. If you are in a school activity that runs concurrently during the same season as Marching Band, here are FAIR and REASONABLE GUIDELINES to resolve any scheduling conflicts that may occur:

1.) If you have a Band practice and an ACTIVITY practice

Action: Communicate with adults in charge

Resolution: Split time with each 50/50

2.) If you have a Band practice and a VARSITY ACTIVITY game/event

Action: Communicate with adults in charge

Resolution: Attend varsity game/event

3.) If you have a Band performance and an ACTIVITY practice

Action: Communicate with adults in charge

Resolution: Attend Band performance

4.) If you have a Band performance and an VARSITY ACTIVITY game/event

Action: Communicate with adults in charge

Resolution: You must objectively determine where you believe you are most needed, and which situation will allow you to make the greatest contribution to your peers and do the "greatest good"

We will respect and support whatever thoughtful decision you make

As you can see, communication is the key to successfully resolving scheduling conflicts.

CLASSROOM PROCEDURES

- Come to rehearsal with a good attitude, eager to learn.
- Be on time to all rehearsals and performances. Early is on time—on time is late!
- Upon entering the rehearsal setting, get your instrument, and go directly to your seat.
- There should be no excess playing on your instrument, only good sounds.
- Individual warm-ups should include long tones, lip slurs, scales, and that day's music in chunks.
- When the director or staff member steps on the podium or asks for your attention, all talking should cease.
- Make a concerted effort to improve on a daily basis, and establish a good practice routine.
- Know your stuff! The purpose of rehearsal is for you to learn the other parts in relation to yours, not for you to get your part down!
- If you need to leave for any reason please ask. Restroom breaks are to happen in-between classes.
- No Talking.
- At the end of the rehearsal, put all materials in their proper place.
- Have proper respect for yourself and others.
- Read and play music with insight—have musical expectations.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTITUDE

The greatest single factor that will determine the success of any individual or organization is attitude. The kind of person you are is an individual choice, and how you feel about something is one of the few things you have control over. Authentic music making can not happen with closed minds and conceited hearts so be open to what a new day may bring. I'm convinced that life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it. The choice is yours. The band can do much for you. Make the most of it every day!

THE IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLINE

Any organization must have discipline to be successful. There is no way around this fact. We pride ourselves on being a disciplined group and that common philosophy amongst students and parents is what allows us to have the success we do. Let's maintain and augment our discipline this year.

RULES

- Shoes and socks must be worn at all times for outside practices.
- Chewing gum is not permitted during a rehearsal or in the band room.
- Food and drink are not permitted in the band room.
- Respect yourself and others, including their personal property.
- Drinking and drugs are strictly prohibited. All school policies regarding such are in force during any band activity.
- All school rules, including no smoking, will be enforced.
- Students will not damage or steal property or equipment.

- Fund-raising materials will be collected in money box outside the band office. Make sure everything is properly labeled before turning it in.
- Students may practice in the band room before school, after school, and during lunch.

FOOTBALL GAMES

- Report time for all games will be announced on each Thursday prior to the game.
- Student will wear the full uniform.
- Students will be dismissed following 'Never Walk' after our halftime performance.
- When marching to and from the stadium, the band will remain at attention. When you have class it shows-when you don't, *it shouts!*
- Only uniformed band members are allowed in the band section.
- All members are to remain in their sections.
- There will be no eating or drinking in the stands.
- All members should be alert as to what is going on down front. Be ready to react immediately to instructions given by the drum major or director.
- If a student leaves the band section, another student must accompany him or her and both music have permission from the director.

TRAVELING

- If a conversation can be heard in the front of the bus, it is too loud!
- Please keep the bus clean, both in appearance and in talk.
- Pick up after yourselves and others and always thank that chaperones and driver.
- No mixing colors and no exceptions – dating or not.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAND

It is the responsibility of every parent and guardian to see that the policies outlined in the handbook are followed and that the form in the back is signed and returned. This states that you understand the policies stated and that any questions are to be directed to the band director by making an appointment. Each parent is responsible for the attendance of his or her child at all band functions. It is the responsibility of each parent to see that their child practices his or her instrument daily. The hands of the director are tied without the help of parents.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

When a band question arises, it is important that you get factual information before discussing it with others. We do more harm to ourselves, the band family, when we talk about things that contain one or more falsehoods presented as facts. If questions arise, it is important to remember this axiom: If it is a performance issue or anything dealing with the band proper/students, contact the band director. If it is a fund-raising question or anything dealing with parent issues, talk with the booster club president.

- Show an interest in the musical study of your child.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he or she can practice without interruption.
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing.
- Keep the instrument in good repair, and keep at least three reeds in the case
- Get them a metronome and tuner!
- Be extra careful with school-owned instrument. Repair costs are high!
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time to each rehearsal or lesson
- Make faithful attendance at all band activities important.
- Buy your child a planner to keep track of their commitments
- Keep the handbook in a safe place and refer to it often.
- Double-check to make sure your child has their instrument when leaving for school, and that they have it when they come home from school.
- Limit student's sugar and fast food intake during the marching season. No Pop/Energy Drinks/Gatorade
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.
- Turn in fund-raising money promptly.

USE OF THE BAND FACILITY

BAND ROOM

The use of our equipment and facilities is a privilege. Don't abuse it. No outside students are permitted in the band room, except for business with the director. No horseplay, e.g., throwing things in the band room. All percussion and guard equipment is off limits to anyone not specifically designated to use them. There will be no storing of personal items in the band room or storage room-the band room is not a locker! No Food or Drink permitted!

PRACTICE ROOMS

Practice rooms are to be used for practice or private instruction. Keep them for this purpose. Keep the rooms neat with the appropriate equipment and stands in place.

BAND OFFICE

The band office is private and is a place of business. If the door is shut, please knock. If the door is open, you may enter. If someone else is able to answer the question, consult them first, because Mr. Lawrence may have already given the information.

PRACTICE

As with any activity, you get out of it what you put in. Band will not be fun unless you practice. Here are Mr. Lawrence's top 10 benefits of daily practice:

- Improves your literacy
- It can be a meditation
- It teaches you discipline
- Practice is a stress reliever
- Practice is fun
- It makes you smarter and improves your capacity of memory
- It builds endurance and concentration
- It is a form of expression
- It teaches you the benefits of hard work and consistent dedication
- It teaches you perseverance

Here is a suggested plan of study:

- Pick a set time each day
- Use a tuner and metronome for a portion of your practice session
- Have a set place you practice (without distractions)
- Include long tones, lips slurs, scales and technique as a part of your routine
- Work to increase your dynamic and range and playing range
- Take a break when needed
- Practice your lesson material as well as solo, concert, and jazz literature
- Practice sight reading and transcribing
- End your practice session with something fun you really enjoy playing
- Journal your practice to track your results

Uniform Etiquette – Marching Jays

- When changing into and out of uniforms, no underwear should be visible, including boxers, bras, etc. You should never change in a public setting.
- Uniform unders are the only appropriate thing to wear under your jacket and bibbers. Boxer shorts are not appropriate.
- BIBBERS must be always up over your shoulders, not resting at your waist, unless otherwise directed by the staff.
- JACKETS are always on in public, and they are always zipped up with the collar connected, unless otherwise directed by the staff. If your jacket is off for warm-ups or for lunch, it must be folded properly and set on top of your shako neatly. Do not set it directly on the ground.
- SHAKOS are either properly on or they are carried upright in your left hand (with your fingers over the visor). When placed on the ground they are placed upright facing forward directly in front of you.

- Long black socks (no markings) are the only acceptable thing to wear on your feet.
- Polish your INSTRUMENT and WIPE YOUR SHOES before every performance.
- Do not polish your shoes or your horn while wearing your gloves.
- You are not allowed to wear any JEWELRY while in uniform (this includes watches, rings, any kind of piercings, necklaces, etc.). No fingernail polish may be worn, even under gloves.
- Everybody's HAIR must be entirely up under their hat and band members should not wear any make-up.
- Never drink anything other than water and NEVER EAT any food in uniform, unless specifically given permission by the director or another staff member.
- Do not rest on, sit on, or lean on anything that could potentially damage your uniform or get it dirty (i.e. the ground, fences, railings, etc.).
- Plan ahead and ask a staff member if you have questions.

Contract of Mutual Consent

I, the undersigned student, accept membership in the Waseca High School Band and understand that I am responsible for all policies set forth in the band handbook. I fully agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

Student Signature

Date

I, the undersigned parent of guardian, have read and understand the policies as set forth in the band handbook. I also grant full permission for my child to be an active member of the Waseca High School Band. In addition, my child has full permission to attend all band functions. Furthermore, I understand that I must meet all financial obligations.

Parent signature

Date

Parent e-mail address _____

Transportation Authorization Form

To be completed by the Parents

I authorize my student _____ (name)

to be transported by _____ (who)

TO / FROM (circle one) the following WHS music activity:

_____ on _____ (date). I understand that I (or the responsible adult) must also find the Director/Staff after completion of the event to sign out my student.

Student Signature

Parent / Guardian Signature

Date

- *If someone other than the legal guardians will be transporting the student, the parents must still be there to sign out the student. No older siblings or older significant others will be allowed to transport students.*

Excused Absence Form

This form must be completed and turned in one week in advance of any anticipated absence by a band student (excluding extreme emergencies).

Students Name _____

Today's Date _____

Date of anticipated absence _____

Reason for absence _____

Please be specific. The policy is simple-if the school will excuse it, we will excuse it. If the school will not, we will not. The school will excuse any absences for a death in the family, a religious holiday, or illness with a doctor's note.

Parent signature

Student signature

Band Director

Date

