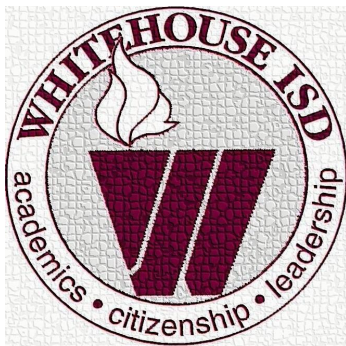


Whitehouse Junior High School Wildcat Band



HANDBOOK

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Discipline, Musicianship, Integrity

2022– 2023 Whitehouse Junior High School Band Staff

Director of Bands..... Tom Mensch
J.H. Head Director..... John Gaertner
J.H. Assistant Director..... Christopher Huffty
Holloway Head Director..... Christina Thomas
H.S. Assistant Director..... Daniel Southerland
H.S. Assistant Director..... Nick Hardy
H.S. Assistant Director..... Wade Russel
JH Majorette Instructor Mackenzie Burlingame

**It is the student’s responsibility to read, comprehend, and
abide by the rules contained within the 2022-2023 Wildcat
Junior High Band Handbook.**

PREFACE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the band program at Whitehouse Junior High School. It will be of value to all members of the program and their families if proper attention is given. The handbook contains a wealth of information to help you understand what it means to be a member of the Wildcat Band. It is designed to help you become more familiar with the program as it is today and also the direction of the Whitehouse Band program for years to come.

PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC EDUCATION

As educators, we believe it is our responsibility to help students become the best version of themselves possible and to reach their potential in everything they do. We are training the future of our nation and we want to give them the tools they need to succeed in every part of their lives.

Music is our passion, and we believe it is an excellent tool for teaching our students valuable life lessons. A few of our students will go on to become professional musicians, but most will not. The daily pursuit of musical excellence will, however, prepare all students for life after school. Participation in our band program will teach the students: Duty, Honor, Loyalty, Respect, Accountability, Team-Work, Perseverance, Diligence, Time Management, and Self-Respect just to name a few. All of these attributes are vital to becoming successful professionals, good citizens, and loving family members as they mature into adulthood.

We use music to better the lives of our students while making a positive impact on the world around us!

ATTITUDE AND DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of all group activities, discipline must be consistent and fair. Our goal is to promote a positive learning environment for every student, regardless of ability level or experience. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Because the band is constantly under public scrutiny, we must always be aware of the importance of proper behavior. The student must remember that he/she represents the organization, school, and community at every performance or public appearance. Any misconduct casts a negative reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good works of hundreds of loyal students.

RULES OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Wildcat Band, you are a part of one of the school's most important organizations. Therefore, the success of the band will depend on the cooperation and positive attitude of each and every member. The guidelines outlined in the following pages are simple and easy to follow. In keeping these rules, you are meeting an obligation that will help make our band efficient, safe, and successful.

Each band member should carefully read and adhere to the following:

- Respect for all band staff, parents, students, and help will be given at all times. Appropriate discipline will be issued, at the director's discretion, for inappropriate behavior.
- Any behavior that causes a disruption or interferes with the education process will not be tolerated. Appropriate discipline will be issued, at the director's discretion, for inappropriate behavior.
- Be prepared for rehearsal. Prepare your music ahead of time. Practice is a must. Have all necessary materials: instrument, music, reeds, mutes, **PENCIL**, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc.
- Rehearsal time is at a premium. Please be ready to begin rehearsals at the appointed time. Early is on time; on time is late.
- Chronically poor attendance will be sufficient grounds to be removed from a specific performance, drill assignment, concert band, or band program. A part of your grade is based on daily work. If you are not here, you cannot receive a grade. Attendance is required.
- No food, drink, candy or gum in the band hall.
- Please ask all non-band members to remain outside. We have many valuable instruments in the band hall, as well as expensive personal items. Keep your band hall as safe as possible!
- The band hall is open to students whenever a director is on campus. We want you to be at home in our facilities. The director's offices, however, are a place to conduct business. Please, do not enter without permission.
- The band lockers are for instruments and music only. Keep them clean. You may leave your books in the band hall during rehearsal, both in class and after school. No books, clothing, or water bottles will be left in the band hall overnight.
- Your instruments are very expensive. Please treat all instruments with tremendous respect. Also, do not touch any instrument that does not belong to you.
- Possession, sale or use of narcotics, drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other controlled substances while under the supervision of the band program, will be a referral to the administration, and is considered **grounds for immediate removal from the program**. Also, **any band student that is suspended or expelled from campus due to drug or alcohol possession may be immediately removed from the band program**.
- Possession of any weapons, dangerous instruments or objects that could be reasonably considered a weapon, will be a referral to the administration and could be **grounds for immediate removal from the program**.
- Each of us must be respectful of our facilities. Destruction, defacement, and other acts of vandalism of school equipment will be a referral to the administration and could be **grounds for immediate removal from the program**.

BAND REHEARSAL RULES

1. No gum, candy, food, or drink in the band hall at any time.
2. No horseplay at any time.
3. Get a drink of water and go to the bathroom before rehearsal begins.
4. Check your instrument before rehearsal and get it fixed at that time.
5. Get necessary supplies (reed, valve oil, etc.) before time for rehearsal to begin.
6. BE IN YOUR CHAIR WITH HORN, AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED; MUSIC, PENCIL, GOOD REED, ETC. AT THE SCHEDULED REHEARSAL TIME.
7. Do not get up out of your chair for any reason after rehearsal begins unless it is an emergency and you have asked for and gotten permission.
8. Cell phones are not permitted during rehearsal
9. When the director stops the band, it is to give instruction for the benefit of the band. It is not for talking or discussion.
10. Do not talk during rehearsal for any reason, except to ask the director about the music or about some instructions that have been given.
11. Most importantly, give the director your total attention at all times.

Methods of discipline and consequences may include one or more of the following:

- 1) Immediate corrective action
- 3) Parent phone call, minor disciplinary action (detention, band hall clean up, etc.)
- 4) Parent conference at school
- 5) Removal from group activities
- 6) Administrative involvement
- 7) Removal from program

**The directors will attempt to keep parents informed of any disciplinary action concerning your child.
Minor infractions may not require parental involvement.**

CONCERT ENSEMBLES

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition.
The following are the ensembles and the student expectations and responsibilities.

8th Grade Symphonic Band

- Participation in marching band
- Prepare and audition for All-Region Band
- Prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of performance objectives if assigned

8th Grade Concert Band

- Participation in marching band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and audition for All-Region Band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of performance objectives if assigned

7th Grade Symphonic Band

- Participation in marching band
- Prepare and audition for All–Region Band
- Prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of performance objectives if assigned

7th Grade Concert Band

- Participation in marching band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and audition for All-Region Band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of performance objectives if assigned

Uniform

Our junior high band uniform is our band polo which can be purchased at registration, khaki pants with a brown or black belt, white tennis shoes and white calf length socks. The uniform will be worn to all public performances except our winter concert and spring concert. For pep rallies, students will wear their band polo with jeans or shorts.

ELIGIBILITY

Adherence to the UIL No Pass / No Play rule will be closely monitored. On a nine-week cycle, eligibility will be determined every three weeks. As per UIL rules, even though we are on a nine-week cycle, eligibility can be lost after the first six-weeks is completed. This only applies for the first nine-week grading cycle. It is imperative that every student remains diligent in their studies. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY EXTRA-CURRICULAR PERFORMANCE IF YOU HAVE FAILED A CLASS.** Any fundraiser money raised will be forfeited to the band activity fund, as directed by law, if you are unable to attend because of a loss of eligibility. Please pass your classes!

Physicals

All 8th Grade students are required by UIL to have a physical on file to participate in the marching portion of band.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

The Whitehouse band program owns a limited number of the larger, more expensive instruments. These instruments are assigned to the students on the basis of need. Instruments furnished by the school include: piccolo, oboe, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, bass trombone, tuba, and concert and marching percussion. It is the responsibility of the student to return the instrument in as good a condition as when it was issued. Failure to return equipment as requested will be treated as theft.

Removal of unassigned instruments from school premises without the approval of the director is theft of school property and will be reported to the police. Please report any damage or necessary repair immediately to the band director, regardless of the cause. Unnecessary and expensive maintenance can be avoided by making sure the instrument is cleaned regularly. Failure to properly care for school instruments will void the privilege of using them.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE ACCESSORIES

All band members are responsible for repair or replacement of all
school issued equipment damaged due to misuse or neglect

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF STANDARD EQUIPMENT FOR EACH INSTRUMENT:

Flute

Swab
Silver cloth
Tuning rod
Tuning slide grease

Bb Clarinet

Swab
Bore oil
Reed guard with reeds
Tuning slide grease

Saxophone

Swab
Cork grease
Reed guard with reeds

Trumpet

Brass mouthpiece brush
Wire snake
Valve oil
Tuning slide grease

French Horn

Brass mouthpiece brush
Wire snake
Rotor oil
Tuning slide grease

Trombone

Brass mouthpiece brush
Wire snake
Slide oil

Baritone

Brass mouthpiece brush
Wire snake
Valve oil

Tuba

Brass mouthpiece brush
Wire snake
Valve oil
Tuning slide grease

Percussion

Drum key
Stick Bag with various sticks and mallets
Metronome

BAND TRIPS

- All band trips will have received prior approval of the school administration.
- The bus will leave on time unless unavoidably delayed. It is the responsibility of the student to be on time.
- Bus changes will be allowed with director approval only.
- Buses are to be treated with care and all trash must be placed in the receptacle provided. Keep the bus clean.
- No one will leave the group for any reason without director approval. Anyone leaving with approval must travel in groups of at least 3.
- An itinerary will be provided for every trip. Please be prepared to have your parents ready to pick you up at the appropriate time.
- Smoking, drinking, drug use, or the possession of such material will not be tolerated. Violators will follow the district discipline policy and may be grounds for immediate removal from the band program.
- Any public displays of affection will not be allowed
- Students will travel to and from a band commitment as a group on the transportation provided. Under extenuating circumstances, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students can only be released to their own parent or guardian.
- When traveling on a bus, do not apply any aerosol/spray/fragranced product. Some people are sensitive to strong aromas especially in closed in spaces. These products include: hair spray, hand lotion, cologne, perfume, deodorant, baby powder, etc.
- There will be no shouting, singing, clapping, etc., or any other loud noises that might distract the bus driver, chaperones, or other students.
- Electronic devices may be used only with headphones. Content on device must be appropriate.
- Everyone must remain seated, facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- All students will use appropriate, non-offensive language.

These guidelines are designed to allow everyone the same opportunity to have a safe and enjoyable travel experience.

Disciplinary Actions for Band Trips

- Students may be re-assigned a seat on a bus.
- Students may be asked to ride another bus.
- Students may be restricted from traveling with the band.