Winchester High School

Advisory Band

Handbook

2016 - 2017



Instructor: Mr. Austin Wilson

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Welcome to Band!

Band takes the skills that everyone has to offer and combines them to produce a product that is more harmonious than the sum of its parts. The verb associated with making instrumental music is “play,” and this is for a reason: band is fun! However, this fun comes not only from the act of playing an instrument but also from improving. Just like academics, athletics, and almost any other skill, practice is required in order to progress as a musician. Our time in class together is a terrific start, but it may not always be enough to accomplish both our goals as an ensemble and our individual musical goals. As such, the more you practice, the better we sound and the more accomplished you become. Unlike any other academic area, music classes only succeed if everyone is invested. Thus, we must hold ourselves to high standards to achieve our potential as an ensemble and as individuals.

Band Rules:

Respect

(Teacher, classmates, time, and property)

1. Listen when directions are given
2. Speak when called upon; allow learning to proceed without interruption
3. Stop (playing and speaking) together
4. Play only your own instrument
5. Dispose of broken reeds/empty valve oil bottles
6. Treat and store instruments with care

Responsibility

1. Bring your instrument, music, and a pencil to each rehearsal
2. Be where you need to be when
3. Always be prepared - know your part

Band Expectations:

1. **Effort**: Try your best and make confident mistakes. That is how we learn.
2. **Encouragement**: Support fellow band members and thank your parents, bus drivers, and custodians.
3. **Efficiency:** When your section is not being directly addressed, use this time to mark your music or practice difficult fingerings or rhythms.
4. **Curiosity**: Ask questions, but try to figure it out on your own first. If you would like extra help to work on your part or develop independent musicianship, I am happy to do it.
5. Last but not least for both rules and expectations, **Preparation:** Know your music, and know how your part fits with the whole.

Concert Attendance Policy:

Even though advisory band is not for a grade, it does still require commitment. We perform with the first hour band at all athletic performances and formal concerts.

* Students in advisory band will be allowed one unexcused absence at an *athletic* concert each semester.
* If a student has multiple unexcused absences at athletic concerts, an unexcused absence at a formal concert, or is tardy (without prior notice *and* excusable reason) to 3 performances within the course of a semester, he or she may be asked to cease participation in advisory band for the remainder of that semester.

\*Athletic performances are football and basketball games.

\*Formal concerts are the quarter concerts (fall, winter, spring) and IHSA contest.

Unexcused absences include:

* Work
* Slept in
* Forgot
* Anything that can be *reasonably* avoided

Excused absences include:

* Serious illness
* Wedding
* Visitation/Funeral
* School event conflict (involved not attending)
* Emergency
* TBD on a case by case basis

\*In order for an absence to be considered excused, **parent contact** must be received:

* **2 weeks before** concert for a planned event
* **Before** concert (email is fine) in case of emergency

Discipline Policy:

1st Offense – Verbal warning

2nd Offense – Conference with student

3rd Offense – Removal from classroom

4th Offense – Permanent removal from advisory band

Habitual Offense - Behavior plan, potentially in conjunction with other teachers or parents, including possible removal from advisory band

Severe Offense - Immediate removal from classroom

Behavior Off-campus:

As members of a music program, we will often perform outside of the Winchester campus. At all times, students are expected to follow all behavior policies outline in both this band handbook and in the Winchester student handbook. We represent Winchester as a whole, and our actions (whether they display courtesy, gratitude, responsibility, respect, and composure or arrogance, negativity, disrespect, and a lack of self-control) reflect on ourselves, *our* band program, and *our* school district. Any off-campus behavior that is in violation of the band or student handbooks will be dealt with promptly and potentially severely. Students whose behaviors on- and off-campus send a positive message about our school district will likely be rewarded.

Concert Attire:

During formal concerts, it is expected that we entertain the ears of our audience.

As such, a unified concert dress code allows us to perform without fear of visual distractions that may prevent our listeners from fully experiencing the product of our hard work.

In order to present a unified appearance throughout the music department and make life easier for students in multiple ensembles, the Winchester High School band and choir have adopted the same dress code for concerts.

The following dress code excerpted from Choir Handbook: Journey through Singing 2016 - 2017 by Mrs. Smetters shall be followed by band students for formal concerts:

**Women**: Black pants or skirt (Skirt must be below the knees), grey blouse or shirt, and black shoes (no flip flops or boots).

**Men:** Black pants, grey button down shirt, black socks, black shoes (NO DUCT TAPE).

Dress code for athletic performances is spirit wear/school colors.

\*If a student does not follow this dress code at a concert, he or she may be asked not to participate in that concert. If this occurs twice, he or she may be asked to cease participation in advisory band for the remainder of that semester.

2016 - 2017 Band Schedule:

The following performances have been set and student attendance is expected. Additional performances (such as the winter and spring concerts, basketball performances, and Solo/Ensemble) are in the process of being scheduled, but at least 1 month notice will be given before a performance is scheduled in order to allow students to be able to plan enough in advance.

\*A complete schedule will be released before the end of September.

\*Additional rehearsals after school may be scheduled as needed in order for all students (those in both first hour and advisory bands) to be able to rehearse together prior to performances. At least 13 days notice will be given before an after school rehearsal is scheduled.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Arrival Time | Performance Time | End/Return Time | Location |
| 8/26 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:50 PM | 8:30 PM | Home |
| 9/9 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:50 PM | 8:30 PM | Home |
| 9/16 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:50 PM | 8:30 PM | Home |
| 10/7 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:50 PM | 8:30 PM | Home |
| *10/10* | *ILMEA Auditions* | *TBD* |  | *TBD* | *Quincy High School* |
| 10/21 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:50 PM | 8:30 PM | Home |
| 10/26 | Fall Concert | 6:30 PM | 7 PM |  | WHS Auditorium |
| *11/5* | *ILMEA District Concert* | *TBD* | *TBD* | *TBD* | *Western Illinois University* |
| *1/25 - 1/28* | *ILMEA All-State* | *TBD* | *TBD* | *TBD* | *Peoria Civic Center* |

\**Events in italics are optional and may only be available to students by audition.*

Band Contract

Please sign and return this page along with a parent or guardian to indicate that you have read and understand the contents of this handbook. As Winchester’s new band director and math coach, I am excited to be able to work with you to create a band program of which you can be proud and feel accomplished. I am sure that we will all learn a great deal together during this exciting year.

Student contract:

I understand what is expected of me as a member of the Winchester High School band and agree to make this investment in my musical and personal development.

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your hard work. I am looking forward to a great year together!

Sincerely,

Mr. Austin Wilson