Winchester High School 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
   1. In seat with all materials by 8:20 AM
   2. I will ensure that you are on time to your next class, so you must allow us to start on time.
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.

Grading Policy:

Participation

10 Points/day

Based on:

* Preparation
* Effort
* Punctuality

Concert Attendance

70 Points/Athletic concert (football/basketball games)

100 Points/Formal concert

* Unexcused absence results in a grade of zero.
  + Unexcused absences include: work, slept in, forgot, anything that can be *reasonably* avoided
* Excused absences must be made up through alternate assignments (described in more detail on the next page). Unexcused tardiness to concerts will result in grade deductions that cannot be made up.
  + 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

\*Participation and Concert Attendance constitute 80% of total grade

20% - Final

Playing component (10% of total grade)

* Fall semester:
  + Winds - First 3 lines of Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) Sr. High Scales Sheet
  + Percussion - TBD from ILMEA Sr. High Percussion Etudes
* Spring semester: TBD

\*Playing component must be completed before scheduled final day.

\*Playing component can be completed any time before schedule final day and can be performed multiple times until student is satisfied with grade.

Written component (10% of total grade)

* Musical notation and terminology that will be discussed during the semester

Alternate Assignments

Excused concert absences can be made up by completing alternate assignments that total to a number of points greater than or equal to that of the missed concert. For example, a missed football game could be made up with one 25 point assignment and one 50 point assignment, three 25 point assignments, or one 100 point assignment. Alternate assignments are not limited to those below; other projects/performances may qualify with teacher permission prior to completion.

25 Points

* Individual (free) lesson with Mr. Wilson to develop a new musical skill
* Attend a concert and turn in concert program
* Write a short (½ page) bio of a famous composer

50 Points

* Compose an 8-measure melody and perform it for Mr. Wilson
* Write a summary on an article about your instrument
* Write a critique comparing two pieces for band or your instrument and justify your preference (which you liked more and why)
* Perform outside of school (must have note signed by staff member at location of performance - church choir director or religious leader, retirement home staff, etc.)
* Take private lessons (must turn in note signed by private teacher)

\*50 points/lesson

100 Points

* Compose a 16-measure melody and perform it for Mr. Wilson
* Perform a prepared solo for the class
* Attending a concert and writing a paragraph detailing what you liked about it \*Must turn in concert program as well
* Teaching a lesson (must turn in a note signed by parent of person you taught)

\*Must also turn in list of specific skills/techniques taught in lesson

* Write a short (½ page) bio of a famous performer on your instrument

Discipline Policy:

1st Offense – Verbal warning (and possible loss of points)

2nd Offense – Conference with student (and loss of points)

3rd Offense – Detention and/or phone call home

4th Offense – Referral to principal

Habitual Offense - Behavior plan, potentially in conjunction with other teachers or parents

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 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).

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 officially registered in band and those not) to be able to rehearse together prior to performances. At least 2 weeks 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 | 6:40 PM |  | Home |
| 9/9 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:40 PM |  | Home |
| 9/16 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:40 PM |  | Home |
| 10/7 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:40 PM |  | Home |
| *10/10* | *ILMEA Auditions* | *TBD* |  | *TBD* | *Quincy High School* |
| 10/21 | Football Game | 6 PM | 6:40 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