

WAKELAND HS BAND

HANDBOOK

2019-2020



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GENERAL BAND PROCEDURES

This handbook will spell out several expectations that are necessary to have a successful band program. However, there are some general guidelines to follow in all situations.

- 1) All rehearsals and events called by directors are mandatory.
- 2) To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, to be late is to be very sorry.
- 3) Respect the property of the school and of others.
- 4) Respect other band members and directors.
- 5) Always project a positive attitude in your words and actions.
- 6) Be at the right place at the right time and do your best.
- 7) For security reasons, only **current** band students are allowed in the band hall.
- 8) Gum is not allowed at any band function.
- 9) **NO FOOD OR DRINK (OTHER THAN WATER) IN ANY PART OF THE FINE ARTS FACILITIES AT WAKELAND HIGH SCHOOL!**

MARCHING BAND

General Requirements and Expectations

ALL PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY FOR STUDENTS THAT ARE ACADEMICALLY ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.

Every academically eligible student will be assigned a varsity/jv spot in the 2019 show. All eligible students will perform at the weekly football games. In regard to marching contests, students who exhibit the highest proficiency and performance level will march a position in contest.

Varsity marching spots are highly competitive and will be assigned based on attendance, experience level, and proficiency in marching and playing. At any point in the season, students may be moved into these varsity marching spots when circumstances change. If a student is removed from a varsity marching spot, he or she may be worked back into the varsity lineup as places open or as may be necessary to replace those who are not fulfilling requirements. In this way, it is hoped that everyone will have ample opportunities to gain experience.

If a student is in “In School Suspension” on the day of a football game and is to be in ISS on the following school day, he/she may not be allowed to be present at the stadium according to FISD rules. Therefore, he/she may not participate with the band at the game or the contest on the following Saturday. If a student’s last day of ISS falls on the day of a football game, he/she may be an alternate for the game and contest.

If a student has an unexcused absence from a marching band rehearsal, he/she may be held out of the next show performance on the schedule. If a student has two or more unexcused absences during a week, he/she may not be allowed to travel/participate with the band at the next performance event. Two unexcused tardies to a rehearsal are the equivalent of one unexcused absence.

Eligibility

Most of the activities associated with Band (Marching and Concert) are extra-curricular including football games and contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL, and FISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each UIL eligibility report. Students who fail any on-level single class at the end of the eligibility report will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the report period in which they failed. Students who fail at that time will be able to regain their eligibility by PASSING ALL CLASSES AT THE END OF THE 3RD WEEK OF THE NEXT GRADING PERIOD. If passing, students regain eligibility seven days after the last day of the three-week period. A STUDENT WHO DOES NOT REGAIN ELIGIBILITY AT THAT TIME WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE FOLLOWING ELIGIBILITY REPORT.

New UIL rules state that a student who fails a Pre-AP or AP class no longer has to apply for an eligibility waiver, the students are automatically waived. With this change, if the directors feel that the students work/time-management is preventing them from passing their classes and performing in band, they may be removed from their varsity spot and given a JV position.

MARCHING BAND PRACTICE SCHEDULE

The Wakeland High School Marching Band is comprised of all members of the Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band I/II, Percussion and Color Guard classes. Please post the following schedule at home and keep a copy for reference at school.

Typical Rehearsals are:

Monday: 6:00-9:00p (usually at Memorial Stadium)

OR 5:00-8:00p (@ WHS if stadium is not available)

Tuesday: No Rehearsal

(section leaders are permitted to call one 30-minute sectional)

Wednesday - Friday: 7:00-8:30a @ WHS Band Field/JV Field

Please check the calendar on the band website for specific information.

****Some locations and times may change. Please keep an eye out in the weekly newsletters and google calendar****

Make sure that you check the calendar on the website for the most up-to-date information regarding rehearsal locations and times.

Games are scheduled every Thursday or Friday from August through November (with the possibility of playoff games beyond that date).

The approved ACT/SAT testing date calendar is provided on **wakelandband.org** and the online calendar. Students who do not make the required accommodations **may** be moved from a competition spot to an alternate position.

FALL SEMESTER

Contest Performance Schedule

Please make sure that these dates are clear on your calendars and check the WHS Band website for the most up to date information.

Saturday, September 28	HEB Marching Contest Pennington Field 1501 Central Dr Bedford, TX 76022
Saturday, October 5	Bands of America Regional: DFW Pennington Field 1501 Central Dr Bedford, TX 76022
Saturday, October 19	UIL Region 24 Marching Contest Little Elm Athletic Complex 1151 E Eldorado Pkwy Little Elm, TX 75068
Saturday, October 26	UIL Area B Marching Contest Little Elm Athletic Complex 1151 E Eldorado Pkwy Little Elm, TX 75068
November 1-3	Bands of America: San Antonio Alamodome San Antonio, TX
November 4-5	UIL State Marching Contest Alamodome San Antonio, TX
Saturday, November 9	Frisco Community Parade Frisco, Texas
Saturday, November 9	Lone Star Drumline Contest Marcus HS Lewisville ISD

ATTENDANCE AT ALL PERFORMANCES, INCLUDING FOOTBALL GAMES, IS MANDATORY. CHANGES IN THESE DATES AS WELL AS OTHER CONTESTS AND OTHER CIVIC EVENTS WILL BE SCHEDULED AT A LATER TIME ON THE BAND WEBSITE. BE SURE TO CHECK IT ON A REGULAR BASIS. AN ABBREVIATED REHEARSAL SCHEDULE WILL BE FOLLOWED AT THE END OF THE REGULAR FOOTBALL SEASON.

BAND CLASSES

All the members of the Band Program are assigned by audition to one of four concert bands that meet as academic classes. In addition to music preparation, academic performance (in regard to eligibility) and attendance history are considered when determining ensemble placements for each school year. Please remember that band is a year-long commitment. Schedule changes may only occur within the various band classes offered. New students are auditioned and placed into the appropriate ensemble upon arrival.

Wind Symphony (grades 9-12)

The Wind Ensemble consists of 40-50 serious musicians who focus on some of the highest quality wind literature. Participation requires a high level of dedication and performance from each member and each student is required to “double block”. Enrollment in private lessons is expected. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, a Holiday concert, two or more spring concerts, and special events. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled outside of the school day along with sectionals in the spring semester. Students in the Wind Ensemble will be required to audition for the All-Region Band in November/December and to perform an appropriate level *solo* at the UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in January.

Symphonic Band (grades 9-12)

The Symphonic Band is an ensemble consisting of musicians who perform quality wind literature. Participation requires a substantial amount of dedication on the part of its members. Enrollment in private lessons is strongly encouraged. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, a Holiday concert, and one or two concerts in the spring. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics are occasionally scheduled along with sectionals in the spring semester. Students in Symphonic Band are required to audition for the All-Region Band in November/December and to participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in January with an appropriate level *solo*.

Concert Band I/II (grades 9-12)

The Concert Bands are ensembles consisting of musicians who perform quality, appropriate level wind literature. Participation requires a substantial amount of dedication on the part of its members. Enrollment in private lessons is strongly encouraged. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, a Holiday concert, and one or two concerts in the spring. In addition, extra rehearsals and clinics may occasionally be scheduled. Students in Concert Band are required to prepare the audition for the All-Region Band in November/December and to participate in UIL Solo/Ensemble contest in January with a solo or ensemble.

Jazz Band (grades 9-12)

Jazz Band membership is by audition and open to WHS students who are a part of the parent large ensemble band organization (marching and concert band). Jazz Band membership is open to students outside the band program only when there are no qualified band member candidates for keyboard, rhythm guitar, and/or bass guitar. Jazz Band consists of playing many styles of jazz music, improvisation, and jazz theory. Please check the band website for Jazz Band performance information. Upperclassmen with a strong interest in Jazz are encouraged to participate in the All-Region Jazz Ensemble auditions in September.

Color Guard (grades 9-12)

This is a year-long, course open to any student interested in participating in the visual ensemble portion of the Marching Band and Winter Guard. Students enrolled in this class are considered a part of the Marching Band. Therefore, all Marching Band rehearsals and performances are MANDATORY.

Percussion (grades 9-12)

This class is “double blocked” for all percussion students in the first semester. During the second semester, students will be enrolled in the percussion class for a “single block” and an ability based band class for a “single block”.

ATTENDANCE

Work schedules, family trips, and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the school year. Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. The band directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups.

However, other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with long-scheduled rehearsals or performances of the Band. **NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES, TEAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR JOBS MUST NOT CONFLICT IN WITH THE PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OF THE BAND.**

The Band is dependent on ALL of its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, band students' success is, in large part, dependent on the full participation of all the members. The following attendance policies will affect the students' grades and chance to participate. Unexcused absences include, but are not limited to doctor's appointments, organization meetings, work, family vacations, etc.

Please view the rehearsal / performance calendar on the website before scheduling doctor/dentist/orthodontist appointments.

ABSENCES FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS ARE NORMALLY CONSIDERED EXCUSED:

- SEVERE ILLNESS OR MEDICAL EMERGENCY (DOCTOR'S NOTE REQUIRED)
- DEATH IN THE FAMILY

IF YOU ARE WELL ENOUGH TO BE IN SCHOOL, YOU ARE WELL ENOUGH TO ATTEND REHEARSALS AND/OR PERFORMANCES.

ABSENCES OTHER THAN THOSE LISTED ABOVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED WITH THE DIRECTORS IN ADVANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

****All absence requests need to be submitted with an "Absence Request Form" located at wakelandband.org. Parents must sign and submit at least 7-days prior to the absence or within 2-days of an absence for emergencies. JUST BECAUSE YOU SUBMIT THE FORM, DOES NOT EXCUSE THE ABSENCE. ALL CASES WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE STAFF/CAMPUS.****

TUTORIALS

If it becomes necessary for a student to get extra academic help or make up work, the following options are available for students to attend tutorials:

FOOTBALL SEASON

- Any day after school (except when an evening rehearsal is scheduled)
- Before school on mornings with NO practice scheduled
- During Power Lunch

AFTER FOOTBALL SEASON

- Any morning or afternoon students do not have a sectional scheduled
- During Power Lunch

GRADES

In determining the band grade each nine weeks, two areas comprise the average:

- 1) Performance/Pass offs/Etc.: major grades (60%)
- 2) Curriculum skills demonstration/Attendance/Quizzes: minor grades (40%)

DISCIPLINE

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the WHS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively within the program will be placed on a behavior contract and may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Directors.

As a school group, the band is governed by School and School Board policies anytime the band is together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. ***The General Release form you sign at the end of this Handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the Band.***

Any student who violates school/school district rules while with the WHS Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the band.

Students who violate school rules may also be put on a behavior contract signed by the student, administration, parents, and director.

CONCERT BEHAVIOR/ETIQUETTE

At concerts, students are expected to conduct themselves in a mature manner and act as professionals would on and off the stage. Concerts are professional events. Audience members are expected to follow basic rules of etiquette, i.e. clapping at the appropriate time, not whistling, screaming, etc., not taking flash pictures during the performance, removing crying babies/children, not leaving or entering during a piece of music, etc. At times, band students will be in the audience listening to each other. Students are expected to lead the audience by exhibiting proper behavior.

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limits of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the year.

All-Region tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region and are the first step in advancement toward All-State. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. All students are required to prepare the audition literature to be used for the All-region audition and semester placement auditions. The music is announced in July, and the tryout process begins in November. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to all of the auditions and the performances before entering.

MARCHING UNIFORMS

The marching uniforms of the WHS Band are worn at most outdoor functions unless weather prohibits. These are issued to all marching band students. In addition, each student needs the following items to complete the uniform:

- 1) Black VIPER Marching Shoes - ordered through the band in the summer
- 2) All black TALL athletic socks (no markings)- your choice, ankles completely covered
- 3) White marching gloves - ordered through the band
- 4) Band Compression Shirt - ***Worn under uniform at all times***
- 5) Band Compression Shorts – ***Worn under uniform at all times***
- 6) No visible jewelry or accessories can be worn at any time while in marching uniform. **No earrings, necklaces, bracelets, etc.**
- 7) Hair must be pulled up and secured (buns, pinned, etc.) prior to inspection and for the duration of wearing the uniform. Bows and extra hairpieces are not allowed while in uniform.
- 8) All boys must be clean shaven when in uniform. **(new for 2019)**

Uniforms will be checked in and out every game day. After every football game students will check their uniforms in to the band parent and uniform team in charge of uniforms. They will be cleaned several times during the marching season.

If you lose or break a piece of your uniform you must be prepared to pay:

Uniform bag	\$25
Pants with suspenders	\$125
Jacket	\$250
Hat	\$75
Hat box	\$15
Plume	\$25
Gauntlets (pair)	\$40

CONCERT UNIFORMS

Students in all bands will perform in formal concert clothes at all concerts, contests and festivals in the spring.

Boys in all bands will be issued a school-owned tuxedo and will need to furnish:

- 1) A white tux shirt
- 2) Black dress shoes and all black dress socks
- 3) Jewelry and hairstyles are subject to director approval.

Girls are responsible to order the provided options from the WHSBBA.

- 1) Closed toed, black dress shoes, heel of your choice (must be approved by a director)
- 2) Jewelry and hairstyles are subject to director approval.

ANY TUXEDO OR NOT RETURNED WILL RESULT IN A \$150 REPLACEMENT FEE.

APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

This program is supported by the individual parents who cover the cost of the program. Lessons may be taken before or after school or during the student's daily band class. The FISD approves certain private instructors through auditions, interviews and background checks. Lesson money is paid directly to the private instructors (\$21.00 per half hour).

The Applied Instructors will assist students with the preparation of music for All-Region, Area, and State tryouts; for participation in Solo/Ensemble; and with occasional parts of the band performance music. Teachers will include an organized lesson plan of fundamentals that will need to be practiced consistently in order to receive the greatest benefits from private instruction. Parents should become informed about the lesson content, expectations of the instructor, and their student's rate of progress. Parents should contact their own campus band director with questions about lessons or private instructors.

Private instruction has been approved to take place during the school day and is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician.

USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS/EQUIPMENT

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the FISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level. There is a school imposed instrument usage & maintenance fee of \$100 per year for wind players and percussionists. The usage fee only covers normal wear and tear of the instrument. Irregular repairs are at the students expense.

It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument when the student receives it and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year. If, in the opinion of a FISD director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

FUNDRAISING

It is expensive to run a competitive 5A band program in the state of Texas. There are many additional costs that are not budgeted for through the district, such as music arranging, drill, supplemental instruction, etc. Therefore, it is imperative that we fundraise to cover these expenses.

Parent and student involvement in the Wakeland HS Band Booster Association fundraisers is critical to acquire the funds necessary to help create a wonderful experience for our members. Students are allowed to actively participate in one fundraiser per school year.

As you sign the commitment form, understand that participation in the Wakeland High School Band Program is a FULL YEAR commitment and that our expectations for each other and ourselves are very high. We look forward to a wonderful journey and experience with your student.

PLEASE READ THE HANDBOOK CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING BELOW

"I have read the WHS Band Handbook and our student has our permission to participate in the band activities stated in this handbook within the guidelines described. We understand that Band and Color Guard are full-year commitments for the 2019-2020 school year."

"I have read the WHS Band Handbook and agree to abide by the policies stated. I realize that failure to follow policies or directions will result in disciplinary action that could lead to dismissal from the Band/Guard and Band/Guard classes."

Student Name Printed

Student Signature

Parent Name Printed

Parent Signature

All signatures are required by **August 23, 2019**. Students who have not submitted by this time may not be allowed to travel with the band until all documents have been submitted.

Other Items to be submitted for travel/participation approval:

- *UIL Acknowledgement*
- *Medical History*