

WAKELAND HS BAND

HANDBOOK

2022-2023



TANNER SMITH, DIRECTOR OF BANDS

DAN BERARD, ASSISTANT BAND DIRECTOR

LIZZIE RIVERA, ASSISTANT BAND DIRECTOR

BRIAN TEED, DIRECTOR OF PERCUSSION

KYLEE HUBBARD, COLOR GUARD DIRECTOR

WWW.WAKELANDBAND.ORG

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 and marked on the band calendar are mandatory UNLESS marked as OPTIONAL or labeled for a specific ensemble/group.
- 2) Respect the property of the school and of others - all facilities are to be picked up and clean everyday by students.
- 3) Respect other band members and directors.
- 4) Always project a positive attitude in your words and actions.
- 5) Be at the right place at the right time and do your best.
- 6) For security reasons, only **current** band students are allowed in the band hall.
- 7) Gum is not allowed at any band function or in any fine arts facility.
- 8) 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

Every academically eligible student will be assigned a varsity or JV marching spot in the 2021 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 in a varsity spot for contests. 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 or is to be in ISS on the following school day, he/she will 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.

Students who are not assigned to varsity marching spots are an integral part of the performance. They will have drill performed at football games and will assist the directors with field equipment and organizational needs provided they are academically eligible at 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 six weeks. Students who fail any single class at the end of six weeks will become INELIGIBLE seven days after the last day of the six-weeks 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 SIX WEEKS GRADING PERIOD.

Band Class Placements/Blocking Policies

Students in the Wakeland Band are able to single block if it is for an athletic or academic reasons.

Percussion students and students that want to be considered for the Wind Symphony (Varsity Ensemble) must double block band to participate fully. If a student chooses to single block, that student will be moved to the performing ensemble below they auditioned into for single blocking.

Examples:

Student auditions and places into the Wind Symphony but single blocks, the student will be placed into Symphonic Band.

Student auditions and places into the Symphonic Band but single blocks, the student will be placed into Concert Band.

MARCHING BAND PRACTICE SCHEDULE

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

Typical Rehearsals are:

Monday Evening: 5:00-8:00p if at Wakeland High School

6:00-9:00p if at FISD Kuykendall Stadium (formerly Memorial Stadium)

****PLEASE SEE THE BAND CALENDAR FOR LOCATIONS AND**

TIMES

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

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

Some days, 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 **will** be moved from a varsity spot to a JV position.

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 in the band hall. 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.****

GRADES

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

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

ELIGIBILITY FOR CONCERT SEASON

Most of the work that our students do outside of marching is considered curricular and NOT SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY. Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered curricular. Events that are considered extra-curricular include:

- 1) Any event with paid admission.
- 2) Any event that is inter-school competitive.
- 3) Any event that takes place off of the WHS campus.

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time.

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 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 and for trips related to the Band.***

Any student who violates school 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. 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 in the Wind Ensemble & Symphonic Band are required to participate and all students in the program are expected to prepare the audition literature. 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.

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.

Student Name (Printed)

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date Signed

Please submit this form only (we do not need the entire handbook) to the directors by the specified date.