

WHS Band Handbook

Course Expectations

A. Attendance (Make sure to review the WHS School-wide attendance policies)

1. Students are expected to be in their seats for rehearsal 2 minutes after the class begins. Students not in their chair will be marked tardy.
2. Students should begin warming up in their chair until rehearsal begins.
3. Rehearsals will start 5 minutes after the beginning of class.

B. Instrument/Music Folder/Chromatic Tuner

1. Students must have your instrument and necessary accessories for every rehearsal.
2. Every student must bring his or her music folder to every rehearsal. Every music folder should contain all the music handed out, warm-up book (provided by WHS), a pencil and any other handouts or material that have been distributed. **Regular music folder checks will take place and will contribute to the course grade.**
3. Percussionists: you are responsible for returning equipment to its proper place of storage after every rehearsal.
4. **Every brass and woodwind student must bring a chromatic tuner to every rehearsal. Percussionists are required to have their own stick bag containing their own sticks and mallets needed for rehearsal.**

C. Rehearsal Technique (20% of grade)

1. You must be actively involved in all aspects of rehearsal. This means you must pay attention at all times.
2. You must demonstrate proper playing technique, which includes:
 - a. Good posture
 - b. Proper instrument and hand position
3. Talking or other disruptive behavior is not permitted during rehearsal.
4. Students must come prepared to rehearsal with their instrument, music and tuner/stick bag.

D. Home Practice/Assessments (50% of grade)

1. Students are expected to set aside an adequate amount of time Every Day to learn all music passed out in rehearsals (30 minutes is considered the absolute minimum). It is only when every individual works to perform his or her part the best that the ensemble as a whole can reach its potential.
2. Practice Assessments will be submitted through SmartMusic and should be completed before or on the due date.
3. During the rehearsal process, sections and individuals will be asked to play alone. Generally, this will happen if a section sounds like it needs help; but every section will be checked several times every quarter.

4. There will be two individual performance assessments where students demonstrate specific scales/arpeggios, concert literature and sight reading.

E. Concert Attendance (30% of grade)

Concerts are the most important element of the course since it demonstrates the knowledge and skills developed by the individual and the ensemble. **It is mandatory that students attend every performance and dress rehearsal.** In addition, students are expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the event which includes assisting in clearing the stage and making sure all equipment is properly stored. Failure to meet these expectations will result in a reduction of a portion or the entire concert attendance grade for that quarter. Exceptions would be made for illness, a death in the family or a religious holiday. If there is a conflict, please communicate to the director as soon as the conflict is known.

Grading Policy

Your marking period and final grade are based on how well you meet the course expectations listed above. Your performance in every category listed above will be monitored daily (except for concert attendance, which is only monitored at concerts).

Each quarter grade is broken down as follows:

Rehearsal Technique– 20%

Home Practice/Assessments – 50%

Concert Attendance – 30%

Concert Dress

Gentlemen: black jacket, black pants, white dress shirt, black bow tie, black socks, black dress shoes

Ladies: All Black, black pants or long black skirt (to ankles), black socks or tights, black dress shoes

Districts, SEMSBA and All-State

Each year, the Massachusetts Music Educators Association (MMEA) holds music festivals in each school district, known as Junior (grades 7-9) and Senior (grades 9-12) District Festivals, as well as a single music festival open to students from any district known as the "All-State" Festival (grades 9-12). These festivals require an audition for participation. While the district auditions are open to any student within the grade ranges listed above, All-State festival auditions are open only to students who were recommended for it based on their Senior District audition score (Junior District participants cannot audition for All-State). In addition, the South Eastern Massachusetts School Bandmasters Association (S.E.M.S.B.A.) holds music festivals similar to the MMEA festivals and are open for both Junior (grades 7-9) and Senior (grades 9-12). Students are highly encouraged to audition for these honor ensembles.

2018-19 Concert Band Schedule

Sat, September 15	WHS Football Game vs. Wellesley	3:00 - 6:00 (arrive at 2:00)
Fri, September 28	WHS Football Game vs. Milton	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Fri, October 5	WHS Football Game vs. Brookline	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Fri, October 19	WHS Football Game vs. Needham	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Fri, October 26	Playoff Game ???	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Fri, November 2	Playoff Game ???	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Mon, November 5	Santa Parade Rehearsal	7:00 - 8:30
Fri, November 9	Playoff Game ???	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Sat, November 17	Sr. District Auditions	TBA
Mon, November 19	Santa Parade Rehearsal	7:00 - 8:30
Sat, November 24	Santa Parade	11:00 - 12:00 (arrive at 10:00)
Thu, December 6	Winter Concert	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Sat, December 8	Jr. District Auditions	TBA
Fri-Sat, Jan 11 - 12	Sr. District Festival	TBA
Sat, January 26	All-State Auditions	TBA
Sat, February 2	Sr. & Jr. SEMSBA Auditions	TBA
Thu-Sat, Feb 28 - Mar 2	All-State Festival	TBA
Fri-Sat, Mar 9 - 10	Sr. SEMSBA Festival	TBA
Fri-Sat, Mar 8 - 9	Jr. District Festival	TBA
Fri-Sat, Mar 22 - 23	Sr. SEMSBA Festival	TBA
Wed, April 3	Spring Concert	7:00 - 10:00 (arrive at 6:00)
Sat, April 5	MICCA Band Festival	TBA
Fri-Sun, April 26-28	Music Festival Trip - NYC	TBA
Fri-Sat, May 3 - 4	Jr. SEMSBA Festival	TBA
Wed, May 22	Pops Concert	6:30 - 10:00 (arrive at 5:30)
Mon, May 27	Memorial Day Ceremony	12:00 - 1:00 (arrive at 11:00)
Sun, June 2	WHS Graduation	1:00 - 3:00 (arrive at 12:00)

* **Dates in bold are required for all band students.** Other performances and/or events may arise during the year. Students will be notified as soon as these dates are confirmed.

WHS Band Handbook Form

Please Sign and Return to Mr. Gable by Tuesday, September 4th

Student

I, _____, certify that I have read the
(print first and last name here)

WHS Band Handbook in its entirety. I understand what is expected of me as a member of the ensemble. I have made note of all the dates of concerts in which I am expected to perform or at which I am expected to be present

I understand that my knowledge of and adherence to all information in the handbook will impact my marking period and final grade. I understand that my ensemble teachers may revise this information at their discretion. I know that my teachers will make me aware of any changes to that information before I am expected to adhere to those changes. I know that I may go to my teacher with any questions I have, and that my teacher will make themselves available to work with me any time I need any extra help with course material.

(sign full name here)

(date)

Parent/Guardian

I, _____, certify that both my
(print first and last name here)

son/daughter who is enrolled in the Concert Band or Wind Instruments and I have read the WHS Band Handbook in its entirety. I understand what is expected of my son/daughter as a member of the ensemble. We have made note of all the dates of concerts in which my son/daughter is expected to perform or at which he/she is expected to be present.

I understand that my son's/daughter's knowledge of and adherence to all information in the handbook will impact his/her quarter and year grades. I understand that the ensemble teacher may revise this information at their discretion. I know that the teacher will make my son/daughter aware of any changes to that information before he/she is expected to adhere to those changes. I know that my son/daughter may go to the teacher with any questions he/she has, and that his/her teacher will make themselves available to work with him/her any time he/she needs any extra help with course material.

(sign full name here)

(date)