

Dear Westerville South Band Parent,

Welcome to another year of fine music making. Please take this time to read the band handbook with your son/daughter. This document contains vital information that will help make your child's band experience positive. If you have any questions regarding the band, do not hesitate to send me an email: LaswellJ@wsoh.org
Office: 797-6067

I have read the band policies explained in the WSHS Band Student Handbook.

Student _____ Parent _____

Instrument _____ grade _____

Hm. phone # _____ Work # _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

If private lessons were available at school, would you be interested in lessons? YES ... no

Does your student take private lessons? _____ Teacher _____

Teachers phone # (if possible) _____

***** Please read and check the band calendar for conflicts ... Particularly concert/contest dates.**

FIELD TRIPS

Parents are always welcome to attend all Band events.

Chaperones are always needed. If you are interested in chaperoning a band event, please e-mail the director.

WESTERVILLE SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
BAND HANDBOOK/EXPECTATIONS
John Laswell, Director

The goals of a Westerville South Band member are to perform a task at the highest possible level. Certain guidelines are required within an organization to stress positive self-discipline. Self-discipline includes perfect attendance, individual practice, positive leadership, and cooperation with others.

Responsibilities to the Community and Ourselves:

The school district (the taxpayer) provides the necessary setting and facilities for your rehearsals and performances, as well as some of the larger more expensive instruments. We have an obligation to provide the best possible performances for the school and the community. You have the primary responsibility in learning and contributing your talent to the ensemble. You should avail yourself of the best quality instrument you can afford and if possible, pursue private lessons.

Concert/Performance Attire:

Gentlemen are to wear a black dress shirt (black suit jacket is optional), black dress slacks, black socks, and a tie that is mostly red. Ladies are to wear attire that is all black. All attire must be loose fitting, must have sleeves, (no open shoulders or open back) and shirts/blouses must be tucked in or longer enough that no skin, whether it be stomach or backside shows when holding the instrument or when sitting. You may wear either slacks or a dress/long skirt. The dress must be below the knees and the slacks must be of a loose fit (not baggy). Dress shoes, high heels not over 2" in height. This is also referred to as Standard **Concert Attire**.

Attire not appropriate for concerts are: skinny jeans, tight fit clothing, exposed midriff, exposed back, see – through attire, white socks, bare shoulders, short skirts, boots, sandals, and flip-flops are not appropriate. Jewelry is permitted if it does not distract from playing, make a noise while playing, or reflective/blinding others while performing.

Student Behavior:

The Westerville South Band enjoys the reputation of being a successful performing ensemble within the City of Westerville and the surrounding Columbus area. Proper behavior and good manners are characteristic of such a successful performing ensemble.

All rules stated in the WCS student handbook apply to all Band functions. This also includes field trips, fundraisers, and competitions. Smoking, consumption of alcohol, use of illegal substance, vandalism and insubordination are strictly prohibited at all times in accordance with school board policy. Violations may result in dismissal from the band program and/or other disciplinary action. Use of profanity will result in disciplinary action.

Grades:

Grades are based upon attendance at performances, class participation, and music preparation. Student accountability will be handled in a manner that will be fair to all students.

All members are required to attend all rehearsals and performances.

***Grade Percentages:**

Concert - 60%, After School Rehearsals - 20%, Music Check/inst. in class. - 20%

Contest semester – same as above with the addition of – missing the contest will result in an F for the grading period. Excuses such as severe illness (doctors' excuse) will be accepted. Unacceptable – visiting relatives, parent will not let me go, could not get a ride, etc ... **Please check ACT and SAT testing dates** and other activities to avoid conflicts.

*** Music Checks:**

All students are expected to practice and learn their parts. Music checks include: playing passages in front of the ensemble (down the line) and/or to the director only. Music checks will be averaged into your grade. Student having difficulty with playing tests will be given a reasonable alternative to earn an "A".

***** Employment is not an excuse to miss rehearsals and concerts. *****

Most conflicts can be successfully negotiated in advance to the satisfaction of all parties. Negotiations the “day of” or “oh, by the way” results in stress and puts all parties in a difficult situation.

Transportation To and From Events:

Band members are not permitted to drive to band events. In the event there is a conflict with a school related event (i.e., sports, ACT/SAT, etc.), parents must submit a note of permission to allow their son or daughter to drive to the event. Band members may not be excused from riding home on the bus from a band event unless the **parent/guardian** has:

A written note stating the name of the student and a signature of the student’s legal parent/guardian releasing him/her from Mr. Laswell’s care. Students are to checkout with Mr. Laswell or a band chaperone with their parent/guardian before departing an event. Students are not allowed to transport other students at any time to and from band events. This is a major liability for the school and director.

Instrument Care:

Always keep your instrument in good repair.

Never play someone else’s instrument.

Make sure your instrument case is properly identified.

Clean your instrument frequently.

School owned instruments are available. **If a school-owned instrument is damaged due to student negligence (i.e., instrument damaged while unattended, letting someone else play or borrow the instrument, improper care, etc), the student is financially responsible for the repair of the instrument.**

Rehearsal and Performance Conduct:

Inattentive behavior, disrespect to director, excessive talking during rehearsals and/or excessive absences contribute to negative results and wasted time. These actions may result in one of the following:

Library Work (no call to parent)

Call to parent and/or after school detention

Removal from rehearsal

Suspension from Band events

Daily Requirements for Band:

Student must keep their instrument in good working condition, bring music/pencil to class and have the desire to be the best that you can be.

Students are to dress appropriate for their instruments.

Jewelry is not to impede playing of instrument.

Private Lessons:

Private tutoring allows students to continue to progress beyond the instruction of elementary and middle school classes. The director (regardless of ensemble) can only take the individual student so far. Private teachers are available thru out the community at various rates. Lessons are generally one day per week. Private tutoring will make the difference between a mediocre ensemble and a superior performing ensemble. I would be happy to set your student up with a private instructor.

Solo and Ensemble:

Preparing a solo is especially important if you are considering continuing to play your instrument in college ... regardless if you are a music major. Many band students regardless have earned scholarships to participate in university music programs. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in solo and ensemble contest. Solo and ensemble presents the greatest opportunity for a student to improve. Advanced technique, steely nerves, and a superior performing ensemble are some of the greatest benefits of participating in solo and ensemble contest. Solo and ensemble is also a great way to meet other players as well as hear other students perform.

Band Awards:

Students completing the entire school year are eligible for awards. Enrollment in the band class and participating in all concerts define completion. Exceptions may include reasonable extenuating family circumstances, extended illness and/or entered band class later in the school year.

End of the School Year:

All music is to be returned.

Lockers must be cleaned out, and all school owned equipment returned (ligatures, mouthpieces, etc.).

Return of school instrument or submit a renewed instrument checkout form.

Dropouts:

Band is a continuing program that stresses the appreciation and performance of music. As an educator, the objections and penalties of students dropping out of band are as follows:

- Signing up for band should be a commitment to the enjoyment of music and the music program.
- The band suffers from lack of instrumentation.
- A grade of F will be recommended to all drops.

***** Performance Calendar**

November 7th	Band Concert – 7:30 PM WSHS Auditorium
January 25th	OMEA Solo & Ensemble – Details (typically in Reynoldsburg)
March 12th	Pre-Contest Band Concert – 7:30PM WSHS Auditorium
March 13th-14th	OMEA District Band Contest (Hosted at South High School!)
May 11th	Spring Band Concert and Senior Awards-7:30 PM....WSHS Auditorium