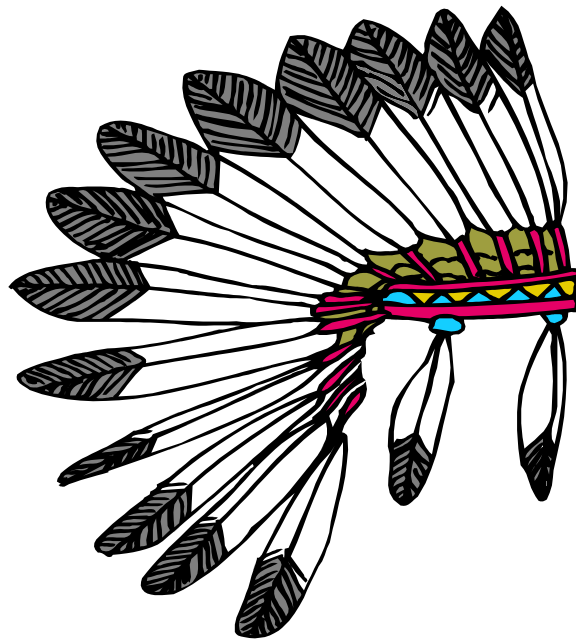


Wapakoneta High School

2008-2009

Band Handbook



The Pride of the Redskins

Band Department Philosophy

The Wapakoneta High School Band program is an organization that serves students interested in instrumental music. Our foremost objective is to provide students with the opportunity to become intimately acquainted with band literature, and to foster a love for and understanding of quality music. Participation in band should provide a self-satisfying level of proficiency and achievement as well as a strong basis for further musical enrichment.

An emphasis is placed on the refinement of the basic fundamentals of performance, both individually and as a group, and development of discriminative listening. Since the majority of our members will not be professional musicians, the program strives to produce an understanding of music with an appreciation of the arts as a form of communication and self-expression. In addition to these basic objectives, participation in band develops leadership and responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline and self-motivation. Participation in band should lead the student to recognize the unique contribution of music as an art form. Finally, the band experience should be fun. The band staff will, to the extent that students allow, provide an enjoyable experience. Band is not only a performing group, it is a social group, and decisions will be made with this in mind. As a group, we work hard in order to make time to play. The amount of fun we have will be directly related to the work ethic and attitude of the members in this band.

I. General Rules

1. Treat everyone and everything with respect.
2. Represent your school, your band, and yourself in a positive way at all times.

II. Classroom Rules

1. Be in the room by the time the bell rings. The downbeat of the daily warm-up will be given 2 minutes after the bell rings (3 minutes during Marching Band Season). Not being in your seat or on the field at the appropriate time will earn you a tardy. You will be allotted one tardy per nine weeks with each successive tardy earning a detention. **Please discipline yourself so the directors don't have to.**
2. Food, pop or candy is not permitted in the band room at any time. This includes summer. Eat and drink elsewhere
3. No talking when the director is on the podium. The director is there to teach and not baby-sit. Be considerate and treat others, as you would want to be treated.
4. Play your instrument only at appropriate times. The general rule is, "If playing your instrument is disruptive to the educational goal of the moment, don't play."
5. Non-band materials should be left in their appropriate places. For example, no other books for other classes should be with you during band.
6. No objects of any kind are to be thrown in the band room.
7. At the conclusion of rehearsal, all materials and instruments should be properly stored in the storage room or taken with you. **Nothing is to be left at your seat.** *Lockers should be closed and lock when you are not present.*

8. Everyone is to purchase a lock for his/her band locker. These locks must be purchased through the directors so that we have access to all lockers at all times. If an unofficial lock is on a school locker school official will cut it off. If you choose not to lock the lock and items are stolen don't complain. There is nothing more we can do.
9. You may exit through any door in the band room; however, the back doors are not to be used as an entrance during the school year. If you go to that door, you may not be let in.
10. You are not permitted to chew gum in any rehearsal of this group. This will earn immediate consequences (e.g., detention, laps, etc.)

III. Bus Guidelines

1. Remain seated, keep aisles clear, and observe rules as posted by the driver, no use of profanity or obscene gestures.
2. No glass containers, knives, matches, lighters, or other flammable objects are permitted.
3. Listen to and follow ANY directions given by the bus driver or chaperones.
4. No bus swapping. We must know where you are every time we travel.
5. Never use the rear door to exit the bus.
6. Romantic student behavior needs to be kept to a minimum. Any behavior deemed inappropriate by the directors or chaperones will be addressed with the individuals involved. Failure to respect these instructions will result in permanent separation of the individual's involved at all future band functions. If you are confronted by a chaperone or director on this issue and are disrespectful, the disrespect will be handled in accordance with the discipline section of the handbook
7. If the bus driver AND the chaperones permit, you are allowed one radio/CD player per bus.
8. If a change of clothing is necessary, you are not permitted to change on the bus, public restrooms or changing rooms will be provided.
9. All students will travel to and from all band activities on the bus unless a situation arises in which **YOUR** parents would prefer to take you. Both directors, **prior** to the event must approve these situations, and requests/reasons for such circumstances must be in **writing**.
10. No eating or drinking on busses. This includes candy. If we take charter busses, eating is a possibility, but only when special permission is granted by the directors.
11. No use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs in any form. This could mean immediate dismissal from the band program.
12. Do not throw items in or out of the bus windows.
13. Upon arriving at the destination, all students should remain on the bus and seated until given instructions to exit. When you exit the bus during marching band season you **must be in full uniform** (hats may be an exception)
14. All students **MUST** have their band/flag pants on before entering the bus and must keep them on during the trip.

15. Chaperones-

- a. There will be at least 2 chaperones per bus during band trips. Music boosters will handle assigning these chaperones.
- b. Chaperones will execute parental authority and will have authority over all the band members in regard to conduct when the directors are absent.
- c. Chaperones will check bus attendance every time the bus moves from one destination to another.
- d. The directors will have final authority on all disciplinary matters with the chaperones referring all problems to the directors when at all possible.
- e. The chaperones are volunteers who are here to help our band. Show them the respect they deserve if any situations should arise.
- f. Chaperones have been instructed to treat all band members with respect in all situations. They are not to demean, cuss at or tell band members to SHUT-UP at any time. If you feel this boundary has been overstepped, please advise the directors as soon as possible.

IV. Bleacher Guidelines

1. You will choose your seating arrangement at the beginning of the marching band season. After you have chosen whom you wish to sit by it will remain that way throughout the entire season. Seniors may sit in the front row for all games. If anyone is not mature enough to handle this set-up you will lose your choice in the matter and the directors will assign you a seat.
2. No eating or drinking of any kind while in the stands. **If you choose to do so you will immediately lose the next third quarter break. NO EXCEPTIONS!!** If you choose to argue about the consequences you will lose **more third quarters**.
3. Non-band members are not permitted in the band-seating block.
4. Third quarter has been designated as a break for the band. You are to be back, in your seat, with your instrument, ready to play, by the time the clock reads **30 seconds**. This will allow us to play as soon as the clock reads 00. Third quarter break is a privilege, and will be lost if abused. It may also be lost for other disciplinary action.
5. During third quarter break the uniform will be worn in a manner that is neat and uniform. If you choose to walk around in any other manner you will lose your third quarter privileges.
6. The winter uniform must be kept on at all times. Depending on the weather and at the director's discretion, zippers may be unzipped for ventilation purposes. Damage to the uniform will be repaired at the student's expense. Earrings may be worn during performances, but must not detract from the uniform look of the band. Studs are preferred for performances. Directors will determine if the earrings are out of compliance.
7. There are only two opportunities to use the restroom at away games and they are as soon as we get off the bus and during 3rd quarter break. No one will be permitted to leave the band block at any other time, so plan

accordingly. **When going to the restroom upon arriving at performances students must be accompanied by chaperones.**

8. Each member is responsible for his/her own instrument. Students are advised to keep their instrument with them at all times. **Students who do not unload their instrument after road trips will be required to do extra duties as prescribed by the directors. If the student refuses then he/she will receive formal school disciplines beginning with detention.**
9. Playing for the game may happen at any time and is something everyone needs to participate in so be ready. Either play when expected or have your third quarter break affected.
10. When we march into football games or any other performance we are representing the band as well as our school district. In order to not look tacky no one will be allowed to wear back packs. **WE WILL ENTER THE PERFORMANCE IN FULL UNIFORM!! NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS!!**

V. Consequences: Most of you will have no problem following the guideline established to help our organization run smoothly. Individual members who choose not to follow established procedures must be prepared to face the consequences. These will be in direct proportion to the severity and frequency of the offenses. For example, if you break a minor rule like being late from 3rd quarter break, you will lose half of your 3rd quarter break, but if you continue to do this, you will be dealt with in the manner laid out below (level 1-5). Any infraction involving alcohol, tobacco or drugs will be handled according to school policy. Removal from band will also be a consideration. We are VERY serious about this.

Level 1- Loss of half of 3rd quarter break

Level 2- Loss of all of 3rd quarter break.

Level 3- Detention and all preceding consequences

Level 4- Meeting with your parents and all preceding consequences

Level 5- Removal from the band program, all preceding consequences, and any consequence deemed appropriate by administration

VI. School Fall Sport Exception: All band members must participate in marching band unless they are involved in a fall sport (**sponsored by Wapakoneta City Schools**) that poses a major conflict with the bands summer/fall rehearsals and performances. This is an option that may be used but obviously those who are involved year round have a better chance of advancement in the organization and will excel at a faster rate. If you feel you have other extenuating circumstances you may present your case to the directors and they will consider your request.

VII. Facilities, equipment, and supplies

1. **Office-** the director's office is a place for their study and preparation. **No one is to enter the office without permission by one of the directors.** Band students who are also in choir should not enter the office through the choir

side unless the choir director or one of the band directors has given specific permission. Also, the office is not a hallway between the band and choir rooms. If you are caught using it as such you will be sent out the door you came in and made to go around.

2. **Band Room-** The appearance of the band room is a reflection of our band. Please keep it neat and clean. If you have any trash, put it in the trashcan, and treat the equipment as if it were the only equipment we have, because it is. **At no time are any personal items to be left in the band room.** Percussion and tuba players may leave their instruments in the appropriate places, but music, sticks and any other items must be placed in lockers/cabinets. During rehearsal all cases need to be returned to your lockers or placed under their chairs. Leaving a case out in the band room or on the floor or shelves in the storage room will be addressed, with multiple offences receiving disciplinary action.
3. **Instrument storage room-** the instrument storage room is to be used for the storage of instrument and equipment. Books may be placed in your lockers during rehearsal but must be removed when you leave after rehearsal. Instrument cases should be closed and latched when placed in your locker. Instrument damage may occur if this is not adhered to. Lockers are assigned for the year, and should be kept neat. The list for concert and marching band locker assignments is posted in the storage room. All lockers should remain locked unless you are there to add or remove something from it. Students should not congregate in the instrument storage room at any time.
4. **Percussion/ off-season/ flag storage room:** No one is to be in this room unless a director gives them specific permission. This is also a storage area for supplies used by the Boosters so do not touch anything that does not belong to the band.
5. **Repair room-** Permission to enter this room must be granted by one of the directors.
6. **Practice rooms-** Practice rooms are provided to the band students for practice. They are not for “hang-outs” or other activities. Please use them appropriately.

VIII. Equipment

1. **Instruments-** your instrument is valuable and for this reason you are not to let anyone else play it or hold it. Your instrument case should have your name clearly marked on it and should be put away whenever not in use.
2. **School owned instruments-** anyone playing a school owned instrument is expected to pay a \$25.00 per season rental fee for normal wear and tear to that instrument (\$35 for the year). If any repairs need to be made which are beyond what the directors consider normal wear and tear you will be charged for those repairs. Any brass players using school owned instruments will be charged an additional \$5.00 for every dent they put in their instrument. If your instrument is left unattended and is damaged YOU will be responsible for that damage, so don't let anyone damage your instrument. Any woodwind players who have been encourage to switch instruments for marching season only will

not be charged the rental fee, but must still sign a rental contract, and be responsible for any damage.

3. **Clarinet and Flute Players:** Those of you who earn a spot in the symphonic band will be issued new instruments purchased by the school district. The clarinets are wood and are not to be taken out of the building except for performances. Wood clarinets **MUST** be handled with care. Instruments left in extreme temperatures or if there is major temperature changes could crack and be ruined. The flutes are expensive open-whole flutes and must be well taken care of. All symphonic band woodwinds will be instructed on how to care for these new instruments. If these instruments are not cared for properly the cost of repairs/replacement will be yours.
4. **Percussion-** Percussion instruments are reserved for percussionists. Any non-percussionist caught playing a percussion instrument will be dealt with according to the consequences in section III of this handbook.

IX. Supplies

1. Any band supplies that you need are available through the band office. If we run out of something, we will order it for you. A current price list will be posted.
2. **Reeds-** Reeds **WILL NOT** be sold individually. We will only be selling reeds by the box (or in packs of 4 in the event the box is a large one). Boxes of reeds may be purchased after band only. Plan ahead or plan on your participation grade being affected.
3. **Repairs and instruments-** you are responsible for instrument repair cost. Representatives stop in once a week to pick up/ drop off instruments and supplies. Ask one of the directors for a repair tag, fill it out, and place your instrument next to the office door. Make sure your parents know that you are having your instrument repaired so they are prepared to pay for it when the work is completed.

X. Grading

1. Grades for the first 9 weeks will be calculated as follows
 - a. **Participation** 20% - This includes attendance at all events, having a good attitude, working with and not against the director, following class rules etc.
 - b. **Non-Contest Performances (football games, parades, etc)** 30% - Attendance at all performances will earn you these points. A missed performance also affects the participation grade.
 - c. **Contest Performance (Band Shows)** 30% - Attendance at all performances will earn you these points. A missed performance also affects the participation grade.
 - d. **Play-Offs/Written Work** 20% - All play-offs are either pass or fail. If someone fails a play-off he/she has two school days to pass. If at the end of the second day the music has not been passed the grade will remain. If a play-off is missed altogether there is no second chance. The student will receive a failing grade on that play-off.

2. Grades for the second 9 weeks will be calculated as follows
 - a. **Participation** 20% - This includes attendance at all events, having a good attitude, working with and not against the director, following class rules etc.
 - b. **Non-contest Performances (Other Performances if Available)** 30% - Attendance at all performances will earn you these points. A missed performance also affects the participation grade.
 - c. **Contest Performances** (Christmas Concert) 30% - Attend and you have the points.
 - d. **Play-offs/Written Work/After School Rehearsals** 20% - The same format as 1st nine weeks.
3. Grades for the third 9 weeks will be calculated as follows
 - a. **Participation** 20% - This includes attendance at all events, having a good attitude, working with and not against the director, following class rules etc.
 - b. **Non-Contest Performances and extra rehearsals on sectional night and Guest conductor.** 30% - Attendance at all performances will earn you these points. A missed performance also affects the participation grade.
 - c. **Contests** 30% - Attendance contest will earn you these points.
 - d. **Play-Offs/Written Work/After School Rehearsals** 20% - All play-offs are either pass or fail. If someone fails a play-off he/she has two school days to pass. If at the end of the second day the music has not been passed the grade will remain. If a play-off is missed altogether there is no second chance. The student will receive a failing grade on that play-off.
4. Grades for the fourth 9 weeks will be calculated as follows
 - a. **Participation** 20% - This includes attendance at all events, having a good attitude, working with and not against the director, following class rules etc.
 - b. **Non-Contest Performances and extra rehearsals with sectional help and Guest conductor.** 30% - Attendance at all performances will earn you these points (This includes Memorial Day). A missed performance also affects the participation grade.
 - c. **Contests** 30% - Attendance contest will earn you these points.
 - d. **Play-Offs/Written Work/After School Rehearsals** 20% - All play-offs are either pass or fail. If someone fails a play-off he/she has two school days to pass. If at the end of the second day the music has not been passed the grade will remain. If a play-off is missed altogether there is no second chance. The student will receive a failing grade on that play-off.

XI. Hazing: Any student participation in any form of negative initiation ritual or verbally abusing another member of our organization because they are freshmen or underclassmen will be sent home immediately. Both Ohio and Federal law both cover this rule in great detail so as to be very inclusive. Anything we see which seems in violation of

these LAWS will call for immediate dismissal. These laws are not sidestepped by participant approval. If a student would exclaim in a large voice, "Haze Me!!!!!" You could still be prosecuted for participation in any degrading act or verbal abuse (Throwing apple cores at ANYONE would be covered by this.)

Theft/ Vandalism: Any student who participates in any form of vandalism or theft of/ from/ or to any of the grounds or property of Camp COTUBIC or any other location our band may travel to will be immediately dismissed. NO QUESTIONS ASKED. If your section has a bad habit of stealing things and calling it tradition, re-think this policy and decide if this bad habit is more important than being in band.

After each trip the directors are left hanging around the band room for a duration of time. We stay until we see all students have gone. If you are not in the court yard (at the middle school) or in the unload area just out side the band room (at the high school) we assume you have left. If you leave these area we are no longer responsible and will go home for the evening. If you leave these areas and are left here unattended the responsibility is on you shoulders.!!!!!!!

Parents are asked to pick up their band member at the appropriate time. The directors would like to get home to their families and not be stuck at the High/middle School because of parents that cannot be punctual. We understand that life happens at times but picking up students late should be kept to a minimum. Please be considerate of our time.

Students Name (Printed) _____

I have read the Wapakoneta High School Band Handbook and understand the policies and guidelines. I agree to support the directors and keep my conduct within the guidelines as listed in the handbook.

Students Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Please return to the directors no later than August 31, 2007

If you would like to
receive the band
newsletter and other
band information via
e-mail you may go to
our new band web
site at

wapakband.org

And sign up for this
NEW service.