

SPIRIT OF WAXAHACHIE INDIAN BAND HANDBOOK 2023-2024

The purpose of the following policies and procedures is to ensure and enhance the efficiency and productivity of the Waxahachie Indian Band.

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 school 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. Students who find themselves involved in such activities in addition to Band may have to make a choice to drop one or the other if such conflicts arise.

NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES, TEAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR JOBS MUST NOT CONFLICT IN ANY WAY WITH THE PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OF THE BAND.

The Band is dependent on ALL 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:

- 1) All absences from rehearsals must be made up regardless of the reason for absence. Make-ups must be completed before the end of the grading period.
- 2) An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in the removal of a student to a non-performing class.

During marching season, the first un-excused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in that student being placed on the alternate list. A second unexcused absence will result in that student becoming a Permanent Alternate. A third unexcused absence may result in dismissal from band and automatic enrollment in physical education. ***EXCUSES ARE ACCEPTED ONLY IN THE EVENT OF ILLNESS OR SERIOUS FAMILY EMERGENCY.***

GRADES

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

- 1) Performance Grades - including class assignments; section rehearsal assignments; objectives; chair tests; and playoffs of performance music.
- 2) Participation Grades - including having music, instrument, and pencil at all rehearsals; correct marking of music; care and maintenance of instruments; punctuality to rehearsals and performances; and attendance at rehearsals and curricular performances.

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BAND CLASSES

All the members of the band program are assigned by audition to one of several concert bands that meet as academic classes. Auditions are held twice per year at the end of each semester. New students are auditioned upon arrival.

Wind Ensemble (grades 9-12)

The Wind Ensemble is recognized as one of the outstanding concert ensembles in the U.S. at any level and the music performed is the highest degree of difficulty. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. A one-hour section rehearsal will be scheduled weekly from January-May along with a 15 minute individual listening. Wind Ensemble members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness or emergency. Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to double block to allow for daily band practice. Students will be expected to audition for all region band, play a solo and ensemble, and participate in chamber music recitals. Members are expected to take private lessons.

Symphonic Band (grades 9-12)

The Symphonic Band is our second performing band and students will be expected to play level 3,4, & 5 music. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. A one-hour section rehearsal will be scheduled weekly from January-May along with a 15 minute individual listening. Symphonic band members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness or emergency. Members of the Symphonic band are required to double block to allow for daily band practice. Students will be expected to audition for all region band, play a solo and ensemble, and participate in chamber music recitals. Members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Concert Band I (grades 9-12)

Concert Band I is our third performing band and students will be expected to play level 2, 3, & 4 music. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. A one-hour section rehearsal will be scheduled weekly from January-May. Concert band members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness or emergency. Members of the Concert band are required to double block to allow for daily band practice. Students will be encouraged to audition for all region band, play a solo and ensemble, and participate in chamber music recitals. Members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Concert Band II (grades 9-12)

Concert Band II is our fourth performing band and students will be expected to play level 2, & 3 music. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. A one-hour section rehearsal will be scheduled weekly from January-May. Concert band members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness or emergency. Members of the Concert band are required to double block to allow for daily band practice. Students will be encouraged to audition for all region band, play a solo and ensemble, and participate in chamber music recitals. Members are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.

Jazz Ensembles (grades 9-12)

Selected by audition, this performing jazz ensemble will be comprised of students from grades 9-12 who show an interest in jazz. The class is scheduled Zero hour which will include a combination of before and after school times. Members in the jazz orchestra are expected to try out for All Region Jazz in September.

Color Guard (grades 9-12)

Selected by audition, this performing visual group will work with qualified instructors in the areas of dance and visual expression. Members will participate as a part of the Spirit of Waxahachie Indian Marching band in the fall and will perform with the WHS winter guard in the spring. Members will also perform at select basketball games as well various dance contest and performances.

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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 in class may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Directors.

As a school group, the Band is governed by WHS and School Board policies anytime we are together. 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 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.

MARCHING BAND 2023

All members of the Waxahachie High School Band participate in the Varsity marching band.

Much like our concert ensembles, the WHS marching band consists of two ability-based groups.

Contest Performers

This is a select group that will represent WHS at contests. This group is limited in size and is predominantly made up of older, more experienced marchers and follows a more rigorous practice and performance schedule.

Alternates

This group is predominantly made up of younger, less experienced marchers. The primary focus of this group is training in marching and playing skills in order to increase each individual student's ability level.

We combine the Varsity and JV groups into The Spirit Of Waxahachie Band.

This is the 250-member group that will perform at football games, pep rallies, parades, etc.

ELIGIBILITY

Most of the activities associated with Marching Band are extra-curricular including football games and contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL and WISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each six weeks.

Currently, according to the Texas Education Association/ University Interscholastic League Side by Side Rules, it is stated that a student in an extracurricular activity who fails any class for a six week grading period will be ineligible to compete or perform with that group for the next three weeks. At the end of the three week period, a student may become eligible again if he/she is passing all classes at that time. Because of this law, any band student showing an inability to consistently be eligible could be removed and placed in a lower band, or could be removed from the band program entirely. This will constitute a schedule change, so be aware of this policy.

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

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.

LETTERING

A student must earn 10 points in a school year to letter.

Points are awarded for the following:

4 pts. – Region Band (Jazz, Orchestra, and Band each can earn 4 points)

3 pts. – Area Band

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- 2 pts. – All State Band
- 2 pts. – First Division on Class Two Solo at WISD Solo and Ensemble or UIL Contest
- 2 pts. – First Division on Class Two Ensemble at WISD Solo and Ensemble or UIL Contest
- 3 pts. – First Division on Class One Solo at WISD Solo and Ensemble or UIL Contest
- 3 pts. – First Division on Class One Ensemble at WISD Solo and Ensemble or UIL Contest
- 2 pts. – Participate in Fall Guard
- 3 pts. – Participate in Winter Guard
- 2 pts. – **Member in good standing, awarded at the end of each year and will carry over

**Guard members will need to review the requirements in the guard handbook regarding Lettering.

***Member in good standing is determined by those who:

1. Attend all required band activities with NO unexcused absences
2. Do not appear on the academic ineligibility list at any time during the year
3. Have their account balance paid up to date
4. Do not have any academic or discipline issues during school year

Beginning of year point values:

9th Grade 0 pts

10th Grade 2 pts earned from member in good standing from 9th grade

11th Grade 4 pts earned from member in good standing from 9th and 10th grade

12th Grade 6 pts earned from member in good standing from 9th, 10th, and 11th grade

Jackets will be measured in the spring and distributed in early August. Seniors earning 10 points during their senior year will be measured whenever they achieve the 10 points. Students must be a current member of the organization to measure and receive Letter jackets.

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 Band tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region and is the first step in advancement toward All-State. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. The music is announced in August and the tryouts are in December. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to both the tryouts and the performance before entering.

Solo-Ensemble competition takes place in late February or early March and results in non-competitive ratings and medals. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. Unlike Junior High solo-ensemble, the high school level is governed by the University Interscholastic League and maintains very specific music lists and rules for performance. Students must perform a solo in order to perform in an ensemble and receive lettering credit. The UIL limits participation to two different events. Students are responsible for their own accompanists, if needed.

BAND BANQUET

Each year the band students, staff, families, and friends congregate at a formal banquet to celebrate the preceding year of band activities. This is a special and fun night for our band students and a highlight of each year. Typically, the banquet is held in May at the Waxahachie Civic Center. Food is eaten, awards are presented, and a special video is shown highlighting the entire year. The cost for a plate typically ranges from \$20-\$30. Families are invited and encouraged to attend.

A WISD student may attend the band banquet if they:

1. Are currently enrolled in a band class
2. Have their account balance paid up to date

Students that quit band during the school year will not be invited or allowed to attend the band banquet as a guest.

FINE ARTS CORD @ GRADUATION

Each year band students that have completed 8 semesters in a Fine Arts Course (Band, Choir, Theater) are eligible for a Fine Arts honor cord. 8 total semesters can include a combination of courses. The Fine Arts cord is pink and can be purchased from the boosters in early May. All band fees must be paid in full to purchase a Fine Arts Cord.

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APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

For many years, the Waxahachie Band Program has offered private instruction from the finest graduate and professional musicians in the Dallas area. This program is supported by the individual parents who cover the cost of the program. Lessons may be taken during band class or after school. Lessons during class time may be slightly shorter than lessons taken after school. The WISD approves certain private instructors through auditions and interviews and the list will be available on the band website.

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 teacher, and their student's rate of progress. Parents should contact their own campus band director with questions about lessons or private teachers.

Private Instruction is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician. IT IS NOT REQUIRED and students' places in band and their band grades are not judged by participation in private lessons.

USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the WISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level. There is a yearly rental fee of \$100 for each student playing a school-owned instrument. This fee purchases insurance that will cover maintenance, repairs, and/or replacement if damaged beyond repair.

A checkout form will be sent home for parent/guardian signature each fall which describes the condition of the instrument at that time. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument at that time and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year.

If repairs are necessary during the year, it is the responsibility of the student/parent to deliver the instrument to a repair facility as instructed by the BAND DIRECTOR. If, in the opinion of a WISD 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.

RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT LIST

We recommend that students not continue to use their "beginner" instruments past the 8th-grade, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. The instruments listed below are recommended by the WISD staff as the best quality:

Flute - Yamaha models 684 or 684-H, or Miyazawa model 202 or Muramatsu model EX

Clarinet - Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)

Alto Sax - Selmer SA-80 or Yamaha Pro Model

Trumpet - Bach Stradivarius 180-S

Trombone - Bach 42-BO

These can be purchased at many retail stores. These "pro-model" instruments are often heavily discounted for cash purchases. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments.

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WAXAHACHIE BAND BOOSTERS

The Waxahachie Band Boosters Association provides up to 25% of the curricular budget of the Waxahachie Band Program. They earn these funds primarily through the operation of concessions at most Waxahachie ISD football events. The Booster concession operations are run with the volunteer help of hundreds of people throughout the year. A Volunteer Sheet is included in this paperwork at registration to be returned with this Handbook Form. We would like to encourage every band parent to volunteer for at least one event throughout the year. Check the Waxahachie Band Booster web page for volunteer opportunities. www.spiritofwaxahachie.com

Booster Funds are used to provide extra instruments, music, equipment, supplies, programs, and enrichment at ALL of the WISD schools where band is taught.

Band Booster meetings are scheduled on the first Monday of each month, every other month.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Band is not a club. Student leaders are selected to fill roles necessary for the success of the program. A full explanation of officer positions and expectations are listed below. Students must meet the requirements prior to submitting an officer application.

Drum Majors and Section Leaders

Drum majors, section leaders, and band officers are selected by tryout in the spring and must meet the following requirement:

- 1) Must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts.
- 2) Must have played a class I solo and ensemble at the UIL contest.
- 3) Must have tried out for region band.
- 4) Must be enrolled in either Symphonic or Wind Ensemble at the time of the audition.
- 5) Must attend all summer practices, attend all leadership camps, scheduled meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities throughout the year.
- 6) Provide leadership through example, promote the highest expectations for band members, and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior.
- 7) Remain academically eligible throughout the year.

Band Officers

Band officers are selected by the band staff and by completing an audition. The following officers will be comprised of: president, logistics, communications, librarians, historian, reporter, social officers, drum majors, and section leaders.

All student leaders who are elected and selected by tryout must fulfill the following requirements to remain in their offices:

- 1) Must play a class I solo and ensemble at the WISD Solo and Ensemble Contest.
- 2) Must try out for one of the all-region organizations.
- 3) Must attend all summer practices, attend all leadership camps, scheduled meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities throughout the year.
- 4) Provide leadership through example, promote the highest expectations for band members, and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior. Band officers with any disciplinary referral in any class will be removed from office.
- 5) Remain academically eligible throughout the year. Ineligibility at any time will result in removal from office.

OUT-OF-TOWN TRIPS

It is the policy of the Waxahachie Independent School District that students will receive the opportunity to travel as a member of their instrumental music program out of town. These trips constitute an excellent performance opportunity for our band and are considered a major performance. All band students are encouraged to attend these out-of-town performances. When Alfred Reed composed "Russian Christmas Music" he intended for the performance to include all parts, voices, and instrumentation. Fundraisers will be held throughout the school year to help students earn the funds necessary to travel. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize these events to help defray the costs of the trip. In addition, these trips are a reward for hard work and dedication throughout the year.

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CALENDAR

It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all dates and times associated with the Waxahachie band program. Check the online Charms calendar frequently.

RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the student to communicate to the directors in advance, if possible, of any circumstances that could affect a practice, performance, or any other situation important to the band program.

Band Fees (\$500.00 and \$350.00 for siblings)

- New this year:
 - Band Fees due June 3 (250.00), July 31 (\$150.00), and August 30 (\$100.00)
 - Auto draft capabilities with CNB with signed agreement.
 - Online Square and Quickbook payment options.
 - Payment plans with Boosters w/signed agreement

Concessions Credit Opportunity and Other Fundraisers:

- Concessions
 - Parents/guardians/students can earn up to full band fees in credit by working at Concessions.
 - Varsity games=\$40 per game
 - JV/9th/JH games=\$20 per night
 - Game/night sign-ups will be available May 22nd online.
- Individual Fundraisers
 - Carwash-earn pledges-June 10
 - Community Garage Sale-earn from the sale of your own items-June 10
 - Cowboy Ticket/Raffle-first 5 tickets to boosters....all others to student account-Marching Season Dates-TBA
 - TNT Fireworks (students 16 and older could get hired to work during summer and winter season)

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

STUDENT HANDBOOK

My child and I have been offered the option to receive a paper copy or to electronically access the 2023-2024 Waxahachie High School Band Student Handbook at http://www.spiritofwaxahachie.com/Students/HB_23.pdf

I have chosen to (check one):

- Receive a paper copy of the Student Handbook
- Accept responsibility for accessing the Student Handbook by visiting the web address listed above.

I understand that the Handbook contains information that my child and I may need during the school year. If I have any questions regarding the Handbook, I should direct those questions to the band director.

I have read a copy of 2023-2024 Waxahachie High School Student Handbook and understand information listed within it.

Student Name [Print]: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian [Print]: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____