

# General Rules

1. All members will abide by the Westerville South Student /Parent Handbook and subsequent consequences at all times.
2. Use or possession of any controlled substance (including alcohol, tobacco or any other drug) is strictly prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal from the band program.
3. Profanity shows poor taste and reflects negatively on the entire music program. This will absolutely not be tolerated.
4. Public Displays of Affection are inappropriate at rehearsal, buses, or performances and is therefore not allowed.
5. Students are expected to use polite, respectful behavior at all times. Insubordination will not be tolerated. Students are to show respect and common courtesy to all directors, adult supervisors, and peers at all times. Consequences will be at the discretion of the director and may result in school disciplinary action.
6. Ohio Revised Code prohibits harassment, personal degradation, hazing, or initiation of any kind. Consequences will be at the discretion of the director and may result in school disciplinary action.
7. Students will have respect and take responsibility for all school owned instruments.

# Rehearsal and Performance Procedures

- ◆ Students must bring ALL materials to each rehearsal including instrument, drill charts, music, and a PENCIL.
- ◆ Gum chewing, food, or beverages are not permitted during rehearsal or performance. No food or gum is to be brought into the music room or stands at football games.
- ◆ Playing without permission can distract the rest of the ensemble and can represent an undisciplined ensemble. Players should only play when asked by the director.
- ◆ Arrive on time to all specified events.

## Leadership Opportunities

An organization is only as strong as its leadership. Marching Band provides many opportunities for students to develop good leadership skills. These positions are both student and staff appointed. These leaders assist the band director(s) in almost all aspects of the marching band. The leaders will be trained how to help and raise the effectiveness of the program.

### ***Band Members***

A Westerville South High School Marching Band member is a student who has, by choice, committed and dedicated him/herself to the goals and philosophy of the music department of the school. One's personal objectives should always be to become a successful part of the total unit and to strive to help others achieve the same goal.

### ***Squad Leaders***

A squad leader is in charge of and works with a smaller section of the band. They will help teach and refine marching and music preparation. They will work outside of practice with members who need extra help. They will report absences/tardies to secretary. Squad leaders will be selected through an application and interview process with the director. Potential leaders are evaluated on their attitudes and behavior both during and outside of rehearsal. Good leadership takes place all the time, not just when somebody is watching. Leaders are also evaluated on participation in other band offerings.

### ***Field Commander(s)***

The field commander(s) is/are the primary student leader(s) of the marching band. This is an auditioned position. Their responsibilities include, but are not limited to conducting the band, leading fundamentals, and monitoring the overall conduct, spirit, and morale of the band. The field commander(s) answer directly to the directors and/or the adult staff of the band.

## **Attendance Policies**

Band members must attend all rehearsals and performances. All rehearsals will begin and end on time. Members who are not in their places at the designated time with the proper equipment will be marked absent, tardy, or excused as the case may be.

While our attendance policy seems a little rigid, please remember that each member is an important component of the marching band. If we are missing just one person in practice or performance, it has a definite impact on the rest of the organization. All members will be made aware of any changes should the schedule need revision.

All “anticipated” absences should be brought to the attention of the director prior to the absence in writing. Written excuses from parents or a school absence paper will be acceptable. The notice should include date, guardian signature, and reason for absence. The absence notices should be given to the band director. In the event of an emergency, THE GUARDIAN must give a written absence notice to the director the next day that the student returns to rehearsal. Any absence without a written absence notice will be considered unexcused. Acceptable excused absences from performance or rehearsals would include:

- ◆ Personal Illness (note must be submitted by next practice)
- ◆ Excused School Absence
- ◆ Funeral in the family
- ◆ Wedding in the immediate family
- ◆ Religious Holidays
- ◆ Other reasons deemed appropriate by the band director/staff

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Please do not schedule appointments, vacations, driver’s education, reunions, or work during the scheduled rehearsals and performances as these will be considered unexcused. Students may not be allowed to march a performance if they have missed too many rehearsals to be adequately prepared for a performance. Students are responsible for making up any work they have missed during rehearsal.

**PENALTY FOR UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE IS REMOVAL FROM THE MARCHING BAND.**

**PENALTY FOR AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A REHEARSAL IS SUSPENSION OF ONE PERFORMANCE AND**

## **LOWERING OF THAT STUDENT'S GRADE. SECOND OFFENSE WARRANTS REMOVAL FROM THE MARCHING BAND.**

### **Fees**

Our marching band is a board approved pay-to-play activity. The fees for marching band will vary from year to year due to size of the group and planned activities of the yearly calendar. The yearly fee for marching band will include the cost of band camp in addition to all other costs associated with the annual operations of the marching band. These fees are considered a school fee and are to be paid directly to the director BEFORE schedule pick-up to ensure that the student's fees can be verified in the main office. If a student is unable to pay his or her fees, there are payment plans available. Please speak with Mr. Laswell or a WSIMB Officer to get more information about this. If students owe a balance on their account from a past year in marching band, they cannot participate in the marching band the following year until this balance is paid in full.

### **Consequences**

Failure to adhere to the rules set forth in this handbook will result in a suspension from performances and/or rehearsals. If a student receives 2 or more suspensions in a given season, that student will be removed from the marching band. Students who are removed from the marching band or quit during a season are not eligible to be part of the marching

band the following season. It is important to understand that being in our marching band is a commitment to yourself and to the organization. When students are removed from marching band, that leaves “holes” in the drill and we must take extra time to fix that. This is detrimental to the success of the marching band. Students must show that they are capable of that responsibility and that is why our organization cannot allow students removed from the band to come back the next season and potentially have the same thing happen.

## Spring Drumline/Guard

Members interested in participating in our Drumline or Color Guard must attend our spring clinics that are held each spring prior to the season’s start. These clinics are designed to get new members accustomed to the fundamentals of those particular sections and designed to solidify the fundamentals of our returning members. At these clinics, students will also be learning things that will be specifically used in next year’s competition show which makes the rehearsals extremely important. Because of this, these rehearsals are mandatory and students with 2 or more unexcused absences will not be permitted to continue on for the season. Absences will be deemed excused or unexcused by the band director and the individual guard and percussion instructors and must be discussed prior to missing rehearsals.

## Grading

A student’s grade in marching band will be based on several things. Firstly, attendance at rehearsals and performances as mentioned above. Unexcused absences at rehearsals and/or performances will result in the lowering of a student’s grade. Secondly, memorization of music will be strictly enforced. Memorization of show music is required and will be graded as such. We will have music checks on a weekly basis to make sure

that this happens. Failure of music checks will result in loss of third quarter privileges during our football games (The exact music check procedures will be explained to each student prior to music checks beginning at the start of the school year.) Finally, each student will be graded on his/her preparedness for class. During rehearsals and performances, a student must always have all required items and be dressed in proper performance or rehearsal attire (NO SANDALS AT ANY MARCHING BAND REHEARSAL).

## Football Game Procedures

- ◆ Students should arrive early to prepare their uniforms.
- ◆ Good bands look organized at all times. Conduct of the band stand at football games is a vital portion of the impression we leave with the community. One of our main functions on Friday nights is to show our school spirit and support the team.
- ◆ Keep your instrument with you at all times. All band members are to stay alert and pay attention to the game. We may need to play at a moment's notice. When we play in the stands, everyone is to participate.
- ◆ Band members that have passed their music checks will have the third quarter off. Everyone **MUST** be in their seats and ready to play by the end of the third quarter.
- ◆ Members must sit in designated sections for 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarters.
- ◆ Non-band members will not be allowed within the band section of the stands. Visiting band alumni or special guests are exceptions at the discretion of the directors/staff.

◆ Band members in uniform should fully remain in uniform regardless of weather. The uniform represents our group, school, and community.

## Uniform Procedures

◆ Student's uniforms must be kept at school. Students are responsible for bringing individual uniform needs including gloves, hat, shoes, and black socks with them when they report.

◆ No jeans or other type of bulky pants should be worn under the uniform pants. Students should wear shorts or stretch pants under their uniform.

◆ The section leaders before each performance will conduct uniform inspections. Failure of uniform inspection will result in a suspension of a performance and which will lower the student's grade.

◆ Personal items should be locked in the lockers, as the music room is not safe. Items should **RETURN HOME** immediately following the performance.

◆ Please take care of the uniforms various parts as each are expensive and will cost the student money if found negligent.

◆ Uniforms must be turned in on hanger before dismissed.

### EXPECTATIONS OF ALL STUDENTS:

Gum is not allowed at any time. Ball caps, head coverings and sunglasses are not permitted when the band is in uniform. No excessive or distracting body piercings are allowed to be worn. In addition, the following guidelines will assist you in preparing for uniform inspections:

**MUSICIANS:** clean white gloves (except for percussion), black marching shoes (polished), plain black socks. Instrument should be clean. Mouthpiece should be clean. Reed players need to have an extra reed on hand.



COLOR GUARD: performance uniform, clean shoes, flags and accessories needed.

## Competitions

Like last year, we will be attending several marching band competitions this year. As a policy change from last year, in order to march in these competitions, a student must prove adequate knowledge of their music (both performance and memorization) as well as adequate knowledge of their drill. If a student does not achieve this prior to the competition, they will not be permitted to march. This will be determined by recommendations from director/staff. The rationale of this policy is for the good of the entire organization. One person that does not “know their show,” will decrease the overall performance of the band. Each student is responsible for making this band successful, and will be held to that standard.

## Busses

1. Students are to show respect to driver and chaperones.
2. No food, gum, drinks, etc. on the bus at any time.
3. No PDA on the bus.
4. All members are required to use provided transportation to and from all events unless pre-excused by a director.

## Instrument/Equipment care

1. Use of a school instrument is a privilege. Students are responsible for the well being of their instrument at all times. Damages other

than normal wear and tear will be the financial responsibility of the student.

2. If you are using a school instrument, you must make sure it is properly signed out. See a director if you have any questions.
3. All equipment is to be cased properly.
4. Students are responsible for having all necessary items and keeping their instrument in good working condition at all times.
5. Equipment is not to be left unattended.
6. Do not play other student's instruments.

# Signature Page

## Student Acknowledgement

*I have read and understand the policies and expectations contained within the Westerville South High School Band Handbook. I agree to abide by these policies and expectations. Furthermore, I take full responsibility for my own actions and promise to put forth my best effort to ensure the success of the Westerville South High School Marching Band and/or concert band programs. Lastly, we have looked at the band schedule and concert list for the year and agree to participate in **all** of the rehearsals and performances listed.*

Student's name (printed):

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

*(If other siblings are also in marching band)*

Sibling's name (printed):

\_\_\_\_\_

Student's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parent Acknowledgement

*I have read and understand the policies and expectations contained within the Westerville South High School Band Handbook. I agree to abide by these policies and expectations. Furthermore, I take full responsibility for my own actions and promise to put forth my best effort to ensure the success of the Westerville South High School Marching Band and/or concert band programs. Lastly, we have looked at the band schedule and concert list for the year and agree to participate in **all** of the rehearsals and performances listed.*

Parent's names (printed):

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent's signatures: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_