

HISTORY

The Washington High School Band was organized in 1927 by Mr. Paul Harding who was employed at the time by the Washington School District as Director of Instrumental Music. In the fall in 1959, Mr. Harding retired as Band Director to become Guidance Director. At that time Orville Cohn was made Band Director, and then Mr. Roger Williams. In 1968 Mr. Paul Weber was appointed director, and one year later Mr. J. Marc Svaline became Director of Bands and continued in this capacity until his retirement at the end of the 2004 school year. In the summer of 2004, David A. Dayton was appointed as the 6th Director of Bands for the Washington High School Band program.

During the years of its existence, many honors and citations have been awarded to the band. It has been, and continues to be regarded as one of the outstanding organizations in the school and community. The “Little Presidents” Band has performed on national television, traveled to many parts of the country and the steel band has traveled and performed in Europe.

MEMBERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES

Band members are part of a rich tradition of excellence and must have the desire and willingness to uphold the standards set by their predecessors. The students must work along with the director, committed to the goal of doing their very best. If this is done, they will add their own chapters to the history of the band and continue “The Wash High Pride”

All students of the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble are members of the Marching Band unless they are involved in an extra curricular school activity. i.e. football, cheerleading or have a medical excuse from a physician restricting them from marching. Students involved in other fall sports will march in the Marching Band and every attempt will be made to keep the conflicts with these activities to a minimum.

Maintaining Membership and Eligibility Requirements

1. The Washington High School Band adheres to the Washington School Districts’ Policy regarding eligibility requirements for students involved in extracurricular activities as are the district’s student athletes. This includes all requirements established by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association. **(PLEASE REFER TO ATTACHED POLICIES.)**
2. Progress must be demonstrated on the student’s primary instrument through playing exams and showing proficiency on ensemble literature. Students not evidencing progress in these areas and showing good ensemble rehearsal habits may be dismissed from the band.
3. Habitual tardiness or absences may result in the student losing performance privileges or risk possible dismissal from the band.
4. Students who enter school after 9:00 a.m. may not practice or perform that day. Also any student serving detention will be unable to participate. *Any extenuation circumstances must be presented to the Principal in advance of the absence. i.e. doctor’s appointment etc.*

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Percussion Ensemble is designed primarily for band members who play percussion instruments. Students will work on playing techniques for all percussion instruments as well as marching band music, concert music and percussion ensemble. Students will work on these techniques in class and be tested on their mastery.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Wind Ensemble is designed primarily for band members who play Wind Instruments. Students will work on developing their playing techniques on their primary instruments. The class will work on all facets of instrumental music during class. Students will be seated by playing exams and may be challenged by other students for their position.

MARCHING BAND

Marching Band involves all members of the instrumental music program except those students participating in other school activities. (i.e. see above information.) The band performs at all home and away football games, parades and other community events.

STEEL BAND

Steel Band is one of the premiere ensembles of the Wash High Band program and is nationally and internationally known. The steel band is in high demand for performances and has become a great source of pride in the school and community. Membership for this ensemble is reserved for the truly outstanding and dedicated student who has demonstrated the following criteria.

1. Demonstrate the ability to learn and perform on the steel drums.
2. Demonstrate and achieve an advanced proficiency level on their primary instrument.
3. Demonstrate good attendance, ensemble rehearsal habits and performance levels in the other ensembles as well as steel band.
4. Must be a member of the instrumental music program at Wash High.
5. Adhere to the attendance policy

Students not maintaining the above criteria will be dismissed from the steel band.

JAZZ BAND

Jazz Band is the study of music theory, appreciation and performance style of the Jazz Idiom. The band performs at local community events, concerts and at Jazz Festivals. Members of this organization are expected to follow the same guidelines as the Steel Band except on Jazz instruments.

ATTENDANCE

All members are provided with detailed calendars, which outline all planned events therefore, **attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required**. Members should arrive promptly at the given time and place prepared to begin the business at hand. If one must miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance, (i.e. doctors or dental appointments) it is the student's responsibility to notify the director with **written notice** at least one week in advance. The director reserves the right to dispute the request of a member to be absent, to ensure the policy is not abused. **Emergencies will be dealt with individually for the protection of the member's eligibility.**

Excused Absences:

1. **Illness**
 - a. An excused **Non-Medical** absence is defined as an absence not accompanied by a medical excuse. (i.e. doctor or dental appt.) If a student must miss a rehearsal, the parent must call and notify Mr. Dayton at (724) 223-5089 and send an excuse the following rehearsal. If this does not occur, the absence will be counted as **unexcused**.
 - b. An excused **medical** absence is one that resulted in a visit to the doctor or dentist's office and has a written note from the doctor for the date of the absence.
 - c. Death in the Family
 - d. School related function or field trip
 - e. A family vacation or function that has received prior permission by the director. **(At least two weeks in advance with written notice)**

Unexcused Absences:

1. **Work**
 - a. Missing a performance / rehearsal or leaving rehearsals early for work will be considered an unexcused absence. Make arrangements with your employers in advance. Don't wait until the last minute.
2. **Skipping rehearsal or performance.**
 - a. Will be considered an unexcused absence.
3. **Tardy**
 - a. Being tardy for rehearsals will count toward an unexcused absence. After the 3rd tardy, it will be considered one unexcused absence with each additional tardy counting as an additional unexcused absence.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM THE REHEARSAL PRIOR TO A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A SUSPENSION FROM THE UPCOMING PERFORMANCE.

Failure to adhere to the above policy will result in the following:

1. **Missed Rehearsal (unexcused absence)**
 - a. Loss of performing privileges with possible loss of membership.
 - i. Excessive unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the band.
2. **Tardy for Rehearsal or Performance**
 - a. Loss of performance privilege
 - i. Excessive tardiness may result in dismissal from the band.
3. **Missed Performance (unexcused absence)**
 - a. Students missing a performance for unexcused reasons are sending the message that they do not value their membership in the band and are in jeopardy of losing their membership.
 - b. Significant grade reduction
 - c. Loss of Performance privilege

If one comes to the rehearsal or performance **without the proper equipment, uniform, or materials**, the individual will incur point deductions for that event.

DISCIPLINE

All policies are enforced as stated in the Washington High School Student Handbook. A band member is considered to be “in school” when participating in a band event or representing the Washington High School Band. In addition, quiet attention in rehearsals and performances is needed to work effectively as a group. It is imperative that students pay attention and listen to the director, staff members, or chaperones when asked. It is our job to work hard and maintain the high standards on this organization. We want the Washington High School Band Program, regardless of which ensemble that is performing, to be a “class” organization and a sense a pride for the school, community, and alumni. This band will achieve this because it is comprised of members who will not settle for anything less.

GENERAL RULES

1. Be on time and at all rehearsals and performances
2. Have all your equipment: *Music, lyres, folios, instruments and a pencil!* (It is your responsibility to take care of your instrument and music.) Each wind and percussion member will be assigned a music folio to keep all your music. **BRING THIS FOLIO TO ALL REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES.**
3. Act in a professional manner during rehearsals and performances. (Treat your fellow band member as you would want treated!)
4. *Profanity*: The use of profanity will not be permitted.
5. *Smoking* or the use of alcohol or drugs will not be permitted in accordance School Policy.
6. *Hazing* will not be permitted. Please read the attached District Anti-Hazing Policy.

PERFORMANCE BEHAVIOR

1. While in uniform – stay in uniform. Wearing half the uniform or wearing it incorrectly does not promote a classy image. Members are not to chew gum, eat, drink or eat candy while in uniform. Refreshments, will be provided by the Band Aides at designated times. At **NO TIME** are members permitted to smoke, use alcohol, drugs or become affectionate in any way toward the opposite sex. The uniform represents the WHS; **if you are not the best, don’t wear it.**
2. Members are to sit together by section and are not permitted to leave their seat or invite others to sit with them while in performance. (The performance begins when the band arrives prior to the performance and ends after a formal dismissal from the director.) All members are expected to perform when directed. (i.e. bleacher ditties, fight song etc.) Members must pay attention during performances.
3. Members will be expected to ride the band’s buses to and from non-home game performances. If students must ride with parents, a note and a WHS waiver form from the main office must be filled out by the parents and returned to the school prior to the performance date. Students may ride the bus or with his or her **PARENT ONLY!** Students will be dismissed from the bus by their bus chaperone for the consistency of the bus roll.
4. All members are expected to remain in full uniform until the director dismisses them from performances. After boarding the bus, students may remove jackets, hats, and gloves provided they are wearing the WHS Band Shirt. When given breaks during a game, members are to remain in full uniform and accompanied by chaperones to the restrooms.

BLEACHER PROCEDURES

1. Students are to remain in assigned seating areas during the game and be ready to play when asked.
2. Everyone is to stand when playing. It is your job to have all your music with you at all times.
3. No “random” playing during the game. We play together as full band or full sections.
4. The water cooler is not a gathering place. You are to get your water and return to your seats.
5. During the third quarter students will be able to socialize with the other band students in the seating area, however, you must be ready to play when asked.
6. **NO FOOD**, other than what is being provided by the band parents, will be allowed to during the game.
7. Students are to return to their assigned seats at the end of the 3rd quarter.
8. **No one**, except Washington High School Band members, Chaperones, and Directors are permitted to be in the band seating area.
9. In accordance with the new student handbook, pg. 14. **PAGERS, CELL PHONES, AND HEADPHONES** (walkmans etc.) are prohibited on school grounds, during activities or buses provided by the school district.

The above rules and regulations must be adhered to for the safety and enjoyment of yourself and others. If you are going to be a member of the Washington High School Band you must agree to all rules and regulations. Violations of these rules will result in demerits and could result in expulsion from the band.

UNIFORMS

HOME GAMES

1. All members will arrive at the stadium for home games in the traveling uniform. This consists of blue band pants, polished black **BAND** shoes, Band Aide issued **black crew** socks, (no ankle socks) and a **WHS BAND** shirt. All other items, i.e. **white** patriot jacket, Hat, and White Gloves. **Band pants are to be zipped with shoulder straps worn properly. Pants should touch the top of the shoes.**

AWAY GAMES

1. All members will board and disembark the busses in **TRAVELING UNIFORMS** at Washington High School. This includes pants, black socks, band shoes and a **WHS BAND or section shirt!** All other uniform items will remain in the garment bag until the director instructs students to put them on. We will wear the **blue band jacket with the color of pants determined by the weather.**

ALL PERFORMANCES

1. Band Jacket, Hat, White Gloves, and Raincoat will remain in the garment bag until the director says otherwise.
2. The uniform **MUST BE ON A HANGER** – Period.
3. Uniforms should be pressed. (To eliminate pressing, see number 2.)
4. All members are responsible for bringing all issued or purchased uniform parts to **EVERY** performance. It is not the director's responsibility to reissue items because of the irresponsibility of the members.
5. The uniform should always be worn clean, pressed and free of wrinkles. Keep the shoes clean and polished. Our appearance is a direct reflection of our individual and group pride.
6. You are financially responsible for all uniform items assigned to you.
7. Garment bags travel best when laid flat. Bags should never be dragged on the ground.
8. Once the students have been instructed to put on the FULL uniform;
 - a. Band jackets will remain zipped and worn properly until the director says otherwise. The individual will pay cost for any damage, due to improper wear.
 - b. Hats will remain on the wearer's head until the director says otherwise.

Inclimate weather may change the home uniform to blue pants instead of white.

UNIFORM CARE

Please read the attached **UNIFORM CARE AND HANDLING GUIDE**, which was prepared by the Band Aides.

SECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

Winds

1. Instruments and cases are to be kept clean inside and out. All instruments are to be stored in the students ASSIGNED storage locker. It is the student's responsibility to secure their storage locker.
 - a. Damaged instruments should be reported or repaired quickly.
 - b. Members are responsible for securing a working instrument at all times.
 - c. Abuse or neglect may result in loss of school instrument use.
 - d. Packing and unpacking of the Instrument Truck is each individual's responsibility.
 - e. Students are **NOT PERMITTED** to use another students' instrument or be in their case without permission of the owner and knowledge of the director.
2. All reeds, mouthpieces, cleaning supplies, etc. are the individual's responsibility. All reed players should have at least 4 working reeds with them at all times.
3. **TRADING or PLAYING** another student's instrument, (regardless of ownership. i.e. school or personally owned) is strictly forbidden. If you drop it, someone else loses an instrument.
4. Remember – All wind players are required to carry a pencil with them at all times.
5. All marching members should have a flip folder with all distributed music in the folder. This folder should be readily available at **ALL TIMES** during rehearsals and performances. If marching music is lost, stolen, or mutilated, one should see the Field Commander for new copies.

Percussion

1. Equipment room, and all percussion areas should be cleaned and organized.
2. A set of sticks or mallets and a working instrument will be assigned to you at the beginning of the year. Any damaged or broken sticks or heads will be replaced at the expense of the student. The student will pay the cost of any damaged or broken equipment.
3. Percussion maintenance includes cleaning the shells with Windex, carefully casing, uncasing and taking care when setting the drums on potentially damaging surfaces.
4. **ALL** members are to assist with packing or unpacking unless otherwise assigned by the director.
6. Remember – All percussion players are required to carry a pencil with them at all times.
5. All marching members should have a flip folder with all distributed music in the folder. This folder should be readily available at **ALL TIMES** during rehearsals and performances. If marching music is lost, stolen, or mutilated, one should see the Field Commander for new copies.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Grades will be determined by an Accumulative Point System. Students will be able to accumulate points by playing material from method books and handouts used in class, scales, assigned music, and attendance at rehearsals and performances. Point deductions will be used for infractions of WHS Band Rules and Procedures.

REHEARSAL & PERFORMANCE POINTS

After school rehearsals will be worth 0-10 points

The number of points received for rehearsal will be determined by the following:

1. Rehearsal attitude and work effort. (Just showing up for rehearsal does not guarantee maximum rehearsal points.)
2. Promptness for rehearsal. (Tardiness will result in deductions for the rehearsal.)
3. Students leaving early from rehearsal will not receive maximum rehearsal points and must sign out and make up points for missed rehearsal time.
4. Absences by students missing rehearsal for other school activities will be considered excused, however, **rehearsal points will need to be made up by the student.**
5. Students having a Daily Classroom Grade below 79% or below at the time of a performance may be excluded from the performance at the discretion of the director.

Performances will be worth 0-50 points. The number of points received for performances will be determined by the following:

1. Promptness. (i.e. inspection, warm-ups, meetings, etc.)
2. Behavior and attitude during the event.
3. Participation. (i.e. anytime the band is playing, etc.)
4. Cooperation. (i.e. staying in seats, proper wearing of the uniform, proper equipment, etc.)

ABSENCES

Excused Absences:

1. **Illness**
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 - b. An excused **medical** absence is one that resulted in a visit to the doctor or dentist's office and has a written note from the doctor for the date and time of the absence.
 - c. Death in the Family
 - d. School related function or field trip
 - e. A family vacation or function that has received prior permission by the director. **(At least two weeks in advance with written notice)**

Unexcused Absences:

1. **Work**
 - a. Missing a performance / rehearsal or leaving rehearsals early for work will be considered an unexcused absence. Make arrangements with your employers in advance. Don't wait until the last minute.
2. **Skipping rehearsal or performance.**
 - a. Will be considered an unexcused absence.
3. **Tardy**
 - a. Being tardy for rehearsals will count toward an unexcused absence. After the 3rd tardy, it will be considered one unexcused absence with each additional tardy counting as an additional unexcused absence.

If the student is absent from school which results in missing the after school rehearsal or performance and the absence is excused, the points must be made up within 5 school days after the absence or the absence will result in a zero.

If the student was present during the school day, but had an excused absence from the after school rehearsal, the points must be made up the next day or the absence will result in a zero.

Students absent from after school practice due to a physician's appointment, etc., must turn in a note from the physician with the date and time of the appointment written on the physicians note. This note must be turned in the next day following the absence.

Points for unexcused absences cannot be made up and will result in a point reduction.

Any unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in a suspension from the upcoming performance and a deduction in points.

Any unexcused absence from a performance will result in a suspension and possible dismissal from the band.

Excessive absences immediately prior to a performance will be handle at the director's discretion and may result in the student be held out of the performance.

An unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal will result in a suspension from the performance.

HANDBOOK CONFIRMATION

My child, _____
(student's name) (please print)

and I, _____
(parent / guardian) (please print)

have read the Washington High School Band Handbook and understand
the rules and regulations required for membership of this organization.

We understand that failure to follow these guidelines may result in a
grade reduction, suspension or possible dismissal from the band
program.

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____