

2015- 2016

Washington High School Band Handbook



I have read the handbook and understand all obligations and information for participation in the Washington Band program for the 2015-2016 school year. I will do my best at all times and will meet all performance requirements.

Student printed name (print clearly)

Student signature

As a parent of a Washington Band member, I understand that the directors are asking for my help in seeing that my son/daughter carries out the responsibilities outlined in this handbook. I will do everything in my power to ensure that my son/daughter abides by the policies outlined in this handbook.

Parent signature

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2015-2016

Washington High School Band Handbook



Directors:

Mr. Mark Diischer
Mark.Diischer@k12.sd.us

Mr. Christopher Brandt
Christopher.Brandt@k12.sd.us

Band Office: 605-367-7970
Band Website: www.WashingtonBands.org

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Dear Students, Parents, and Warrior Band Family

Welcome to another great year for the Washington High School Band program. We are both looking forward to working with everyone to help our students grow in their musical and personal lives! If there is anything you need to know about us, it's that we work hard, give our very best to be organized, and are very excited to make music with your all. Our expectations for students are the same they can expect of us: work hard, be respectful, and communicate. If we all accomplish these three goals, our program will soar to great new heights. Please take a moment to view the NEW webpage: **www.WashingtonBands.org**, this is your one stop shop for dates and information for the WHS Bands! (Notice that this has changed!)

One thing that is ever-present in every great band program is parent support. For every student that participates in band, (or any of the arts) there is at least one parent or guardian behind the scenes shuttling that child to practices and performances, investing in musical instruments and supplies, and in the crowd at every performance cheering them on. I can attest to the fact that even though they may not say or show, your Band members greatly appreciate the efforts you put in behind the scenes, and even though they may look away when you wave to them on stage, they were secretly looking for you in the audience!

With many new band students each year, there are many new names and faces to learn, so please come up and introduce yourself anytime you us around. On that same note, as we prepare to embark on this new year together we are always looking for parent volunteers with "special" skills. We have attached a form (page 14) that has several ways one could help out, and if one of them is your area of specialty, please fill out the form and send it back with your student.

As with any interpersonal cooperative organization, communication is key. As the directors, we will strive to keep you and your child informed of performance and rehearsal dates (see attached schedule and band website.) We will do our best to communicate any changes as early as possible. Should scheduling conflicts arise, as they undoubtedly will, please make an effort to communicate them as soon as they are realized. This will allow us to find a solution without the added stress on yourself, your child, or us that is sure to be present if we are trying to fix a conflict for a concert tomorrow evening. Should you have a scheduling issue, or any other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Let's have a great year, and thank you for sharing your time, your students, and your talents with us!

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Symphonic Wind Ensemble

In this course, students will improve proficiency in all aspects of reading and performing instrumental music. Through the rehearsal and study of quality wind band literature, students will strengthen individual playing techniques and skills; learn about the theory, history, and vocabulary of music; demonstrate confidence and poise during public performances; and learn to work collaboratively as a member of the ensemble. This course emphasizes the importance of participation, appreciation, and support of music for life. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble is open to students grade 9 – 12 based upon a spring audition. The band has several performances throughout the year including one in late fall, mid-winter, large group contest in early spring and another concert in late spring. Students also have the ability to participate in several local and regional honor bands, and are expected to perform at solo and ensemble contest. The **uniform** for men is black pants with black socks, black dress shoes, black long sleeve button up shirt (or white button up shirt with black tie and black jacket). Only black or white ties. Women should wear a floor length black dress or black pants with a black blouse with at least 1/4 length sleeves. In general, the only colors on stage are black and white that fit within these guidelines. Students are encouraged to take private lessons. The fundraising target amount for Symphonic Band only is **\$50**.

Symphonic Wind Ensemble Schedule (added events TBD)

September			
28	Recorded Placement Auditions begin		In class
October			
15	All-State Orchestra Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (RHS)		All day
November			
13,14	Augustana Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i>		All day
30	East Central Honor Band (SDSU) <i>Select Participants</i>		All day
December			
15	Fall Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
January			
23	All-State Band Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (LHS)		All day
30	All-State Band Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (LHS)		All day
February			
2	Solo/Ensemble Contest <i>Select Participants</i> - Brandon Valley		All day
25	Winter Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
Mar			
31	All-State Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i> (Watertown, SD)		All Day
April			
1,2	All-State Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i> (Watertown, SD)		All Day
2	All-State Honor Band Concert (Watertown, SD)		TBD
May			
5	Spring Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
9	2016-2017 Band Placement Auditions		In class
22	Graduation (2016-2017 Symphonic Band Members)		Afternoon

Concert Band

In this course, students will improve proficiency in all aspects of reading and performing instrumental music. Through the rehearsal and study of quality wind band literature, students will strengthen individual playing techniques and skills; learn about the theory, history, and vocabulary of music; demonstrate confidence and poise during public performances; and learn to work collaboratively as a member of the ensemble. This course emphasizes the importance of participation, appreciation, and support of music for life. The Concert Band is open to students grade 9 – 12 based upon a spring audition. The band has several performances throughout the year including one in late fall, mid-winter, large group contest in early spring and another concert in late spring. Students also have the ability to participate in several local and regional honor bands, and solo and ensemble contest. The **uniform** for men is black pants with black socks, black dress shoes, black long sleeve button up shirt (or white button up shirt with black tie and black jacket). Only black or white ties. Women should wear a floor length black dress or black pants with a black blouse with at least 1/4 length sleeves. In general, the only colors on stage are black and white that fit within these guidelines.. Students are encouraged to take private lessons. The fundraising target amount for concert band is **\$50**.

Concert Band Ensemble Schedule

September			
	28	Recorded Placement Auditions begin	In class
October			
	15	All-State Orchestra Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (RHS)	All day
November			
	13,14	Augustana Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i>	All day
	30	East Central Honor Band (SDSU) <i>Select Participants</i>	All day
December			
	15	Fall Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)	7:00
January			
	23	All-State Band Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (LHS)	All day
	30	All-State Band Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (LHS)	All day
February			
	2	Solo/Ensemble Contest <i>Select Participants</i> - Brandon Valley	All day
	25	Winter Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)	7:00
Mar			
	31	All-State Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i> (Watertown, SD)	All Day
April			
	1,2	All-State Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i> (Watertown, SD)	All Day
	2	All-State Honor Band Concert (Watertown, SD)	TBD
May			
	5	Spring Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)	7:00
	9	2016-2017 Band Placement Auditions	In class
	22	Graduation (2016-2017 Symphonic Band Members)	Afternoon

Varsity Band

In this course, students will improve proficiency in all aspects of reading and performing instrumental music. Through the rehearsal and study of quality wind band literature, students will strengthen individual playing techniques and skills; learn about the theory, history, and vocabulary of music; demonstrate confidence and poise during public performances; and learn to work collaboratively as a member of the ensemble. This course emphasizes the importance of participation, appreciation, and support of music for life. Varsity Band is open to students grade 9 – 12 based upon a spring audition. The band has several performances throughout the year including one in late fall, mid-winter, large group contest in early spring and another concert in late spring. Students also have the ability to participate in several local and regional honor bands, and solo and ensemble contest. The **uniform** for men is black pants with black socks, black dress shoes, black long sleeve button up shirt (or white button up shirt with black tie and black jacket). Only black or white ties. Women should wear a floor length black dress or black pants with a black blouse with at least 1/4 length sleeves. In general, the only colors on stage are black and white that fit within these guidelines. Students are encouraged to take private lessons. The fundraising target amount for varsity band is **\$50**.

Varsity Band Schedule

September			
28	Recorded Placement Auditions begin		In class
December			
15	Fall Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
February			
2	Solo/Ensemble Contest <i>Select Participants</i> - Brandon Valley		All day
25	Winter Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
May			
5	Spring Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
9	2016-2017 Band Placement Auditions		In class
22	Graduation (2016-2017 Symphonic Band Members)		Afternoon

Freshman Band

In this course, students will improve proficiency in all aspects of reading and performing instrumental music. Through the rehearsal and study of quality wind band literature, students will strengthen individual playing techniques and skills; learn about the theory, history, and vocabulary of music; demonstrate confidence and poise during public performances; and learn to work collaboratively as a member of the ensemble. This course emphasizes the importance of participation, appreciation, and support of music for life. Varsity Band is open to students grade 9 – 12 based upon a spring audition. The band has several performances throughout the year including one in late fall, mid-winter, large group contest in early spring and another concert in late spring. Students also have the ability to participate in several local and regional honor bands, and solo and ensemble contest. The **uniform** for men is black pants with black socks, black dress

shoes, black long sleeve button up shirt (or white button up shirt with black tie and black jacket). Only black or white ties. Women should wear a floor length black dress or black pants with a black blouse with at least 1/4 length sleeves. In general, the only colors on stage are black and white that fit within these guidelines. Students are encouraged to take private lessons. The fundraising target amount for varsity band is **\$50**.

Freshman Band Schedule

December			
15	Fall Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
February			
2	Solo/Ensemble Contest <i>Select Participants</i> - Brandon Valley		All day
25	Winter Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
May			
5	Spring Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)		7:00
9	2016-2017 Band Placement Auditions		In class
22	Graduation (2016-2017 Symphonic Band Members)		Afternoon

Marching Band

Approximately 120 students ranging from 9th grade to 12th participate in the Warrior Marching Band. Our goal is to create innovative and exciting marching productions, while helping our students reach for excellence. The marching band is a distinctive source of pride for the school and Sioux Falls community, and we seek to continue on its proud tradition. Fundraising target for marching band is **\$175**.

Marching Band Schedule (other Rehearsals/Sectionals at discretion of Directors)

September			
8	Evening Rehearsal		5pm-9pm
12	Presidents Bowl		TBD
15	Evening Rehearsal		5pm-9pm
19	Competition - Waseca, MN		All day
22	Evening Rehearsal		5pm-9pm
26	Competition - Rosemont, MN		All day
29	Evening Rehearsal		5pm-9pm
October			
3	Festival of Bands		All day
6	Evening Rehearsal		5pm-9pm
10	Competition - Lincoln, NE		All day
13	Evening Rehearsal		5pm-9pm
17	Competition - Ankeny, IA		All day
November			
5	MB Indoor Marching Show		5:30pm

Warrior Pep Band

The pep band provides musical entertainment and school spirit for various school sports, including: basketball, volleyball. This volunteer group will have sign-ups in the the fall. Once committed, students are expected to attend all pep band performances.

Target Fundraising Amounts

The school district supplies many things to our program and we are very lucky to have this support. However, these funds cannot account for everything that goes into a successful band program. A fundraising target is a goal for each student to raise into their Individual Student Account (ISA) that goes back to the WHS Boosters to help cover the costs for the year. Students need only raise the largest individual goal amount for the groups they are in. For example, if a student is in concert band (\$50), and jazz band (\$75), the student only needs to raise \$75 total. The target covers travel costs (bussing), drill writing, marching staff, color guard choreography, and more. Once the target amount is achieve, the remaining funds in a students ISA may be used to pay for trips taken with the band. To help students meet these target amounts and raise funds for our trips, the band has set up several fundraisers to take place throughout the year. Check the band website for current fundraising information. www.washingtonbands.org/fundraising

Concert Band (Symphonic, Concert, Varsity)	\$50.00
Jazz Band	\$75.00
Marching band	\$175.00

Charms

The Washington Band program uses Charms Office Assistant to manage Individual Student Accounts and communicate necessary information to members of the band and their parents or guardians. Please ensure that your students Charms account is **up to date** to make sure you receive the most accurate and up to date information. To verify your students account information go to www.washingtonbands.org/charms

Use of School Equipment

Due to the nature of the activity, students may be given school equipment to be used both in class and in performances. This equipment (including music) is given with the understanding that it will be returned in the condition it was given. Any damage or loss will result in fee to cover repair and/or replacement. Students issued a district instrument must complete a district instrument check-out contract and pay a \$70 usage fee (this fee is waved for students qualified for free or reduced lunch).

Instrument Supplies and Repair

All supplies and repairs can be taken care of at any of the local music stores. Several local stores contact information is provided below for your convenience. Keep in mind that while your child's instrument is in the shop, he or she does not have it for class or practice, for this reason, try to schedule repairs during breaks from school. When dropping the instrument off always ask if the store has a loaner instrument, if not make sure you keep your mouthpiece/reeds etc. so that you may use a school instrument if available.

K & M Music
1119 W 41st St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
(605) 366-6332

Schmitt Music Co.
1020 E 41st St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
(605) 339-6030

Sioux Falls Music
1209 W 41st St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
(605) 334-5361

The band department keeps some supplies on hand for emergencies. These may be purchased from the director prior to the beginning of class.

Woodwind Accessories

Clarinet or Saxophone Reed	\$3.00
Cork Grease	\$2.00

Brass Accessories

Valve Oil	\$3.00
Slide Cream.....	\$3.00

Student Leadership

Student leadership is vital to the success of this organization. In order for the band to achieve its full potential each and every student must take ownership in the group. To facilitate this, several formal student leadership positions will be established including: a Concert Master/Drum Major, and Section Leaders. Additionally students are encouraged to seize any further leadership opportunities that may arise. *Concert Master/Drum Major* – The drum major reports directly to the director and duties include but are not limited to: conducting the band in the directors absence, organizing stage crew, facilitating the attendance record and overseeing the section leaders. *Section Leader* – The section leaders report to the drum major, or to the director and their responsibilities may include the coordinating and conducting of small group rehearsals (sectionals) and reporting section attendance to the drum major.

Private Lessons

As one might expect, private lessons on a musical instrument are the best way to improve performance skills. The one-on-one approach allows the student to benefit from the individual attention as opposed to a teacher monitoring a class of over fifty. A recent survey of students in the All-State Band revealed that approximately 80% of the students in the band studied privately. Students are generally more inclined to practice diligently for a weekly music assignment and this discipline increases the student's enjoyment with their instrument. Check the band website for a list of area lesson instructors www.washingtonbands.org/private-lessons

Step-Up Instruments

Your student's starter instrument is designed with the new musician in mind, as it is crafted to be durable in the hands of a beginner. Even if your child only wants to play in the school band, they will likely outgrow that instrument. As your student progresses on their musical journey, they will struggle to master more difficult techniques, and could become dissatisfied. A day will come when they will benefit from an instrument that supports their growing ability. The difference between a beginner instrument and a step up instrument are not usually obvious visually. Here's what you will notice with a step up instrument.

- Craftsmanship and quality materials used in construction.
- Improved instrument response and richness of sound leads to improved musicianship and musical enjoyment for your student.

The skilled craftsmanship and higher quality material of a 'Step Up' instrument, combined with the skill level of your musician, gives your student the best chance at success. For specific instrument recommendations check out the band website www.washingtonband.org/step-up-instruments



Washington Bands Master Schedule 2015-2016

September			
	8	MB Evening Rehearsal	5pm-9pm
	12	MB Presidents Bowl	TBD
	15	MB Evening Rehearsal	5pm-9pm
	19	MB Competition - Waseca, MN	All day
	22	MB Evening Rehearsal	5pm-9pm
	26	MB Competition - Rosemont, MN	All day
	28	CB Recorded Placement Auditions begin	In class
	29	MB Evening Rehearsal	5pm-9pm
October			
	3	MB Festival of Bands	All day
	6	MB Evening Rehearsal	5pm-9pm
	10	MB Competition - Lincoln, NE	All day
	13	MB Evening Rehearsal	5pm-9pm
	15	CB All-State Orchestra Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (RHS)	All day
	17	MB Competition - Ankeny, IA	All day
	27	JB All City Jazz Rehearsal (Augustana)	6:30-8:30pm
November			
	3	JB All City Jazz Rehearsal (Augustana)	6:30-8:30pm
	5	MB Indoor Marching Show	5:30pm
	10	JB All City Jazz Rehearsal (Augustana)	6:30-8:30pm
	13,14	CB Augustana Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i>	All day
	16	JB All City Jazz Rehearsal (Augustana)	6:30-8:30pm
	17	JB All City Jazz Performance (Augustana)	7:00pm
	19	JB Pop, Popcorn, and Jazz Concert (WHS Commons)	7:00pm
	23	CB 8th Grade Combined Concert (Symph only)	7:00pm
	30	CB East Central Honor Band (SDSU) <i>Select Participants</i>	All day
December			
	15	CB Fall Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)	7:00pm
January			
	23	CB All-State Band Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (LHS)	All day
	30	CB All-State Band Auditions <i>Select Participants</i> (LHS)	All day
February			
	2	CB Solo/Ensemble Contest <i>Select Participants</i> - Brandon Valley	All day
	4	CB Small Ensembles, Jazz Concert (WHS Commons)	7:00pm
	9	JB Palace City Jazz Festival (Mitchell, SD)	Afternoon
	25	CB Winter Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)	7:00
	26-27	JB UNO Jazz Festival (Omaha, NE)	All day
Mar			
	1-2	CB Augustana Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i>	All day
	31	CB All-State Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i> (Watertown, SD)	All day
April			
	1,2	CB All-State Honor Band <i>Select Participants</i> (Watertown, SD)	All Day
	2	CB All-State Honor Band Concert (Watertown, SD)	TBD
	28	CB Showcase Concert (Symph only, Washington Pavilion)	7:00pm
May			
	5	CB Spring Concert (6:30 pm Call, WHS Auditorium)	7:00pm
	9	CB 2016-2017 Band Placement Auditions	In class
	22	CB Graduation (2016-2017 Symphonic Band Members)	Afternoon

Legend

MB — Marching Band
 CB — Concert Band
 JB — Jazz Band
 PB — Pep Band

NOTE: Refer to the band web site (www.washingtonbands.org) for most current information.

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Parent Profile Form

The key to a successful program is the support of staff, students, and, especially, the parents. If you can be of assistance in any of the following areas, please volunteer your time and talents. There is nothing more rewarding than being an active member of a fine organization, and your involvement speaks volumes about how you value the choices your child makes. Please indicate any task in which you are willing to help during the year by placing a check mark next to the appropriate activity.

- _____ Uniforms
- _____ After Concert/Rehearsal Snacks
- _____ Video Taping/Editing
- _____ Photography
- _____ Carpentry
- _____ Chaperone
- _____ Other skills you think may help the band program:
Please list: _____

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Thank you!