



Course Syllabus

Band is part of the specials program at Westerly Middle School. It is designed to allow students to learn how to play an instrument for the first time, or gain additional experience, and practice beginning to intermediate level music in a group setting. It is held Monday through Friday each week. Band is considered a regularly scheduled class. Band is a graded class. All attendance and grading procedures apply.

Objectives of Performing Arts

Students will be expected to demonstrate:

- A knowledge of basic music theory and how it is applied to playing a musical instrument
- The acquisition of sufficient technical skill to produce satisfactory tone and ability on a chosen musical instrument
- An ability to perform before an audience
- An understanding of skills in music performance techniques
- The classification of musical instruments and how sound is produced on them
- A working knowledge of music vocabulary and symbol identification

Required Class Materials

All students are required to have the following materials **every day**:

- Instrument
- Band music in their binder
- Clarinets/ Saxophones need 2-3 reeds, cork grease, instrument swab
- All Brass need valve or slide oil
- Pencil

Instruments can be left in the band storage room lockers Monday - Friday.

Mr. Schleyer, MS Band Director
E-Mail: nschleyer@westerly.k12.ri.us
Phone: (401) 315 1601 x4219

Reeds for Woodwind Instruments

Reeds are sold by the WMS Band Program. You may also purchase your own reeds. Please only use RICO ROYAL or VANDOREN reeds. WMS Reeds are sold at the following prices:

- Clarinet: \$1.50
- Alto Sax: \$2.00
- Tenor/Bari Sax: \$3.00

These prices are generally cheaper than purchasing online or at Robert's Music, especially the sax reeds. Cash is fine, if you make out a check to purchase reeds, make a check out to: **Westerly Music Boosters**.

Band Instrument Rental

Here at Westerly Middle School we have a number of instruments to allow students to use. These instruments may only be used while studying at Westerly Middle School, so it is best if students are able to rent or purchase their own instrument to use beyond middle school. Playing an instrument is something they can enjoy for the rest of their lives!

Here is the link to rent to own an instrument:

<https://www.robertsmusicri.com/aerntschoolelect.aspx>

There is an FAQ section at the top of the web page. Scroll down to Select District (Westerly), Select School (Westerly Middle), and Select Instrument. Once you have selected your child's instrument, you can select a rental plan. You will need to create an account on the website to complete the rental. For delivery, please select "FREE School Delivery".

If you would like to purchase an instrument elsewhere, run it by me first. Please feel free to email or call me with any questions or concerns. We will work together to ensure your child can participate. Looking forward to a great year of music making.

Grading Policy

Grades are based on the following system:



Grading Policy (cont.)

Weekly rehearsal skills grade:

O/Outstanding - 100%

Student regularly comes prepared for class, arrives early to class, has shown excellent effort and participation, has a cooperative and positive attitude, and has satisfactorily learned their music.

S/Satisfactory - 80%

Student is occasionally not prepared for class, has unexcused tardies, is occasionally disruptive, has satisfactorily learned their music.

U/Unsatisfactory - 60%

Student is rarely prepared for class, has excessive tardies/absences, is often disruptive, does not listen to instructions, disrespectful to teachers and peers, excessive talking, minimal effort and participation, lacks motivation, poor attitude/apathetic, has not satisfactorily learned their music.

Performances:

Because of the nature of the performing arts, it is imperative that students attend concert performances. Performance attendance is vitally

important to the student's grade and to the success of the band's performance in general. A missed performance is automatically a 0 unless a note or phone call is provided **in advance**.

An alternative project will be assigned to make up the points missed from not attending the concert.

***Reminder that the dress code for concerts is:** white button down shirt or blouse, black pants or floor-length skirt, and black dress shoes. We are going for a more uniform look this year with white on top and black on bottom. If a student chooses to wear a skirt, it must be floor length, they cannot be shorter.

Performance and Rehearsal Schedule (Mandatory and Graded)

6th After School Rehearsal 12/1/25 2:30pm-4:00pm

7th/8th After School Rehearsal 12/3/25 2:30pm-4:00pm

WMS Winter Concert 12/18/25 7:00pm (students arrive at 6:00pm)

WHS+8th Grade Combined Concert 3/10/26 7:00pm

6th After School Rehearsal 3/16/26 2:30-4:00pm

7th/8th After School Rehearsal 3/18/26 2:30-4:00pm

RI Junior Band Festival 3/25 and 3/26 (During the school day)

6th After School Rehearsal 5/11/26 2:30pm-4:00pm

7th/8th After School Rehearsal 5/13/26 2:30pm-4:00pm

WMS Spring Concert 5/26/26 7:00pm (students arrive at 6:00pm)

8th Grade Great East Field Trip 6/5/26 (During & After School)

Performance and Fieldtrip Expectations:

During performances and field trips, students are to understand that they are representative of the WMS Music program. **All school rules and policies regarding behavior are still in effect during these times.** Tardiness before performances or field trips punishes the whole ensemble. Students will always be notified in advance of activities. Tardiness will have a negative result

in grades. Please remember you are required to have all of your music, supplies, and your instrument ready to play at performances and field trips.

We have a lot of fun in the WMS Band and you will not regret giving it a shot. There are many fun opportunities and friendships to earn while participating in the band program. I look forward to working with everyone and making this year the best.

Classwork:

The only homework band students generally have is to *practice their instrument*. All written and online assignments will be completed during class time, *except for playing tests which should be completed at home or during WIN*. Practicing, the application of skills learned in class, is essential to playing an instrument well. Practicing for short periods of time (15-20 minutes) for 5 or more days a week will result in a much better musician and skill acquisition than a student who only practices 2 days a week. It is easiest if a designated practice time is set, such as directly following dinner, or a specific time during the evening. The more often your student practices their instrument, the faster they will improve and the better they will sound.

Assessments:

These include quizzes, tests, and projects. These assessments allow me to monitor each student's progress in meeting the National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) and the RI state performing arts standards.

Procedures:

Entering the Music Room

Students are expected to professionally walk into the band room, make sure they have all of their materials (instrument, music, pencil, etc) and immediately get to their seat to set up and be ready to play. Students are expected less than 5 minutes after the bell to be ready to play and no time for socializing. No one should be in the percussion section unless they are a percussionist.

Participating in Music Class

As soon as each student gets to their seat, students may begin to warm up on their own. Students are expected to stay in their seats throughout the entire class. There will be many opportunities to stand and move with teacher permission. As soon as the teacher is ready to begin the lesson, band class will start and students are expected to be quiet.

We will begin the year with the expectation that there is no talking or playing unless Mr. Schleyer directs students to do so. The above participation routine must be earned

Leaving the Music Room

When the teacher gives permission, students will quietly pack their belongings and return to their seats. When the bell rings they may quietly walk out of the classroom to their next class. Students are expected to leave the room better than they found it.

Band Lockers

A band locker will be available for students in the band program. Students are expected to bring their instrument and binder home **every** night and back to school each morning that they have class. If you are sharing a school instrument we will have to make arrangements to split home practice time with the other person borrowing the instrument. Instruments and binders can be dropped off prior to reporting to homeroom in the morning and **must be placed in your band locker**. If you use a lock on your locker, you must give your combination or extra key to Mr. Schleyer.

Classroom Expectations and Rules:

- **Respect Yourself**
 - Be ready to start playing when the bell rings
 - Have all of your materials
 - Be prepared for rehearsal
- **Respect Others and Their Equipment**
 - Keep your hands to yourself, never touch another's instrument
 - Raise your hand to speak during class

- Only play when asked to play
- Keep all food and drinks (other than water) outside of the band room
- Keep electronic devices off, unless asked otherwise
- **Respect and Respond to Adults**
 - Have an open mind
 - Be willing to try something new, playing and singing
 - Always try your best

Classroom Procedures:

- The following is a list of procedures that students should follow every day as part of our class.
 - Students should enter the band room/stage through the side door, never via the auditorium audience section.
 - Students should immediately get out all required materials.
 - Students should be in their seats with materials and instruments ready to play within 3 minutes of the bell ringing.
 - Take out your instrument immediately and be ready to play when Mr. Schleyer says.
 - Raise your hand before leaving your seat.
 - At the end of class make sure to clean up your area, put all of your equipment away. Percussion ALWAYS clean your area and put away sticks/mallets, etc.

Please log on to WMS.band and complete the [Syllabus Form]

Due by Friday September 5th 2025

Email nschleyer@westerly.k12.ri.us with questions or concerns

