

Wea Ridge Middle School

2025-2026 Band Handbook

Dear Wea Ridge Band Students and Parents,

I would like to welcome everyone to what is going to be an exciting school year. The Wea Ridge Band Program will be quite active over the next several months. It is always rewarding to see young musicians begin another school year, growing both as musicians and as individuals.

Over the course of this school year, try to remember the many reasons for participating in band, such as learning an instrument, having fun, teamwork, a sense of belonging, responsibility training, music makes you smarter, cultural enrichment, and many others. It is exciting to think about how much we will accomplish together this year.

Please read through this handbook carefully and discuss it as a family. This handbook will give you an overview of my goals and curriculum, the grading scale for this course, and the expectations for each band member. If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this handbook, please feel free to call me or email me at rburnette@tsc.k12.in.us.

Sincerely,



Ryan Burnette
Director of Bands

2025 – 2026 Band Calendar

Wednesday, October 15, 2025	TSC Southside Band Festival <i>(Wind Ensemble-<u>all</u> students, Symphonic Band-<u>eighth</u> graders)</i> at McCutcheon High School	6:00 PM
Tuesday, November 11, 2025	Veteran's Day Program during school day <i>(Wind Ensemble only)</i>	TBA
Monday, December 8, 2025	All Bands – Winter Band Concert	TBA
Saturday, January 24, 2026	Purdue Jazz Festival (Jazz Band)	TBA
Saturday, February 7, 2026	Band Solo and Ensemble Contest at Harrison High School	TBA
Tuesday, March 10, 2026	All Bands – "Music in Our Schools Month" Concert	TBA
Friday, March 13, 2026 or Saturday, March 14, 2026	ISSMA Organizational Band Contest at TBA	TBA
Wednesday, May 6, 2026	All Bands – Spring Band Concert	TBA

Daily Rehearsal Procedures

1. Enter the room with a positive attitude and be respectful.
2. Students must be in their seats when the bell rings.
3. Listen carefully to any announcements and instructions.
4. When instructed to, quickly assemble your instrument and organize your music as written on the board.
5. Raise your hand if you have any questions.
6. If you're well enough to be at school, you're expected to play. If not, a parent or nurse note is required.
7. You may warm up quietly before rehearsal begins. Once rehearsal begins, play only when instructed.

Concert Dress Code (*Please Read - Updated!*)

For all band concerts, students must wear **all black** to create a professional and uniform appearance. This includes a black dress shirt or blouse, black dress pants, a long black skirt (if preferred), black dress shoes, and black socks. Clothing must be completely black with no other colors, patterns, stripes, logos, or graphics. Students should not wear t-shirts, jeans, leggings, sneakers, hats, vests, or other accessories. Clothing must be neat, clean, and free of rips or tears, and appropriate for a formal performance. Our concerts are often recorded or judged, so it's important that everyone follows the dress code closely. *Students may choose to wear a tie in any color as an optional accessory.*

Grading in Band Class

25% - DAILY PARTICIPATION

- Positive **Participation**, Behavior, and Attitude every day.
- Completing written work in class.
- **Instrument inspections** – Maintain your instrument and have all necessary supplies to properly participate in class.
- Instrument must go home after school for **practice**.
- Student is **prepared** to play all required music in class each day.

35% - PLAYING TESTS

40% - CONCERT ATTENDANCE

- Students are expected to attend each required performance.
- Unexcused absences will not be accepted.
- Excused absences (illness, death in the family, etc) will only be accepted with a signed note from a parent.

Gotcha Incentives

Students will receive a “Gotcha” ticket in class for exceptional behavior or over and above acts of helpfulness and kindness. Students may also receive “Gotchas” for correct assignments, being 100% ready, and rewards for great classroom performance.