

TIGER BAND HANDBOOK

Dear Band Family,

I hope you are all ready to take on another exciting and challenging year as members of the Tiger Band. As your director, I am very eager to work with each and every one of our band students during the upcoming year. The high standards that are set for this group can only be achieved through the hard work of all students, parents, administrators, and the directors. The goal is for each and everyone involved to “be the best” they can be at all times. This must come from a commitment to the music and to the group, the dedication to practice the music, and to consistently be dependable at each rehearsal and performance. The *Compassion* and *Determination* earned from these traits of *Commitment, Dedication, Consistency, and Dependability* will build successful work ethics. The purpose of this handbook is to give you the information you will need to provide you with rehearsal and performance information, as well as policies regarding the band program. An understanding of this information will help to guide each person through his or her time with the band.

One comment that is regularly made about band students is how courteous and well disciplined they are. It is obvious to people that a band is more than a place for students to learn about music and performance; it is also an organization that teaches teamwork, self-discipline, responsibility, and many other qualities that are important to be successful in life. One of the more difficult things about being a leader is finding the balance between what’s best for the organization and each individual, and making a decision when there is a difference. The only way we can be successful in this regard is for every member of the program to make a commitment to **be on time and present at all rehearsals and performances.**

On the following pages, there are lists of expectations, policies, and requirements that apply to all members of the Tiger Band. It is important to understand that being a part of the band means making a commitment. The reason for commitment is that each individual’s actions affect the entire group. When a student misses a rehearsal the other students have to work much harder to compensate for his or her absence. It slows the learning process and is in direct conflict with the concept of teamwork. Putting responsibility to the band before personal preference is sometimes a sacrifice, but a lesson in work ethics that must be learned for adult life.

Musically Yours,

Chad Elder

Student Expectations

1. You are expected to be at **all** rehearsals and performances.
2. You are expected to prepare for rehearsals and performances on time (on time means being early and ready)..
3. You are expected to correctly perform all performance materials
4. You are expected to be responsible for all equipment and materials needed for rehearsals and performances. These are your tools to make music or perform, and they are your responsibility.

(Instrument, music, tuner, metronome, pencil, reeds, valve oil, sticks, etc.)
5. You are expected to refrain from casual conversations during rehearsals and performances.
6. You are expected to have an alert rehearsal behavior - listen, count, play on time, and do your very best with compassion and dedication to the music being performed.
7. You are expected to display a good attitude through cooperation, discipline and intensity of achievement.
8. You are expected to follow the behavior expectations of the school and band program at all times.
9. You are expected to complete all homework/practice assignments on time.

Band Classes and Organizations

Program Structure

The band program can be roughly divided into three interactive parts: the Concert Bands, the Marching Band, and Small Ensembles (including Jazz Band). Through participation in as many of these areas of the program as possible, students may fully achieve the goals and objectives detailed above.

Additional Musical Opportunities

District Honor Band, All-State Band, Solo and Ensemble, Festival UGA January High School Music Festival (Jan Fest), UGA Middle School Festival (Mid Fest), Large Group Performance Evaluation (LGPE), Parades, Competitions, and other Performances or Auditions. These will all prepare students for College Auditions or Auditions for other groups.

Instruments and Accessories

Students and parents are reminded that a craftsman is only as good as his tools. Musicians must have quality instruments that play well in order for them to perform to the best of their abilities. Unfortunately, many beginners start out on "beginner" instruments that do not play as well as "intermediate" or "professional" type instruments. High School musicians should consider stepping up to one of these types of instruments. If that is not possible, please make sure that the instrument that you have is of excellent working order. Please talk to one of the directors before purchasing a new instrument. Some of our students who play on school owned instruments should consider purchasing their own. This includes flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, and trombone. These smaller school owned instruments have been in our program for many years and may not be the same quality as those purchased from a reputable instrument dealer. Amazon, Wal-Mart, and Ebay all have instruments to sell, but they may not be the quality needed to last through the years of constant playing. Some of these instruments do not make parts to repair their instruments. Please speak to your director about quality instruments and a reputable dealer that will work with you on purchasing, renting, and maintaining these instruments.

School Owned Instruments and Materials

Certain equipment and materials, such as music, music stands, and chairs are available, free of charge, for student use. The larger instruments such as Tuba, Euphonium, Bass Clarinets, French Horns and the Percussion Instruments are usually owned by the band and students are allowed to use them. All students are reminded that they have a responsibility to take care of school owned equipment and instruments. Unnecessary damage or loss of these instruments or materials is the responsibility of, and must be paid for, by the student or students who are using them. If multiple students are using an instrument, the cost of the repair or replacement will come from all students unless one of the students is caught damaging the instrument or is honest about what they did. All school owned instruments will be checked out to a student each year, and returned before summer break. Any damages will be the responsibility of the student.

Behavior Guide

Band members who do not adhere to the band's or the school's behavior guide may be suspended from band and/or school for misconduct on buses, at rehearsals, during performances and at anytime during a band trip or function. This includes band camp.

For any organization, particularly a large organization, to run smoothly and efficiently, the overall discipline must be both strict and fair. The organization must come first! To ensure fair treatment and the director's respect for the students, the following policy will apply to all members within the band. Band and its activities whether at home or on a trip is an extension of school; therefore, ALL SCHOOL RULES APPLY 24 HOURS A DAY. The Directors and their assignees may search instrument cases, luggage or hotel rooms. See the Student Handbook for more information and details.

1. **All school policies of conduct and behavior apply to all band functions.** The penalties resulting from the abuse of the regulations will be consistent with school board policies.
2. Tobacco, alcohol, and nonprescription drugs are clearly prohibited under school and state law. Penalties include immediate suspension and possible expulsion from band and school.
3. Food and drink are not allowed in the band facilities at any time. **There will be no gum allowed at band functions.** The band room will be kept clean and free from trash at all times. This is our home away from home and we must work to keep it clean. Keep trash, litter and drink containers cleaned up at all times. **Use the trash cans!**
4. **Cell phones are not permitted during the school day or at rehearsals,** unless otherwise directed by the director. This includes but is not limited to headphones, ear buds, or smart watches. Students will have opportunities to use their phones or other devices on trips for various activities as the year progresses. However, if the student is caught abusing the privilege of using any device then the school's policy for use will be enforced.
5. The use of obscene language or gestures will be considered unbecoming of a Tiger Band member. Making disrespectful comments about other members will not be allowed. Public displays of affection will not be allowed in the band room or at any band functions. This is not an image we wish to project and the problems will be addressed immediately.
6. General disrespect to the director, other members of the faculty, chaperones, band staff, or substitutes will not be tolerated.
7. Band members should honor the position and leadership of all band officers. The officers have earned their positions through experience, training and testing. Unfair or unauthorized treatment should be brought to the director immediately.

8. Only students who are in the band are allowed in the band room. Only marching band students and marching band staff are allowed in the Tiger Band section of the stadium. Please do not bring your friends into the band room or band section to visit. Students wishing to be in the band room must have the approval of the director. The strict rules of who may come in the band room are to protect school and individual property. If you know someone that is interested in joining the band will need to see the band director.

9. All students must have the necessary materials to perform correctly prior to rehearsal starting. **Do not ask for materials during rehearsal time.** This takes away valuable time from others. Each member is required to keep up with all assigned music and materials. It is your responsibility to make sure that the music is not lost or damaged. Keep music in your folder or flip folder. Flip folders and lyres are the responsibility of the student to purchase and maintain.

10. Students are not allowed to handle an instrument other than their own or the instrument assigned to them. Many instruments are delicate and can be damaged easily. **If it is not your instrument, don't touch it!** Do not borrow any instrument that does not belong or is assigned to you. Percussion instruments and area are off limits to all non-percussion members.

11. Please take your instrument and accessories home every day after school (***PRACTICE!***). WWCHS and the WWCHS Band cannot be responsible for personal instruments left in the storage cabinets, especially after school hours.

12. The band facilities are to be cleaned and straightened after every rehearsal and performance. This includes anywhere we perform. It is the responsibility of each band member for seeing that the band room is kept neat and orderly. This is your school, your house, and your responsibility to keep it for future generations.

13. The telephone in the band room is to be used for school or band business only. There will be no unauthorized use of the phone. If you need to call home to stay after school or for a ride after rehearsal, then please speak to the band director.

14. The director's door is always open and students are welcome to come into the office to discuss music, instruments, class, etc. However, the director's office is not a student lounge and there will be no students in the office unless the director is present. Students should always knock and wait until given permission to enter.

15. Only authorized personnel are allowed in the band offices, music library and uniform room.

16. Because of the large number of visitors and guests, the general appearance of the band room, the instrument storage areas, practice rooms, library, and uniform storage area must be kept neat at all times. Instruments should be stored neatly in the storage shelves or other designated areas. Books and personal belongings are not to be left in any of these areas because of the

disorganized look. The band office is not to be used as a storage facility. Items left in the band facility may be discarded immediately. Keep up with your belongings.

17. Overall, students in the band program are expected to be ladies and gentlemen at all times

18. Students may enter the band room at the following times: in the morning before first period during your scheduled class time, before and after rehearsals and performances.

19. Band room computers may only be used when given permission by a director.

20. Distracting items such as books, phones, smart watches, headphones, earbuds, notes, or other items will not be allowed during rehearsal time or class time. If found these items may be confiscated.

Attendance Policies

Attendance Policy

1. *Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances.*

2. Excused absences are: (Only directors may determine whether an absence is excused.)

a) Illness (note required immediately upon arrival back to school or rehearsals)

b) Excused Absence from school (If the absence is unexcused from school, then it is unexcused from rehearsal – director must still be notified before rehearsal starts that it is excused) If you are absent from school, you cannot participate in any after school activities that day. This includes practice and performances. You must attend school.

c) Death in family (note required-prior to absence when possible)

d) An important religious observance (note required-at least 2 weeks before the absence)

e) Potentially some other circumstances - Approved in advance - The director will determine each circumstance on a case-by-case basis.

3. Personal conflicts such as jobs, homework, tutoring, parties, being grounded, shopping, hair or nail appointments, etc. are **not excused**. These will all be considered unexcused absences; however, please inform the director. As soon as we start Tuesday and Thursday practices, Monday and Wednesday are the days students can have for these personal activities or other sport practices. Please try to make doctor's appointments on days we do not practice.

Mr. Elder supports each student's need for successful academics, and the need for extra help if needed. Mr. Elder also supports a family's decision to discipline their child by grounding them at home, and will support this within the band as well. Understand that these absences are not excused due to the fact that it does affect the entire band and the quality of sound and image we display.

THERE IS A ZERO ABSENCE POLICY FOR MARCHING BAND EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCIES.

Marching Rehearsal Week Attendance

Changes in drill or music can be made daily during a rehearsal week. This guideline is in place in order to insure the safety of the member and the other members of the marching band. If a student is absent from rehearsal, the entire band will have to go back over these changes when all members are present. This is time consuming and stops the acceleration of learning for those that have learned new drill. If a student is absent from practice that member will not be allowed to participate in the halftime show, but will be required to participate in all other activities of the marching band at games and other required performances and dress in full uniform as a member of the marching band.

1 Unexcused Absence from rehearsal - Member loses 3rd Quarter break and sits out halftime performance.

2 Unexcused Absences from rehearsal – same as 1 unexcused absence and member may go up for expulsion from the marching band if this becomes habitual.

Unexcused tardiness to rehearsal will result in actions taking place at rehearsal. This could be running a lap after rehearsal. Being tardy to rehearsals more than once could result in a member not being able to perform half time or other performances. Parents please understand that your child is late even if it is because you were running late.

A missed performance due to an Unexcused Absence or excessive tardiness to rehearsal will result in probable dismissal from Band! There are no refunds for anything upon dismissal.

***Upon returning after an absence(s), excused or unexcused, a member must provide written documentation signed by parent or Doctor including a contact phone number explaining the reason for the absence. Students not participating in a performance due to a rehearsal absence from illness, excessive absences, etc. must still attend "in uniform" unless excused by the director.**

Being On Time

Early is On Time

On Time is Late

If you are late, you could get left

Parent Pick-up

Parents, please remember to pick up your child within a reasonable time after a rehearsal or performance. It is very difficult to give an exact time when the band will return from an away game or competition. Games and competitions could go by quick and on time or go into overtime or take more time than expected. The director will make attempts to give an estimated time, but understand that this could change and many places we go to have no cell service. The director will use the Rooms app to communicate to students and parents for call times.

Respect For The Podium

This is a courtesy among musicians. Whoever is on the podium - Director, Band Officer or Band Parent - must be given the undivided attention of everyone in the room.

Podium Rules

The podium is the platform that the director, drum major, or any other leader may stand on while directing or speaking. Therefore, undivided attention is expected. This is not the time to ask for the following items: reeds, music that has already been passed out, instrument maintenance, or other items that will take away from the entire performance group. These are all items that can be taken care of before class or rehearsal time, or after. This is the reason being early and ready is important in a band.

Uniforms

Marching Band

Band uniforms are issued each year by designated personnel. The Band Uniform should be worn at such times and places as designated by the director. It must be worn properly and with the

respect that it commands. It is important that students bring black socks, marching shoes, gloves, shorts, and the current year's band t-shirt to wear under the uniform every game day. Remember the uniform represents you and WWCHS! The uniform coat, pants, hat and plume are provided to the student. In the event that the uniform or any accessory is damaged or lost, the student will be required to pay for the replacement of that item. Flag Corps and Majorette members will be required to purchase uniform items as prescribed by the directors in accordance to the particular show theme and needs.

Marching Band Rehearsal attire

Please dress appropriately according to the seasonal weather.

At no time will students be allowed to wear **slides, flip flops, Crocs, sandals, or slip on shoes**.

Students must wear an athletic shoe like tennis shoes or running shoes to give support to marching. Marching shoes are also allowed for rehearsals. Students will not be allowed to participate in rehearsal and it will count as an unexcused absence.

Concert Band Attire

It is the responsibility of the student to purchase their own concert band attire (uniform).

Black Slacks

Black Button Down Shirt

Black Shoes

Black Socks

Black Belt

Inspection

Inspection is conducted before each public performance. Infractions could result in the student not being allowed to perform. Infractions will result in students not receiving full credit for the performance and may lose their third quarter break and lettering opportunity. The following items will be checked:

Marching Band Inspection Procedures:

- 1. Promptness (don't be late!).**
- 2. Neatness and cleanliness of the uniform.**
- 3. Identification numbers for uniforms must be memorized.**
- 4. SHOES- "409" is good to clean your shoes. An old toothbrush is good to scrub around the bottom of the sides.**

- 5. JACKET AND PANTS-** these items must be dry-cleaned periodically.
- 6. T-SHIRTS-** a Current Tiger Band t-shirt must be worn under your uniform.
- 7. MUSIC-** All music must be placed in a flip folder and numbered per instructions.
- 8. INSTRUMENT-** you must show your instrument along with extra reeds, valve oil, etc.
- 9. HAIR-** all long hair must be managed appropriately and out of the face. Hair holders should match hair color and should not be excessively large.
- 10. JEWELRY and MAKEUP-** NO jewelry can be worn with your uniform except stud earrings (Gold or diamond). No fingernail polish can be worn and only lightly applied make-up is allowed.
- 11. SOCKS-** Black socks will be worn with the uniform at all times. The length should at least cover the halfway to the knee.
- 12. BLUE JEANS SHOULD NEVER BE WORN UNDER THE UNIFORM**
- 13. Alternate Marching Uniform** will be Blue Jeans and Band Shirt or Sweatshirt. Jeans are to have no holes or rips.

*****PLEASE BE PREPARED TO SHOW THESE ITEMS ALL AT ONCE!!**

Not having the proper uniform will result in suspension from the performance with further action to be taken at a later time. Uniforms must be worn correctly at all times unless otherwise noted by a director. When jackets are allowed off they must be folded neatly and placed in/on the marching hat, or in a clean area if the member does not have a hat. Anytime jackets are on they must be zipped up and latched at the top. Jackets are always worn before leaving the stands. Anytime bibbers are on they must be on the shoulders and zipped up. Shoes should be clean and shiny at all times. Under shirt should be the current band shirt and should be clean.

Alternate Uniform for Games, Weather, and Pep Rallies

Current Band Shirt, Blue Jeans, and Tennis Shoes (jackets, sweatshirts, etc. during cold weather.) This should be brought to every game just in case of bad weather. Flag Corps and Majorettes will wear what is designated by the sponsor.

Stadium Responsibilities

1. Report on time as indicated on the most current Band schedule.
2. Band members must sit in assigned areas by sections. No moving in the stands. Stay in your section. Refusal to stay in your section could result in being removed from the performance.
3. Uniforms must be worn properly and completely at all times unless instructed otherwise by the directors.
4. **The third quarter break is a privilege not a right.** It may be taken away by the director at any time. Students are to all come back at the assigned time according to the play clock. If everyone is not back a minute will be added to the next game. If it becomes a habit of being late, the 3rd quarter break will be lost.
5. Drinks and food are allowed only during third quarter break and never in the “band block”.
6. Band members must be in their spot and ready to play with the announced time of minutes left of the third quarter. (If not in section and ready a minute will be added to the time). Individuals may lose the 3rd quarter break for the next game.
7. No individual or sectional playing unless approved by the director.
8. We cannot play while the ball is in play. We can play during timeouts and quarter changes. We can only play during a huddle when we are on offense, unless given a warning by the referees.

Awards

Successful participation in the band offers several outstanding awards. Most of these are presented each year at the annual Band Banquet. The directors will make the final determination of who will receive these awards. This banquet is open to all band members, their parents, school and community officials and other people interested in the WWCHS Band.

WWCHS Tiger Band Letter

It is an honor to letter in band, just as in other organizations at WWCHS. The Tiger Band Letter Jacket is not ordered at the same time athletics order theirs. If you choose to get an athletic jacket instead of a Band Letter Jacket, the cost of that jacket will be between you and the athletic boosters. In order to receive a Band Letter, a member must have completed 2 complete band seasons, be at least in high school and in good standing in the marching and concert or symphonic band for that year (high school). The member must be enrolled in a band class. The

member must receive a grade no lower than a "C" for all semesters, as well as be in good financial standing with the Band Booster Club. Students letter one time. Flag Corps and Majorette members must meet all of the above standards with the exception of enrollment in band class. A student may not order a letter jacket through the band unless they have already lettered.

Letters are given at the end of each school year at the Band Banquet. If a student does not attend band camp the band assumes that they are no longer participating in the band program and therefore is no longer eligible for a band Letter Jacket.

New Parent Guide to Band Activities

We look forward to having the rising 8th graders join the Washington Wilkes Comprehensive High School Tiger Band Program. The Tiger Band Program has a great deal to offer our students. We will strive for excellence in every band activity. We consider a student's membership in the Tiger Band a privilege. We ask that all students willingly and positively accept the challenge of demanding rehearsals and the multitude of rewards. We also ask that students respect the hard work and dedication of the band and the directors by being punctual, dependable, responsible, and mature.

Instrument Choice and Switching Instruments

Changing instruments can be difficult on both the student switching and the balance of the band. The student switching will go from their current level of knowledge back to beginner level with prior knowledge of music theory. Students will have to learn new fingerings, how to hold the instrument, mouth position, and sometimes a new clef. It is important that all instrument changes be either a suggestion from the director or discussed with the director to insure it is a good match and will not affect the overall balance of the band.

Commitment to Marching Band

We want everyone in the Tiger Band Program to participate in the marching band. Band members that participate in WWCHS football, cheerleader, volleyball, softball, or any other fall school related-sport activity may not be able to balance being at both practices and this could have an effect on their performance at those activities. If student athletes do want to participate in marching band they are welcome to do so, but they will be held to the same requirements as all other members for attendance. However, these students can participate fully in the concert portions of our program. Some students play instruments that are not used in the marching band,

and we will talk to those students that play an instrument that we do not use in the marching band (oboe, bassoon, etc.) on an individual basis. These students can play percussion instruments or other instruments that they started on.

Marching Band Practice Schedule

Regular Rehearsal Schedule during the Fall Football Season is as follows:

(subject to change due to facility conflicts)

Monday (August Only) 3:30 - 6:00

Tuesday 3:30pm - 6:00pm

Wednesday 3:30pm-5:00pm,

Thursday 3:30pm-6:00pm

Times will change during the season due to competitions, holidays, and daylight hours.

Communication to Parents

The following are major lines of communication to parents:

Rooms app

Google Classroom

Email: elderc@wilkes.k12.ga.us

Fees and Expenses for Band

Students are expected to purchase the following items.

Marching Band

Marching Shoes

Band T-Shirt for the current season *

Band Sweatshirt *

Black Socks

Lyre and Flip Folder for specific instrument

* Items are included with Marching Band Fees

Marching band fees help with the upkeep of marching equipment, contest fees, music, drill design, and outside instructors for band camp.

Concert Band

Black Shoes (Marching shoes will work)

Black Slacks (No holes, no jeans, no leggings)

Black Button Down Shirt

Black Socks

Other Band Expenses

Oil, Sticks, Reeds, and other items to maintain your instrument.

Trips, Audition Fees for All State, Honor Band, or other opportunities.

Band Camp fees, Auxiliary expenses, and fundraising are 3 individual ways that band activities and equipment are paid for. In addition, the band boosters operate the Visitors Concession stand at home games, Sell Band Fruit, and a few other fundraisers throughout the year. By having high volunteer rates and high fundraising participation, we can keep from “charging” individual students high amounts of money to participate in band.

Other fees for various items such as band trips are announced at appropriate times. Fees must be paid by the due dates, or the student must be on a payment plan. Payments can be sent to the band room. Please note that a payment plan means that the student makes regular payments, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly as determined by the band booster treasurer and the parents. A student can also earn money for fees and other financial needs by selling items during the various fundraising activities, which are held during the year. The WWCHS Band Boosters are a non-profit organization and Includes ALL BAND PARENTS. They are only covering expenses for the band. The more funds available for instruction, materials, and equipment, the better we will become.

STUDENT BAND ACCOUNTS

During the course of the year members and parents raise money through the band boosters. PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL MONEY RAISED THROUGH THE BAND BELONGS TO THE WWCHS BAND BOOSTERS. THIS MONEY CANNOT BE USED TO PAY FOR ITEMS CONSIDERED FUNDRAISERS. The band boosters have set up a student account system for the students to have the opportunity to offset their band costs from funds raised through fundraisers for such things as trips, musical items, band fees, Letter Jackets, etc. This money is to be used only for band related purposes and at no time will the money be handed over to the student or the parents. Any and all monies not used by the time the member graduates will be rolled into the general band booster account, unless the member has a sibling that is in the band program and is eligible for a band account in a time frame set by the band boosters or the graduating band member can roll portions to other band member accounts.

WWCHS Band Boosters

The WWCHS Band Boosters Association provides funding for the band program for such items as awards, festival entry fees, to feed students on trips, and guest clinicians fees. All interested adults are eligible for membership. Parents of every band member are needed to help with the many fund raising projects, which are held throughout the year. There are many committees and projects from which to choose. The Band Boosters welcome your support in any form.

Participation in the Band Boosters offers easy access to current information about the band and its activities. It offers opportunities to assist the band and your individual child with financial obligations. It also provides a great social organization with some other very interesting, hardworking, and fun loving people in which you share a great interest. All students and parents are expected to be involved in activities, meetings, and fundraisers that are done by the Band Boosters.

Contact Us

We want all parents to fully understand our guidelines and procedures involving the band program. We have made every effort to include pertinent and detailed information in this handbook. If for some reason you have a question or concern, please contact us. Following are avenues of contact that you may pursue:

Chad Elder, Director of Bands
elderc@wilkes.k12.ga.us

Wade Eggleston, Band Director
egglestonw@wilkes.k12.ga.us

Tara Townsend, Auxiliary Director
townsendt@wilkes.k12.ga.us

Please make every effort to contact us at work during normal business hours in that our personal time at home is very valuable to us.