

Wadsworth High School Band



2025-2026

Handbook

Wadsworth High School Band Program

Dear Parents/Guardians, and Students,

Welcome to a new school year! As a member of our band program you are an integral part of the great performance tradition of this program. It is my goal that every musician will improve his or her performance skills and expand their musical knowledge in a safe, positive, performance environment. Throughout the year you will not only expand your technical development and knowledge of band repertoire, but foster a deeper appreciation and understanding for all types of music. Together, we will perform a wide variety of music from various genres and musical styles while simultaneously expanding our knowledge and understanding of terminology, theory, composers, and musical time periods. We will also strive to refine our techniques, rehearsal strategies, performance practices, and listening skills. Musically, we will learn to listen, interact, and respond to the conductor and each section of the band.

Everyone is expected to contribute their musical skills to the best of their abilities. Individual preparation is essential to the band and expected from everyone. While I will make every effort to assist you during rehearsals, you are responsible for reinforcing what we accomplish in rehearsal by practicing and learning your part. Since our band is ultimately a team of musicians: strong leadership, personal responsibility, and appropriate rehearsal etiquette is expected from everyone.

The policies, procedures, and expectations outlined in this handbook are designed to ensure that we perform our best every day and make the most efficient use of our time. By adhering to them, we generate an optimum environment to improve your skills and musical progress. Music is a discipline in which very little can be accomplished in a noisy, unfocused, or disorganized environment. I expect you to do your part by reading and adhering to the expectations outlined in this handbook throughout the entire school year.

Read through this handbook and keep it in your files so that you may reference it throughout the school year if either you or your parents have any questions.

As your band director, I want to help you reach your musical potential. If you have questions, or need help and assistance please stop in or send an email.

Dana Hire
Director of Bands
dhire@wadsworthschools.org

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the Wadsworth High School Bands is to teach students how to develop a lifelong appreciation of music through performance. This includes learning the technical, theoretical, and aesthetic fundamentals of music through ensemble rehearsal and individual practice, as well as gaining a greater understanding of different styles, historical importance and cultural relevance in music. The instrumental music program also hopes to create opportunities for students to acknowledge their own important contribution to themselves and to the entire band. With this in mind, each student has a role as a leader and as a functioning part of a body whose main purpose is to create music. This includes discipline, respect, self-motivation, and the ability to set goals, creating ways to attain those goals with the help of others. There are no boundaries to what one can do through music and we believe that being a part of the Wadsworth High School Band will create great opportunities in the future.

COMMUNICATION & CONTACT INFORMATION

Remind.com

- Parents and students need to sign-up to receive texts and/or email reminders.
- See the website (www.wadsworthschools.org/band) for instructions.

Mrs. Hire

- Email: dhire@wadsworthschools.org (*This is the best way to reach me*)
- Band Office Phone: 330-335-1400

Band Website

The Wadsworth Band website is where you will find important information, documents, and valuable resources; go to www.wadsworthschools.org/band. A Google calendar is embedded under the calendar tab. All of the dates and times can be found there and are updated regularly.

GRADING POLICY

Grades are based on a 9 week grading period and are evaluated in the following areas:

I. Marching Band

- Marching Band accounts for only $\frac{1}{4}$ of the academic school year.
 - 100 pts. for game participation (points will be deducted for an unexcused absence)
 - 100 pts. for band show participation (points will be deducted for unexcused absence)
 - 100 pts. per song performed on the field
- Most of the grading is about memorizing the music. The philosophy of grading in marching band is that the student who executes all the maneuvers and drills on the field must be able to play the music. Music is the means that we use to learn, perform, and to entertain. It is the means that students learn leadership, teamwork, perseverance, dedication, and commitment.

- Testing: Students may check off song memorization with their section leader only if the song is memorized 100%. If the student cannot play all notes and rhythms correctly, they may check it off with the directors for a percentage. Accommodations will be given to students on an IEP or 504 plan. The directors will work with students on an IEP or 504 to determine how to help and devise a plan to check off. All students must make an effort to check off. If no effort is made or they do not follow their check off plan, they will not receive credit.
- Band is a class that has homework – practicing music (memorizing during marching season). Students are also expected to work on improving tone, technique, rhythmic skills, and style. This is what makes a good musician. The lip muscles (hands for percussionists) need to be “in shape” in order to perform properly. A daily routine is what is recommended for every student to be successful.

II. Concert Band (Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble)

Concert attendance: 100 points

The concert is an evaluation for the daily work done in class. It is equal to an exam that cannot be made up. Attendance is required at ALL scheduled concerts as well as OMEA Large Group Contest (see schedule for dates and times) unless excused by the following criteria:

1. Illness accompanied by a doctor's excuse.
2. Death in the immediate family.
3. Preplanned family absence with **advance** (one month) notification prior to the performance.

Failure to attend a concert may result in the loss of all 100 points.

Unexcused absences include: birthday parties (for anyone), babysitting/working, don't feel like attending, athletic practices, non-WHS games (conflicts between a WHS game/meet and a concert will be worked out), or other events that can be scheduled at other times.

III. Classroom Participation: 5 points per day

This will be evaluated upon the students' effort to actively engage in the learning process and enrich the learning environment for his/her fellow classmates. Students must bring a pencil, music, instrument, and a desire to learn in order to fully participate and earn full credit.

Points will be deducted for:

- No instrument- loss of 5 points
- No music/book- loss of 3 points
- No pencil- loss of 2 points
- Excessive talking/disruptive behavior- loss of 3 points
- Removal from rehearsal- loss of 5 points
- Unexcused/truant absence from school- 5 points

For instruments in repair, points will not be deducted; however, a note is required and the duration of the repair should be of a reasonable amount of time. (Most repairs are completed in 1 week- if a repair should exceed 1 week- ask the store for a loaner instrument)

IV. Playing Experiences: up to 150 points

Playing experiences are tests in which the students will perform a given assignment that will be evaluated using criteria based on the different elements of music (dynamics, rhythm, etc.). Playing experiences may be performed in front of the director, recorded on tape or CD, or submitted via email by electronic grading program.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

By virtue of being a member of the Wadsworth High School Band Program, you have placed an obligation not only to yourself, but to the entire organization. Attendance at ALL concerts, contest, sectionals, and special rehearsals are mandatory. There are very few exceptions which must be cleared by Mrs. Hire in advance.

Some people may think that one missing individual doesn't make a difference, but this is not true. One missing player changes the sound, and set-up of the entire ensemble, which will negatively affect our performance. Likewise, we cannot teach and prepare what is not there, which is why rehearsal attendance is critical. For these reasons, the attendance policy clearly spells out the expectations. Please read and understand these as this constitutes the largest part of your grade, and the biggest emphasis of the class. Every member of the band will be held accountable to this policy.

It is your responsibility to take the concert schedule and plan all your activities, doctor's appointments, dentist appointments, work obligations, etc. accordingly. I recommend you maintain a calendar on your phone that is linked with your family, so everyone can see and know when concerts and other events occur.

Students involved in Wadsworth High School activities are expected to check practice schedules, game/playoff schedules, etc. and address any potential conflicts well in advance of the event. There are certain, specific circumstances in which I may excuse a student from a concert because of a WHS-sanctioned activity pending all appropriate and reasonable venues for resolving the conflict have been exhausted to my satisfaction and in a timely manner.

A schedule of performances, including district band contest, is included in the back of this book. It is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see the website calendar: www.wadsworthschools.org/band.

Please note: students who are auditing at various colleges and universities are expected to schedule auditions around our performances and district band contest.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Participation points may be deducted for not following the items listed below:

Class Rules

- Absolutely NO TALKING when the teacher/staff/leadership is on the podium.
- Only play your instrument during appropriate times as instructed.
- Electronic devices (phones, chromebooks, etc.) are to be kept out of sight unless instructed otherwise.
- BE ON TIME.
- Have all necessary equipment including a working instrument, music, tuners, pencil, reeds, and sticks in every rehearsal.
- No gum, food, or drinks (other than water) permitted.
- Books, cases, and other belongings are not permitted in the rehearsal area (keep them in your instrument cage).

Rehearsal Procedure

- Be in your seat with your instrument and all supplies.
- Have your music in order ready to go.
- Start warming-up on your own until the rehearsal officially begins.
- Warm-up and tuning will begin with the director.

Instrument and Equipment

- Wind players are expected to have spare reeds and a tuner/metronome in each rehearsal.
- Keep your instrument in sound, working order.
- Instruments that are not properly maintained are difficult to perform and may exhibit a poor tone. Keep your instrument in a latched case when not in use. Replace or repair broken cases.
- Be respectful of other people's instruments, school-owned instruments, and private property in the music department. Report any problems to a director immediately.
- Only traditional colored instruments are permitted.

Music

- Put your flip folders, folders and all other music in your cage. Please do not leave your music on the music stand after class has been dismissed.

Daily Attendance Procedures and Policies

- All attendance concerns are to be discussed with Mrs. Hire.

Cheating and Plagiarism

- Students are expected to complete their own work which is why we use video submissions of performance assessments. Please refer to page 41 of the Wadsworth High School Student Handbook for additional information.

UNIFORMS

We are very fortunate to have a professional uniform for our performing ensembles at WHS. Much like a sports team, the purpose of the uniform is to have the audience see one cohesive ensemble or team, and not draw any attention to individuals. It is your responsibility to make certain that you are following our dress code.

Marching: There is a uniform inspection before every performance

- Must have white, tall crew socks, white (washed gloves), Red summer uniform shirt, as well as black shorts – no jeans or cargo shorts allowed under the uniform. This will change as the weather gets colder.
- SHOES: NO polishing shoes after pants are on. Use Magic Eraser on top, polish for the soles. Shoes must be polished at home the night before, not at the school.
- Must HANG UP uniform PROPERLY (students will be shown during practice)
- Raincoats: Must be cared for properly (which includes removing from the hat bag to dry on rainy nights when the student gets home that evening). They can be washed on a gentle cycle if needed and hung to dry. DO NOT put it in the dryer. The raincoat is kept in the student's duffle bag.
- Stud earrings are permitted, no nail polish (natural French manicure is okay), no necklaces, watches, bracelets are permitted. Hair needs to be secured neatly off of the uniform collar.
- Purchasing Gloves: Gloves may be purchased for \$5.00 and will be available prior to every game/performance. Students may use their student account by filling out a "student transfer" form.
Gloves must be washed before every performance.

NOTE:

If a student fails to prepare properly for uniform inspection, he/she will lose 3rd quarter break privileges. If the problem is persistent, he/she will be benched from performing.

Concert:

- You are responsible for dry cleaning the tuxedo or washing the dress on a gentle cycle and hanging it to dry. Tuxedo wearers receive their first bow tie, cummerbund, and black buttons for free but must pay for any replacements. White tux shirts will be ordered and billed accordingly, closer to concert season. Students may purchase their own white tuxedo shirt.
- Hang properly (not in trunk of your car or wadded up in a ball in the corner of your room)
- Tux wearers: Black dress shoes, black socks, plain white t-shirt underneath the tux shirt.
- Dress wearers: Black, closed toe shoes.

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

- Students who do not take care of their assigned instrument may lose the privilege of using it.
- Instruments must be returned to their cases and stored in an assigned storage locker.

INSTRUMENT CAGES

- Please keep your cage clean.
- Books, backpacks, and other school supplies should not be stored in your music cage on a full time basis.
- Food and beverages should never be kept in your cage.
- Your name should be displayed on the outside- nothing else.
- Your marching shoes and hat bags are not to be kept in the cage during the week.

SEATING

Students will prepare an audition piece for placement. The directors will then place students in a chair order according to their performance. All groups will perform at the OMEA district band contest, the holiday, winter, and spring concerts. Baccalaureate and Graduation ceremonies are a combined band. Challenges are at the discretion of the director and may not be done at all. Your best effort is expected at the initial seating audition.

All students are encouraged to take private lessons. The experience that one gains by studying music more intensely is truly priceless.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Every musician in the band program should consider having a private teacher as it dramatically improves performance and musicianship at an individualized level. Wind Ensemble students are highly encouraged to take private lessons due to the technical and musical degree of the music we perform. Please see Mrs. Hire for teacher recommendations.

SECTIONALS

Periodically, we will break into sectional rehearsals both during and/or after school. Sectionals offer a great opportunity to develop and fine-tune segments of our music without the entire band. Whether working with a director or student section leader, it is imperative that everyone pays attention, and strives to improve their parts. Sectional attendance is required.

ELECTRONIC USAGE

Since information posted online may be accessed by anyone in the world, it is important we respect one another's privacy and maintain the copyright laws affiliated with music publishers. While our intentions might seem well, it could misrepresent the individual, group, director, or school.

Negative postings about any of our students, directors, music program, or ensembles may result in disciplinary action. If you find postings, or are aware of such postings, please notify Mrs. Hire.

BAND AWARDS

In May, at our annual band awards, we recognize each student. Students will be given the following participation awards:

1st year: bar pin, band or color guard pin

2nd year: letter, bar pin

3rd year: bar pin

4th year: year pin, bar pin, key chain

WHS 2025-2026 CONCERT SCHEDULE

Check the website calendar for details and up to date information.

2025-2026 PEP BAND SCHEDULE

Pep Band is optional and open to all students. There are no additional rehearsals-we play the music from marching band. Come and have fun!

Meet at 6:00 in the band room to organize and warm-up. We are usually done around 8:30. The list of games can be found on the website calendar.

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

This form must be completed by **Friday, August 29**. It is worth **100** points.

Students: By signing this form, I confirm that I have read the Wadsworth High School Band Handbook. I understand that I am expected to follow these policies throughout the school year. I acknowledge that band is a year-long commitment and agree to abide by the policies stated within to the best of my ability. I have joined the band Remind and have transferred dates to my calendar.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parents/Guardians: I confirm that I have read the Wadsworth High School Band Handbook and my child has my permission to participate in the band program according to the guidelines and policies described within this handbook. I understand that band is a year-long commitment and as a member of the Wadsworth Band, my child is expected to follow these policies throughout the school year to the best of their ability. I have joined the band Remind and have transferred dates to my calendar.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____