

WHITEWRIGHT HIGH SCHOOL

BAND HANDBOOK

2023-2024



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Welcome to the WHS Band Program!! Participation in band is a very positive and rewarding experience. The purpose of this band program is to stimulate the student's growth as a musician, and provide a well-rounded education. Together, we will develop an appreciation for the arts, while experiencing the joy of learning to play a musical instrument. The WHS band solely exists for the betterment of the students, and to foster a love for music.

Please read this handbook carefully. The final page contains a contract that will be signed by both student and parent stating you agree to be a valuable member of the WHS band program, and follow all rules/regulations stated in this handbook.

You are expected to:

- 1. HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE!!!!**
- 2. HAVE FUN!!!!**
- 3.** Arrive to class on time and quickly prepare for rehearsal.
- 4.** Show respect to others. (School property & Band equipment)
- 5.** Bring all materials to class.
- 6.** Participate in all required band functions, including all performances and any extra rehearsals scheduled outside of the school day.

WHITEWRIGHT MUSIC EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

The Whitewright Music Education Philosophy provides the framework for all music education efforts and events within the Whitewright ISD. The music department at Whitewright recognizes that every known civilization has utilized music for satisfying multidimensional human needs/ that music is the aural art form which satisfies the need to respond emotionally to human experiences/ and that through listening, performing, creating and responding to music, aesthetic fulfillment can be achieved. We, therefore, believe that the role of music instruction in the schools is to enhance and expand the cognitive, emotional, social and physical development of students through the integration of music in the teaching/learning process. Furthermore, we believe that the music education curriculum has the following unique and essential responsibilities:

1. Sensitize students to the effects of sound, thereby heightening their aesthetic development;
2. Help students attain proficiency in order that they may become active participants in music;

3. Help students attain a cosmopolitan attitude and multi-cultural perspective, employing all types of music and giving recognition to the value of all types of music.

Whitewright will respond to these responsibilities by generating a music education program to provide an environment which promotes self-worth through the recognition and development of talents, the expansion of knowledge, the development of self-discipline and commitment, the use of creativity, and the application of what is learned. The Whitewright band provides excellent opportunities for students to:

1. Experience self-worth
2. Expand their knowledge of many forms of music
3. Expand their abilities and talents
4. Develop self-discipline and commitment by fulfilling responsibilities
5. Develop creativity through rehearsal and performance

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND CONSEQUENCES

WHS rules and procedures will be followed at all times. If a student chooses to violate these rules, disciplinary actions may include:

- Written assignment (including copying rules or writing reports)
- Work Detail
- Phone calls or conferences with parents
- Involvement of school administrators

For more serious or continued misbehavior, discipline may include removal from the band program.

WHS BAND REQUIRED MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

In addition to their instrument supplies, students are required to purchase:

- Tuner/ Metronome with clip
- Wire stand for home practice
- Foundations for Superior Performance

Flute: cleaning/tuning rod, cleaning cloth

Clarinet: 4 working reeds (Vandoren), Vandoren B45 mouthpiece or Hite Premier mouthpiece, clarinet ligature, cleaning swab, cork grease, reed case

Saxophone: 4 working reeds (Vandoren), Selmer C-Star mouthpiece, alto sax ligature, cleaning swab, cork grease, reed case

Trumpet: Bach 5C, 5B, or 3C mouthpiece, valve oil, tuning slide grease

French Horn: Holton Farkas MDC mouthpiece, rotary valve oil, tuning slide grease

Trombone: Bach 6 1/2 AL mouthpiece, slide cream, water spray bottle, tuning slide grease

Euphonium: Bach 6 1/2 AL mouthpiece, valve oil, tuning slide grease

Tuba: Conn Helleberg 120-S, valve oil, tuning slide grease

Percussion: Bell/Snare Kit with practice pad, Vic Firth concert snare and bell sticks. Some sticks and mallets will be provided by the school for concert purposes

Each student should always come to class with the following:

- ✓ Functioning Instrument
- ✓ Supplies for instrument (reeds, oils, etc.)
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Music
- ✓ Tuner
- ✓ Positive Attitude

Instrument Storage

Shelves are located in the band hall where students will leave their instruments during the school day. These shelves do not have locks, so students should not leave any personal items unattended. Students are required to have name tags on all instruments. These shelves are NOT LOCKERS. **No non-band related items will be stored in them.** Absolutely no food is ever to be left in your shelf.

ELIGIBILITY:

The TEA, UIL, and Whitewright ISD require that students maintain passing grades in ALL classes in order to be eligible for extra-curricular activities. The HS band cannot function to the best of its ability if we are missing members. All classes will have to be passed with a grade of 70 or above to participate. The directors will follow up on any student they feel is in jeopardy of becoming ineligible and may require a parent/student conference in order to fix the problem. **WE ARE A TEAM, AND EACH MEMBER IS VALUABLE!!!**

GRADING POLICY

50% Preparation (having all required materials, taking instrument home each day, remaining on task & actively participating in class, contributing to the success of the band)

50% Performance (Concerts/Contest/Class Tests)

School-owned Instruments:

WISD provides the larger & more costly instruments (French horn, Euphoniums, and Tubas) at a semester rental fee of \$25. It is privilege to use a school-owned instrument and that privilege can be taken away if the student does not take care of the instrument. If a student intentionally or through negligence causes damage to an instrument, then the parent will be billed for the repair/replacement costs. Signing the contract at the end of this handbook also indicates that the student understands this financial obligation, and agrees to pay any damages to an instrument deemed by a band director as outside of the "normal wear and tear." In order to use a school-owned instrument, appropriate paperwork must be completed & the parent must contact a band director.

ALL PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS: ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED

A chief goal in music education is to demonstrate that ability in public. Concerts and contest performances demonstrate publicly the quality of our program. They provide an excellent experience in which teamwork and hard work are vital. As a result, all students are required to participate in all performances, concerts, and contest performances. The following policy will be used for performances:

1. An unexcused absence from a performance or required rehearsal will result in a “zero” in the grade book. This “zero” must be replaced by a written report, and the student will receive a grade no higher than a 70. If during marching season or winter guard a student is absent for a performance or rehearsal, the director has sole discretion on whether or not to remove the student from performing for any period of time or the rest of the season.
2. The second unexcused absence may result in the removal of the student from the band program, and will result in a demotion for students in advanced band.
3. If a student receives an unexcused absence for an extra rehearsal such as a Monday night rehearsal, students may be benched for that week’s football game and/ or contest.
4. If a student is absent for two or more rehearsals during the week it is the director's decision to bench the student for all performances that week.

If a student must be absent from a required band function, a parent must inform a director before the event occurs in order for the absence to be excused, unless it is an emergency. Please put all band dates on your calendar so that conflicts can be avoided. Excused absences include all of the following, School related

extracurricular activities, Wedding, Funerals, and Illness with a doctor's note Upon return.

- Benching: Student is still required to attend and participate in all rehearsals. Student is also required to attend all performances but will not be allowed to perform. Student will be allowed to play in the stands.
- Suspension: Student is still required to attend and participate in all rehearsals but will not be allowed to attend performances or extra band functions.

CONCERT AND CONTEST ATTIRE

Marching Band: 2023-2024 Band Shirt

Black Mesh Shorts

Band Travel Pants

Long Black Socks (at least halfway to the knee)

Marching Shoes

No jewelry, nail polish, or other "individualizing" accessories will be tolerated.

Concert Band: Concert Black

Boys: Black Slacks

Black Long Sleeve Shirt

Black Dress shoes (no street shoes)

Black Socks

Black Tie (optional)

Girls: Black Pants or knee length skirt

Black Blouse

Black Closed-toe shoes

Black tights or hose

FLIP-FLOPS AND JEANS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE!

As a representative group from Whitewright High School, the band must adhere to the Code of conduct of Whitewright ISD. We should all be familiar with this code.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT WILL BE IN EFFECT AT ALL SCHEDULED BAND ACTIVITIES.

Disrespectfulness toward any staff member, parent, volunteer or fellow student will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Students are to remain in designated areas during ALL scheduled band activities. Any departure or absence without parental or staff permission is grounds for permanent dismissal from the program.

**PARENT'S PERMISSION RELEASE AND INDEMNITY FOR
FIELD TRIPS/FOOTBALL GAMES/CONTEST**

I hereby certify that my son/daughter, _____ has my permission to participate in field trips with the Whitewright High School Band during the 2021-2022 school year.

To the best of my knowledge, he/she is physically fit to engage in such activity and is not suffering from any disease or injury.

I agree and do hereby waive and release all claims against Whitewright Independent School District and any teacher, employee and other person engaged in the activities in question and agree to hold them harmless from any and all liability relating to my son/daughter for any personal injury or illness that may be suffered or any loss of property that may occur.

I understand that reasonable measures will be taken to safeguard the health and safety of my son/daughter and that I will be notified in the case of an emergency. In the case of an accident of sickness, I authorize the calling of a doctor or the providing of other medical services.

It is understood that no student will be allowed to participate in any activity until this form is signed by his/her parent/guardian.

Signed at _____, Texas, this
_____ day of _____, 2023.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Home/Work/Cell #'s

Address _____

INFORMATION AND MEDICAL RELEASE FORM

Fill out this form completely and return to the band office. Notify the band office as soon as possible if any changes need to be made to this form.

Student's Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Instrument: _____ Make/Model: _____

Serial #: _____

Home Mailing Address:

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home/Cell Phone: _____

Mother's/Guardian's First Name & Last Name:

Mother's Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Father's/Guardian's First Name & Last Name:

Father's Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Address:

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

Family Doctor: _____

Phone: _____

List any allergies the student has (include drug allergies)

List any medications that are being taken:

List any conditions that may restrict physical activity:

I do hereby give Nathan Chaffin and Kayton Little and to their designees, the authority to seek medical attention for the above named student in the event of an emergency or in any situation that requires medical attention.

We have read the 2023-2024 WHS Band Handbook and fully understand its contents. By signing below, I agree to abide by the rules, regulations and policies here in.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____