



Watauga Middle School Beginning Band Handbook

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Watauga Middle School Bands

*Developing musical excellence through participation in band
Greg McCutcheon and Laurie Engelby, Directors*

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome back to a brand new school year and congratulations on your decision to be a part of the Watauga Middle School Bands. We are very excited about what will certainly be a fantastic year! The Watauga Middle School Band Program has a proud history of accomplishments. It is our responsibility to build upon these successes and set higher standards for the future. We are privileged to have parents, teachers, administrators and a school board that are committed toward having a quality music education program in the Birdville ISD. This handbook is designed to inform you about the expectations, policies and student/parent responsibilities that will result in a successful band program in the years to come. In addition, we are dedicated to helping students grow socially, emotionally, and academically.

Our educational goals are to develop competent musical performers, promote music appreciation, train future Haltom High School Band members, enhance the development of responsibilities as a citizen and foster high-quality self-discipline in members of the Watauga Middle School Bands. Band provides a recreational goal by offering the opportunity for worthwhile use of leisure time, for an emotional outlet, and for social activity with a family of long lasting friends.

The Watauga Middle School Band has had many accomplishments in the past. You represent an outstanding school and community who are very proud and interested in your achievements. We look forward to working together with all students and parents as we strive towards another successful year. If you should have any questions regarding this handbook or should need to contact us for any reason at all, please do not hesitate to email or call.

Let's have a great year!

Greg McCutcheon
Laurie Engelby

General Information

Band Directors

Greg McCutcheon – Gregory.McCutcheon@birdvilleschools.net
Laurie Engelby – Laurie.Engelby@birdvilleschools.net

Band Website

<http://schools.birdvilleschools.net/wms/site/default.asp> (scroll over fine arts and click on band)

Band Hall Phone Number

(817) 547-4841

WMS Fax Line

(817) 581-5369

Area Music Store

Mr. E's Super Center – Bedford Location
(817) 545-1103

Music and Arts Centers

(817) 807-0747

WMS Band Expectations

Band is a group activity that depends upon the collaborative work of many people. The actions of one person will have an effect, either positive or negative, on the entire group. For this reason, we have set expectations and guidelines that everyone must strive to achieve. These expectations and guidelines must be attained so that each person may grow as an individual musician and also make a positive contribution to the entire group.

- Students must attend ALL rehearsals and ALL performances of their ensemble. All students are vital to the success of the ensemble as a whole, and their presence is necessary to prepare for and execute a performance.
- Students share information handouts with their parents.
- All students will be courteous and respectful to their classmates and teachers.
- Never leave your instrument unattended. Students may drop their instruments off at the band hall before their first (1st) period class and pick them up immediately after school.

Classroom Expectations

- Be Respectful
- Be an attentive listener, follow directions the first time they are given
- Respect your property as well as others and their property
- Bring your instrument and all necessary materials to class every day
- Come prepared to make music every day
- Non-band students are not allowed in the band hall
- No Food, Drinks, or Gum* (unless authorized by a teacher during special occasions)

Consequences for violation of the above policies can include: loss of privileges, detentions, teacher/parent conferences, office referrals and removal from the band program.

Rehearsal Expectations

The Watauga Middle School Bands can achieve their fullest potential when all students follow the rehearsal expectations. These expectations are designed to help bring the highest level of professionalism to the band hall. Choosing to not follow these expectations will result in a conduct mark for each offense. Students who continually choose to not meet these expectations may forfeit their chair or band placement.

- Follow directions the first time they are given.
- All students will enter the band hall quietly and in an orderly manner.
- All students will be prepared for rehearsal no later than one minute after the late bell.
- Help maintain a positive rehearsal environment by being attentive, on-task, and respectful of others.
- To get the teacher's attention, raise your hand and wait quietly for a teacher to recognize you.
- All students will dispose of trash, food, gum, and drinks before entering the band hall.
- All students will store their personal belongings and instruments in assigned areas only.
- Always strive towards a professional level of musicianship. Come to rehearsals with all of your music prepared, have all materials at all rehearsals (instrument in working condition, music binder, pencil, accessories), and take pride in your instrument, the band hall, the music, and yourself!

Grading Procedures

Six Week Objective Sheets = 60%

During each grading period, students will be given an objective sheet which will detail the requirements for each student to pass-off (play for a grade). Objectives may include practice logs, scale studies, etudes, technical exercises, rhythmic exercises, concert music excerpts, equipment checks, special projects, etc. Students will attempt to pass-off objectives with a director on a pass/try basis. If a director deems that a student has not met the pass-off standard, then a “try” will be assessed, and the student may attempt to pass-off the objective at a later date. All students will be given the opportunity to pass-off all of the objectives in class at least once. Students requiring several attempts on an objective may need to schedule a time outside of class. A certain number of passed objectives will be due before the third-week progress report of each grading period.

Daily Classroom Grade = 25%

Consists of preparation, effort, and daily musicianship skills

Daily Home Practice = 15%

Will be based on the amount of daily home practice. Beginning the third week of school, parents will sign a practice log each week to verify the amount of home practice. Practice logs are graded on Fridays, but are accepted on Mondays without a late penalty. Tuesday is the last day they will be graded. (30 point deduction)

*An activity, which is included in the course objectives, is considered curricular. Sectionals, rehearsals, clinics, rehearsals and performances are part of the course requirements and are therefore graded activities.

Eligibility

Academic eligibility is a Texas state law (Texas Education Code 33.081) and applies to almost all band performances. As such, band students are subject to the “No Pass, No Play” rule. If a student fails a class on a report card, then the student will be ineligible for ANY extracurricular (off-campus) activities for the following grading period. It is possible for a student to regain eligibility if, at the following progress report date, the student is passing ALL of his/her classes. All students have a responsibility to pass all classes and be eligible for band concerts and contests. Students failing classes place an unwelcome burden upon the other students in the band and the band director to compensate for their absence from an important event. All students play a vital role in our success! Students who fail classes in more than one six-weeks grading period will be placed on a monitored “PASS” program. Parents will be notified if this program applies to their child.

Daily Supplies

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING EVERY DAY: (1) Their instrument, ready to play, (2) music binder, and (3) a sharpened pencil. Students need these supplies whenever they take their seats to begin rehearsal. In addition, students are required to also have the following supplies with them every day, according to their instruments:

Flutes

1. Small rag for cleaning after each use
2. Soft rag for wiping off fingerprints

Oboes and Bassoons

1. At least three good reeds
2. Small container for soaking reeds. An empty 35mm film canister or empty medicine vial work well
3. Reed holder
4. Swab for cleaning after each use
5. Soft rag for wiping off fingerprints

Clarinets and Bass Clarinets

1. At least three good reeds
2. Reed holder
3. Mouthpiece cover
4. Swab for cleaning after each use
5. Cork Grease
6. Soft rag for wiping off fingerprints

Saxophones

1. At least three good reeds
2. Neck strap
3. Reed Holder
4. Mouthpiece cover
5. Swab for cleaning after each use
6. Soft rag for wiping off fingerprints

General Information on Reeds

All reed players must have at least three good reeds at all times.

Recommended brands:

Clarinets – Vandoren 2^{1/2}

Bass Clarinets – Vandoren 2^{1/2}

Saxophones – Vandoren 2^{1/2}

Oboe – Infinity Double Reeds medium soft or medium (if informed by a director)

Bassoon – Rumaldo Saenz Reeds medium soft or medium (if informed by a director)

All reeds are expensive, but these brands seem to last longer than most.

Cornets/Trumpets/Euphonium/Tubas

1. Valve oil
2. Slide grease
3. Soft rag for wiping off fingerprints

Horn

1. Rotary valve oil
2. Slide Grease
3. Soft rag for wiping off fingerprints

(continued.)

Trombones

1. Slide Oil
2. Tuning slide grease
3. Soft rag for wiping off fingerprints

Percussion

1. Stick Bag
2. Sticks
3. Mallets (2 pair)

Instrument Repair

Occasionally, it is necessary for a student's instrument to be put into the shop for repairs. If your child thinks there is something wrong with his/her instrument, make sure that one of the directors has checked it out **BEFORE** you put it in the shop. We can take care of some simple repairs in the Band Hall. If your child's instrument needs to be taken to the repair shop, he/she will be given a permission letter which states that the cost of the repairs will be covered. The instrument will be delivered to our repairmen and returned to the school once it is repaired. Your child's grade will not be affected during the time the instrument is being repaired.

Please do not attempt to repair your child's instrument, as only a trained professional can safely and effectively repair instruments

Trip Policy

The Watauga Middle School Beginning Band will travel on an end of the year trip. Students are highly encouraged, but not required to participate. In order to go on the trip, the students must meet the following criteria:

- Must have the necessary fee in their student account. The fee will be assessed at a later time. Fundraising opportunities will exist to help offset the cost of the trips.
- Must have all fees paid
- Must be academically eligible
- Must have all forms turned in
- Must own a current band shirt
- Students must have attended all required performances/concerts
- Students who are seen as a discipline problem may be removed from eligibility on the trip at the director's discretion. Students who have excessive office referrals, ISS assignments, or who have been an excessive disturbance at previous school functions may be removed. Also, students who are referred to the office by a substitute during band class may become ineligible.
- Refund Policy: A refund request must be submitted in writing to a band director. Refunds will only be given for cash or check payments. Money that was fundraised by the student will remain in the student's account. A deadline for submitting a refund request will be announced in a newsletter and/or e-mail in the spring. No refunds will be offered after this date.

School-Owned Instruments

All students who play a school-owned instrument are required to fulfill a rental commitment of **\$90 or \$10 per month**.

****The directors document the condition of the school-owned instruments at the time they are assigned and checked out to the student. It is vital that the instrument be kept in the same condition as it was at the time of issue. Each student is financially responsible for any damage that occurs during the time it has been issued to him/her.**

Instrument Liability

Students should be bringing their instruments home every evening during the school year and are required to bring their instruments home over any school holiday vacation. At no time is the Watauga Band Department, Watauga Middle School, or Bidville ISD responsible for **ANY** articles that are lost and/or misplaced.

Chair Challenges

A player can move up in his/her chair order by challenging the player immediately ahead of him/her. The Challenger (person challenging) completes a challenge form and has the Challengee (person being challenged) sign the form. Challenge guidelines are:

1. Challenges can be over any music currently in the folder
2. The Challenger picks the music
3. At least two (2) days notice must be given to the Challengee
4. Both players must sign the challenge form
5. Mr. McCutcheon and/or Ms. Engelby will judge and pick the tie-breaker, if needed
6. The person who plays the music best during the challenge, wins
7. If the challengee refuses to sign the challenge form, they lose their chair
8. If a player loses their chair, they get a chance to regain their chair
9. Challenges will stop at least 4 weeks before UIL and one week before concerts (or at the discretion of the directors)

Uniforms

There will be two uniforms used for various occasions at the director's discretion. The first uniform will be the professional/concert dress used for contests and concerts. The second uniform will be the casual dress worn for informal concerts.

Concert Dress

Students are expected to dress professionally at all concerts. **NO** jeans, shorts, flip-flops, etc. will be permitted.

Gentlemen

- Khaki pants or dress slacks
- Appropriate colored socks
- Appropriate shoes (no athletic shoes)
- Collared shirt with a tie

Ladies

- Dress, skirt or dress pants with blouse (must follow school dress code)
- Dress shoes (no athletic shoes)

Casual Dress

Our casual dress will be used for various events. All Band members will wear khaki pants or jeans (sometimes shorts) and their band shirts. Athletic shoes will be allowed with this uniform. Band shirts must be tucked in and all students must have a belt.

Beginner Band Calendar

Thursday, October 7 th	Fundraiser Lock-In	6pm	WMS	School clothes
Friday, December 3 rd	5 th Grade Recruiting Concert*	School Day	WMS	Band T-Shirt
Monday, January 24 th	Candy Bar Fundraiser begins			
Wednesday, January 26 th	Rehearsal for Winter Concert*	3:30-4:30pm	WMS	School clothes
Thursday, January 27 th	Beginning Band Concert*	7pm	WMS	Uniform (Sunday's best)
Friday, April 29 th	Fun Fest @ Sandy Lake**	School Day	Sandy Lake	Band T-Shirt
Saturday, April 30 th	March-a-thon*	12-2pm	FAAC	Band T-Shirt
Saturday, May 14 th	BISD Solo Contest**	Day	Birdville HS	Nice clothes
Thursday, May 19 th	Spring Pops Concert*	7pm	WMS	Uniform (Sunday's best)

* Required

** Must be academically eligible

How to access parent information

CHARMS

BAND * ORCHESTRA * CHOIR

- Log on to www.charmsoffice.com
- Locate the “PARENT/STUDENT LOGIN” section of the web page.
- Login to your child’s program account using the following login:
wataugamsband
- This will bring up the main parent page. This will allow you to look at your child’s program’s **public calendar, event list, handouts and other files**.
- Clicking on an event on the calendar brings up the details for that event, such as times, attendance requirements and equipment/uniform necessities. Clicking on “event list” puts all of the calendar information in a list form for easy printing.
- When you enter your child’s ID NUMBER, _____ another more detailed screen appears with even more options to view your student’s uniform assignments, music assignments, financial records, forms and inventory. Enter your child’s ID FIRST – then you may create your own, unique password by clicking on the “**keys** icon”
- Two areas in which you can help the director maintain his/her records:
 - **Student information form** – if the director has allowed it, you may help make changes to your child’s **student information page** (such as updating phone numbers and email addresses if they change) to help the teacher communicate with you more effectively.
 - **Credit card payments for fees, trips and deposits to your student’s account**. If the director has created a **PayPal account** for the booster club or school activity account, you may pay for your child’s fees or trips easily with a credit card.
- Most importantly, the parent page assists both you and the teacher to communicate with each other.

Chaperone Opportunities

There are many times during the school year when chaperones are needed. If you would like to help out the Band by chaperoning please check below. **No commitments need to be made at this point.** This will simply add you to our phone list for chaperones.

_____ **YES!** I would like to be a chaperone for the band.

Chaperone Name(s) _____

The best time to contact me is _____

- Please be sure to go on the BISD website and fill out the volunteer application. This **MUST** be completed in order to chaperone. This link is located on the left hand side of the BISD website under quick links or you can type in the following:
<https://www.birdville.k12.tx.us/cf/volunteer/index.cfm>

Band Contract

Participation in the BISD band programs require: regular school attendance, attendance at extra rehearsals, clinics and performances, and maintenance of personal instruments and school-owned property.

Please complete this page and return the band handbook, a director will collect this form.

Students and Parents acknowledge and accept these responsibilities when placing their signature on this form.

We have received, reviewed, and understand the policies and guidelines in the Watauga Middle School Band Handbook. We understand that the directors may photograph/video at performances, social events and rehearsals for recruitment and student enrichment purposes and to build pride in its organization. The media may be placed in a public forum.

Student Name (please print)

Parent Name (please print)

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Parent Information

Parent Name(s)_____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Home Phone_____

Work Phone_____

Parent e-mail_____

Birdville ISD Bands

Medical Information/Travel Permission Form

Student Name (Last, First) _____ Grade _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____ Home Phone Number (____) _____

Name of Parents or Guardians _____
(mother) (father)

Mailing Address _____
(street or P.O. Box number) City Zip

Mother's Work Number (____) _____ Father's Work Number (____) _____

Parent's Email Address _____

If parents cannot be reached in an emergency, please call (**two** names):

1) _____ 2) _____
(name) (phone) (name) (phone)

Please note any medical or physical conditions that could affect participation in band. _____

Please list any allergies to foods, medications or other items. _____

Please list any medications taken on a regular basis. _____

Please provide the following information so that we may treat your child in the event of a medical emergency.

Name of Family Doctor: _____ Phone (____) _____

Name of Family Health Insurance Company _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Policy Number _____

My child has permission to travel with the Birdville ISD Bands to any and all events during the school year and to participate in all activities associated with the band program. In case of illness or accident, I hereby authorize a representative of the Birdville Independent School District (my agent) to take my child to the nearest doctor, clinic, hospital or health care provider for immediate medical attention and to consent to any x-ray, examination, anesthetic, medical, dental or surgical diagnosis or treatment and hospital care, to be rendered to my child under the general or special supervision and on the advice of a dentist, physician or surgeon duly licensed under proper authority. My Agent shall further have permission to ask questions, collect information, receive reports and diagnoses, and to hold and possess such information on my behalf before, during, and after such treatment. I further hold my Agent harmless from any such acts or treatment while my child is under his or her care. I assume responsibility for any medial expenses and costs of emergency medical transportation or other necessary charges or expenses. Agents shall be the sponsoring Band Director or Directors of the event.

Date _____

(signature of parent or guardian)

(printed name of parent or guardian)

BAND TRIPS

4/29 – Sandy Lake Amusement Park