

Wilsonville High School Instrumental Music Handbook



Welcome to the Wilsonville High School Band program! I am looking forward to working with you this school year and making some great music.

Please take a minute to read through this packet, as it contains much information regarding curriculum, rehearsal procedures, concerts and athletic games, grading policy, school instrument usage, etc.

I'm really excited about what lies ahead for us, from great rehearsals and performances, to new musical knowledge, to wonderful and lasting relationships.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me through the school email. My address is: daviesc@wlwv.k12.or.us.

Sincerely,
Chad Davies

Performing Groups

Concert Band

This ensemble is open to students grades 9-12. The students of this band will study and perform a variety of concert band literature. The required performances are 3-4 home concerts, Graduation (except seniors!) and 1-2 Band festivals. All students are expected to participate in the Pep band. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble festival and study privately.

Symphonic Band

This ensemble is an auditioned ensemble open to students grades 10-12. The students of this band will study and perform a variety of challenging literature at a high level. The required performances are 3-4 home concerts, Graduation (except seniors!) and 2-3 Band festivals. All students are expected to participate in the Pep band. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble festival and study privately.

String Orchestra

This ensemble is open to students grades 9-12. The students of this orchestra will study and perform a variety of string orchestra literature. The required performances are 3-4 home concerts, and one orchestra festival. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble festival and study privately.

Chamber Orchestra

This ensemble is an auditioned ensemble open to students grades 9-12. The students in the orchestra will study and perform a variety of challenging literature at a high level. The required performances are 3-4 home concerts, Graduation (except seniors!) and 2-3 Orchestra festivals. All students are expected to participate in the Full Orchestra. Students are also encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble festival and study privately.

Full Orchestra

This ensemble is open to students grades 9-12. Students must be enrolled in another instrumental ensemble: absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS. The Full Orchestra will meet every Friday morning from 7:30-8:25. The study and performance of great classical and contemporary music is the main curriculum, but small amounts of theory and history are included in rehearsal. Students are expected to practice and do extensive listening to classical and contemporary music outside of class. The required performances are 3-4 home concerts, 2-3 festivals, and other various events.

Jazz Band

This is an auditioned ensemble including students grades 9-12. In addition, Students must be enrolled in another instrumental ensemble: absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS. Rehearsals are before school, 4 days a week and punctuality is mandatory.

A variety of styles from traditional to contemporary music are covered. All students are expected to do a great deal of listening and participate in the study of improvisation during and outside of rehearsals. The required performances are 3-4 home concerts, 2-3 festivals, and other various events.

Open Jazz

Open Jazz is a group that meets one morning a week to study and learn how to play Jazz. It is open to grades 9-12 and can include any instrument. Students must be enrolled in another instrumental ensemble: absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS. A variety of styles from traditional to contemporary music are covered. All students are expected to do a great deal of listening and participate in the study of improvisation during and outside of rehearsals. The required performances are 3-4 home concerts.

Pep Band

All band students are combined to make up the Pep Band. This band is perhaps the “most heard” ensemble Wilsonville has to offer, due to large crowds at football and basketball games. The Pep band plays all home football games, and most home basketball games. Because of the large community audience, it is expected that unless students have direct conflicts with other activities, students attend pep band performances. We want to be sure to represent our band program with pride and the best music we can make. Students will get a schedule of when we will perform at basketball games.

Because of our outstanding athletic tradition at Wilsonville High School, playoffs do happen. When this occurs, the Pep band is expected to perform. As each playoff situation unfolds, students will be informed as to pep band needs, location, times, etc. Generally, things are dealt with one game at a time.

Wildcat Basketball Band

This is a small, auditioned Pep Band that generally plays at the Tuesday Basketball Games in January and February. Students in this group learn extra music and commit to being at all the required games. This band will be auditioned in December.

Pit Orchestra

Our pit orchestra performs in collaboration with our choir and drama department in the Musical Production for the year. The musical will be in the Fall, and the instrumentation depends on the requirements of the selected Show. Auditions for this group will be in September.

Extra Opportunities

Solo/Ensemble and Chamber Groups

There are several opportunities for students to participate as a soloist or in small chamber music ensembles. This includes the OMEA District 14 festival, the OSAA State Championship, and opportunities to perform at concerts and in the community. Although these are not graded activities, they are highly rewarding experiences for all students. The musical growth and performance skills that are gained are absolutely invaluable.

Honor Bands and Orchestra

The All-State Honors Ensembles for instrumentalists include the All-State Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Symphony Orchestra, and Jazz Band. These ensembles are made up of the top music students from around Oregon. You can get audition music from Mr. Davies.

The All-Northwest Honor Band and Orchestra are open to audition every other year. This group is a regional Honor Group consisting of musicians from a six state area (OR, WA, ID, MT, WY, AK). While exceptionally challenging, making an audition tape is a great way to enhance your performance level and to see how you measure up against the best high school musicians in the Pacific Northwest.

The Western International Band Clinic (WIBC) is an annual music teachers conference in Seattle every November. The WIBC Honor Bands (4 groups of approximately 150 players each) provide an honor band experience for high school musicians. These groups are conducted by a panel of international directors, offering a unique performance event. Audition materials are available online, or check with Mr. Davies for the specific requirements on your instrument.

School Instruments

The school has a very limited number of instruments available for students to use. Most of these are larger instruments. There is no charge or rental fee for the use of these instruments, but extreme care of these instruments is a must; the current repair budget is extremely limited. As of the beginning of the year, all of these instruments are in good working order. Any repair work that may ensue during the course of the year needs to be taken care of by that particular student as soon as the problem is discovered. If you have any needs regarding these instruments, please contact me right away to make arrangements.

Sheet Music

Sheet music, technique books and folders are provided, but it is expected that excellent care is taken to preserve these materials. If music is not returned or damaged to the point where it needs to be replaced, students will be charged \$1 per page. Lost books will be billed at the replacement cost for the lost item. These funds will be used to purchase new music.

Concert Attire

Students are expected to come to concerts ready to perform. This includes an appropriate code of dress. Students will be checked out a Tux or Dress to use, and will turn them at the end of the year. These uniforms are to be used for school music performances only, as they belong to our music department and will be used for many years.

- Boys wear Tuxedo pants, jacket, white tux shirt, and black bow tie. Students need to provide black shoes and socks.
- Girls wear a black band dress. Students need to provide black shoes and socks.

Other Uniforms

Music department t-shirts

All students will purchase a band T-shirt. This will act as our casual uniform for trips, casual performances and sometimes for Pep Band and Jazz Band. These shirts are also available for purchase for friends, family and our loyal fans!

Performance Policy

PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED ACTIVITIES!

Band is a performing art. Each performing group spends many hours of group rehearsal and each student practices on their own. The performance not only acts as the summative assessment of all of that work and learning, the act of performing is itself an integral part of the learning process in a performing arts class. The unique circumstance of performing in a concert with an audience is not an activity that can be duplicated or made up with a different kind of activity. Because successful band performances take many weeks to prepare and each member of the ensemble is so very reliant on those around them, performance at concerts is not simply a matter of an individual student's grade, it is a matter of respect to those around you and to the ensemble as a whole. It is upon these principles that our performance policy is based.

An unexcused absence from a performance will lower your grade substantially. Because you cannot recreate this assignment at a later date, you WILL NOT be allowed to make up those points. The performance category grade for the class is worth 25%. An unexcused absence from any performance will result in a zero for the performance score.

To avoid this, if you have to miss a performance, you will need to fill out and have a parent sign a **Missed Performance Form** at least 1 month prior to the performance date. The note must give the specific reason for missing the performance. This will make your absence from that performance excused and therefore you will have the right to make-up the performance.

The only exception to this rule is in case of extreme family emergencies or severe illness. If you have a family emergency or if you become seriously ill, you will need to fill out a **Missed Performance Form** and bring it to me on the day you return to school.

If you do miss a performance and you are excused, you must satisfactorily complete the following make-up assignments. **Make-up assignments are due by the end of the current grading period.** It is your responsibility to get your excused notes and your make-up assignments in on time. Failure to make up an excused absence will result in No-Credit for that performance and will lower your grade.

Performance Make-up Assignment:

1. A performance of selected parts from the concert for the teacher. Your performance will be evaluated using the same rubric as a playing test. This performance will be done outside of class time.
2. Listen to a recording of the entire concert and complete a performance adjudication form for each of the ensembles that performed.

Learning Extension Activity Suggestions

Below are some examples of activities you can do to earn LEA points.

Performance Activities

- Perform a solo or in a small ensemble for a community group, church service, or public event (1pt)
- Being a member of PYP, MYS, or other youth music group (3 pts per semester)
- Being a regular member of a worship band (3 pts per semester)
- Perform at District Solo/Ensemble contest (2pts each)
- Perform at State Solo/Ensemble contest (4pts)
- Audition for WIBC, All-State, or All-Northwest (1pt)
- Audition for College admissions and scholarships (1pt each)
- Participate in WIBC (2pts), All-State (4pts), or All-Northwest (5pts)
- Play in pep band (1pt each)
- Perform in the WHS pit orchestra for a musical (6pt for the full run)

Research Activities

Reports must be at least two typed pages and follow the MLA Documentations standards which include 12pt times new roman, double-spaced. All references music be cited.

- Research and write a report about your instrument, a famous musician, composer, piece of classical or jazz music or musical time period (1pt).

Listen Activities

Performance adjudications need to accompany proof of attendance.

- Attend an outside of school concert (any genre) (1pt each)
- Attend a school concert that you are not performing in (1pt each)

Musical Advancement Activities

- Write a piece of music
- Transcribe and memorize a solo from a recording
- 1 point for every 4 hours of recorded practice time (practice journal required)
- Weekly private lessons on your band or orchestra instrument or piano (1pt per 4 lessons. Lesson journal required)

Leadership and Teaching Activities

- Give weekly lessons on your instrument (1pt per 4 lessons. Lesson journal required)
- Be a Band Aide.

Grading Breakdown

Your percentage in class will be based on your scores on playing tests and written assignments, rehearsals, performances, and Learning Extension Activities (LEAs). You will start the term with 100% in all categories.

Grading Percentages:

Rehearsals 25%

Students will receive a rehearsal score for every two weeks. There will be 3 points available for every rehearsal.

Performances 25%

Concert and festival scores will reflect an assessment of both individual and the ensemble's progress towards the applicable standards and their achievements as performers. They will also reflect their learning as analytical listeners. As such students must stay for the entire concert.

LEA points 20%

Students must complete 6 Learning Extension Activities per semester. A wide range of activities are available.

The amount of LEA points received per activity depends on the nature of the activity. Please see the LEA record sheet for details.

Students that complete more than 6 activities in the first semester can choose to "roll" those points forward to the second semester.

Playing Tests and Written Assignments 30%

Individual skill assessments will be done both in class and recorded to be turned in. These assignments are done to evaluate student's technical abilities, foster performance confidence, teach performance practices and give immediate feedback about student's progress as a complete musician. If a student is not satisfied with their score, they are welcome to retake it as many times as they wish in the term it was assigned to achieve a higher score. Each student will have an assigned day for their in-class playing tests. Students must try on their assigned day to earn the right to retake the test. **Late playing tests may not be made up. If students have excused absences on the day of their test, they will be asked to play when they return to class.**

***Rehearsal Preparation**

Regarding home practice, a minimum of 2 hours per week is suggested for most students. Anything less and the student will not improve tone quality, technique or endurance. "Serious" music students should practice a minimum of 4-7 hours a week, due to the nature of some of the material covered in advanced ensembles, or in preparation for solo/ensemble festivals, auditions, etc.

Each student is issued a technique book which contains long tone and lip slur exercises, major and minor scales and arpeggios, and short etudes. Some very focused and quality time should be spent on this material at the beginning of each practice session. In addition, students are expected to have the music we are working on in class prepared ahead of time, as much as possible. This will make rehearsals a lot more efficient and certainly more fun.

Band/Orchestra Permission Form 2019-2020

Name of Student _____

School WHS _____

Permission for School Field Trips

In order for my child, a minor, to take part in and receive the advantages of a program planned and sponsored by West Linn-Wilsonville Oregon School District, Clackamas County, Oregon, I hereby give permission for him/her to participate in any or all of the trips included in the instrumental music program of Wilsonville High School for the 2019-2020 school year as outlined in the handbook.

I further acknowledge that transportation will be provided by the School District as is approved by the Superintendent.

I grant permission for my child to be photographed or video/audio taped in conjunction with these activities/performances.

I authorize West Linn-Wilsonville Oregon School District and its employees to secure the services of a physician or hospital in the event of an accident or illness, and I assume responsibility for the expenses and will provide repayment of these costs.

Signed _____
(Parent/Guardian)

(Date)

(Address)

(Emergency Phone)

We have reviewed the Wilsonville Instrumental Music Handbook and agree to be responsible for the information contained therein.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)