

# Westfield High School Bands

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## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Interest in and commitment to the program.
- Acceptance of all program-related responsibilities, including:
  - Preparation of assigned parts for all musical selections in the repertoire.
  - Completion of all playing or written assignments as directed.
  - Knowledge of scales, rudiments and exercises as assigned.
  - Leadership responsibilities where appropriate.
- Consistent effort to fulfill all requirements as listed in the grade guidelines.
- Attendance at rehearsals & sectionals.
- **Perfect attendance at all performances.**
- Proper behavior in rehearsal and public settings at all times.
- Appreciation and consideration for all music groups at public events.
- Respect and consideration for all students, directors and parents associated with the Westfield High School Bands.
- Adherence to all School and District policies regarding behavior and conduct.

## **ATTENDANCE**

*The emphasis on attendance and punctuality in performance organizations is a reflection of the corporate learning nature of such classes. Additionally, students demonstrate respect for their peers as well as the activity through their punctuality and reliability.*

- Students are expected to attend all class rehearsals punctually. Any absences must be excused according to school procedures. Unexcused absences and tardiness will result in a lowered quarter grade.
- Students will be given ample advanced notice for any after-school sectionals or rehearsals. Such rehearsals are considered a part of course requirements, and attendance is required.
- **Attendance at all performances is required. An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a lowered quarter grade and may result in loss of membership in the performance organization.**

## **ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

- The Westfield High School Bands present three concert series (on schedule) annually. **All three bands will attend the CJMEA Region II Concert Band Festival the week of March 19-21, 2019.** Additional performances are often requested of the Wind Ensemble and Jazz Bands.
- All students are **strongly** encouraged to pursue private instruction on their instrument. A private teacher list is available on the band website: [www.westfieldhsbands.org](http://www.westfieldhsbands.org)
- All students, particularly those in the Wind Ensemble, are encouraged to audition for Region Band, which takes place on Saturday December 8, 2018 at JP Stevens High School. Registration procedure will be covered in class in late September. The solo list is available on the band website and students should be working on solos now.
- Selected bands will have the opportunity to participate in spring travel and/or competitive events.

# PERFORMANCE DRESS GUIDELINES

The Westfield High School Bands have an established uniform dress policy for all performances. These guidelines have been established to improve the concert appearance and etiquette of the ensembles. Specified guidelines must be followed in order to perform with these ensembles. Students who do not meet the below dress guidelines will not be permitted to perform. These situations will be treated as an unexcused absence from a performance, which will affect the students' grade as outlined in the grade guidelines.

## *WHS Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Bands*

### **Ladies**

- Black top or blouse (must have sleeves that cover the shoulder). ***This should be a conservative, professional look.*** No low necklines. Long sleeves are encouraged.
- Black ***dress pants.*** NO jeans, corduroys, capri pants, exercise pants, sweat pants, etc. These must be formal loose fitting dress pants.
- Black dress shoes (must be low heeled) – Absolutely no sneakers or flip-flops.

### **Gentlemen**

- Black collared, button-down dress shirt. Shirts must be tucked in.
- Black dress pants (No jeans, khakis, etc) with black belt.
- Black dress shoes – Absolutely no sneakers.
- Black dress socks.
- ***Navy blue is not acceptable.***

## **WIND ENSEMBLE**

### **Ladies**

- Black dress from Southeastern Apparel (ordered through WHS Music Department).
- Black dress shoes (must be low heeled) – Absolutely no sneakers or flip flops.
- Stockings (if worn) must be of a nude or black shading.

### **Gentlemen**

- Black tuxedo from Southeastern Apparel (ordered through WHS Music Department).
- Black dress shoes – Absolutely no sneakers.
- Black socks.
- Black bowtie.
- Black cummerbund.
- No studs or cufflinks.

*Dress at all WHS Bands performances should be uniform and professional.  
If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Vitale or Mr. Sindorf.*

# GRADE GUIDELINES

Many factors contribute to the success of a superior band program. The directors of the Westfield Bands consider individual performance and group relationships to be the most important criteria for student evaluation.

Students' playing experience, musical background, opportunity for private lessons and good equipment vary too widely to allow performing ability to be the main factor in determining a grade. Working in daily rehearsals, preparation at home, working effectively with other group members, and observing good rehearsal procedures are qualities that every member can achieve in order to insure a high grade. Students will be evaluated on their individual progress based on the relationship of their ability to their performance, their ability to work effectively and cooperatively in group settings, and their observance of proper rehearsal procedures. Students are not graded solely on how well they play or on how high they sit in their section. Periodic evaluation of individual performance and other written material may be required. Students are expected to be prepared for class at all times. Students will receive a letter grade for classroom work on a regular basis. Grades are available on the Genesis parent portal.

## INDIVIDUAL FACTORS TO BE EVALUATED

### I. Rehearsal Techniques and Procedures (50% of quarterly grade)

Students are expected to be attentive and cooperative in daily rehearsals. Students should have the correct music and have equipment in proper playing condition at all times. Proper posture and playing position should be strictly observed. Concentration level should be extremely high while playing and talking should occur only at the appropriate times. Musical instructions should be clearly understood and implemented immediately. Students are expected to mark parts when necessary and treat all music and equipment with respect. Students must have a pencil in class at all times. Students are expected to work effectively with the director and with classmates.

### II. Daily Practice, Recording Assignments, Playing Assignments, and Written Assignments (25% of quarterly grade)

It is recommended that Concert and Symphonic Band students spend a minimum of 20 minutes a day practicing outside of class and Wind Ensemble members spend a minimum of 30 minutes a day practicing outside of class, or the amount of time necessary to accomplish the performance requirements of their particular ensemble. This outside of class time practice must be evident in daily rehearsals. Students are encouraged to study privately to maximize individual potential. Periodically, students will be asked to perform technique exercises or repertoire through in-class hearings or recorded assignments.

### III. RELATIONSHIP OF ABILITY TO PERFORMANCE (25% of quarterly grade)

Students will prepare, attend, and perform for all scheduled performances for their ensemble.

**Students must make every effort to attend scheduled outside of class rehearsals.**

**All performances are mandatory. Excuses** must be in writing and **approved at least four weeks prior** to the performance, except in the case of an emergency. Students must act as a good representation of the WHS Band program while on trips, at performances, or while attending any WHS Band sponsored event.

***Any changes to rehearsal or performance schedules will be communicated via email well in advance. All current rehearsal and performance dates can be found on the WHS Bands Calendar located on our website: [www.westfieldhsbands.org](http://www.westfieldhsbands.org)***

# Westfield High School Bands

*A GREAT time to try another instrument!  
A great way to help make our band sound better!*

Every year, some students switch to a new instrument in order to help correct the balance of our ensembles. If our ensemble has too many high instruments and not enough low, some people need to switch instruments. If not, we will sound shrill and out of tune!

Switching instruments not only helps the group, but it is also a fun opportunity for you to gain new skills! It can be even more fun if you learn a less common, more in-demand instrument. Having skills on a less common instrument may make you an “in demand” player in the future. It might even help you get a scholarship for college! In general, bands always need low instruments such as tuba, bassoon, and sometimes bass clarinet and baritone sax. Sometimes bands also need oboes and french horns. **You must have solid skills on your first instrument in order to succeed on a new instrument, and you must be willing to put in extra practice time in order to catch up.** Free, weekly lessons will be available for any students choosing to switch to an instrument of need.

If we need:	Consider switching if:	Comments
Tuba	You play brass or flute	Very loose embouchure; VITAL for good band sound. Good tuba players are always in demand - could lead to college scholarships (you don't have to be a music major - just play in a college group). Reads BASS clef.
Bassoon	You play any woodwind, especially clarinet.	Extremely important instrument - need to take lessons. Good bassoon players are always in demand - could lead to college scholarships (you don't have to be a music major - just play in a college group). Reads BASS clef
Bass Clarinet	You play clarinet	Exactly the same fingering as the clarinet; looser embouchure. Reads TREBLE CLEF
Baritone Sax	You play sax	Exactly the same fingering as other saxes; looser embouchure. Reads TREBLE clef.
Euphonium /Trombone	You play trumpet	Good to switch to if you have trouble playing high notes on the trumpet. Reads BASS clef.
French Horn	You play trumpet	Very import for a good band - should take lessons; trumpet players often do very well on French Horn. Good horn players are always in demand - could lead to college scholarships (you don't have to be a music major - just play in a college group). Reads TREBLE clef.
Oboe	You play any woodwind instrument	Very unique. Instrument for unique, intelligent people - need to take lessons and be ready to work hard. Reads TREBLE clef.

# Westfield High School Bands

550 Dorian Road  
Westfield, NJ 07090  
(908) 789-4500 x4551

Dear Student Musician and Parents;

*Please read the following statement carefully, sign below and return to your instructor by Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.*

I have read the WHS Bands Syllabus thoroughly and will abide by the rules, regulations, and policies as set forth. I have read and understand the dress guidelines for my ensemble. *I fully understand what is expected of me and will work diligently to be a positive, contributing member of the Westfield High School Band Program.*

I agree to attend the following scheduled performances that pertain to my ensemble(s). I have read and understand the attendance policy and that performance attendance directly affects my grade in this course. I understand that the success of the group is dependent upon each individual upholding his/her responsibility to the ensemble by attending the listed performances. I also understand that proper concert etiquette is part of the educational process. In fairness to all groups performing, students are expected to remain for the entire concert.

**December 13, 2018, Thursday @ 7:00 pm**

*Location: WHS Auditorium*

**Band Winter Concert**

*All Concert Bands*

**January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Wednesday @ 7:00 pm**

*Location: WHS Auditorium*

**District Band Concert**

*Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, & Band Council Only*

**March 13-17, 2019**

*Location: Indianapolis, IN*

**Music for All National Concert Band Festival**

*Wind Ensemble Only*

**March 19-21, 2019, Day and time TBA\***

*Location: TBA*

**NJ Region II Concert Band Assessment**

*All Concert Bands*

**June 6, 2019, Thursday @ 7:30 pm**

*Location: WHS Auditorium*

**Percussion Ensemble Concert**

*All Percussion Classes Only*

**June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Monday @ 7:30 pm**

*Location: WHS Auditorium*

**Band Spring Concert**

*All Concert Bands*

*\*Each band will be assigned 1 night to perform at the state assessment. The Region administration usually releases a schedule in late January/early February. This is the state musical assessment for high school bands and is something all of the WHS ensembles are working towards throughout the school year. We ask that you please do not make any plans for the dates indicated until we have final dates and times for each ensemble.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
*(student signature)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print your name legibly)*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
*(parent/guardian signature)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print your name legibly)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(date)*