

Wadsworth Middle School Band Handbook

Wadsworth Middle School

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Instrumental Music Philosophy

The goal of the Wadsworth Middle 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 Middle School Band will create great opportunities in the future.

Ensembles offered at WMS

7th and 8th Grade Band

The 7th and 8th grade bands are the two primary groups which Wadsworth students learn the fundamentals of instrumental music in their perspective grades. The groups perform four concerts a year and students are encouraged to perform in the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble event in the spring. In this class, students are given assignments, will be regularly assessed through out the year, and given a letter grade for every nine week grading period.

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Ensemble meets after school and performs the literature of the jazz and “pop” genre. Any student currently in the 7th or 8th grade band who plays trumpet, trombone, saxophone, bass guitar, piano, or drums may audition to be a part of this ensemble. It is an exciting ensemble that will offer students a chance to play music that is different from the concert band music. Auditions will be held in October.

Pep Band

Pep band is open to all students currently in the Middle School Instrumental Music Program who wish to perform music at our middle school sporting events. The group rehearses after school and performs at pep rallies and a MS football game.

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event

Solo and Ensemble enables students the opportunity to perform as a soloist or within a small ensemble. Students prepare throughout the winter and perform for highly qualified band directors who in return will offer constructive comments on the student’s performance. All Students are encouraged to participate in the Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event if possible.

Evaluation

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

I. Concert attendance: 100 points

The concert is an evaluation for the daily work done in class. It is equal to an exam that can not 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 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), baby sitting/working, don't feel like attending, or other events that can be scheduled at other times.

II. Classroom Participation: 4 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 4 points

No music/book- loss of 2 points

No pencil- loss of 2 points

Excessive talking/disruptive behavior- loss of 2 points

Removal from rehearsal- loss of 4 points

Unexcused/truant absence from school- 4 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)

III. 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 directors and/or recorded on tape or CD.

IV. Written & "At Home" Assignments: up to 75 points

Written assignments and projects will be assigned to students that may require them to perform for their "at home" audience.

Dress and Attire for Concerts

WMS is very proud of all of our performing ensembles and expects our student to uphold the pride we feel by dressing appropriately for our concerts. All Students will need to wear **black** pants, **white** dress shirt or blouse (for ladies) and dress shoes (athletic shoes are not appropriate). **NO JEANS!** Gentlemen will wear a tie. Please come well groomed, looking like young professionals for the performances.

Private Lessons

Private lesson teachers tailor a regiment that is specific to your developing needs as a musician. Students enrolled in private lesson study accelerate their musical development and become better players. If you need help finding a good private lesson teacher, ask the other students in your section, or see the director for recommendations.

Equipment

Students need to have their equipment in good working order. This means to have instruments working well and having fresh reeds, valve oil, slide cream, swabs, etc. Please make sure everything is in order for students to be successful in band.

Reeds: A minimum of 3 reeds must be kept at all times.

Clarinet- 7th grade: 2.5-3 Vandoren or medium soft to medium LaVoz;

Clarinet- 8th grade: 3-3.5 Vandoren or medium to medium-hard La Voz

Saxophone- All- 2.5- 3 Vandoren

Brass: Valve oil and slide cream

Percussion: Percussionists need to have a good pair of snare sticks (no excessive tape, but marked so you can identify yours), two pair of mallets (hard acrylic and medium hard yarn)

Additional supplies: different mallets, stick bag, are optional.

Classroom Rules for Instrumental Music

1. RESPECT ALL (G5: Be Respectful)
Treat other students and teachers with kind consideration. This also includes treating the classroom and school-owned instruments with great care so they can be preserved for other Wadsworth students in the future.
2. TALK ONLY WHEN GIVEN PERMISSION (G5: Follow Directions)
Always raise your hand to speak and speak to others kindly.
3. PLACE GUM IN THE TRASH CAN AS YOU ENTER THE ROOM (G5: Be Responsible)
4. DO NOT TOUCH OTHER'S BELONGINGS! (G5: Keep hands/feet to self)
5. ALWAYS COME PREPARED! (G5: Be Ready)

In order to be the best musician you can be, you must come prepared daily with your instrument, music, and a pencil. To be a contributing member of the band you must practice at home. You should be practicing 15-45 minutes, 4-5 days a week. Practicing is the best way to come prepared to class.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal: The students in an instrumental ensemble will learn to perform, understand, and value music through multiple music behaviors:

Objectives: The students will be able to:

Perform Music:

1. Demonstrate improved skill at reading and performing music and growth in ones' musicianship
2. Play with a clear and resonant tone quality that blends with the ensemble
3. Play with accurate pitch and good intonation
4. Play with correct phrasing and appropriate expression
5. Correctly interpret pitches, rhythms, and other notational symbols through playing
6. Play accurately an appropriate part in an ensemble
7. Play a varied repertoire of instrumental literature
8. Demonstrate good posture, embouchure, breath control, and articulation
9. Respond sensitively to conducting gestures

Understand Music:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of music notation, major and minor scales, and arpeggios
2. Discuss the historical and cultural background of the works performed
3. Analyze the works performed by the ensemble in terms of the elements of music
4. Describe the forms and structure of the works being rehearsed
5. Evaluate ensemble, section, and personal performance

Value Music:

1. An enjoyment in playing their instruments
2. A commitment to playing well
3. A respect for all types of music
4. A respect for the skilled performance of music
5. A personal aesthetic response to the music performed and heard

WMS 2009-2010 Concert/Rehearsal Schedule

Please mark your calendars now to avoid conflict!

- September 17 (Thursday) 5:15-7:00.....8th Grade Marching Night Rehearsal
WHS Practice Field- behind HS- drop off between Steiner and HS
- September 18 (Friday) 6:00 PM.....8th Grade Night with the HS Marching Band
Wadsworth Stadium (8th Grade only)
- December 9- After school- 4:30.....Combined 7th Grade Concert Rehearsal
WMS Band Room or WMS Gym
- December 10- 7:00 PM.....MS Band Holiday Concert
WMS Gymnasium
- March 1- After school- 4:30.....Combined 7th Grade Concert Rehearsal
WMS Band Room
- March 2- 7:00 PM.....MS Winter Concert
WMS Gymnasium
- March 27- Time: TBA.....OMEA Solo & Ensemble AE
Site: TBA (optional)
- April 15- 7:00 PM.....Wadsworth Jazz Festival
O.J. Work (Jazz Ensemble)
- May 1-2 (Saturday) Time: TBA.....Wadsworth Fine Arts Festival
WMS (Jazz Ensemble)
- May 3- After school- 4:30.....Combined 7th Grade Concert Rehearsal
WMS Band Room or WMS Gym
- May 4- 7:00 PM.....MS Spring Concert
WMS Gymnasium
- May 14 or 15 (Fri or Sat) Time: TBA.....OMEA Large Group AE
North Canton MS or Crestwood MS (Mantua, OH)

Band Contract



*Detach this form, sign it, and return to band by Friday, Sept. 4. **It is worth 25 points.***

I have read the entire handbook and understand the expectations, policies, and procedures that have been set to provide the best music education for each member of the Wadsworth Middle School Band. As a member of the band I agree to abide by these policies, and contribute my talents to the best of my abilities. I understand that I am subject to consequences if I do not meet the expectations or follow the policies set in this handbook. **I have marked all concert dates on my calendar.**

Parent Signature _____

Student Signature _____

This form must be returned no later than Friday, September 4