

**WEST ORANGE
HIGH SCHOOL
BAND HANDBOOK**

9th GRADE BAND
CONCERT BAND
SYMPHONIC WINDS
WIND ENSEMBLE

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Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome!

The Bands of West Orange High School are some of the most exciting and active groups of students on campus. All of our bands have an outstanding tradition both within the community and throughout the area. Members of the band program take pride in our close knit and active performing ensembles. While music may require more commitment than some other activities in campus, there is no program more rewarding.

As a member of the band, you can make a valuable contribution to the excellence of our ensembles. This handbook is intended as a guide and source of information for students and parents. It is hoped that this information will answer many basic questions about our program; its activities, traditions, responsibilities of membership, and rehearsal and performance procedures.

We look forward to your enthusiastic participation in making this the most successful year yet.

Section One

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

Attendance

For any ensemble to be successful, it is necessary that all students attend all rehearsals. Extended periods of absence will not only hurt individual progress, but will hinder the success of the entire group. All bands will follow the normal attendance policies set forth in the student handbook.

Preparation

All students must report to the band room with all necessary equipment. This includes, but is not limited to; your instrument, folder, music, warm-up books, pencil, instrument accessories, and anything else needed for a normal rehearsal. Students who choose to come to band unprepared will have points deducted from the participation/preparation portion of their marking period grade. In extreme cases, the student's ability to perform in concerts will also be affected.

Rehearsals

Once in the band room, each student is to get their instrument and music, and proceed to their assigned seat. Once seated, students are expected to begin the warm-up procedure on their own. Each student is also expected to check the board for the rehearsal schedule and any special announcements. Once the conductor is in front of the band, all playing and talking should stop, and rehearsal will begin. Failure to do so will result in point deduction from the student's participation/preparation portion of their marking period grade.

There should be NO TALKING while the conductor is on the podium.

Every piece of information is important for EVERYONE!

Performances

Attendance at all concerts and festivals is 100% mandatory! Students will always receive information well in advance of any performance. Failure to attend any school performance or festival will seriously jeopardize a student's marking period grade, as well as affect their future participation in all other concerts and performances.

Our Concert dates are:

December 6, 2007

February 28, 2008

May 8, 2008

All Bands Performing in Region I Concert Band Festival:

April 2, 2008 at WOHS

Performance Attire

The attire for all band performances, concerts and festivals, will be as follows:

- Men will wear black slacks, a white dress shirt, dark tie and dark dress shoes.
- Women will wear a long plain black skirt that falls to or below the knee or slacks, with a BLACK long-sleeve blouse and dark **dress shoes**. Flip-flops are unacceptable. A long black dress with sleeves will also be accepted.

Failure to follow the above will jeopardize a student's participation in the performance.

Graduation

The combined bands of WOHS perform every year at the graduation ceremony. This event will take place at the South Mountain Arena on the day following the end of school. Failure to attend will result in an "F" for the fourth marking-period.

Our Graduation date is:

June 23, 2008 (tentative)

This will include a morning rehearsal and an evening performance.

Music

Each student will have their own folder and their own copy of all band music. Students will be assigned a place in one of the folder cabinets.

Reeds

The better the reed, the better you will play. Please do yourself a favor and purchase a box of high quality reeds that will last you throughout the year. This will bring many positive results. Students may purchase Rico Royal or Van Doren single reeds at school for \$1.50 each, or Jones double reeds for \$8.00 each, during lessons, lunch, and before and after school only. In order for students to stay well prepared during class, they must maintain two working reeds with them at all times, as reeds will not be available during class time.

Music Vendors offering a wide reed selection:

The Music Shop – (973) 334-8484

K & S Music – (973) 533-0829

Millburn Music – (973) 376-5112

Section Two

GRADING POLICIES

Each band will share the same grading policy, with the exception of those students enrolled in *Honors Wind Ensemble*. (See the Music Department's Honors Hand Book)

Marking Period Grade

Performances.....	40%
Class Participation / Preparation / Playing Tests	40%
Lessons (attendance, preparedness of material)	20%

Class Participation/Preparation

Students are expected to be prepared and participate in class at all times by having their instrument, music and folder, drum sticks and mallets (for percussionists), and a pencil.

Students have 5 minutes from when the second/ late bell rings to warm up and be seated.

Students who are late to their seat, have no instrument, no music, no pencil, are chewing gum, are incessantly talking or playing while conductor is on podium, or leave the assigned area without permission, etc. will result in an automatic deduction from the participation / preparation portion of their grade.

Lessons

Each student will be placed into lesson group. Your lesson group will be rotated weekly or biweekly during your band class, and will be designated the start of the school year. Lesson material will include, but not be limited to, band music, chamber ensemble music, and overall technical and musical ability material. Each lesson will be graded with a point system to fulfill the 20% lesson portion of the student's marking period grade. (For example, if a student has 4 lessons scheduled in a marking period, each lesson would account for 5 points therefore totaling 20%.) These point values would change according to the amount of lessons a student has in a single marking period. Grading criteria for lessons will include overall preparedness and improvement in the individual's playing.

Assignments, Quizzes, and Playing Tests

This percentage of the grading system will be based on written musical assignments, substitute assignments, scale quizzes and tests, and class music quizzes and tests. Students are expected to play certain quizzes and tests during class, in class.

Final Grade

Final Grades will be determined by the average of all four marking period grades and one final exam. The final exam will consist of a comprehensive written and playing exam.

Section Three

EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE

The Band Room

The maintenance and organization of the Band Room is everyone's responsibility. Here are some simple rules to follow:

1. Only water is permitted in the band room. **NO GUM AND NO FOOD AT ALL TIMES.**
2. All instruments, equipment, and music must be stored in their proper location at all times.
3. Treat all school property (and others property) with respect.

The band room has around 300 students passing through it everyday! It is essential that we follow the above rules and work together to keep it neat.

Storage

All wind players will be issued a locker in the band room during the first week of school. WOHS, WOHS Band, and WOBOE are NOT responsible for lost or stolen instruments. Please protect your personal instrument with high regard. You are responsible for your combination and the lock MUST stay on the locker.

The only acceptable thing to be in the locker is your instrument! No folders or any other items will be in your locker.

Instruments

All instrument cases should have the student's name clearly labeled somewhere on the outside of the case. Instruments should never be left anywhere but the proper locker and should always be locked.

Percussion Instruments

All percussion students are required to have their own sticks and mallets in every class. It is the student's responsibility to purchase a pair of snare sticks and chromatic percussion mallets (soft or hard). These inexpensive materials can be purchased at:

Glenn Weber Drum Shop
14 Northfield Avenue
West Orange
(973) 736-3113

Other options to buy percussion equipment:

Woodwind and Brasswind Online: www.wwbw.com
Steve Weiss Music Online: www.steveweissmusic.com

These materials must be purchased by the end of the first week of school or the student will face class participation grade point deduction and possible removal from the class.

All equipment must be returned to its proper location at the end of all rehearsals. If a student has used a piece of percussion equipment, he/she is personally responsible for putting away that piece of equipment.

Instrument Repairs

If your instrument is in need of repair, you must report the situation immediately. If the instrument is a personal instrument, the student is responsible for either getting the instrument repaired him/herself or having the instrument repaired through the school, at the student's cost. If the instrument is school owned, and the damage was not due to negligence, the school will pay for the repair. Repairs through the school are sent to:

The Music Shop
56 Fanny Road
Boonton, NJ
(973) 334-8484

School Instrument Loan Policy

Any student using a school owned instrument must submit an **Instrument Loan Form** and pay a \$35.00 maintenance fee. Please make check payable to the *West Orange Board of Education*.

This form and fee must be handed in to a director by the end of the third week of school or the student will face class participation grade point deduction and possible removal from the class.

Replacement Costs

Wind Ensemble Tuxedo	\$150.00
Music Folder	\$15.00
Music Parts	current price listing for each piece on www.jwpepper.com
Warmup Book	\$6.00
Replacement Lock Fee	\$20.00

Section Four

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The Other Bands of WOHS

Besides the bands that meet during the school day (Band 9, Concert Band, Symphonic Winds, and Wind Ensemble) there are other exciting groups for you to be a part of. They include the Marching Mountaineers, Jazz I and II, The Pit Orchestra, and many small group ensembles. All of the aforementioned groups meet after school and are open to any WOHS Music Student.

Band Awards

The following awards are given at the end of each school year;

Director's Award – Awarded to an outstanding Freshman Band Student.

Patrick S. Gilmore Award – Awarded to an outstanding Senior musician.

John Philip Sousa Award – Awarded to the most outstanding Senior musician.

Woody Herman Jazz Award – Awarded to an outstanding Senior jazz musician.

Phyllis Quenalt Award – Awarded to a senior musician who has shown outstanding dedication to the band program his/her four years at WOHS.

Music Achievement Award – Awarded to students who have been successful in attaining membership (through audition) in one or more of the organizations sponsored by the New Jersey Music Educator's Association (NJMEA), Music Educator's National Conference (MENC), or the International Association of Jazz Educators (IAJE).

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Statement of Agreement

The rules and policies are set forth in this handbook to assist us in having the very best year possible. Please read them with your parents or guardians and return this page, completely signed, the day after you receive it.

I have carefully read the West Orange High School Band Handbook and agree to abide by the rules and policies set therein.

Print Student Name

Student signature

Date

Parent signature

Date