



7-12 Band Department Handbook

**Wapsie Valley Music Department
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Ensemble Descriptions

♪ JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT BAND

The Junior High Band is open to students in grades 7-8. The band rehearses Tuesdays, Thursdays, and on “B” week Fridays.

- **Required Performances:**
 - Four Concerts: Fall, Winter, Pops, Spring
 - Adventureland Concert Band Festival (End of April/Early May)- OPTIONAL- \$20 ticket cost.

♪ HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT BAND/MARCHING BAND

The High School Concert Band is open to all students in grades 9-12. This ensemble will rehearse daily. Until the end of football season, the primary focus of the concert band will be marching/pep band music. After marching band, the rest of the year will be dedicated toward concert band music.

- **Required Performances:**
 - 4-5 home football games (pregame and half-time)
 - Those participating in Varsity Football, Cheerleading, Football Managers, etc. will perform in their activity’s uniform.
 - All Double-Header Boys/Girls Basketball Games (Basketball Pep Band)- 6-7
 - Four Concerts: Fall Tailgate, Winter, Spring, and “Pops”
 - State Large Group Contest (May)
 - Memorial Day Parade & Services

♪ BASKETBALL PEP BAND

All High School Band members (as well as participating Junior High Band members) must participate in Basketball Pep Band, which performs at home boy/girl basketball games and pep rallies. Students must arrive at the band room 45 minutes before the start of the game to have a quick rehearsal and to allow for set-up time in the gym. Participation in the Basketball Pep Band will count toward the student’s grade. Junior High students may perform in the Basketball Pep Band for extra credit.

♪ SUMMER PERFORMANCES

All band members are strongly encouraged to play in three marching performances during the summer (Exceptions can be made with parent permission on a case-by-case basis).

- **Parades:**
 - REQUIRED: Memorial Day (the last Monday of May), the Marching Band will perform for parades and ceremonies at Fairbank and Readlyn.
 - Readlyn “Grump Days” Parade (June)
 - Fairbank “Island Days” Parade (June)

“Extra-Curricular” Ensemble Descriptions

♫ **JAZZ BAND**

The jazz band begins rehearsals after football’s regular season is finished. Membership in the Jazz Band is open to all High School Band and Junior High Band students.

Auditions (depending on student numbers) for membership are based on demonstrated ability, reliability, and availability.

The jazz bands will meet on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings at 7 AM. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is required. If students miss three rehearsals (unexcused) they will be removed from the group. Three tardies = one unexcused absence.

- **Required Performances:**

- Winter Concert
- NEIBA Jazz Festival
- Variety Show
- Spring Concert

♫ **SOLO/SMALL ENSEMBLE CONTEST/CLS Arts Festival**

High School and Junior High students have the option to play solos or to play in small ensembles throughout the year. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside of the band office (and discussed during band rehearsal) and music will be handed out before Winter Break. These players may perform for the following: State Solo/Small Ensemble Contest (HS), or the CLS Arts Festival (JH).

- *All students are encouraged to play a solo/small group piece- it greatly helps your playing and gives you the opportunity to enhance your performance skills/receive feedback from someone other than Mrs. Davis!*

♫ **HONOR BANDS**

Participation in honor bands are not required, but they are a fantastic way to learn new skills and music and to meet students from other schools! Participation in any honor band festival results in points toward lettering in band (HS students only).

- **Junior High Honor Bands:**

- **NEIBA Honor Band** (Oelwein, Sat. in Early December)
- **Tri-State Honor Band** (Decorah, Sat. in Early March)

- **High School Honor Bands:**

- **NICL** (North Iowa Cedar League) Honor Band Festival (2nd Tues. in November)
- **NEIBA Honor Band** (Northeast Iowa Bandmasters Association) – Oelwein (Sat. in early December)
- **Iowa State University’s Cyclone Honor Band**- Ames (Fri.-Sat. in early February)

- **University of Northern Iowa's Festival of Bands-** Cedar Falls (Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. Mid. February)

- **All-State Band Festival**
 - The All-State Music Festival is open to High School students only. Students auditioning for All-State should expect to put a great amount of extra time into practicing audition etudes and scales.

Rehearsal/Performance Expectations

♪ **Be on time for all rehearsals, lessons, and performances. To be early is to be on time- to be on time is to be late!**

- Band members need to be in their assigned seats with their music, instrument, and pencil within a minute after the bell rings, or they will be counted tardy.
- Cases should be left to the sides of the room during rehearsal- small cases (flute, clarinet) should always be put underneath your chair.

♪ **Rehearse each day as if it were a performance.**

1. Be respectful to your fellow classmates and your director.
2. Follow instructions the first time they are stated.
3. No talking unless you are asked to by the director.
4. Use correct posture at *all* times!
5. Food, gum, candy, pop, or flavored water are not allowed during rehearsal, as these items can cause major damage to your instrument. These items will be allowed only as permitted by the director, not during a rehearsal.
6. Do not work on homework from other subjects during rehearsal.
7. Stay focused- disruptions of class are not acceptable. ***Cell phones, MP3 players, and other personal electronics are not allowed at any time, unless being used as a tuner on the stand.***
8. Be responsible for your own instrument, music, and pencil. Playing on other student's equipment is not allowed- if you don't play it in class, don't touch it!
9. Be positive and put your best effort into your playing! Have fun!

♪ **Performance Expectations**

1. Arrive early and in proper dress (see pg. 9)
2. Be professional at all times, both while performing and listening to other ensembles.
3. Be prepared to play all of your pieces and make sure your instrument is in proper working order at least one week before the concert.

♪ **Violations of Expectations:**

- Infrequent violations will result in verbal warnings, loss of rehearsal points, and a meeting with Mrs. Davis.
- Frequent/severe violations will result in a lowered grade, detentions, visits to the office, and conferences with parents.

Grading Policy & Lessons

Grades in the WV Band are based on a student's band rehearsal/performance grade, his/her lesson grade, and any additional written work.

A	93-100	B-	80-82	D+	67-69
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62
B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	0-59

♪ **Rehearsals and Performance (5 pts. per rehearsal, 50 pts. per performance) [50%]**

- Grade is based on participation, attitude, effort, and quality of performance at each rehearsal and performance. This also includes the care of school owned equipment and putting things away correctly after rehearsals.
 - Deductions will be made when students do not demonstrate the above or for chewing gum/breaking school policies. Tardy students will lose two points; students who forget their instrument and/or music will receive a zero for the day.
- ***Performance attendance is required!*** See the attendance section for more details.

♪ **Lessons (25 pts. per lesson) [40%]**

- Lessons will be 15 minutes in length and held during study halls, before/after school, or pulled from certain classes. Four lessons are required per quarter. At each lesson students will earn a grade based on their preparation/progress of the previous week's lesson assignment. Assignments may include scales, instrument-specific exercises, and other materials.
- **Practicing:** Wapsie has 2 practice rooms that students can use during any study hall/free period to get necessary practice time. A reasonable goal is to aim to practice 3-5 times each week for 20-30 min. If practicing cannot occur during the day, students are expected to take their instruments home to practice as homework.
- **Missed Lesson policy:**
 - All missed lessons need to be made up by the end of the quarter.
- **Private Lessons.** Band students are encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument. We have many fine private lesson teachers in this area. If parents/students are interested in private lessons, contact Mrs. Davis for instructor recommendations. These private lessons will count toward the weekly lesson grade; however, students may still need to play assigned work for Mrs. Davis.

♪ **Written work [10%]**

- **Written Work:** Quizzes and other written work are based on class concepts, concert literature, and other Musical elements in the State Curriculum.

Required Materials

All students in the Wapsie Valley Band Program are required to buy the following materials:

♪ Lesson/Etude Books

- Elementary: *Essential Elements 2000, Books 1 & 2*
- Jr. High: Will be assigned according to ability level
- High School: Will be assigned according to ability level

♪ Instrument Materials

- **Woodwinds:**
 - Clarinets: Reeds (preferably Vandoren V-12's, strength 3-3 ½) cleaning swab
 - Alto Saxes: Reeds (preferably Vandorens or La Voz, strength 3-3 ½)
- **Brasses:**
 - Trumpets: valve oil, cleaning snake, slide grease
 - Trombones: slide cream, small spray bottle, cleaning snake
 - Horns: rotary valve oil, cleaning snake
 - Euphonium/Tuba: valve oil, cleaning snake, slide grease
- **Percussionists:**
 - It is strongly suggested that you buy your own stick bag with a pair of snare sticks, timpani mallets, yarn mallets, and hard rubber mallets.

Eligibility, Attendance, and Transportation Policies

🎵 Eligibility

The Wapsie Valley Code of Eligibility pertains to all co-curricular activities and is strictly enforced. Performances, honor choirs, trips and State Contests are under the jurisdiction of the Code and can be affected by it. Make sure you have read and understand what is expected of you both in and outside of school and make good choices.

To be eligible to participate in an evening activity, students must be present at school for a half-day. This means you must arrive no later than 11:53am. If you are sick enough to leave school, you will not be allowed to participate that evening. Any exceptions must be arranged ahead of time through the office.

🎵 Attendance

- **Excused Absences**

For an absence to be excused it must be approved by a director prior to the event. This should be at least a month in advance, with the exception of emergency situations. Two unexcused absences from performances may result in dismissal from the group.

The only excuse for a missed rehearsal or performance is illness, death in the family, or a pre-excused absence. Death in the family or personal illness must be confirmed by a note or phone call from your parents/guardians to be considered an excused absence. Mrs. Davis's phone number is 319-493-2932 or you may call the school at 319-638-6711.

If you miss a concert due to an excused absence, you will be required to submit makeup work in the form of a research paper appropriate to the subject of the band music performed at the concert. Except for emergencies, your parent will need to call Mrs. Davis before the performance for the ability to make-up the full amount of missed points.

- **Unexcused Absences**

If you miss a rehearsal/concert for any reason other than listed above, you will receive a ZERO for that rehearsal/concert. **Work is NOT considered an excuse.** Missing the rehearsals/concerts is not only detrimental for the rest of the group, but will severely affect your final grade. You may complete make up work (TBD by Mrs. Davis) for the absence, but only for up to 25% of the concert grade.

🎵 Transportation

It is Wapsie Valley's school policy that all students MUST ride to off-campus scheduled events in a school-provided vehicle. Students, with signed permission releases, may ride

home with parents or designated adults (through permission slips and a call to the school and/or director) following the event. Parents MUST check students out before leaving.

Band Uniforms/Concert Attire

♫ **Marching Band**

- Each Marching Band student will be assigned a uniform to wear during all home football games and the Memorial Day marching performances. There will be an assigned place to keep your uniform at the school.
- Students will be required to purchase their own pair of marching shoes, marching gloves, lyre, and flip folder.
- **Pride in Your Personal Appearance**
Whenever in the “public eye,” you are expected to be in **full dress** wearing all uniform parts correctly. The director shall announce exceptions to this rule on any occasion.
- **Care of Uniforms**
Please handle the band uniforms with extreme care. Hang it up properly following each performance, and store it in the assigned uniform bag. Avoid letting the uniform get wet, and DO NOT eat or drink while in your uniform. When hanging up the uniform, leave the bag unzipped so that the uniform can dry out completely.
- **Dry Cleaning/Washing**
Uniforms are cleaned only once a year. The instrumental department pays for the cleaning, but any excessively dirty uniforms will be partially paid for by the student’s parent.

♫ **Concert Band**

Men: Dress Pants (dress khaki/black), dress shoes & socks (no sandals!), button-down dress shirt & tie, suit jacket.

Women: Dress shoes (no sandals!), Long skirt below the knee/dress pants, dress shirt (no low-cut shirts, please!).

♫ **Basketball Pep Band**

All members will be given a Pep Band T-shirt to wear to every game throughout the season. In addition to the T-shirt, you will need to wear “nice” jeans (no holes/overly distressed jeans), and tennis shoes. You may not wear hats.

♫ **Jazz Band**

Men: black dress pants, solid-color dress shirt, long tie, and good dress shoes with dark socks (no sandals!). You may wear a suit jacket, but it is not required.

Women: black, long skirts (below the knee) or black dress pants; solid color blouses or nice tops; dress shoes (no sandals!).

Band Music, School Instrument Rental, and Classroom Use

♪ Band Music

- **Concert Folders**

Each student will be given a concert band folder to store his or her music, band materials, and pencil.

- **Music Charges**

If you are given original copies of music, you will be responsible for any damage or loss of the music and will be charged for the replacement cost of the music.

♪ School Instrument Rental

- If you use a school instrument as your primary instrument, you will be charged a \$30 rental fee per year. You will be responsible for any extreme damage that occurs to the instrument and you will be charged for the repair.

♪ Classroom Use Guidelines

- Respect all property of the school, including facilities, instruments, and equipment.
- The band office is off-limits unless Mrs. Davis is present or permission has been given.

Music Room iPad Usage Rules

1. iPads must be checked out before using and checked in when you are finished. You must write down the exact time you checked in/out the iPad.
2. iPads may only be used in the practice rooms, except in cases of special permission by the directors.
3. iPads may be used by music department students ONLY.
4. During use of the iPad, you are responsible for the care of the equipment. Signing out the iPad means that you agree to be held liable for any damage, and you may be charged for the repair/replacement of the equipment.
 - a. Note: if you check out the iPad and let others use it with you, you will still be the sole student liable for any damage as you were the one who checked out the equipment.
5. If there is a “wait” for the iPad, you have a usage limit of 15 minutes before you must pass on the iPad to the next person.

High School Band Officers

The band members elect band officers at the beginning of the year (as needed)

President

Duties: Read announcements, lead sectionals, and manage student needs/requirements for concerts/events.

Who: A senior is recommended

President-Elect

Duties: Take attendance, help president check-in for concerts/events.

Who: Junior is recommended

Librarian

Duties: Pass out new music, file old music.

Who: Any grade level

Public Relations

Duties: Plan social events, hang concert/performance posters, write articles for newspapers.

Who: Any grade level

Historian

Duties: Keep and file all programs, take pictures for website/facebook page, organize past-programs binder.

Who: Any grade level

Lettering System & Band Awards

The awards plan consists of the following point/award system:

Points carry over from one year to the next.

<u>Certificate</u>	<u>Letter</u>	<u>Bar</u>	<u>Star</u>
Participation	40 points	25 points	40 points

Summer Lessons	10
Event Usher/Program	1
Band Officer	5
Section Leader	5
Drum Major	8
Summer Lessons	1 per lesson
All-State Audition	5
All-State Membership	8
Jazz Band Participation	3
Variety Show	2 per entry
IHSMA Solo/Small Ensemble	5 per event
IHSMA Division 1 rating	2 per rating
Honor Band Participation	5
Band Membership 1 st Year	10
Band Membership 2 nd Year	13
Band Membership 3 rd Year	16
Band Membership 4 th Year	20
Teacher's Assistant (per semester)	2

1st year Jazz Band participation – Jazz Pin
4th year Jazz Band participation – Jazz Medal

Band Awards

- ♪ Band students in Junior High and High School will be recognized for outstanding individual and group achievements in May at the Awards Banquet.
- ♪ Several special awards will also be selected for this event:
 - **Most Improved Player**
 - **Director's Award**- Awarded to a student (not subject to age) who shows leadership, strong work ethic, kindness to others, etc.
 - **John Philip Sousa Band Award**- May be awarded to the Outstanding Senior in Band as voted on by the band to the senior who has contributed the most musicianship, leadership, commitment, and spirit.
 - **Louis Armstrong Jazz Band Award**- May be awarded to the Outstanding Senior in Jazz Band as voted on by the jazz band to the senior who has contributed the most musicianship, leadership, commitment, and spirit.

Fundraising and Performing Arts Booster Club

♪ Fundraising

Every four years the music department goes on tour! We fundraise each year to build up our accounts to offset some of the expenses. Each student has the opportunity to raise funds for his/her personal account by selling items and/or participating in fundraisers such as raffle sales, car washes, product sales, and other planned activities. Students who don't earn money will be at a disadvantage on the year of the trip and can't expect to earn it all in the last year of fundraising.

Students' individual accounts will be kept throughout their time at WV. Once a student graduates, his/her money is either passed on to a younger sibling (who is grade 7 or higher) or given to the booster's general account.

Note: a portion of all fundraised money goes into the Performing Arts Boosters fund.

♪ The Performing Arts Boosters

The Performing Arts Booster Club is made up of all the parents of students in band, choir, and drama/theatre. This parent group hosts the fall variety show, fall tailgate dinner, helps offset the costs of honor band registrations, purchases music equipment, and supports all activities in the music and drama departments. All parents are encouraged to attend meetings regularly on the second Thursday of each month to ensure that you receive the highest quality music program possible. Please thank our booster members when you get the chance!

I have read the WV Music Handbook and understand the expectations for participation in the Wapsie Valley Music Program.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

*NOTE: Music Department event dates are located on the website under CALENDAR. Please locate and print this schedule for home!