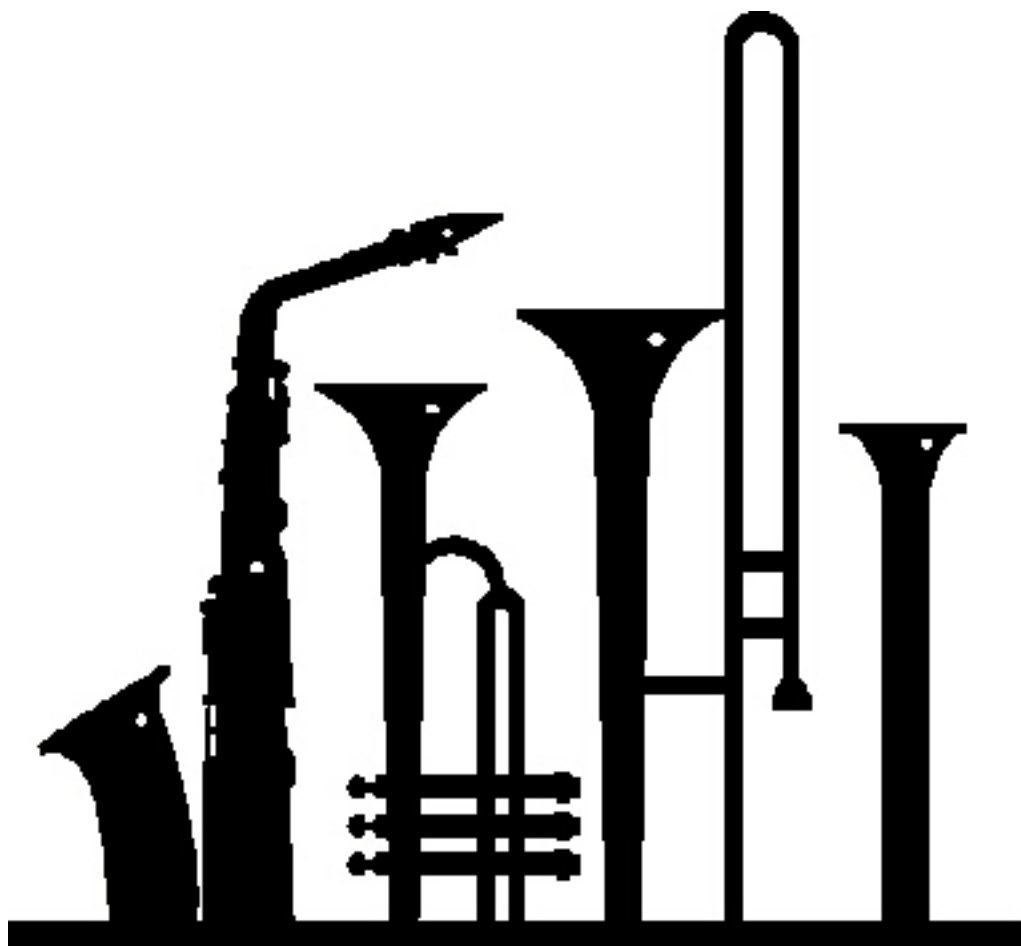


The Waconia High School Instrumental Music Program



# BAND HANDBOOK

Directors: John Pohland, Phil Snyder  
*2014-15*

# Table of Contents

Why Music? Why Band?.....	3
Staff Letter.....	4
Communication/Charms Office Assistant.....	5
Core Performing Ensembles.....	6
Practicing.....	7
Band Grading Policy.....	8
Attendance and Policies.....	9
Lessons for Band Members (in school).....	10
Private Lessons.....	11
Student Owned and School Owned Instruments.....	12
Music, Folders and Lockers.....	12
Concert Dress and Uniforms.....	13
Numeral/Varsity Letter Award Form (to record your points).....	14
Waconia Band Boosters.....	15
Fundraising.....	16
Co-Curricular Band Activities.....	17
Other Band Activities.....	18
HS Special Band Awards.....	19
Student & Parent Signature Form.....	20
Schedules Etc. . . . .	21-22

# WHY MUSIC EDUCATION?

For centuries, music and art have been recognized as disciplines, on equal footing with mathematics, language, and the sciences as regards the development of mental process. More recent research has shown that the study of music and in particular performance actively involves more of the domains of the brain than any other discipline. Instrumental music, particularly in an ensemble such as band or orchestra, is the purest form of mental activity. It requires more of the brain to be utilized, both right and left brain functions, than any activity we experience in formal education. Dealing with the demands of ensemble performance and individual performance simultaneously requires that the performers manipulate visual symbolic information, interpret visual instructions from a conductor, analyze and synthesize aural information being received constantly, exhibit manual skill with the instrument, regulate their volume level and style of playing in concert with several other performers, and many other factors that all combine to become "making music."

We can cite all that information and that's just a band director trying to justify his own existence in many people's eyes. Instead we would like to present what many philosophers, thinkers, and leaders have expressed regarding the value of music. (*from the Sept. Oct. 1993 BDGuide*)

PLATO: "Music training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

PAUL HARVEY (Broadcaster/commentator): "Our schools tend to refine intellects but neglect to discipline emotions. For anyone to grow up complete, music is imperative."

JOSEPH M. CALAHAN (Director of Corporate Communications, Xerox Corporation): "Arts education aids students in skills needed in the workplace: flexibility, the ability to solve problems and communicate, the ability to learn new skills, to be creative and innovative, and to strive for excellence."

CLIFFORD V. SMITH (President of the General Electric Foundation): "GE hires a lot of engineers. We want young people who can do more than add up a string of numbers and write a coherent sentence. They must be able to solve problems, communicate ideas and be sensitive to the world around them. Participation in the arts is one of the best ways to develop these abilities."

JIM HENSON (Television producer and puppeteer): "Music is an essential part of everything we do. Like puppetry, music has an abstract quality which speaks to a worldwide audience in a wonderful way that nourishes the soul."

GERALD FORD (Former President of the United States): "Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them – a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music."

Second-grade and third-grade students were taught fractions in an untraditional manner - by teaching them basic music rhythm notation. The group was taught about the relationships between eighth, quarter, half and whole notes. Their peers received traditional fraction instruction. When tested, the students who were exposed to the music-based lessons scored a full 100% higher on fractions tests than those who learned in the conventional manner. -Neurological Research, March 15, 1999 MUSIC: 5

BARACK OBAMA (President): "The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create."

BARACK OBAMA (As then President-Elect Barack Obama stated on his campaign website): "In addition to giving our children the science and math skills they need to compete in the new global context, we should also encourage the ability to think creatively that comes from a meaningful arts education. Unfortunately, many school districts are cutting instructional time for art and music education. Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe that the arts should be a central part of effective teaching and learning."

# Dear WHS Band Members & Parents:

Welcome to the pride, excitement and fun of the Waconia High School Instrumental Music Program! The Waconia High School Bands have enjoyed a long tradition of musical excellence. We are proud to have earned a reputation as an exciting organization that provides its membership with quality musical and educational experiences. This success has been due to the talent and dedication of Waconia High School's music students. With over 200 students, this year's band program includes almost one-fifth of the student body, making it one of the largest and most active programs on campus. The continued success of the Waconia High School Bands will rely on what you put into it.

Being a member of the Waconia High School Band requires a great deal of commitment, hard work and a positive attitude. These essential ingredients are necessary for successful music making, building strong friendships and working with high-energy people in general.

Band members and their parents should read and have a clear understanding of the information included in this *Band Handbook*. This *Band Handbook* provides information regarding policies, rules, financial obligations, dates and times, organizational structure, awards, grades, and other information necessary to give band members and their families a clear and concise picture of what is expected of a Waconia High School Band member.

You will find this year to be exciting and fun experience that offers significant growth as musicians. If you have any questions pertaining to this handbook or the program in general, please ask!

We hope that all of your experiences with the WHS Instrumental Music Program prove to be musically satisfying, personally meaningful, and a source of great pleasure and pride!

Sincerely, The Waconia High School Instrumental Music Staff

Phil Snyder

John Pohland

# COMMUNICATION and CHARMS OFFICE ASSISTANT

## Communication

Email is the **NUMBER ONE** way to get in contact with either Mr. Pohland or Mr. Snyder. Both have access to email nearly every day, and will work very hard to make sure that ALL emails are answered in a timely manner. A 48-hour email turn around can be expected during the normal school year, although during very busy times a slight delay can be expected. Office phones are used as well, and messages will be answered on a daily basis as often as possible. Important information regarding the happenings of the band program and announcements for parents will be sent home via email. Please be sure to provide us with an email you check regularly. Changes that will surly crop up at the last minute will be communicated through email.

## Charms Office Assistant

ALL students must be enrolled in our Charms Office Assistant Program upon enrollment in the Waconia High School Instrumental Music Program. It is the MAIN form of teacher-student/family communication. Providing accurate email and mailing addresses is extremely important to ensure that you are receiving all relevant information pertaining to the WHS Instrumental Music Program. To enroll in this Program, please use the following steps:

1. Log on to <http://www.charmsoffice.com>.
2. On the right side of the page, find the "Parent/Student Login" area.
3. Enter "WaconiaHSBand" for the school code, and your student's ID number (same as their lunch number) for the password.

*\*\*\*If this does not work for some reason, please contact Mr. Pohland or Mr. Snyder immediately.*

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

EMAIL: John Pohland- [jpohland@waconia.k12.mn.us](mailto:jpohland@waconia.k12.mn.us)  
Phil Snyder – [psnyder@waconia.k12.mn.us](mailto:psnyder@waconia.k12.mn.us)

WHS Band Office Phone: 952-442-0667

WHS FAX: 952-442-0679

WHS Band Website – [waconiabands.com](http://waconiabands.com)

WACONIA Band Finances/Record Keeping – <http://charmsoffice.com> (Remember to use "WaconiaHSBand" for your schoolcode, and your student ID for the password)



## CORE PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

### VARSITY BAND

Open to current WHS ninth grade students with prior band experience or upon director approval. This class will concentrate on developing basic playing skills such as tone production, rhythmic proficiency, intonation, and technical ability, as well as preparation and performance of fine concert band literature. Students will earn one full academic credit for a full year of varsity band. This ensemble will perform several concerts throughout the year. *NOTE: all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are assigned to this band.*

### SYMPHONIC BAND

Open to WHS tenth grade students with prior band experience or upon director approval. After Varsity Band, this class concentrates on the further development of individual and ensemble playing skills, with emphasis on the performance aspects of wind band music and the preparation of the finest band literature available at this level. This class will continue to develop advanced individual playing skills as well as continued ensemble awareness and musical involvement. Students will earn one full academic credit for a full year of Symphonic Band. This ensemble will perform several concerts throughout the year. *Note: all 10<sup>th</sup> grade students who are not enrolled in Wind Ensemble or Concert Band are assigned to this band.*

### CONCERT BAND

Open to WHS 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students by audition. This class concentrates on the development of individual and ensemble playing skills, with emphasis on the performance aspects of wind band music

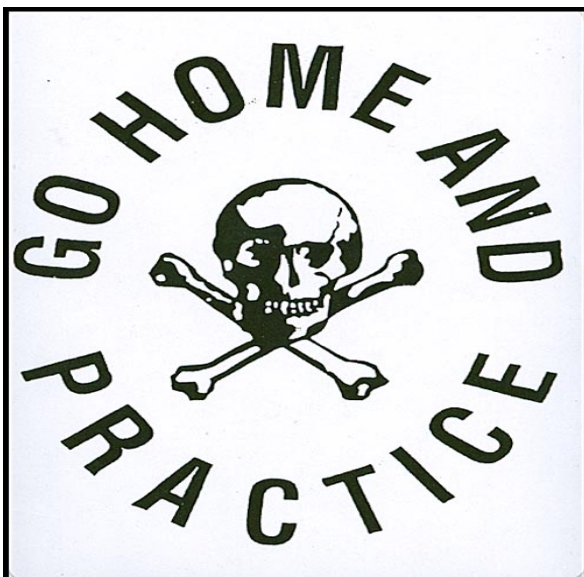
and the preparation of the finest band literature available at this level. Students will earn one full academic credit for a full year of Concert Band. This ensemble will perform several concerts throughout the year. All members of the Concert Band are required to perform at the solo/ensemble festival on a solo or as a member of a small ensemble. All members of the percussion section will also be in the Concert Band Percussion Ensemble.

## WIND ENSEMBLE

Open to WHS 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students by audition only. This ensemble comprises the most outstanding instrumental musicians at Waconia High School, and will have as a primary focus the preparation and performance of the finest literature for the modern wind band. While students already possess a high degree of ability, the further advancement of musical skills, both individual and ensemble will be paramount to the success of the student and the organization. Great emphasis is placed on individual musical responsibility, in that only one or two students play on each part. Students in this class will perform several concerts and festivals throughout the year. There will be out of school time required for rehearsals or performances. All members of Wind Ensemble are required to perform at the solo/ensemble festival on a solo or as a member of a small ensemble. All members of the percussion section will also be required to participate in the Wind Ensemble Percussion Ensemble. Students will earn one full academic credit for a full year of Wind Ensemble participation.

### Practicing

The single most important factor in improving on an instrument is practice. While each band rehearses daily, the only way each student can improve his or her own skills is through individual practice. Although you WILL NOT be asked to submit minutes practiced each week or to have a parent sign a practice log, as a high school band member you will be expected to set up your own practice time. Individual practice is for learning your individual part. Large group rehearsal is for learning everyone else's parts! Do not be the student that the whole has to wait for while you figure out a rhythm or fingering. Band is very unique in that every member of the band has a different part to play. Come to class prepared and ready to play your part. Your involvement in this program requires you to be a contributor to the good of the whole. For the band to be its best you need to be at your best!





# BAND GRADING POLICY

Students who participate in the band program at Waconia High School receive a full credit each year along with a grade on their report card. Like any other course at WHS, the credit you earn in band applies towards your graduation credit requirements, class rank, grade point average, and post-high school applications.

**LESSONS / CONCERT REVIEW / COMPOSITIONS / ARRANGEMENTS** .....  
.....40%

**Lessons Option 1:** Students taking private lessons will be expected to complete a Private Lesson requirement each trimester. Your private lesson teacher must be approved by Mr. Snyder or Mrs. Palmer or be on the WHS lessons teacher list in order to receive full credit for lessons. If a student is taking Private Lessons, the “Private Lesson Evaluation Form” must be filled out and handed in no later than 1 week prior to the end of each trimester. Students taking private lessons must take a minimum of FOUR private lessons each trimester to qualify.

\*\*Private lessons with a private instructor –each lesson should be a minimum of 30 minutes; you may have a maximum of only 1 lesson per week to be applied toward your grade)

**Lessons Option 2:** Group lessons with a WHS Band Director – 4 per trimester. Each lesson should be a minimum of 20 minutes; you may have a maximum of only 1 lesson per week to be applied toward your grade. Available lesson times will be posted.

A Concert Review may serve as a replacement for one lesson (limit 2)

**Concert Review** - Students are expected to complete at least ONE Concert Review each trimester. A concert review expectations sheet is provided in the appendix of this handbook.

**Chair Placement Auditions** – Chair placements auditions will happen each trimester. A small portion of each trimester’s grade will be earned through participating in chair placements.

**Composition and Arranging Projects** – Students will be given the opportunity to engage in arranging and composition projects throughout the school year.

*The director will also assign various Assignments from time to time each trimester.*

**REQUIRED PERFORMANCES** ..... 20%

- Concerts
- Pep Band Events (minimum 4 per trimester – excluding Spring)

**DAILY PARTICIPATION** ..... 40%

**GRADING SCALE:** A = 90%, B = 80%, C = 70%, D = 60%, F = 59% or below



## Attendance Policies

*\*\*\*ALL ABSENCES require the completion of the Waconia High School Absence Application, available from the Band Office. Each absence will be looked at case by case.*

- All students are expected to be at all rehearsals, lessons and performances
- Absence from school rehearsals will follow school attendance policy
- Absence from a required event will be excused only for extreme illness or family emergency. Parents must contact the directors via email or phone in order for the absence to be excused, and an Absence Form turned in ASAP.
- Band members who participate in a sport AND are on the Varsity squad will be excused from Pep Band performances that interfere with GAMES, but are expected to communicate clearly with both the director and their coach at least 3 weeks prior to the conflict.
- An unexcused absence from a required event WILL result in a lowering of a student's grade.

## **Concert Attendance Policy**

Performances are viewed as major tests: a performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room; the level of concentration required in a public performance assists each student to develop an insight into their own level of performance; a performance is an important evaluation tool, allowing comparison of a student's performance in relation to classroom objectives presented and with past performances. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: *serious* illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, religious holiday, or other reasons deemed excusable by the band director. *The band director must approve all absences from performance in advance.* All absences not excused will result in the lowering of the student's grade.

All Concert and important dates for the 2014 – 15 school year can be found at the end of this Handbook.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

If you have the desire to become an outstanding musician, please give strong consideration to studying privately with someone who is a specialist on your instrument. Students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons with *qualified* professional music instructors. This is the best way to see your child realize his or her musical potential on the instrument. See the “Private Lesson Page” at [waconiabands.com](http://waconiabands.com) for a list of recommended private instructors. Students may NOT take lessons from other high school students.

- WHS Band Private Lesson forms may be downloaded from the “Private Lesson” page on the Band Website ([waconiabands.com](http://waconiabands.com)). Forms must be signed by the private instructor and turned in before the end of each term to receive credit.
- You must have a minimum of four (4) thirty-minute lessons per term. Wind Ensemble members must have five (5) thirty-minute lessons per term. A maximum of one (1) lesson per week may be applied toward the band grade.
- Lesson costs vary. Payment is made directly to your private instructor, not through the band office. Mr. Snyder and Mr. Pohland know of many professional musicians who have private studios where they offer one-on-one instruction. This is the best way to become the best musician you are capable of.

Music professionals can help with:

- Improving tone
- Expanding your playing range
- Increasing technique
- Choosing the correct instrument, mouthpiece, or making your own reeds
- Preparing for college auditions
- Preparing for honors auditions
- Finding scholarships, and more.

While Mr. Pohland and Mr. Snyder give lessons at the high school, there are nearly 200 students to teach. A private instructor can give specialized, individual instruction. Talk with Mr. Snyder or Mr. Pohland to find a teacher who would work well with you.

Private lessons are usually scheduled once a week or once every two weeks. They typically last 30-50 minutes. Most private teachers expect you to come to their studio for the lessons but a few are willing to come to your home or to WHS.

Since the lessons are one-to-one with you and a specialist on your instrument, the time spent in the lesson is really focused on those areas of your playing that need help with specific aid given in those areas that are weaknesses and need improvement. The lessons will be tailored to your particular needs.

Percussionists have the opportunity to study with Craig Myers, who is at the high school every week on Wednesdays. He spends some time instructing all the Percussion Ensembles but is also available for private lessons (for a fee). Students can talk directly with Mr. Myers about setting up this great option for improving as a percussionist on mallets, snare, parade drum, mallets, and so on.

# EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE

## STUDENT OWNED INSTRUMENTS:

Those students using their own instruments (flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone) should see that everything is in good working condition. When repairs are needed, you can see Mr. Pohland/Mr. Snyder about having your instrument sent in or you can take it to a reputable repair person yourself. A representative from Music Mart in Mankato is at our school every Tuesday morning at approximately 10:30 a.m. Through the years we have had a great relationship with the Music Mart and they provide us with a great service picking up and dropping off repaired instruments.

## SCHOOL OWNED/ISSUED INSTRUMENTS:

WHS owns a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Oboe, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, various marching horns, and general Percussion equipment. This equipment is generally purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. ***Thus, all school owned equipment must be handled with optimum care.*** Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments and be responsible for repair or replacement of the instrument. The following is a list of general procedures for school owned instruments:

1. If at all possible, students will be issued an instrument for home use and one for school use.
2. WHS does not provide insurance for individually or school owned equipment. ***Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse, and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.***
3. Students and parents must sign an instrument rental form before the instrument can be used by the student.
4. Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
5. The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
6. If a school owned instrument needs to be repaired this should be done through the director. Directors will send in instrument for repair and loan the student a replacement. All general repairs incurred through normal use are covered by the rental fee. Maintenance incurred NOT through normal use will result in the student's account being charged for the repair. Parents will be contacted if such circumstances occur.
7. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage location when not in use.
8. **WHS will assess an instrument rental fee of \$90.00 for each instrument for the year.** This fee is used for routine cleaning and maintenance of school district owned instruments. This fee will be assessed and paid through the student's Charms Office Account.

### *Special Note*

School owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most school owned instruments exceed a \$2,000.00 value.

## PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT:

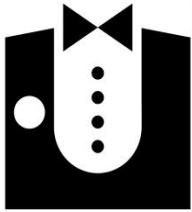
The band program has an extensive collection of percussion equipment. While they may look like fun toys, they are expensive musical instruments. Only percussionists are to use this equipment and they are to see that all instruments are properly stored when not in use! All of the general procedures you find in the “school owned/issued instruments” section apply to percussionists and percussion equipment as well. **A percussion fee of \$90 is charged each year for the use of these instruments. This fee is assessed and paid through your Charms Office Account.**

## **MUSIC AND FOLDERS**

Students will be issued a folder and folder slot assignment at the start of the year. Along with this they will be given a variety of music throughout the year. It is expected that students use the folder to store all music and folder slot to store the folder. Music will be passed out either in band or by putting assigned music in each student’s folder slot. If music or folder is lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed to the student’s Charms Office Account.

## **LOCKERS**

Each student will be assigned a locker or storage space in the band room. The lockers are numbered and sized for various instruments. Students are **strongly encouraged** to put padlocks on their lockers. The director will provide these locks during the first week of school. If students choose to bring their own locks, they must give the director the serial number and combination of their lock. Students are expected to keep their lockers tidy and to not store any kind of food or beverages in the lockers. There will be a \$10 fee for lost or damaged locks.



## CONCERT DRESS AND UNIFORMS

*“Everyone! Come see how good I look!”*

Part of performing as a musical ensemble is looking as good as you sound. It is expected that each member of the Waconia High School Instrumental Music Program knows and understands what is acceptable attire for all performances.

Varsity, Symphonic, and Concert Band Concert Dress:

Ladies:

- Black blouse or sweater (no spaghetti straps). Must have a modest neckline.
- Black dress pants (NO JEANS) or black skirt (must be knee length OR LONGER). No slits please.
- Black stockings/tights/socks. If black skirt is worn student must wear LONG black stockings or tights (no bare leg showing please).
- Black dress shoes (no sandals or flip flops!)

Gentlemen:

- Black dress shirt with collar
- Black dress pants (NO JEANS)
- Black socks (longer than ankle length! No ankle showing)
- Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes, sandals, or combat boots)

Wind Ensemble Concert Dress:

- Assigned concert uniform
- Black shoes (no flip flops, sandals, tennis shoes)
- Long black socks (men)/stockings or tights (women)

The WHS Band Department has a professional seamstress who volunteers her time to fit students and make necessary alterations. Students are expected to wear and store their assigned uniforms properly. **A uniform rental/cleaning fee is assessed each year via Charms Office Accounts.**

The WHS Band Department currently has uniforms in excellent condition to be worn by both Wind Ensemble and Marching Band. The uniforms are of the highest quality, fairly new, and quite expensive. Students and parents are responsible for proper care and seeing that each uniform stays in excellent condition. **Failure to do so will result in a replacement fee for damaged or misused parts.**

# Waconia Band Letter Points Application and Information

\*\*\*The actual point tally sheet will be passed out in April each year.  
Available upon request

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

Lettering Information and Criteria: Please read carefully and ask NOW if you have questions!

1. You need a total of 50 points to earn a letter (or pin)
2. You may only earn one letter OR pin in an academic year
3. The maximum number of points you may carry over into the next year is 10
4. You may never accumulate more than 20 carry-over points
5. Once you have earned a letter or pin you start over at zero points
6. If you withdraw from band at any time you lose all the points you have earned
7. YOU are in charge of keeping track of points throughout the year. Please don't wait until Spring to get organized.
8. The directors will let you know of your carry over points from the previous year in the Spring
9. Seniors who have been in band for 4 consecutive years automatically letter.

Points Carried Over \_\_\_\_\_

Points Earned this year \_\_\_\_\_

Total points \_\_\_\_\_

Award Earned This Year (circle ONE)

1<sup>st</sup> Year Award: Chenille or Pin

2<sup>nd</sup> Year Award: Pin

3<sup>rd</sup> Year Award: Pin

4<sup>th</sup> Year Award: Pin

## WACONIA BAND BOOSTERS

### **What is the Waconia Band Boosters?**

Your WBB consists of an executive committee made up of the officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Presidents) and EVERY PARENT OF A BAND STUDENT HERE AT WHS! The WBB supports the goals of our Band Directors and assists youth in their music activities, both inside the classroom and out. The WBB also sponsors most of the fundraising activities for the entire WHS Band program.

### **When do the Band Boosters meet?**

Monthly meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, with additional meetings scheduled as necessary. Meetings are usually held from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the conference room at the high school. Meeting dates will be published soon and are available on the Waconia Band Website: [waconiabands.com](http://waconiabands.com). Band parents/guardians are encouraged and welcome to attend meetings and/or participate within the happenings of the Band Boosters. As directors we know how important it is to have commitment and participation of our students' parents in order to have a complete and strong band program.

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Volunteer opportunities of all sorts exist throughout the program, including providing assistance during marching band performances, organizing receptions for the concert bands, helping in the band office and music library, etc.! Even if you have only one hour to spare, the band program can find a place for you to contribute that fits your schedule. Volunteering shows your student that you care and provides you the opportunity to meet some fun and interesting people (band parents are GREAT!).

Volunteer Opportunities include, but are not limited to:

- Garage Sale
- Plant Sale
- Mulch Sale
- Magazine Sale
- Silent Auction
- Kwik Trip - Ongoing
- Homecoming Kickoff (Formerly Helicopter Drop)
- Fruit and Poinsettia Sales
- Mackenthun's Bagging Fundraiser
- Yuletide Festival
- Banana Split Sale
- Aluminum Can Trailer
- DVD/Memory Books (Marching Band)
- Jazz Dinner Concerts
- Marching Band Banquet
- Lake Waconia Band Festival



# **FUNDRAISING**

## **Funds Raised for Individual Student Use**

The Waconia Band Boosters have developed several opportunities for your child to earn financial credit toward the many band expenses. These fundraisers offer a 85/15 profit split for all money raised, meaning that 85% of student profits are put directly into a student's account, while 15% goes toward the overall program. Funds raised for student accounts can come from:

- Magazine Sales – October
- Fruit and Poinsettia Sales – November-December
- Frozen Food Sale – February-March
- Plant Sale – April

## **Individual Account Guidelines:**

- Profits gained from individual fund raising projects are placed into individual student accounts
- Money in a student's personal account may be used for the following band expenses:
  - Student Activity Extra-Curricular Band Fees
  - WHS Band Tours
  - Other as approved by the Directors
- If a band student drops from the band program, moves, or is removed from the band program, all fundraising monies in his/her individual account revert to the general band account, since the money was raised in the name of the band
- A student's individual account is non-transferable to another student (except in the case of siblings). Any personal account balances remaining after the student graduates will become the property of the Waconia High School Instrumental Music Program.

## **Scholarships**

Band scholarships are available in certain cases. However, scholarships will not be awarded to any student who has not participated in the fundraising program(s).

## **Funds Raised for the District Band Program**

The following activities raise funds that benefit the entire band program in a variety of ways.

- Homecoming Kickoff (Formerly Helicopter Drop) during the Homecoming Football Game
- Parade of Bands/Silent Auction - Funds raised are used specifically to purchase items on the Instrumental Music Programs Needs/Wish List
- Yuletide Festival Ticket Sales
- Nickle Dickle Day Food Booth – the funds raised help to support the educational programs and performances by the WHS Bands
- Mackenthun's Bagging Day – a donation to the band is made based on the number of collected receipts (i.e., the number of paper receipts, not the financial total)
- Ice Cream Sundaes/Banana Split Sales at Mackenthun's
- Can Recycling-Trailer can be found on the North Side of the High School; this fundraiser is ongoing.

# **CO-CURRICULAR BAND ACTIVITIES**

The Varsity Band, Symphonic Band, Concert Band and Wind Ensemble are the core groups for the Waconia High School Instrumental Music program. In addition to these groups, there are a number of opportunities for band members to make music beyond the school day. Below is a brief description of each opportunity:

## **JAZZ BANDS**

Grade Level: 9-12

There are two jazz ensembles that meet each week from late-September through mid-May. Both groups play a wide variety of jazz music and study basic improvisation. Performances may include the Yuletide Concert, "Jazz Dinner Concerts" (held in mid-winter), the District Jazz Festival, Jazz festivals (such as Lamberton and Eau Claire), the Spring Jazz Concert, and the Senior Awards Night program. Other performances outside of school may also occur. No previous jazz band experience necessary

## **PEP BAND**

Grade Level: 9-12

This group plays for a wide variety of activities that benefit from having some fun, exciting music. The pep band is part of the students' grade (minimum of 4 events per season) and will appear at athletic events, pep rallies, and anywhere we can add to an event. Schedules will be made available right away in the fall for the Fall Season, and then again in November/December for the Winter Season.

## **MARCHING BAND**

Grade Level: 8-12

Open to students who have completed 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades and have instrumental music experience through an audition process in January. Students learn basic music skills as well as marching fundamentals. Marching band has regular rehearsals outside the school day beginning in April through July. A marching band schedule will be handed out to students in January.

## **SHOW CHOIR BAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Grade Level: 9-12

Students are encouraged to audition for the show choir bands, Megawatt and Watt, These auditions are held each spring for the following school year. Info packets are made available in late April or early May, depending on the audition dates.

# OTHER BAND OPPORTUNITIES

## **MMEA ALL-STATE, MBDA and COLLEGIATE HONOR BANDS**

Grade Level: 9-12 for Honor Bands, Current 10-11 Graders for All-State Bands

Students may audition for the Minnesota Music Educators Association All-State Band, Orchestra, and/or Jazz Ensemble. These are highly competitive auditions, held in early February. Students selected for All-State rehearse for 5-7 days in August and perform again in February during the MMEA Convention in Minneapolis.

## **Solo & Ensemble Contest**

Grade Level: 9-12 Location: area high school (changes yearly) Fees: \$5 cancellation fee, otherwise no charge

Description: Perform a solo with piano accompaniment, or perform in a small ensemble, and be adjudicated by professional judges in this Minnesota State High School League sponsored event. Each performance is assigned a rating by the judge. This experience is perhaps the best and most effective way to improve your level of musicianship.

Requirements/Expectations: Student must provide two original copies of the music being performed (one for self and one for the judge). **Photocopied music will result in immediate disqualification.** Student is responsible for finding a piano accompanist if necessary. **Student must be concurrently registered in a curricular concert band to participate in contest.**

Season: Typically occurs during 2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester.

Times/Dates: See your Director for specific schedule

Registration/Tryouts: Student must commit to the performance at least four weeks in advance.

Cancellation after registration date will result in a \$5 fee.

Awards/Recognition: Students receive medals and/or certificates of merit based on performance scores. Excellent Ratings earn a certificate of recognition from the MSHSL, Superior Ratings earn a medal & a certificate of recognition from the MSHSL. The high scores in each performance space will also receive "Best in Site" recognition.

# WHS SPECIAL BAND AWARDS

## ***WOODY HERMAN AWARD***

Awarded by the Band Directors to a senior band member of the JAZZ II for excellent leadership, musicianship, improvisation ability and dedication to the jazz program. It is considered the runner-up to the Louis Armstrong Award.

## ***LOUIS ARMSTRONG AWARD***

The highest achievement for high school jazz band since 1974, the Armstrong Award honors the most outstanding JAZZ I performer. This award recognizes outstanding leadership, musicianship, improvisation ability and dedication to jazz.

## ***WHS DIRECTORS AWARD***

Awarded by the Band Directors to a junior or senior band member in either the Concert Band or the Wind Ensemble, this award is for unique achievement and service in band through exemplary leadership, attitude, and dedication to the entire band program.

## ***PATRICK GILMORE AWARD***

Awarded by the Band Directors to a senior member of the CONCERT BAND for excellent leadership, musicianship, attitude and dedication to the band program. Patrick Gilmore was a legendary 19<sup>th</sup>-century bandmaster and impresario.

## ***QUINCY JONES MUSICIANSHIP AWARD***

Award honors outstanding students for their creativity and musicianship, and to encourage students in their pursuit of music. In his long musical career Quincy Jones has done it all as a composer, arranger, performer, producer, and teacher. Every music program has those students who share this boundless energy and musical versatility.

## ***JOHN PHILIP SOUSA AWARD***

The John Philip Sousa Band Award is the pinnacle of achievement for high school band students. The award honors the most outstanding senior student member in the high school band program and recognizes exceptional leadership, musicianship, attitude and dedication. This is the highest award in the WHS band program and is presented annually at WHS.

# STUDENT & PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURES

You can find the Handbook at [waconiabands.com](http://waconiabands.com)

Please read the entire handbook with your student, sign and return to the WHS Band Office by:

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th 2014**

*\*\*\*This is a required assignment and will count for 25 points*

The WHS Band Handbook is intended to serve as an informative resource guide regarding the policies, procedures and philosophy governing all aspects of the Waconia High School Band Program.

By signing this form, I agree to:

- Be responsible for reading and understanding all of the information contained in this handbook.
- Uphold the rules of this handbook and the rules sanctioned by the Minnesota State High School League.
- Attend and actively participate in all scheduled rehearsals and performances, unless excused by the Directors.
- Take good care of equipment, instrument and/or uniform assigned to me, paying for any repair or replacement costs attributed to me.
- Do my personal best to represent the WHS Bands with pride, respect, and musical excellence.

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please check here if you do **NOT** grant permission to the WHS Bands to use your name and/or photograph in publications or electronic media.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINT STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

**WACONIA**  
 HIGH SCHOOL  
 INSTRUMENTAL  
 MUSIC PROGRAM  


---

## 2014 - 2015 Schedule

Mon., October 13 <sup>th</sup> 7 pm	Wind Ensemble/Chamber Choir Concert
Tuesday October 14 <sup>th</sup> 7 pm	All Band Parent Meeting
Mon., Nov. 10 <sup>th</sup> 7 pm	Fall 8 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band Concert
Fri., Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup> 7 pm	Yuletide Festival
Mon.-Tues. Feb. 9 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> 6 pm	Jazz Dinner Concerts (Includes Clearwater Jazz Band on Tuesday)
Thursday, Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm	District Band Concert
Mon., March 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 – 8 PM	Region Solo and Ensemble Contest Waconia HS
Tuesday, March 23 <sup>rd</sup> 3-9 pm	Region 2AA Large Group Contest (Concert Band and Wind Ensemble Only) Shakopee HS
Tuesday, Mar. 24 <sup>th</sup> 7 pm	Contest Concert
March 2015	All-State Band/Orchestra Auditions (recorded auditions)
Monday, April 13 <sup>th</sup> 2-9 pm	Region 2AA Jazz Contest Hutchinson High School
Tuesday, April 14 <sup>th</sup> 7 pm	District Jazz Concert w/Guest Artist
Fri. – Sat., April 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> All Day	Eau Claire Jazz Festival
Thursday, April 30 <sup>th</sup> 1-9 pm	Local Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Waconia HS
Thursday, May 21 <sup>st</sup> 7 pm	Spring Pops Concert
Monday, May 25 <sup>th</sup> 9 am	Memorial Day Performances (Marching Band only) Various locations in Waconia and St. Boni
Sunday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Commencement (10 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup> grade only)

## **Fall 2014 Pep Band Schedule**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>GAME</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Fri., Sept. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Boys Football	Bayview Elementary	5:40 PM
Tues., Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Girls Volleyball	High School Gym	6:15 PM
Fri., Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Boys Football (Homecoming)	Bayview Elementary	5:40 PM
Mon., Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Boys and Girls Soccer	Bayview Elementary	5:30 PM
Thurs., Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Girls Volleyball	High School Gym	6:15 PM
Tues., Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Boys and Girls Soccer	Bayview Elementary	5:30 PM
Tues. Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Girls Volleyball	High School Gym	6:15 PM
Weds., Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Boys Football	Bayview Elementary	5:40 PM

### **The following games are possible playoff games for our Girls Volleyball Team.**

Fri., Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Girl's Volleyball Section Quarterfinals*	High School Gym	6:15 PM
Tues., Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Girl's Volleyball Section Semifinals*	High School Gym	6:15 PM
Sat., Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Girl's Volleyball Section Finals	TBD	5:15 PM
Thurs., Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	Girl's Volleyball State Quarterfinals	TBD	TBD
Fri., Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Girl's Volleyball State Semifinals	TBD	TBD
Sat., Nov. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Girl's Volleyball State Finals	TBD	TBD

### **The following games are possible playoff games for our Boys and Girls Soccer Teams.**

Sat., Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Boys/Girls Soccer Section Semifinals*	Bayview Elementary	TBD
Tues., Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Boys/Girls Soccer Section Finals*	Bayview Elementary	TBD
Wed.-Fri. Oct. 21-23	Boys/Girls Soccer State Tournament	TBD	TBD
Tues-Thur Oct 28 – 30	Boys/Girls Soccer State Finals	TBD	TBD

### **The following games are possible playoff games for our Football Team.**

Tues., Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Boys Football Section Quarterfinals*	Bayview Elementary	6:15 PM
Sat., Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Boys Football Section Semifinals*	Bayview Elementary	2:15 PM
Fri., Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Boys Football Section Finals	Bayview Elementary	6:15 PM
Thurs. – Sat, Nov. 6-8	Boys Football State Tournament	TBD	TBD
Thurs.-Sat, Nov. 13-15	Boys Football State Tournament	TCF Band Stadium	TBD
Fri.-Sat., Nov. 21-22	Boys Football State Tournament	TCF Bank Stadium	TBD

***\*\*\*We will only play for Section Play-in, Section Quarterfinals and Semi-Finals if the games are played here at home.***