

Band Handbook Overview

Full Handbook located online at www.whitelandband.com under Downloads

Fees

Fees are an unfortunate reality which is necessary for our band program to function. Each student is responsible for their fair share of the band budget. If, at any time, you have any type of financial problem in paying band fees, please contact the Band Booster treasurer and/or any of the band directors to work out other options. It would be terrible to see any student miss out on an opportunity because of financial limitations. Please also keep in mind that students have the opportunity to earn much of their band fees by participating in fund raisers and financial considerations will only be given to families that do participate in the fundraisers offered.

While fees are subject to change with written notice, this year's fees are \$25 Band Department Participation Fee, \$500 for Marching Band, \$75 for Jazz Band, \$25 for Wind Symphony Performance Attire Rental, \$450 for WIPE, \$400 for JV Winter Guard, and \$500 for Varsity Winter Guard.

The band reserves the right to report overdue funds to the high school treasurer at the end of the grading period if fees are not paid and no alternate option has been worked out with the treasurer. When the band is taking a band trip, all fees must be paid prior to participation in the trip. A detailed payment plan will be presented for each trip.

Your account balance with the Whiteland Band Boosters can always be accessed through the website My Music Office (www.mymusicoffice.com). Login information will be given to students and parents at the beginning of each year and will remain the same throughout the student's time in the band program.

School Owned Equipment

School owned equipment is to be checked out to the students by the directors and used/handled by only that student. A rental contract will be on file and state that students are responsible for the care of the school owned instrument. If a school-owned instrument is being used for marching band (including percussion equipment) there will be a \$60 equipment rental fee assessed to those students. Only one fee will be assessed per student per year no matter how many instruments a student may use during the marching band season. This fee does not cover the repair costs at the end of the year.

All instruments are sent in for maintenance repairs on a yearly basis and any repairs needed on that instrument will be paid for by the student. The cost of the repairs of an instrument is determined by a professional evaluation of that instrument at the end of the year. If school owned equipment is observed being neglected or abused by a student that equipment will be taken away. Students that use two instruments (horn/marching horn, baritone/marching baritone, tuba/contrabass) will have two contracts and will be responsible for repairs on both instruments.

Drugs, Alcohol, and Controlled Substance

We care deeply about all of our students and we need each one of them to be making safe choices. Therefore, we must make very clear the consequences of substance abuse as it relates to being a part of the WCHS Band. If a student is punished by the WCHS Administration at any time throughout the year for possession/utilizing any banned substance (vaping, smoking, drugs, alcohol, etc.) the following consequences for marching band, winter percussion, and winter guard will be enforced:

- First offense is removal from 25% of total season performances and permanent removal of assigned solos and leadership positions. Due to absences, the student's role in the show may also be changed if necessary.
- Second offense is the removal from the remainder of the extra-curricular aspect of the program to which the student currently belongs for that season.
- Third offense is permanent and immediate removal from the WCHS Band.

Organizational Concert and Jazz Ensemble Dress Code

For all ensembles except Wind Symphony, please choose from the options below depending on how you identify:

- black dress pants or a black dress down to the ankles, plain black blouse with sleeves (long sleeve preferred), and black dress shoes and hose. NO FLIP FLOPS or YOGA PANTS!
- black dress pants, plain black button-down long-sleeve dress shirt, black dress shoes and socks. For this option in Wind Symphony and/or Advanced Jazz Band, you will also need a plain black dress coat.

As part of their Performance Attire Rental Fee, all students in Wind Symphony will be given either a tie or a performance dress to use for the year.

Cell Phone Policy

In accordance to school rules and Indiana state law, cell phones will not be permitted during rehearsals during the school day at any time. During afterschool rehearsals, students will not have cell phones out unless given permission by the director is given to use the phone for a musical reason (tuner, metronome, etc.). In those cases, cell phones should be placed in airplane mode as to not disrupt the educational process.

Attendance Policies

In order to do a group activity such as band, your attendance is required at every rehearsal and performance. Please make sure that you have a calendar and you are aware of all required activities that you need to attend. Please take care of yourself and make sure your attendance to school is strong as well. An UNEXCUSED absence from rehearsal will result in large reduction in grade.

Just because a parent calls in or emails us does not mean that your absence is excused and your grade will be affected accordingly. Please see the lists below to better understand excused vs. unexcused absences.

Example of **EXCUSED** absences:

- Important family function (ie. Wedding, funeral, graduation of family member)
- Severe Illness (doctor notes, fever, throwing up consistently)

Examples of **UNEXCUSED** absences:

- Family/friend gatherings or other social events
- Minor illness (headache, tummy ache, fatigue)
- Work (your employer should have a copy of your calendar and be informed)
- “Not having a ride” – please consult the list of leaders willing to give you a ride
- Tickets already purchased for concerts, sporting events, or other outside activities.
- Homework- please plan ahead before or after rehearsal time.

We are willing to work out conflicts, but must be contacted and communicated PRIOR to the absence.

All time missed for either excused or unexcused absences will need to be made up through work outside of class. Students will be held responsible to make up this time in order to earn credit towards their grade. If this does not occur, the student may be held from performing with the ensemble at the director’s discretion. If more than 2 unexcused absences occur a conference will be held with the directors and the parents to assess the issue and develop an attendance improvement plan. Failure to meet or comply with improvement plan will result in conference with school administration.

All performances are required and clearly marked on the band calendar. Family emergencies and illnesses are the only excused reasons for performance absence. Unexcused performance absence could result in a failing grade.

Handbook Acknowledgement

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM SIGNED TO THE BAND ROOM BY TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2026

I have read the Whiteland Band Department handbook highlighted above and located in full online and I understand all materials presented. I understand that I am a member of a team and I am required to attend all extra-curricular activities in which I take part so as not to let down my team. I know I must practice self discipline, honesty, integrity and communication at all times or disciplinary actions may be enforced. I am aware of said disciplinary actions. In short, I understand the responsibilities I have and the commitment I am making and I wish to be a part of the Whiteland High School Band Program.

(student signature)

(date)

(parent signature)

(date)

(student name printed)

(parent name printed)