Woodland Middle School Band Handbook

2016-2017

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Introduction

This handbook has been prepared for students and their parents who are members of the Woodland Middle School band program. It is hoped that the rules, policies, and general information listed within will assist in building a superior band program.

The Woodland band program will develop coordination, cooperation, teamwork and self-discipline to a degree not possible in academic subjects. The band is no haven for a lazy student. It demands and develops concentration that can be used in many aspects of student’s lives.

Band performance also promotes good health. One pediatrician has said: "If I had my way all boys and girls would be required to play a wind instrument." An amazingly high percentage of American scientists and people of note have played in a band or orchestra. Astronaut John Glenn played the trumpet.

The Woodland Band has a strong tradition in obtaining high levels of performance that will continue with the school for years to come. In a concentrated and unified effort, the students at Woodland can make this a very successful year, adding to and strengthening past achievements. It is my goal to make the tenure of each student in the Woodland Band an enjoyable experience, producing a love for music that will last a lifetime.

Woodland Band Philosophy

Band is a musical organization serving as a laboratory of instrumental music for students. Foremost among the objectives of the program is to provide students with the opportunity to become acquainted with band literature and to internalize a love and understanding of music. Band is also an academic subject fulfilling the state requirements for fine arts in the school curriculum.

Participation in band should provide a self-satisfying level of proficiency and achievement as well as a strong basis for further musical enrichment, either with continued study or as an avocation.

Band places an emphasis on the refinement of the basic fundamentals of performance, individually and as a group as well as a development of discriminative listening. Since the majority of its members will not be professional musicians, this program strives to produce intelligent consumers of music with an appreciation of the arts as a form of communication and self-expression.

In addition to these basic objectives, participation in band develops leadership, responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, self-motivation, and cultural awareness. Participation in band should lead the student to recognize the unique contribution of music as an art form.

Parents,

This handbook has been written for you and your child as a guide to experiencing a successful year during your band tenure at Woodland. It will help inform you of the many activities that occur during the year. Please read and study the entire handbook carefully and keep it in a handy place for future reference. We encourage you to refer to the band website often for up-to-date information. The Handbook will also be available on my SharePoint page.
Parental Help

Parents play an important role in the development of a student's musical ability. Parents can take an active part in their child's learning process by:

- attending their concerts
- encouraging home practice
- listening to your child play at home
- providing lessons when possible
- providing the proper equipment
- praise your child’s accomplishments.
- volunteer to help

Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up - Even if a parent is not able to be at our functions, your vocal and physical support of the band program at Woodland is vital.

School Procedures

Before School Procedures - Every morning when you arrive at school:

- Students may bring their instruments to the bandroom upon arrival at school, provided it is after 7:00 a.m.
- Students will not be permitted to stand around outside the band hall door in the mornings.

After School Procedure - At the end of the school day:

Quickly get your instrument out of the band hall and go to your bus or directly home.

Do not go through the building after school and hang around with your friends unless you are practicing.

Students involved in athletics need to get their instruments immediately after school as the lockers will be secured at 3:15.

Student Every Day Procedures:

Do not "dump" everything into piles on the floor - it is a fire and safety hazard.

Enter in a quiet and orderly fashion.

All small instrument cases need to be stored in the band room lockers provided and not on the floor or under the chair.

The entire class will warm up together (each class is different due to the size of the class and the nature of the instrument so procedures will vary). This will be discussed with each class individually.

Do not leave your cases on the floor in the instrument storage area. Instrument cases must be placed in your assigned band locker.

Label everything with your name including percussion equipment, sticks, mallets, reeds, music, etc.

If at all possible, please do not interrupt rehearsals for any reason!!!
Goals and Objectives

INSTRUMENTAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES of the WOODLAND BAND PROGRAMS

Band provides an opportunity for aesthetic expression for students. Our goal is that each student be able to express the artistic values of music through performance skills and theory comprehension.

6th grade band objectives

1. To be able to demonstrate correct posture while playing an instrument.
2. To use the correct method of breathing to play a wind instrument.
3. To use correct embouchure (lip formation), while playing a wind instrument.
4. To use the correct hand and/or stick positions.
5. To have a proper concept of tone production and tone quality. Special emphasis on intonation and tuning
6. To understand the various articulation markings, such as a "slur".
7. To be able to clap and count whole, half, quarter, eighth, dotted quarter, triplet, and sixteenth note rhythms.
8. To be able to demonstrate knowledge of five major scales with arpeggio one octave.
9. To be able to demonstrate knowledge of chromatic scale full range of their instrument.
10. To develop proper technical motor skills.
11. To demonstrate correct knowledge of musical terms necessary for membership in a performing band.
12. To understand simple time signature such as 4/4, 3/4, and 2/4.
13. To develop discriminatory listening skills commensurate with 7th grade beginning skills.
14. To develop listening skills including intonation: the ability to favor pitches on the instrument.
15. To understand simple score form such as ABA.
16. To develop socially through large-group interaction.
17. To develop personal and social self-discipline.
18. To achieve technical and musical skills adequate for advancement to the 7th-grade level in the Woodland Middle School Band Program.
19. To develop a basic understanding of jazz music
20. To develop a basic understating of jazz improvisation and soloing.
Objectives (cont.)

7th grade band objectives
1. To continue to develop the sixth and seventh grade objectives.
2. To be able to count sixteenth notes, triplets, and dotted eighth sixteenth note rhythms.
3. To develop a technical ability on the instrument through sixteenth notes, 3/8, cut time, and 6/8 time signatures.
4. To further develop listening skills including intonation as it relates to their section and the band: the ability to favor pitches on the instrument.
5. To further develop understanding of more complex forms of ABA, Variations, and Recapitulation.
6. To learn the art of following a conductor in a large ensemble.
7. To be able to distinguish between the three basic styles of music: legato, staccato and marcato.
8. To demonstrate knowledge of nine major scales and the chromatic scale commensurate with Mid-State requirements in multiple octaves for memory.
9. To learn performance procedures including stage presence.
10. To **compete in citywide** competitions
11. To understand the consequences of individual actions at a group level.
12. To advance to the 8th-grade level of performance in the Woodland Middle School Band Program.
13. To develop a basic understanding of jazz music
14. To develop a basic understating of jazz improvisation and soloing.

8th grade band objectives
1. To continue and improve on all 6th and 7th-grade objectives
2. To further develop listening skills including a more acute sense of pitch discrimination as it relates to their instrument, in their section, and across the band room.
3. To develop the ability to discern musical styles communicated through the conductor's baton.
4. To comprehend musical phrasing.
5. To demonstrate knowledge of 12 major scales and the chromatic scale (full range).
6. To increase stage presence and composure while performing before a live audience.
7. To further develop the ability to compete on a state-wide level.
8. To further develop an awareness of the consequences of personal actions on the whole group.
9. To advance to the 9th-grade level of performance in the high school band program.
10. To develop a basic understanding of jazz music
11. To develop a basic understating of jazz improvisation and soloing.
Grading System

Classroom performance – 20%

Practice Plans/Homework – 20%

Theory – 10%

Tests/Performance – 50%

***Students will be exempt from the fall and spring exam if the participate in mid-state (7th and 8th grade only) and solo festival (all grades)

Tests/Performance

Tests/Performance grade will include the overall daily performance and class preparedness. They will also be expected to behave in a professional manner at all times. Most of this grade will be compiled from scale tests and concert performances. Each month comes with a set of required scales. It is up to each student to play off their scales for the director by the end of the month. When the scales are played off successfully, there will be a star placed on the scale chart in the bandroom.

Practice Plans/Homework

Your grade will reflect the minutes you have practiced for that week, for example 100 minutes practiced = 100% for you grade. I do not give zeros, so the lowest grade you will receive would be a 60 and you will get that even if you do not turn one in. Your practice records are turned in each Friday in the white box. They MUST be signed by your parent. Should you forget to turn it in, late practice records will NOT be accepted. In order to raise the grade you must practice an extra 40 minutes the next week.

Theory/Classwork

Written assignments in the Standard of Excellence book count in this category. 6th grade students will also complete numerous theory sheets during the 1st and 2nd 9-weeks with a final exam in December. During the 3rd and 4th 9-weeks, they will complete periodic theory assignments. 7th and 8th graders will complete periodic theory assignments as appropriate to the musical study of their class. Essential Questions apply to this category.
Classroom Behavior and Consequences

**BENEFITS**

If you choose to abide by the school and band hall rules one or more of the following will occur:

1. You will be a part of a great band program.
2. You will get to play some really cool music.
3. **You will get to participate in band trips.**
4. **You will become an awesome musician.**
5. **You will have respect from those around you.**

**CONSEQUENCES**

If you choose not to abide by the school and band room rules one or more of the following consequences will occur:

1. Warning.
2. Put instrument in lap, no class participation and demerit given.
3. Teacher/Student/Parent conference.
4. Teacher/Parent/Student/Principal conference and probable change in schedule to different elective.

The only reason we have rules for band at Woodland is so we can have an awesome band program. Remember; treat others and their equipment with as much care and respect as you would like to be treated. We will help remind you of the band rules and we do not expect to have problems from many of you. Give your best at every rehearsal and the rewards will be self-evident.

**Classroom Tardy** - Tardiness will not be permitted and demerits will be assigned. If you are tardy, please make sure you have a tardy pass from your previous engagement.

**No instrument or music** – Demerit will be given. Instruments being repaired is not an excuse for not having an instrument. **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR MOUTHPIECE WHEN YOU SEND YOUR INSTRUMENT OFF FOR REPAIR**
THE ENSEMBLES AT WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Symphonic Band** - This ensemble is made up of 7th and 8th grade musicians. This band is an advanced group and they will be playing music of the highest quality. Standards for this group are high.

*The Symphonic Band is required to participate in:*

- M.T.S.B.O.A. Concert & Sight Reading Contest
- Mid-State band auditions (first year students are exempt from this)
- All scheduled performances and festivals
- All students will perform a solo or ensemble

The Symphonic Band performs at pep-rallies and football games throughout the year.

**Concert Band** - This ensemble is made up of 6th grade musicians. This band will prepare students to be more secure with playing fundamentals. Standards for this group are high and objective and goals are of the highest priority. Students in this band:

The Concert Band is required to participate in:

- All scheduled performances
- All students will perform a solo or ensemble

*Concert Band students are encouraged to:*

- Perform at pep-rallies and football games throughout the year.
- Take private lessons on their instrument so they do not hold back the organization.
- Be well disciplined
- Exhibit great attitudes.

**Select Jazz Band** – You must commit to attending all rehearsals to be a part of this group. This group will rehearse during the extra period each day.

**Percussion Ensemble** – This year we will have a percussion ensemble in each grade. These classes will teach the students snare drum rudiments, scales on the mallet instruments, and other percussion techniques. These classes will also learn several percussion ensembles to play at our concerts.

**8th Grade Brass Ensemble** – This group will rehearse before and after school in preparation for performances outside of the school.

**8th Grade Woodwind Ensemble** – This group will rehearse before and after school in preparation for
performances outside of the school.

Rehearsal Routine

There are three basic behavior actions to be adhered to by all students during the regular band class.

Look at the director when he is talking; the director must know he has your sincere and undivided attention.

**Do not talk during rehearsal; if any questions need to be asked, the student should raise his or her hand and be called upon.**

Be at ready position unless told otherwise.

Be patient with others and listen to progress taking place.

Always answer a question with a “yes or no”.

Concentrate and be ready to move quickly and quietly between tasks.

Get mentally prepared to rehearse by focusing from the time you enter the band room. Leave other problems outside of the band and prepare yourself to succeed.

A positive attitude will go a long way in helping the band rehearsal go smoother. All students must have a pencil and highlighter on your music stand at all times. Marking music will help you remember important information about the piece being prepared.

Good posture and hand position are important good habits. Be self-motivated; always maintain a high level of professionalism in your approach to playing your instrument.

Always read announcements and check the board for important information and daily activities.

All reed instrument players MUST have extra reeds during rehearsals.

ALL students must have a pencil out on their stand to make marks in their music.

Students are expected to be in their seat and ready for class 10 minutes after their previous class is dismissed.
Chair Tests and Placement

Chair Placement- During the year the students will be ranked in chair order throughout his or her particular section.

There will be frequent chair tests; the chair order will change often.

Any questions about the results of a chair test should be addressed to the director before or after school, not during class. There will be no challenges two weeks before major events.

Anyone involved in a challenge must act in a sportsman like manner. Challenges are not meant to be intense emotional battles!

A student may lose a chair if they are tardy to a sectional and are not ready to play when the bell rings during class.

Chair placement does not affect grading.

Procedure for challenging:

1. Make the student you are challenging is aware that you would like to challenge.
2. Choose a scale and/or excerpt from our concert music or the mid-state audition music. This selection must not be something that either student has rehearsed previously either in class or on their own.
3. Both students must agree upon a date for the challenge and sign the challenge form
4. Challenges must occur during Mr. McCulley’s planning period, before school, or after school
5. Upon approval the challenge will be considered confirmed
6. Only one challenge is allowed per week
7. A student may only challenge the student seated one chair higher in the order from them. All ties must be resolved before a challenge can take place.
8. If a student misses a scheduled challenge without a note from home, they will automatically lose the challenge.
9. Challenges will always consist of the chromatic scale or the 5,9,17 stroke rolls (for drummers)
Class Materials

Students are expected to have all materials in class each day for their **Performance and Theory grade**.

1. **Band Instrument**  
   *Make sure the store’s repair shop provides loaner instruments for students to use in band class.*

2. **Required Text**  
   - 6th: *Standards of Excellence Book 1*
   - 7th: *Standards of Excellence Book 2*
   - 8th: *Standards of Excellence Book 2*
   - ALL GRADES: *Standards of Excellence Theory books*
   - *Jazz Band – Standards of Excellence for Jazz Band*
   - *Percussion – Fresh Approach to Snare Drum and Fresh Approach to Mallets*

3. **Pencil**  
   *Keep in your case, binder, or locker (mechanical is best). VERY IMPORTANT!!!!!!*

4. **Instrument-Specific Supplies:** (equivalents are fine)

   - **Flute:** Tuning rod (specific to your make & model), *cotton* cleaning swab or bandana.
   - **Oboe:** 3 reeds at all times (www.goodtoneguild.com Rookie Reed or equivalent, *no wires*), reed case, 35mm film canister (for reed soaking), weighted *silk* swab, cork grease.
   - **Bassoon:** 3 reeds at all times (Jones medium-soft, or equivalent), reed case, 35mm film canister (for reed soaking), weighted *silk* swabs (for boot joint and wing joint), bocal brush, cork grease.
   - **All Clarinets:** 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional: strength 2 ½ for 6th grade, strength 3 for 7th grade, strength 3 ½ for 8th grade), stock mouthpiece and ligature are fine until 8th grade (see directors for suggested step-ups), weighted *silk* swab, cork grease.
   - **All Saxophones:** 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional: strength 2 ½ for 6th grade, strength 3 for 7th & 8th grade), stock mouthpiece and ligature are fine until 8th grade (see directors for suggested step-ups), neck strap, weighted *silk* swab, cork grease.
   - **Trumpet:** Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth. Bach 5C mouthpiece or equivalent is best.
   - **French Horn:** Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush. Schilke 30 mouthpiece or equivalent is best.
   - **Trombone:** Trombotine, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth. Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece or equivalent is best.
   - **Euphonium & Tuba:** Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush. For euphonium, a Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece or equivalent is best. For tuba, a Bach 24 AW mouthpiece or equivalent is best.
   - **Percussion:** Stick bag with the following (or equivalents):
     1. Vic Firth SD1 General concert snare sticks.
     2. Vic Firth M1 yarn mallets.
     3. Vic Firth T1 General timpani mallets.
     4. Pitch Pipe
     5. Triangle Beater
Personal Instruments

*Personal Instruments* are defined as instruments that belong to or are rented by an individual student’s family from a community music store or private business. These instruments are not owned or insured by Woodland Middle School, the Williamson County School District, or the State of Tennessee. The student (and family) is responsible for maintaining the instrument in *working order* with the proper accessories. The band director will recommend repairs (when needed and specific quality accessories as the student progresses through the program.

School Instruments

*School Instruments* are defined as instruments which belong to Woodland Middle School. These typically include larger instruments: bassoons, bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, French horns, euphoniums, tubas, etc. The school bears the responsibility of repair costs on these instruments. However, students are contractually obligated to treat them with special care so that needless and expensive repairs do not have to be made. Future students must be able to use these instruments. Obvious damage to school instruments will be considered vandalism and will be dealt with in the manner outlined by Williamson County Schools in the WMS student organizer. To ease transportation and increase home practice, it would help your child if you could rent one of these instruments to keep at home.

For your safety, you should never let anyone handle your instrument (except a teacher).

Never leave your instrument where it can be stepped on or damaged.

All instruments must have a permanent nametag.

You are responsible for your instrument.

Brasswind & Woodwind 800-348-5003  
Music & Arts 615-771-3113  
Shuff’s Music 615-790-6139
Instrument Selection

5th grade instrument selection process

In the spring, each 5th grader had the opportunity to touch, hold, and learn about all of the instruments in the middle school band. In the spring, after the extensive introduction to the instruments, the students, with the help of Mr. McCulley, will select an instrument. Then and only then will a student be given permission to proceed with either purchasing or renting an instrument. The only exceptions to this policy will be in the case of a student who has been taking private lessons or transferred to Woodland from a school that started band in an earlier grade. Due to the immense number of instruments a percussionist must be proficient on ALL percussionists are required to take private lessons on the piano or have had a history of piano lessons. Once instruments are selected students should then seek out private lessons over the summer.

Instrument Repairs

Students who need a repair on their instrument should first consult their band director. The area music stores have been gracious enough to send a repair man to our school each week and most repairs can be made for free of charge by one of these two men.

With the director’s approval, parents may take the instrument to the music store to be repaired.

Parents may have a director send it in for repair with a note verifying that they will cover the cost of the repair. If it is necessary to leave an instrument in the shop for repairs, parents should send a note to let the director know. **Always keep your mouthpiece!!** I will have a loaner here at school for you to use

If the instrument is sent to the repair shop for stuck valves due to negligence on the student’s part to oil the valves then the student will have to pay for the repair. All brass students need to oil their valves on a regular basis. Failure to do so will dry up the valve system and will result in the valves not working properly. **Always keep your mouthpiece!!**

If a student’s instrument is in the shop the student will be excused from playing and a class assignment may be given. **Always keep your mouthpiece!!**

The student should bring his or her mouthpiece to class even without the instrument. NEVER TRY TO REPAIR THE INSTRUMENT YOURSELF. **Always keep your mouthpiece!!**

If you are renting an instrument from the school, you will assume cost for all repairs. The rental of school instruments is free and instruments will be given on a seniority basis (8th, 7th, and then 6th)
I would encourage all students to seek out private lessons. Your child will receive instruction from me, but it is in a group setting. The individual instruction weekly will do nothing but improve the overall sound of our band. Below you will see some suggestions for where to go for private instruction:

Brentwood Baptist Church – they not only have a student orchestra that many of our students are a part of, but they also have a full slate of private instructors.

Shuff’s Music – 790-6139

Music and Arts Centers – 771-3113

Brentwood Baptist Church – 373-2992

Joe Jones – 331-4197 (trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone, tuba)

Tawana Box – tdbox@comcast.net (flute, clarinet, oboe and bassoon)
Band Fees

The Band fee this year will be $150

This covers the cost of transportation to events, method books, theory books and worksheets, music, concert programs, miscellaneous instrument supplies and a band attire. This fee does not include concert attire. We will have fundraisers to further supplement the band program and if you would prefer not to participate in fundraising, you have the option of donating $25. Should you choose, you can pay an extra $30 to cover the costs of solo festival and mid-state honor band auditions instead of having to pay them when the time arrives.
INSTRUMENT RENTAL

There is no fee to rent a school owned instrument this year, however you will be responsible for any repairs needed while renting the instrument. Please keep in mind that most of the instruments we have at school are 15-20 years old and while they are in good working order they do show their age and do not smell the best.

ADOPT A BAND INSTRUMENT PROGRAM

The Woodland Middle School is implementing a new program which will allow families and businesses who wish to further support the arts at our school the opportunity to “sponsor” an instrument or instruments. The Adopt-the-Band program is intended to help ensure that the resources continue to be available to maintain the Warrior Band as one of the best middle school bands in the state.

Each student is asked to contribute band fees at the beginning of the school year, as well as to participate in various fundraising activities throughout the year. These fees cover student instructional books, sheet music, overall festival participation fees and expenses, the annual spring trip, t-shirts and hoodies, as well as miscellaneous minor expenses. Excesses above these direct costs are used to repair and replace aging instruments as we are able.

Some of our original, school owned instruments are reaching the end of their life. The Adopt-the-Band program is being implemented in an effort to supplement the yearly fees and fundraising monies so that more instruments may be replaced on a timely basis.

Here are our most pressing needs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Need</th>
<th>Price (low-high)</th>
<th>Quantity Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuba</td>
<td>$3,000-$6,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baritone Saxophone</td>
<td>$4,000-$6,000</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Horn</td>
<td>$3,200-$4,500</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euphonium</td>
<td>$1,400-$3,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass Clarinet</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trombone</td>
<td>$1,400-$3,000</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bassoon</td>
<td>$4,000-$8,000</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oboe</td>
<td>$1,700-$3,700</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keyboard</td>
<td>$500-$2,300</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If, instead of sponsoring a specific instrument, you wish to donate in general support of the band program, please know that any donation amount is sincerely appreciated.

To make a gift, or find out more information, please call the Woodland Middle School Band office at 615-472-4930, ext. #1458, or e-mail Jay McCulley at jaym@wcs.edu.
**Concert Attendance**

**Students are expected to attend their concerts.** A band is a performing group which can only develop to its fullest potential when each member is fulfilling his/her role completely. Absences not only affect the learning of one student, who misses the summative assessment, but also the learning of the other band students. Concert dates and times are published in this handbook, on the Band Website, and in concert letters that go out approximately two weeks before each concert event.

**Grading**
Concert attendance counts toward the Playing Test portion of your grade. If you attend the concert, wearing the appropriate attire, and demonstrating proper behavior, you will receive a 100 grade in the Playing Test category. If you are absent from the concert (whether due to illness, sports conflicts, etc.), you must schedule a make-up with the directors. Family emergencies are the only exception.

**How to handle conflicts**
Students should be encouraged to participate in a variety of activities at this age, and sometimes conflicts will occur. Use the following guidelines to resolve any conflicts:

1. Copy the Band Calendar (included in this handbook) into your family calendar.
2. Notify the director of any school conflicts, so that the directors may make arrangements with the sponsor.

**Make-Up Policy**
Missing a concert is the same as missing an exam or summary project in another class, and therefore requires a make-up performance. While students attending the concert receive an automatic 100 grade, make-ups will be graded based on the quality of the performance. Students should prepare to play all concert selections in their entirety.

*It is up to the student* to schedule a time before or after school with the directors. If the student misses their make-up time, they will receive a zero. If a student cannot come before or after school, they may submit a VHS or DVD recording of themselves.

**Family Emergencies**
To be excused from a make-up performance, we must receive written notice of the emergency upon your child’s return to school. This may be written by another parent or a caregiver if you are unavailable during the time of crisis.
**Uniforms**

**Band Hoodie/Shirt** – For pep rallies, football games, and other informal performances deemed by the directors, the students will wear the following uniform:

Official Band Hoodie or band shirt (depending on weather)

Tennis shoes – no sandals or flip-flops

**Formal Uniform** – For concerts, contests and other formal engagements, the students will wear the following formal uniform. This year you are responsible for obtaining these uniforms

**Gentlemen will wear the following:**

Tuxedoes (jackets optional) - These tuxedos will grow with them from year to year, however depending on how quickly they grow they may need a new one for high school

**Ladies will wear the following uniform:**

A long black dress that adheres to the school dress code, and black dress shoes or sandals. The dress should have little to no other colors on it.

*I HAVE SEVERAL UNIFORMS THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE SCHOOL AND ARE IN GREAT (ALMOST NEW) SHAPE. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ONE OF THESE UNIFORMS AT A DISCOUNTED RATE AND WE CAN SET UP A TIME FOR YOU TO BRING YOUR CHILD IN AND TRY THEM ON.*

**Discounted prices:**

*Gentlemen - $30 for the entire uniform*

*Ladies - $30 for the dress*

MANY TIMES OUR BAND HAS RECEIVED COMMENTS ON HOW PROFESSIONAL WE LOOK AND ACT AND IT IS THE BELIEF OF THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THESE FORMAL UNIFORMS CONTRIBUTE TO THE GOOD BEHAVIOR AND PROFESSIONALISM THAT IS EXPECTED OF US NOW.
WMS Band Facilities

Band Hall- The appearance of our band hall reflects on the Woodland Band Program. Please help keep it neat and clean.

Please pick up trash and any music stands that have fallen over.

- The main band room as NOT your personal locker. There are other students in the next music class who will need the space.

Do not write on the white board without the permission of a director. Dry Erase markers are expensive to replace.

The equipment in the band hall is very expensive. Only touch and play your instrument.

Refrain from running or playing games in the band hall.

Lockers - All students will be assigned a place to store their instruments. The smaller instruments will have lockers.

Students should not keep his/her instrument in a school locker for any reason.

Never leave instruments in the band hall on weekends or during vacation periods.

Students are expected to take their instrument and supplies home daily.

Students will be expected to keep their locker clean and organized at all times.

Food & Drinks- Do not bring food, drinks, candy or gum into the band hall.

ID Tags- All students must have an identification tag on their instrument. Write your name and the name of your school on the tag.

Insurance- It is suggested that all personal instruments have proper insurance coverage. You may want to look into your homeowner’s policy. The school is not responsible for the loss of your child's instrument.

Combination Lock – DO NOT TAKE IT OUT OF THE PACKAGE AS SOME OF OUR LOCKERS HAVE LOCKS ALREADY BUILT IN AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO BE ABLE TO RETURN IT SHOULD YOU NOT NEED IT.
Personal Improvement

Individual growth opportunities through private lessons:

Individual private instruction is available to band members. Class instructions are satisfactory, but individual one-on-one instruction can be extremely beneficial in order to further develop a student's technique and to allow progress commensurate with his or her ability.

Private Lessons are taught at Music and Arts Centers, Shuff's Music, Brentwood Baptist Church and Ravenwood High School

Private instruction does not guarantee higher grades or placement in bands; it is a combined effort between the classroom teacher, parent, student, and private teacher.

We maintain a listing of many fine private teachers that teach at Ravenwood available for each instrument. The band director has approved all private lesson teachers. Students will be given more detailed information and be able to sign up for private lessons shortly after the start of fall classes. **Private lessons are not required but are highly recommended.**

Honors

**Mid-State band and jazz band** - In November of each year 7th and 8th grade students, through an audition process, are chosen to these "Mid-State" bands. There are four Bands chosen for the middle school (3 regular bands and 1 jazz band). Our region consists of all middle schools between Cookeville in the east and the Tennessee River in the west.

In January the students selected for these bands will spend a weekend at Middle Tennessee State University in rehearsal concluding with a performance for the public on Saturday.

It is an honor to be chosen to the Mid-State Band. By trying out for the band you not only have a chance to perform with this select group, but you will also become a much better musician by just preparing the tryout music (this in turn will strengthen the Woodland Band Program).

**Williamson County Honor Band** - Students will be selected by the Williamson County Band Directors Association for this band. It will take place in January. Priority will be given to students that audition for mid-state.
Solo & Ensemble

The Solo and Ensemble Festival is traditionally held in November and April. The music to be performed at the contest must be selected or approved by the director or private lesson teacher. The students do this in the presence of one judge/adjudicator. Students can earn a medal if a rating of I or II awarded by the judge.

All band students will participate in these events. The 7th and 8th grade will participate in both the winter and spring festival and the 6th grade will participate in just the spring festival unless they would like to participate in the winter festival as well. We will register for these events at school but Mr. McCulley has no control over the actual audition times that are assigned. You will have a choice of a PM or AM audition time.

A solo is a single player with piano accompaniment. All students are encouraged to perform a solo. Solos are selected by the private teacher or director. Students not on lessons will be given an easy enough solo they can learn on their own. The band director may or may not have time to help the student that is not on lessons. It just depends on the time available. Lessons are strongly encouraged.

Ensembles are written for groups of two or more instruments (trumpet duet, flute trio, brass quintet, etc.) The directors will work with the ensembles but the students must practice and learn their part before the group can be put together.

Students who receive a rating of I or II are awarded a medal, which is traditionally presented to them at the Banquet.

Ensembles who enter the contest must meet with a director once after school for help on the music.

Trips

Spring Trip – Toward the end of each year, the 7th and 8th grade bands are involved in a spring trip. These trips are extracurricular and not part of the student’s grade. However, because these trips involve a band performance or competition, participation is highly encouraged. In order for our groups to perform their best, we need all our members. Students who choose not to participate or have conflicts must inform Mr. McCulley at least six weeks prior to the scheduled event. The trip cost to the student will be discussed at the trip meeting to be scheduled at a later date. Spring trips are a reward for the hard work of our band members.

All Woodland band students will be eligible to go on this trip with the following exception:
-Students who have an unexcused absence from a scheduled band concert.
-Students who have had an extreme behavioral incident.
Band Officers

**Band Officers** – The directors reserve the right to select all officer positions and assign the librarians. The officers will come from the 8th grade band with two representatives from each of the other grades. Officers must be dependable, loyal to the band, of good character, responsible, strong leaders, pass all classes and be able to motivate the rest of the band by their enthusiastic example.

**These students will be the first to arrive for events and the last to leave.**

Officers not assisting at the end of scheduled events will be removed from their office. Any band officer who fails a class will be removed from the position and Mr. McCulley will assign another student in his/her place.

The band Officers will meet on the 2nd of every month or in the case that the 2nd falls on the weekend, the meeting will occur on the Monday immediately after.

**The President/s** will run Band Council meetings.
The president will coordinate times with the director.
The president will lead the officer core in defining officer goals and band goals.
He/she will organize and coordinate social gatherings, and other similar band functions.
He/she will assist in any way designated by the director.
He/she will oversee the band website.

**The Vice President** will be the chief aide to the president, helping the president with his/her tasks and be available to coordinate any special activities designated by the president.
He/she is to accept the responsibilities of the president if they should be unable to meet them.
In charge of the birthday board

**The Secretary** will be the chief aide to the director.
He/she will take roll at rehearsals during school and at all performances.
The directors will assign paper work duties.
This person needs to come by the band office twice a week by 8:00 a.m. and check in with director.
File music and other musical materials.
Pass out music during rehearsals
Provide the director with original copy of music to copy for student.
Insure that students get the music in a timely manner when it has been requested.

**The Treasurer** will work closely with director.
They are in charge of taking up money for events/parties.
Counting money and documenting it on the student tally sheet with the director present.
They will also issue receipts and keep accurate records.

**The Historian** will compile a band year book including:
Newspaper clippings
Photographs, programs etc. (the band owns a camera that is kept on the director’s desk)
Attend all grade level band performances and take pictures
Create a slide show for the banquet at the end of the year
File music and other musical materials.
Pass out music during rehearsals
Provide the director with original copy of music to copy for student.
Insure that students get the music in a timely manner when it has been requested.

**Representatives** will take care of the above tasks and make sure the items get to the officers.
Fundraisers

**Citi Saver Book**—The Woodland Middle School Band needs your help! We are kicking off our 2016-2017 fundraising season by selling the popular Nashville City Saver coupon books. The money raised from the sales of these books will go directly into your child’s band account.

Your child will receive a copy of the new 2016-17 Nashville City Saver coupon book. Inside the book is over $14,000 in savings to some of the top restaurants, attractions and shopping in the Nashville /Williamson County area. **The book sells for $25 and our band will keep $12.50 for every book sold – that is 50% profit in your account!**

An **iPhone application** will be available for free to anyone purchasing a book and new weekly **Facebook printable coupons** are available to anyone that is a fan of their Facebook site.

How to Help:

1. Purchase one book for your family! **(Remember, the cost is $25 per book)**
2. Preview the book; show it to friends and relatives; parents can take it to work. (They make great gifts!)
3. Use the provided envelope to take additional orders and collect money.
4. **Checks should be made payable to Woodland Middle School Band.**
5. There are also books available for Memphis and Louisville if you have family in those areas that would like to purchase a book.
6. Turn your orders and checks in weekly.
7. **Sale will run through August 26.**

**Cookie Dough** – We will do this fundraiser in November so that people can order for the Holidays
What Is Good Concert Etiquette?

It is the behavior that is considered appropriate and polite while enjoying or performing a live musical performance. Good concert etiquette shows respect for the conductor, performers, other audience members, and the music that is being performed.

What Should I Do As An Audience Member?

1. Sit quietly and wait for the concert to begin. You may talk softly while you are waiting. Do not talk or make noises during the performance. It can be very distracting to the performers.
2. Applaud after each full piece of music has been completed.
3. Sit quietly during the performance. When a performing organization presents a concert, they are putting forth their best effort; and they should expect the same from those in the audience.
4. Keep programs quiet during the performance.
5. If you must get up to leave during a concert, do so only at the end of a groups’ performance or between pieces. It is best if you stay for the entire concert.
6. Pagers and cell phones should be turned off. Watches set to beep on the hour should also be turned off. These high-pitched beeps are distracting to everyone.
7. Please use discretion in taking photos. Flash photos during a performance are extremely distracting for all.
8. Parents should keep small children seated with them and not allow them to move around during the concert. If very young children become restless and disrupt others' ability to listen, please take them from the performance area until they are quiet.
9. Please remove all hats.

What Should I Do As A Performer?

1. While on stage, act as professionally as possible. If mistakes are made, make every attempt not to call attention to it.
2. Dress appropriately.
3. Do not wave or talk to performers or audience members.
4. Help others by setting a good example.
5. Sit quietly with hands and feet to yourself, listen and learn. Do not play with toys or other objects!
6. Stay in one place without standing up.
7. Show appreciation for the efforts of other groups.
Please complete and sign the form below and return by Friday, August 12

WMS Band – Student Information Sheet

Name_______________________________________ Instrument_________________________________

Instrument Make/Model________________________ Inst. Serial # (engraved on instrument)_________________

Mom’s Name_________________________________ Dad’s Name_________________________________

Mom home phone_____________________________ Dad home phone____________________________

Mom work phone______________________________ Dad work phone_____________________________

Mom cell phone_______________________________ Dad cell phone______________________________

*please indicate which phone numbers I should try first*

Mailing Address___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________

E-mail addresses for WMS Band Updates_______________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

T-Shirt Size (adult sizes): XS S M L XL XXL

Volunteer Areas of Interest:

Fundraisers_____ Trip Chaperoning_____ Photo_____ Video_____ Uniform Sizing_____

Chili Supper_____ Silent Audition_____ Festival trip Chaperoning_____ Secretary_____

BAND HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & AGREEMENT

We have read the Woodland Band handbook and agree to all rules and policies, particularly those pertaining to behavior and concert etiquette. We have also band note of the dates listed on the band calendar, and have adjusted our family.

Student Signature_________________________________________________ Date_________________

Parent Signature__________________________________________________ Date_________________