

WHEAT

A. D. WHEAT MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND



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Band Handbook – 2021-2022

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Welcome to the A.D. Wheat Middle School Band Program!

The A.D. Wheat Middle School Band Program is based upon pride, quality, and excellence. The success of our band program centers on the willingness of all band members to work together to achieve a common goal. As a member of this band you will make new friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie unique to our organization. While we do not expect every scholar in the Band to become a professional musician, we do expect every scholar to establish goals for improvement on their instrument. We also expect responsible attitudes and actions from everyone.

Every year is a new challenge – with new combinations of personalities, talent, and music. As a member of the A.D. Wheat Middle School Band, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with your directors and fellow bandmen to make this year's band the finest musical organization our combined efforts can produce.

This handbook is designed to help you understand the concepts and policies of our organization. We hope it will be used to answer any questions of both parents and scholars and provide a helpful guide for defining the importance of keeping the Band a quality ensemble. Working together will foster responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship for each scholar to experience the world of music.

If you need any information, which does not appear here, please contact the WMS Band Hall, and we will attempt to assist you in every possible way.

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2021 - 2022 Class Schedule

1st	8:00-8:45 – Saxophone & Trombones
2nd	8:48-9:39 – Flutes & Euphoniums
3rd	9:42-10:28 – Clarinets & Tubas
4th	10:31-10:57 - JACKET TIME-
5th	11:00-11:45 – A Lunch (7th grade) –Director’s Lunch
6th	11:48-12:33 – B Lunch (8th grade) – Trumpet Class - Massey’s Conference
7th	12:36-1:21 – C Lunch (6th grade) - Symphonic Band
8th	1:24-2:09 – Instrumental Ens - Vasquez Conference
9th	2:12-2:57 – Wind Ensemble
10th	3:00-3:45 - French Horn & Percussion

Course Description

WIND ENSEMBLE:

Prerequisite: Minimum one year of Beginning Band and an audition.

1. The Wind Ensemble is comprised of the most advanced seventh and eighth grade musicians, with emphasis placed upon improving fundamental skills and musicianship.
2. Membership will be determined by audition.
3. The Wind Ensemble performs at least two concerts a year, participates in the UIL Concert/Sight-reading Contest, and one band festival.
4. All members are required to learn the All-Region music for a grade and are strongly encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band.
5. All members are required to enter the WMS-hosted solo and ensemble competition.
6. All members will be required to attend either before or after school sectionals when they are scheduled.

SYMPHONIC BAND:

Prerequisite: Minimum one year of Beginning Band and an audition.

1. The Symphonic Band is comprised of the more advanced seventh and eighth grade musicians, with emphasis placed upon improving fundamental skills.
2. Membership will be determined by audition.
3. The Symphonic Band performs at least two concerts a year, sometimes participates in the UIL Concert/Sight-reading Contest, and one band festival.
4. All members are required to learn a portion of the All-Region music for a grade and selected scholars are encouraged to audition for the All-Region Band.
5. All members are required to enter the WMS-hosted solo and ensemble competition.
6. All members will be required to attend either before or after school sectionals when they are scheduled.

BEGINNING BAND (Typically 6th grade scholars): No prior experience required
Scholars new to A.D. Wheat Middle School: Prerequisite: Audition for band placement

Course Objectives

As outlined by the TEA's Texas Essential Knowledge, the course objectives can be found:

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter117/ch117e.pdf>

Other objectives of WMS Band members include:

- Demonstrate the proper assembly and maintenance of their instrument
- Demonstrate the ability to interact responsibly and appropriately within a large group
- Demonstrate characteristics of good self-discipline as it relates to the classroom and practice habits

Additional WMS 6th Grade Band Objectives

All of the course objectives listed above in addition to:

- Five major scales and chromatic
- Perform a solo for solo contest
- Pass off specific lines in the method book designated throughout the year.
- Perform and observe at all assigned concerts in order to develop ensemble skills, stage presence and concert etiquette.
- Scholars must pass a proficiency benchmark in December to continue in Beginner Band for the spring.
- Scholars must pass a proficiency audition at the end of the year to be promoted to Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble.

Additional WMS Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble Objectives

All of the course objectives listed above in addition to:

- Seven major scales and chromatic for Symphonic Band; Twelve major scales and chromatic for Wind Ensemble
- Perform a solo and/or an ensemble
- Evaluate scholar performance using recordings of concerts and other assignments given by the directors
- Perform at pep rallies, football games, concerts, UIL competitions, and festivals to continue to develop ensemble skills, stage presence, and concert etiquette.

Individual class objective sheets may be used with more specific information and dates for completion

Band Hall Rules and Rehearsal Etiquette

- 1. Enter the band hall quietly and read the board for instructions**
- 2. Be in your seat in rest position with all necessary supplies before the bell**
- 3. Listen and respond appropriately – outbursts are not permitted**
- 4. Start and stop together**
- 5. Return your materials to their appropriate place**
- 6. Leave the band hall in an orderly fashion when dismissed by the director**

The most important of all Band rules is:

RESPECT!

Expectations of WMS Band Members

Be Responsible:

- Have all necessary supplies for class every day—instrument, accessories, music, pencil, etc.
- Have a name tag on your instrument at all times
- Put your name on all personal music, books, and supplies
- Practice the music assigned to your class
- Turn in practice records every Thursday during class

Be Respectful:

- Have proper respect for your band teacher or substitute
- Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before speaking in class
- Leave arguments and personal grudges in the main hallway before you enter
- Be respectful of other scholars' property and space
- You may enter restricted areas of the band hall only with teacher permission
- Do not play or touch equipment that does not belong to you. **Theft of ANYTHING (instrument, personal belongings, etc.) may result in automatic expulsion from the band program.**
- Music stands may be used for music-holding only
- Follow all school rules as listed in the school handbook.

Know Your Band Hall Etiquette:

- The only food or drink allowed in the Band Hall is bottled water
- No gum allowed at any time; if caught, the scholar will be issued a demerit
- No running in the band hall
- The directors' podium is for teacher use only
- Practice rooms and the ensemble room may only be used with permission from your teacher
- Walk around the band setup (where the chairs are) and **never** through the percussion setup
- Your instrument storage area is for your instrument case only—no school books, loose papers, or lunches
- Chairs and stands should return to their original position before you leave the room
- **Non-band scholars are not allowed in the band hall, except with special permission from a director**

General Band Hall Policies and Procedures

In order to have a successful band, certain procedures should be followed to help keep scholars and their equipment organized and ready for rehearsal. The following procedures will be discussed in class and practiced in order to keep our band growing musically together:

1. The Band Hall opens at 7:30am on most days. You may come in at this time to drop off your instrument or practice in the morning. If you are not practicing, please move to the correct before-school waiting area for your grade level until the bell for 1st period rings.
2. At the beginning of class, be in your assigned seat with instrument, music, sharpened pencil, and necessary accessories for your instrument within two minutes after the tardy bell. Check the board for the daily rehearsal schedule and important upcoming dates and then, place your music in rehearsal order on your stand.
3. No band scholar will play an instrument before class begins; the entire class should warm up together. Likewise, scholars will not play instruments once the band directors have instructed scholars to put away the instruments.
4. During any time, a scholar should never attempt to play another scholar's instrument, with or without the scholar's permission. It is an easy way to spread germs or damage an instrument. Please avoid this temptation.
5. The band hall closes at 4:15 pm on most days. Be sure that you return to the band hall after school to pick up your instrument so that you can take it home to practice.
6. Instrument supplies (reeds, valve oil, etc.) should be purchased from the directors ONLY before or after school.

Forgotten Instrument Policy:

Band scholars can not learn band if they do not have an instrument. If you have forgotten your instrument at home, immediately find a director and notify them to see if we have an instrument you may borrow for that day. If you are not issued an instrument or an alternate assignment, it is your responsibility to participate in rehearsal through "air playing" and being attentive to all that is taught. If at any time you fail to meet these requirements, you will be issued an alternate assignment.

First Offense: Verbal Warning

Second Offense: Alternate Assignment and Parent/Guardian phone call

Third Offense: Alternate Assignment, Lunch Detention, and Parent/Guardian phone call

Lost and Found Policy:

If binders, music, or equipment is left behind, it will be collected and taken to the lost and found box. If you are missing something, please check the box before you come to a director.

Percussion Equipment Policy:

Non-percussionists may NOT touch the percussion equipment or enter the percussion storage area. If at any time a non-percussionist is caught playing with or hitting percussion equipment, the following consequences will be issued:

First offense: Verbal warning

Second offense: Demerit for Minor Disrespect will be issued

Third offense: Demerit will be issued and a phone call to your parent/guardian

Cell Phone Policy:

During rehearsal, if a band director sees you with your cell phone out AT ANY NON-SANCTIONED TIME, it will be taken up and returned at the end of the day.

Music Procedure:

If you do not have a piece of music because you were absent when it was handed out, see a band director before class. They will probably have it for you at the podium.

Restroom Procedure:

If you need to use the restroom, raise your hand while making a letter "R" in sign language (fingers crossed).

When the director acknowledges you, fill out your agenda then bring your agenda to a band director to be signed. When you return, see a band director to notate the time you return.

Restroom emergency/sickness:

If you have a true emergency, do not stop to ask permission. If you feel like you are going to be sick, take the trash can into the hallway or restroom. When you feel like you can return, come back to class and ask for a pass to the nurse.

Classroom Interruption:

If a scholar is interrupting class with talking or playing out of turn, the consequences will be as follows:

First offense: Verbal warning

Second offense: Demerit for interrupting teaching/learning

Third offense: An alternative assignment will be issued and a phone call home may occur

Alternative Assignments

Alternative assignments will be given to scholars for not following the policies and procedures listed in the handbook. If a scholar is assigned one of these assignments, they will be required to take their assignment home to have it signed by a parent/guardian and bring it back to school the next day. If they do not return their signed assignment the next day, they will not be allowed to rejoin the class.

Consequences for other inappropriate actions not listed in the band handbook will be determined relative to the severity of the offence, and in accordance with the A.D. Wheat Middle School Handbook and administration.

Instruments and Equipment

Wheat Middle School owns many instruments including oboes, bassoons, bass clarinets, tenor and baritone saxophones, French horns, euphoniums, tubas, and extensive percussion equipment. There is a \$50 yearly usage fee charged at the beginning of the school year for the use of all school-owned wind instruments, and a \$25 Percussion fee for members of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. The revenue generated from this fee will be used for the normal upkeep and maintenance of these instruments. This fee is non-refundable.

Each scholar who plays an instrument not listed above must have their own instrument, which may be purchased or rented, preferably from a music company recommended by the CISD directors. If you have trouble acquiring an instrument, please contact a director.

Scholars are responsible for keeping their instrument in excellent playing condition. To do this, scholars need to purchase appropriate supplies (see supply list on next page). Proper cleaning instructions for all instruments will be taught in class, and should be followed. Should an instrument need any repairs, scholars should see their director either before or after school. If an instrument becomes unplayable during a rehearsal, please finger the music and see the director after class. Minor repairs can usually be fixed, but if not, a representative from a music company comes to the school every week to take the instrument back to the store. The music company should contact parents before any repairs are made.

Most minor repairs should be completed in about a week.

REPAIR: Any scholar needing repair of an instrument should first inform the director. School owned instruments will be sent to our approved repair shop by the directors. Often what looks like a major problem can be fixed easily by one of the directors; likewise, a simple-looking problem may require the services of a repair specialist. ***Payment of the repair must be made before the instrument will be released to the scholar.***

IMPORTANT!!!
PLEASE ALLOW PROFESSIONALS TO FIX YOUR INSTRUMENT.
DO NOT ATTEMPT IT AT HOME!

Instrument Protection

All scholars are assigned an instrument storage area to store their instrument during the school day. Scholars are expected to place their instrument in their spot before school every day and take it home after school every day. Scholars are not to leave their instrument lying on the floor or in the hallway outside the band hall at any time. Non-percussion scholars who are assigned a locker inside the band hall may bring a personal combination lock if they wish. If a personal lock is brought to school, the scholar must give the director the locker and combination number before it is placed on a locker. All percussion scholars will be issued a school combination lock to use on their band hall locker. While using a combination lock, locks should be secured at all times unless a scholar is taking out or putting away their instrument.

LOST/STOLEN ITEMS: If at any time, a scholar has something that has gone missing from their storage area, please first check the lost and found box for the missing item. Often, it was left out somewhere in the room, so it was placed in the box by a scholar or director. If the missing item(s) is not there, then find a band director immediately to report the item(s) that are gone.

Remember, theft of ANYTHING (instrument, personal belongings, etc.) may result in automatic expulsion from the band program.

Grading Procedures

Grades will be determined by daily participation, being prepared for class, concert attendance, practice records, playing evaluations, written examinations. Each area is divided as follows:

Minor Grades—40%

Practice records = worth approximately 10%

- Checked every Thursday in class for a weekly minor grade
- Practice records will be accepted only **one day** late, with a 10-point grade deduction.
- If a scholar is absent the day the practice is checked, it must be checked the day the scholar returns to school to receive full credit.
- Practice records must be signed by a parent/guardian.
- NO HOMEMADE PRACTICE RECORDS ARE ACCEPTED!

Daily participation = worth 30%

- Following "Expectations" on page 5 and "Procedures"
- Playing required objectives for individual grades
- Bringing your instrument and all equipment necessary to perform at your best.
- Having a PENCIL and MUSIC at every class and rehearsal.
- Turning in all forms and having them signed by parents/guardians if necessary.
- Extra credit is given for attending a pre-approved musical performance, concert, or musical activity. Proof must be in the form of a program or a letter signed by your parent or guardian. A daily grade of 100 will be assigned for each extra credit.

Major Grades—60%

Playing evaluations/ Written examinations = 60%

- Performing at all concerts and other required performances (see next page)
- Playing required objectives for an overall objective grade
- Attending sectional rehearsals when required

From the CISD Grading Policy:

1. Grades for Fine Arts scholars will be determined with regard to mastery of the TEKS for the particular course including performance. While performance is not the only component considered during assessment/evaluation, it is a legitimate part of assessment.
2. If a performance is the culminating activity based on implementation of the TEKS, *a grade may be given for participation or nonparticipation*. Extenuating circumstances shall be considered when a scholar misses a performance but shall not necessarily be the final determinative criteria.

CHAIR TESTS: Band scholars will all be involved in some type of “chair” placement in band—many times for a grade. This helps the directors determine who has the skills necessary to play more difficult parts, which helps us divide certain parts of our music. Chair tests can provide motivation for competitive scholars that want to be “first chair”, but should only be used in a friendly competitive way. Scholars will not be penalized for being a lower “chair” in band, however scholars may be offered special performance opportunities if they have a high level of skill on their instrument.

Attendance at Band Events

Our Band Curriculum includes concerts throughout the school year, all of which are required. Some may be on school days and some may be on a weekend day. Certain events are considered “extra-curricular” and fall under the same No Pass/No Play rules that are followed by athletics classes. Pre-UJL, UJL, field trips, band festivals, and some other events are No Pass/No Play events; therefore if a scholar is not passing all their classes on the previous 6-week grading period and have not become eligible on a progress report, they may not participate. Ineligible scholars’ grades will not be affected for missing one of these events, but they may be required to perform music to substitute for this grade. Every band scholar is required to attend all performances for their ensemble.

Notice will be sent home by e-mail or a letter handed out in class in advance of all activities. The directors must receive a written note at least one week (7 days) **prior** to the band function if a scholar is unable to attend.

If you are absent from a band concert, you may be excused for one of the following reasons:

- Personal illness, medical emergency, injury, or accident
- Death in the family
- Unusual circumstances discussed with a band director

In most cases, you will have the opportunity to make up the activity by playing your music or written work. Any absence from a band concert that is considered unexcused will earn a grade of zero (0). Members of the WMS Wind Ensemble that are consistently unable to attend our required performances (with unexcused absences) may be moved to Symphonic Band or experience loss of performance status.

Performance Attire

All scholars will need to dress in a uniform fashion for performances and events. Scholars will need to provide the following items: ***PLEASE HOLD OFF ON PURCHASING THESE ITEMS UNTIL ASKED***

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Boys: Black slacks, black socks, black dress shoes, and a black belt

Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Girls: Black slacks or black skirt (mid-calf or longer), black hosiery, black dress shoes, and a black belt if slacks/skirt has belt loops

All band scholars: WMS band t-shirt

*All band members and band chaperones are required to wear their WMS Band T-Shirt when they represent the Wheat Band. Orders for the 2021-2022 Band T-Shirt will be taken at a later date The WMS Band T-Shirt costs \$15.00. Please make checks payable to WMS. Parents, family, and friends who would like to purchase additional T-Shirts are encouraged to do so.

Private Lessons

Again this year, we have many fine professional musicians who have been approved by the band directors to privately tutor our scholars, and we encourage all scholars to participate in the program should they so desire. An effort will be made to schedule any interested scholar, regardless of band schedule or financial situation. Lessons usually occur one time per week for 25-30 minutes, and this year will be at a fixed cost of \$17 per lesson. scholars must maintain good attendance and show that they are genuinely interested in improving on their instrument to enroll. For more information, talk with a band director.

Financial Difficulty

If you have a financial hardship and are not able to buy all of the supplies that we require, please talk with a band director. We will do our best to work with every scholar who is dedicated to being a part of the WMS Band. Donations of equipment or financial assistance may be available through the school or individuals outside the school. We want every scholar who gives a genuine effort to participate in band to be given that opportunity, regardless of their financial situation.

Fundraising Projects

The Wheat Middle School Band participates in two fundraising projects each year. This is usually the sale of items from Cherrydale Farms and/or Cash Cow fundraising, approved by the directors and school principal.

Fall Fundraiser: scholars are not required to participate in our fundraiser; however funds raised will pay for activities throughout the year, so they are highly encouraged to do so.

Spring Fundraiser: Profits earned by Beginning Band scholars will be applied to the individual cost of their Spring Band Trip, and profit earned by scholars in the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band will be applied to the individual cost of their Spring Band Trip (usually a band festival performance and fun group activity).

Summer Band Camps

All band scholars are encouraged to attend summer band camps to improve themselves musically and to study with fellow musicians from across the state of Texas.

We highly recommend the band camp at Tarleton State University. Each year, many of our scholars attend this camp and have given it rave reviews.

Each year, WMS has hosted our own mini summer band camp, usually 2-3 weeks before school begins. We will combine with Smith Middle School, giving the scholars the opportunity to socialize with their friends, make new friends, grow musically in preparation for school, and perform a concert for the entire CISD faculty and staff at the Staff Convocation during teacher in-service. This is not a mandatory event, but we highly encourage all scholars to attend each summer.