

Westlake High School Band

Course Guidelines/Expectations

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Student will practice and demonstrate knowledge of proper technique on their instrument. (Posture, fingerings, articulation, breath support, intonation, tone, and musical expression.)
2. Student will practice and demonstrate knowledge of proper ensemble techniques (balance, blend, intonation within the ensemble, phrasing, and matching articulation.)
3. Student will demonstrate evidence of developing musicianship (improved performance, knowledge of notation and music theory.
4. Student will rehearse and perform repertoire in varied styles, genres and time periods.
5. Student will actively perform in concert and community performances.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Active participation in **all rehearsals and concerts** of the band.
2. Effort to improve individual technique on the student's instrument through home practice and in daily rehearsal as well as the conscious effort of full attention, responsible behavior and good conduct during rehearsals, performances, and all times when students are together.
3. Positive attitude displayed through a demonstration of personal character and maturity in dealing with the day to day responsibilities of being a member of an organization, accept the goals and attitudes of that organization, and to respect those placed in authority of that organization.

FALL SPORTS POLICY

Any band student playing a fall sport at Westlake High School who has decided to opt out of marching band will spend 1st quarter in a concert setting. This band will focus on musical fundamentals and small ensemble work. This class will also be available for students who cannot participate in marching band for medical reasons. If for some reason a student does not complete the fall season in a sport they would be required to finish the season in marching band.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. Pencil
2. Personal or school owned instrument with accessories as needed.
3. Tennis shoes for all marching rehearsals.
4. Drill charts/Coordinate sheets/Music for all marching rehearsals.

GRADING POLICIES:

Grading will be a combination of the student's demonstration of musicianship, attitude, effort, and performance and will be broken down in the following manner:

1. Daily Requirements

- a. **Marching Band Daily Grade** will be determined by participating in class each day. Items we will be looking at include having daily supplies being ready to go when the director calls set, participating fully by playing and marching with proper technique.

Examples of things that may deduct points:

1. No instrument
2. No Tennis shoes
3. Missing Charts/Lanyard
4. Required music not on the field.
5. Not set on time
6. Talking at set
7. Playing out of turn
8. Lack of appropriate participation.

- b. **Concert Band Daily Grade** will be determined by the following:

1. Participation: Each student is expected to be punctual, attentive, courteous and cooperative with staff members and other students at all times.
2. Neatness: Each student is expected to keep his or her rehearsal area/instrument clean and well-ordered (as per instructions). Each student is expected to treat the Music Wing with respect and to follow all rules governing its use. There will be no food or open drinks in the band room except water expect when provided by the organization.
3. Instruments and all accessories each day (beginning with a sharpened pencil!)
Woodwinds: Reeds, Cork Grease, Cleaning Equipment
Brass: Mutes, Valve/Slide Oil, Cleaning Equipment
Percussion: Correct Instruments, Mallets/Sticks/Supplies.
4. Participation: Students are to follow all rehearsal procedures, fully participate, and sit with excellent posture.

2. Performances and outside of class rehearsals

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory!

- a. Unexcused absence from after school rehearsals: The grade for that marking period will be lowered. The student may be excluded from the upcoming performance, although attendance at the performance will still be required.
- b. Unexcused absence from a performance: The grade for that marking period will be lowered one letter grade during marching season and two letter grades during concert season. A repeated violation of this requirement will serve as a basis for removal from the ensemble with a grade of "F" assigned. Please note that directors must be notified about planned absences from a performance one month before the performance in order for it to be an excused absence.

3. Classroom Work

- a. Written work
- b. Individual playing checks

ABSENCES AND TARDIES

All band members are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances.

Whenever a student is forced to be absent from or late to an after-school practice or event the student and parent are expected to make every effort to contact a director/ advisor ahead of time. **All excuses must be submitted in writing to be classified as excused.** All absences will be classified as excused or unexcused. Directors must be notified one month prior to a performance conflict, 1 week before a rehearsal conflict or 48 hours after an emergency absence. An absence may be **excused** if the student misses for extreme illness, another school function (worked out in advance with the director) or a family emergency which is severe in the judgment of the director. Failure to notify the directors will cause the absence to be **unexcused**. Work and social activities are examples of unexcused absences. **In all cases the directors will make the final decision.**

1. All excused absences require a make-up assignment to be completed by the end of the quarter. Failure to complete a make-up assignment will result in the grade being lowered as if it were an unexcused absence. (On letter grade lowered for marching band, two letter grades for concert band.)
2. In school tardiness will be counted if students are not in the music wing when the bell rings, in attendance block or their seat when the first note of warm-up is played. Students will have 7 minutes after the bell to get to the field and be set or 3 minutes after the bell rings when we are inside.

UNIFORM POLICIES

Marching Band

1. The band needs to be uniform at all times during performances. Full uniform for band members includes the shako, jacket, pants, black band shoes, tall black socks, gloves, and band shirt underneath.
2. **Jewelry - No jewelry is to be worn in uniform.** One pair of small stud earrings are permitted. **All facial piercings must be removed for performances.**
3. Hair must be a natural color.
4. Long hair must be pulled back so that it does not lay over the back of the uniform. If your hair touches the collar of the uniform it must be pinned up or in a pony tail that can be worn under the shako. Hair will remain pulled back when hats are off in the stands.
5. Extra warmth in the stands – students may layer under the uniform (under armor, etc.) but jeans or any other extra clothing that would show underneath the uniform are not permitted.
6. Uniform Infractions – Any student with uniform infractions will be placed on the cleaning crew for that week.

Concert Bands

1. All – Hair must be neat or pulled back in a ponytail.
2. All- Black closed toe dress shoes and stockings or black socks.
3. All- No jewelry except small stud earrings if desired or a short pearl necklace for girls.
4. All- facial piercings removed/tattoos covered.
5. Hair must be a natural color.

Symphonic Band

Girls – Black concert dresses provided by the school

Boys – Tuxedo provided by school – Tux shirt will need to be purchased

Concert Band

Girls – Black dress pants or skirt (below the knees when seated).

Black hose, tights or socks

White tux shirt

Boys – Black dress pants, white tux shirt, bow tie and cummerbund provided

BUS TRIP POLICIES

1. Always show proper respect and cooperation to all adult supervisors, chaperones, and bus drivers. The adults on the bus decide what is “too loud”.
2. Students will get on the bus in full uniform with their instrument. Drumline and sousaphones will load their instruments on the truck for transportation.
3. Headphones may be used on the bus – the only music to be played on the bus to be heard by everyone is the bus radio.

Football Game Procedures

1. We will march in and out of the stadium as a group. Do not fall out of formation until advised to do so by a director.
2. We will sit by section in the stands – all students must play with the band. (This is part of your performance grade.)
3. There is no “noodling” in the stands. We play as a group!
4. No Public Display of Affection (PDA).
5. Students will go to the restroom with a chaperone.
6. There is no food or drink in the stands. (Water is permitted.)
7. Third quarter is off for students. We will gather together as a group with the other band for a snack. All students must be in the stands by one minute remaining in the third quarter.
8. Uniforms are to be on at all times unless the director instructs otherwise. (Jackets zipped, etc.)
9. Remember that you are representing us as a band and Westlake High School and behave accordingly.