

BAND HANDBOOK

2009-2010



Walled Lake Western High School
Walled Lake, Michigan

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ENSEMBLES

WIND ENSEMBLE

Admission to this ensemble is by audition only. Auditions will be held in the spring for the following year. The Wind Ensemble performs some of the more advanced high school wind literature while still focusing on the basic concepts of musicianship including tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and interpretation. Performances will include several home concerts in addition to Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) district band festival held in early spring. Members of the Wind Ensemble are expected to take private lessons on their instrument, as well as participate in district and state solo and ensemble festival. Rehearsals and sections outside of the school day are expected.

SYMPHONY BAND

The Symphony Band is composed of 10th -12th grade students who are not part of the Wind Ensemble. This ensemble will continue to develop methods and techniques introduced in the students' prior band experience and include tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and interpretation. Performances will include several home concerts in addition to Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) district band festival held in early spring. All members of the Symphony Band are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument, as well as participate in district and state solo and ensemble festival.

CONCERT BAND

The Concert Band consists of all incoming freshmen and students wishing to pursue a second instrument. Emphasis will be placed on proper development of tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and interpretation with focus being placed on musical independence. Performances will include several home concerts in addition to Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) district band festival held in early spring. All members of the Concert Band are strongly encouraged to take private lessons on their instrument, as well as participate in district and state solo and ensemble festival.

JAZZ BAND

This ensemble is limited to those students who are currently enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphony Band, or Concert Band, and play one of the following instruments: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, or percussion. Flute and clarinet will be given consideration on a very limited basis. Rhythm section instruments (piano, bass, guitar, and percussion) will be open to the entire Western student body as needed, however, priority will be given to students who are currently part of the Western Music Department. Auditions will be held in late fall. Rehearsal days and times will be announced. Performances will include several home concerts, as well as various performances outside of school.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop musical independence
- Develop social maturity.
- Provide a rewarding experience.
- Perform to the highest standards.
- Broaden musical tastes.
- Develop musical skills, musical understanding, and long-term appreciation of music.

AUDITIONS

CHAIR TESTS

Initial chair placement will be held within the first month of both the first and second semester for Symphony Band and Concert Band. Wind Ensemble students will rotate parts as appropriate. Music for chair tests will be selected from the folder, major/minor scales, and technique books. Chair placement may be adjusted based on playing tests throughout the semester.

SYMPHONY BAND AND WIND ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held in the spring for the following school year for BOTH Symphony Band and Wind Ensemble and will include music excerpts, major/minor scales, and sight-reading.

JAZZ BAND AUDITIONS

Auditions will be held in late fall for the current school year and will include jazz standards, scales, and sight-reading. Instrumentation will be limited to 5-6 saxophones, 5 trumpets, 5 trombones, 1 piano, 1 guitar, 1 bass, and 2 percussion. Non-traditional instruments may be considered on a very limited basis.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

FACILITIES

All of the Performing Arts facilities must be respected and maintained at all times.

- Respect other peoples' property.
- Leave the band room neat and clean. If you see trash on the floor, pick it up!
- Keep your instrument locker clean and free of trash.
- Please enter the band office only with permission.

SCHOOL/PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS

School instruments will be checked out during the first week of school and returned in the spring. All students using school equipment will need to complete and return an ***Instrument Loan Contract***. Students using school instruments will be responsible for damage (other than normal wear and tear) to the instrument while in their care. Proper handling of school instruments is essential. Only the student who is issued an instrument is to use that instrument unless specific permission is granted by Mr. Dudzinski. Percussion instruments are only to be used by percussionists unless specific permission is granted by Mr. Dudzinski. Students will be assigned lockers and combination locks to store instruments during the day. You should begin the year with your own personal instrument in excellent working order. Pads should be clean and intact (woodwinds), and tuning/valve slides should be free and

moving (brass). Western receives weekly visits from Marshall Music and can handle your personal instrument repairs.

Please be sure to add your personal instrument to your homeowner's insurance policy. The school cannot be held responsible for loss or theft. School lockers are for the student's convenience during the school day, not for overnight storage.

SUPPLIES

Students are expected to be prepared for rehearsal with the following items:

- Instrument, music, and pencil.
- Woodwinds should have a supply of at least 3 reeds in good condition.
- Brass should have oil, grease, and mutes.
- Percussionists are expected to provide their own sticks and mallets, with the exception of gong/tam-tam, chimes, triangle, and bass drum.

MUSIC

Students will be responsible for all music that is assigned to them. Lost parts (original) need to be replaced by the student. Replacement costs are as follows:

Concert Music:	\$4.00 (includes cost of part plus postage)
Concert Folders:	\$12.00 (includes cost of printing and postage)
Jazz Music:	\$40.00 (minimum) – cannot be ordered as individual parts
Percussion Music:	Price Varies – cannot be ordered as individual parts

A variety of method books are provided for student use. These should remain in the proper cabinet slot when not in use. This book should not leave the room.

Students are expected to purchase "Foundations for Superior Performance: Warm-Ups and Techniques for Band" published by Neil A. Kjos Music Company. This will be available through Marshall Music for \$7.00 each for wind instruments. Western has a very limited supply of used books available for \$3.00 each.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

The Walled Lake Western Band Boosters hold individual accounts for students who wish to apply their fundraising efforts to various band related activities. These must relate directly to the Walled Lake Western Band program. Examples include: reeds, mouthpieces, trips, marching band camp, honor band fees, private lessons, etc. The money **MAY NOT** be used for CD's, guitar strings, etc. Furthermore, when a student leaves the Walled Lake Western Band program, the money reverts to the WLW Band Booster general fund. Students may access these funds by completing the **Authorization for Use of Student Account Funds**, available in the band room.

CONCERT UNIFORMS

The school district provides a concert uniform for all band students. Uniform fittings will be held in September. It is the responsibility of each student to provide black dress shoes (NOT black tennis shoes), black socks, and a white tuxedo shirt (men only). These uniforms are assigned to each student and should be stored on a hanger in a closet at home. It is the responsibility of the student to care for the uniform and alert the parent in charge of any problems that may arise due to normal wear. A \$15.00 fee will be assessed at the time the uniform is issued.

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

- Students are expected to act maturely and professionally at all rehearsals.
- No gum, food, hats, or unnecessary talking will be permitted.
- Please keep all cases and backpacks outside the rehearsal set-up.
- Check the board or projector screen for the rehearsal order as you enter the room, and put your music in the necessary order. Brass players should obtain mutes and perform instrument maintenance before the rehearsal begins. All students should have individual copies of the music, even if you are sharing a stand.
- There is a five-minute passing time between classes. You are given two extra minutes to prepare for rehearsal.
- Rehearsals begin when Mr. Dudzinski steps on the podium. All playing and talking should stop immediately.
- Understand the difference between **REHEARSAL** and **PRACTICE**. Rehearsal time is to be spent on areas that can only be done as a full ensemble (intonation, balance, timing, etc.). Rhythms, notes and fingerings are homework and should be worked out **before** rehearsal.
- Please reserve questions and comments that do not apply to the entire ensemble for a time other than rehearsal. Mr. Dudzinski is available after rehearsals, between classes, and before/after school.
- Give you personal best effort for every rehearsal.

LOST/MISSING MUSIC

A music librarian will be assigned to each class period. All concerns regarding lost/missing music should be directed to the music librarian. Chronic offenders will be assessed a fee.

PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE

The performance is the culmination of our rehearsal efforts and preparation. They are required. No excuses will be accepted except a death in the immediate family or severe illness. A note from the parent is required in either case. Mr. Dudzinski will make the final determination if an absence is excusable.

Please check the performance calendar for potential conflicts **NOW**.

An absence from any performance, excused or unexcused, and can only be made up with other musical events. Performances are taken seriously, and students and parents must be clear about our performance schedule.

GRADING

SUMMATIVE EVALUATION

Performances (30%)

- You will receive 100 points for each performance in which you actively participate. This includes being a good audience member. You are required to remain for the duration of the concert, even if your performance part is completed.

Benchmarks (25%)

- District-wide performance assessments to be given throughout the year.

FORMATIVE EVALUATION

Homework/Playing Tests/Quizzes (25%)

- This includes preparation of music for rehearsals.
- Playing tests will be given periodically based on the needs of the music.
- Any playing test or quiz may be retaken for a higher grade if done within the marking period.

Rehearsal Procedures (20%)

- Each student receives 5 points per day.
- Loss of points for not having instrument, music, pencil, supplies, or talking (3 pts.).
- Loss of points for being tardy to rehearsal (3 pts.).

SEMESTER EXAM – HISTORICAL/THEORETICAL TERMINOLOGY, CONCEPTS, AND LISTENING

Purpose

- Demonstrate comprehension of terms, styles, notation, and historical components covered in the semester.

SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION

The semester grade will be averaged using the two marking period grades (each weighted at 45% of final grade) and the semester exam grade (weighted at 10%).

DISTRICT GRADING SCALE

100% and above	A+	80% - 81%	B-	68% - 69%	D+
92% - 99%	A	78% - 79%	C+	62% - 67%	D
90% - 91%	A-	72% - 77%	C	60% - 61%	D-
88% - 89%	B+	70% - 71%	C-	59% and below	E
82% - 87%	B				

PARENT/STUDENT CONTRACT

*Please return to Mr. Dudzinski no later than Friday, September 11th to receive full credit
This is your first grade!*

After reading through the entire 2009-2010 Band Handbook posted on wlwbands.com, please sign below and return to Mr. Dudzinski by Friday, **September 11, 2009**. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Dudzinski.

I have read through the entire 2009-2010 Band Handbook and I understand the policies of the Walled Lake Western High School Bands.

STUDENT NAME	
_____	_____
STUDENT SIGNATURE	DATE
_____	_____
PARENT SIGNATURE	DATE

Media Release

I, _____ (parent's name) GIVE PERMISSION for the WLW Band to use pictures of _____ (student's name) on the Band's webpage, hallway mounts, and concert programs.

_____	_____
PARENT SIGNATURE	DATE