

## WHS BAND HANDBOOK 2011-2012

### SPIRIT OF WAXAHACHIE INDIAN BAND HANDBOOK FALL 2011-2012

The purpose of the following policies and procedures is to ensure and enhance the efficiency and productivity of the Waxahachie Indian Band.

## ATTENDANCE

**WORK SCHEDULES, FAMILY TRIPS, and other activities must not interfere with the rehearsal and performance schedule that you are given at the beginning of the school year.**

Students who enroll in other school activities such as athletics, choir, drama, etc. need to plan ahead to avoid conflicts that cannot be resolved. Ask to receive a complete semester calendar from all your activities so that you can have the maximum amount of time to work out potential schedule conflicts. The band directors will work together with the other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be a part of other groups. However, other groups, organizations, or businesses that may change schedules or make demands of students on short notice will not be allowed to interfere with long-scheduled rehearsals or performances of the Band. Students who find themselves involved in such activities in addition to Band may have to make a choice to drop one or the other if such conflicts arise. **NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES, TEAMS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR JOBS MUST NOT CONFLICT IN ANY WAY WITH THE PRACTICE/PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE OF THE BAND.**

The Band is dependent on ALL its members. Unlike most other classes where individuals are accountable only for their own success or failure, Band students' success is, in large part, dependent on the full participation of all the members. The following attendance policies will affect the students' grades and chance to participate:

- 1) All absences from rehearsals must be made up regardless of the reason for absence. Make-ups must be completed before the end of the grading period.
- 2) An unexcused absence from a rehearsal or performance may result in the removal of a student to a non-performing class.

During marching season, the first un-excused absence from a rehearsal or performance will result in that student being placed at the bottom of the alternated list. A second unexcused absence will result in that student becoming a Permanent Alternate. A third unexcused absence may result in dismissal from band and automatic enrollment in physical education. ***EXCUSES ARE ACCEPTED ONLY IN THE EVENT OF ILLNESS OR SERIOUS FAMILY EMERGENCY.***

## GRADES

In determining the band grade each six weeks, two areas comprise the average:

- 1) Performance Grades - including class assignments; section rehearsal assignments; objectives; chair tests; and playoffs of performance music.
- 2) Participation Grades - including having music, instrument, and pencil at all rehearsals; correct marking of music; care and maintenance of instruments; punctuality to rehearsals and performances; and attendance at rehearsals and curricular performances. Instruments are to be taken home every day. If instruments are left in the band hall overnight without permission, the student's grade will be adversely affected.

## BAND CLASSES

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All the members of the band program are assigned by audition to one of several concert bands that meet as academic classes. Auditions are held twice per year at the end of each semester. New students are auditioned upon arrival.

### ***Wind Ensemble (grades 9-12)***

The Wind Ensemble is recognized as one of the outstanding concert ensembles in the U.S. at any level and the music performed is the highest degree of difficulty. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. A one-hour section rehearsal will be scheduled weekly from January-May along with a 15 minute individual listening. Wind Ensemble members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness or emergency. Members of the Wind Ensemble are required to double block to allow for daily band practice. They will also be expected to audition for all region band and play a solo and ensemble at the UIL solo and ensemble contest. Members are encouraged to take private lessons.

### ***Symphonic Band (grades 9-12)***

The Symphonic Band is our second performing band and students will be expected to play level 3,4, & 5 music. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. A one-hour section rehearsal will be scheduled weekly from January-May along with a 15 minute individual listening. Symphonic band members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness or emergency. Members of the Symphonic band are required to double block to allow for daily band practice. They will also be expected to audition for all region band and play a solo and/or ensemble at the UIL solo and ensemble contest. Members are encouraged to take private lessons.

### ***Concert Band (grades 9-12)***

The Concert Band is our third performing band and students will be expected to play level 2, 3, 4 music. Performances will include UIL, one or more invitational festivals, two or more spring concerts, and special events. A one-hour section rehearsal will be scheduled weekly from January-May. Concert band members cannot miss rehearsal from the beginning of school until the final performance for anything other than school-sponsored competition, illness or emergency. Members of the Concert band are required to double block to allow for daily band practice. They will also be encouraged to audition for all region band and play a solo and/or ensemble at the UIL solo and ensemble contest. Members are encouraged to take private lessons.

### ***Jazz Ensembles (grades 9-12)***

Selected by audition, this performing jazz ensemble will be comprised of students from grades 9-12 who show an interest in playing jazz. Rehearsals will be scheduled Zero hour which will include a combination of before and after school times. Members in the jazz orchestra are expected to try out for All Region jazz in September.

### ***Color Guard (grades 9-12)***

Selected by audition, this performing visual group will work with qualified instructors in the areas of dance and visual expression. Members will participate as a part of the Spirit of Waxahachie Indian Marching band in the fall and will perform with the WHS winter guard in the spring. Members will also perform at select basketball games as well various dance contest and performances.

## DISCIPLINE

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. Because of this fact, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the WHS Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class may be re-assigned to another class at the discretion of the Band Director.

As a school group, the Band is governed by School and School Board policies anytime we are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. The General Release form you sign at the end of this Handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the Band. Any student who violates school rules while with the WHS Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students will be subject to dismissal and will not continue to perform or travel with the Band. Also, students who receive assignment to the Alternative School for disciplinary action outside of Band activities will not perform with the Band in any extra-curricular function for the remainder of the semester.

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## MARCHING BAND 2011

### General Requirements and Expectations

All students who (1) pass the Fundamentals marching and playing test; (2) earn a uniform; (3) attend all rehearsals, and (4) make a conscientious effort to improve will be **considered** to perform during the marching season. However, contest performances will be limited to those students who demonstrate the most advanced skills for performance.

Should a student miss a marching practice for any reason, his/her place in the show will be filled by an alternate. An "alternate" is simply a student who does not currently have a place on the field in a numbered position. Students are not designated as "permanent alternates" unless they have not complied with the attendance rules OR have been subject to a disciplinary action. Therefore, alternates may be worked back into the lineup as places open or as it may be necessary to replace those who have difficulty. In this way, it is hoped that everyone will have ample opportunities to gain experience. Younger students, new students, and those with little experience can expect to be alternates more often than upperclassmen.

Selection of alternates will be done one week at a time and may change at any time during the week. Students who are alternates at any given performance are an integral part of the performance and will assist the directors with field equipment and organizational needs. Should there be pre-game ceremonies and performances, all students including alternates will perform. (Students placed in permanent alternate positions because of disciplinary action will not participate at any time in performance.)

### ELIGIBILITY

Most of the activities associated with Marching Band are extra-curricular including football games and contests. In order to be eligible by TEA, UIL and WISD requirements, students must pass ALL classes each six weeks.

Currently, according to the Texas Education Association/ University Interscholastic League Side By Side Rules, it is stated that a student in an extracurricular activity who fails any class for a six weeks grading period will be ineligible to compete or perform with that group for the next three weeks. At the end of the three week period, a student may become eligible again if he/she is passing all classes at that time. Because of this law, any band student showing an inability to consistently be eligible could be removed and placed in a lower band, or could be removed from the band program entirely. This will constitute a schedule change, so be aware of this policy.

#### ELIGIBILITY FOR CONCERT SEASON

Most of the work that our students do outside of marching is considered curricular and NOT SUBJECT TO ELIGIBILITY. Free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons are all considered Curricular. Events that are considered Extra-Curricular include:

- 1) Any event with paid admission.
- 2) Any event that is inter school competitive

Should a band student become ineligible for extra-curricular functions, he/she will still be eligible for curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time. Should a student become ineligible for UIL Contest in the spring, he/she will not travel with the band for festival competition, regardless of eligibility at that time.

### OUT-OF-TOWN TRIPS

It is the policy of the Waxahachie Independent School District that students will receive the opportunity to travel as a member of their instrumental music program out of town. These trips constitute an excellent performance opportunity for our band and are considered a major performance. All band students are encouraged to attend these out-of-town performances. When Alfred Reed composed "Russian Christmas Music" he intended for the performance to include all parts, voices, and instrumentation. Fundraisers will be held throughout the school year to help students earn the funds necessary to travel. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize these events to help defray the costs of the trip. In addition, these trips are a reward for hard work and dedication throughout the year.

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### LETTERING

A lettering award will be presented to any Band student who fulfills the following three criteria.

- 1) Tries out for All-Region Band or All-Region Orchestra; and in the same year:
- 2) Earns a First or Second Division on a Class I memorized solo; or Earns a First or Second Division on a non-memorized Class I solo from the State Qualifying list; or Earns a First Division on a non-memorized Class I or II solo, or Earns a First Division on a Class I ensemble (if a solo is also performed), and in the same year:
- 3) Completes: the full season of Marching Band including pre-school practices; playoff games; and all other rehearsals and performances. Students who are unable to perform due to ineligibility will not letter.

The First Year Award is a jacket or blanket (student's choice) and subsequent years are letters with extra bars. Students may receive only one jacket award from the school during the four years in all school activities combined.

### INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The ultimate goal of our program is the development of the individual musician to the limits of his/her potential. To assist in reaching this goal, we strongly recommend participation in the individual competitions and festivals offered during the year.

**All-Region Band** tryouts involve the finest students from schools in our region and is the first step in advancement toward All-State. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. The music is announced in August and the tryouts are in December. Students must check their calendars carefully and make a complete commitment to both the tryouts and the performance before entering.

**Solo-Ensemble** competition takes place in late February or early March and results in non-competitive ratings and medals. All students in grades 9-12 may participate if academically eligible. Unlike Junior High solo-ensemble, the high school level is governed by the University Interscholastic League and maintains very specific music lists and rules for performance. Students must perform a solo in order to perform in an ensemble and receive lettering credit. The UIL limits participation to two different events. Students are responsible for their own accompanists, if needed.

**State Solo-Ensemble** is held the last weekend in the school year in Austin for all Gold Medal winners at the region level. Students may not play an ensemble at State unless they also attempted to qualify as a soloist. Students must enter all events in which they qualified if they wish to go to the State contest. Students are responsible for their own accompanists, if needed, and are expected to perform all events entered.

### APPLIED PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

For many years, the Waxahachie Band Program has offered private instruction from the finest graduate and professional musicians in the Dallas area. This program is supported by the individual parents who cover the cost of the program. Lessons may be taken during band class or after school. Lessons during class time may be slightly shorter than lessons taken after school. The WISD approves certain private instructors through auditions and interviews and the list will be sent to each parent near the end of the school year.

The Applied Instructors will assist students with the preparation of music for All-Region, Area, and State tryouts; for participation in Solo-Ensemble; and with occasional parts of the band performance music. Teachers will include an organized lesson plan of fundamentals that will need to be practiced consistently in order to receive the greatest benefits from private instruction. Parents should become informed about the lesson content, expectations of the teacher, and their student's rate of progress. Parents should contact their own campus band director with questions about lessons or private teachers.

Private Instruction is offered as enrichment, NOT remedial instruction. It is encouraged for the complete development of each student's potential as a performing musician. IT IS NOT REQUIRED and students' places in band and their band grades are not judged by participation in private lessons.

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### USE OF SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

A limited number of the more expensive instruments are owned by the WISD for the purpose of balancing the instrumentation district-wide and maintaining performing bands at every level. There is a yearly insurance fee of \$100 for each student playing a school-owned instrument. This fee purchases insurance that will cover maintenance, repairs, and/or replacement if damaged beyond repair.

A checkout form will be sent home for parent/guardian signature each fall which describes the condition of the instrument at that time. It is the responsibility of the student/parent to check over the instrument at that time and understand that the instrument must be returned in the same condition at the end of the year.

If repairs are necessary during the year, it is the responsibility of the student/parent to deliver the instrument to a repair facility as instructed by the BAND DIRECTOR. If, in the opinion of a WISD director, a school-owned instrument is not being properly maintained or cared for at any time of the school year, it is the director's prerogative to remove the instrument from the student's care.

### RECOMMENDED INSTRUMENT LIST

We recommend that students not continue to use their "beginner" instruments past the 8th-grade, unless an advanced model was purchased initially. Better quality instruments enable all students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. The instruments listed below are recommended by the WISD staff as the best quality:

**Flute** - Yamaha models 684 or 684-H, or Miyazawa model 202 or Muramatsu model EX

**Clarinet** - Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)

**Alto Sax** - Selmer SA-80 or Yamaha Pro Model

**Trumpet** - Bach Stradivarius 180-S

**Trombone** - Bach 42-BO

These can be purchased at many retail stores. These "pro-model" instruments are often heavily discounted for cash purchases. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments.

### WAXHACHIE BAND BOOSTERS

The Duncanville Band Boosters Association provides up to 45% of the curricular budget of the Waxahachie Band Program. They earn these funds primarily through the operation of concessions at most Waxahachie ISD football events. The Booster concession operations are run with the volunteer help of hundreds of people throughout the year. A Volunteer Sheet is included in this paperwork at registration. Please return with the other Handbook Forms. We would like to encourage every band parent student to volunteer for at least one event throughout the year. Check the Waxahachie Band Booster web page for volunteer opportunities. [www.spiritofwaxahachie.com](http://www.spiritofwaxahachie.com)

Booster Funds are used to provide extra instruments, music, equipment, supplies, programs, and enrichment at ALL of the WISD schools where band is taught.

**THE FIRST BAND BOOSTER MEETING OF THE 11-12 SCHOOL YEAR IS ON  
MONDAY, AUGUST 1 @ 7 PM IN THE HIGH SCHOOL BANDHALL**

**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!**

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## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Band is not a club. Student leaders are selected to fill roles necessary for the success of the program. A full explanation of officer positions and expectations are listed below. Students must meet the requirements prior to submitting an officer application.

### Drum Majors and Section Leaders

Drum majors and section leaders are selected by tryout in the spring and must meet the following requirement:

- 1) Must be academically eligible at the time of tryouts.
- 2) Must have played a class I solo and ensemble at the UIL contest.
- 3) Must have tried out for region band.
- 4) Must be enrolled in either Symphonic or Wind Ensemble at the time of the audition.
- 5) Must attend all summer practices, attend all leadership camps, scheduled meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities throughout the year.
- 6) Provide leadership through example, promote the highest expectations for band members, and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior.
- 7) Remain academically eligible throughout the year.

### Band Officers

Band officers are selected by the band staff and by completing an audition. The following officers will comprise the band council: president, information officer, VP of uniforms, VP of Logistics, librarians, historian, reporter, social officers, drum majors, and section leaders.

### All student leaders who are elected and selected by tryout must fulfill the following requirements to remain in their offices:

- 1) Must play a class I solo and ensemble at the UIL contest.
- 2) Must tryout for one of the all region organizations.
- 3) Must attend all summer practices, attend all leadership camps, scheduled meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities throughout the year.
- 4) Provide leadership through example, promote the highest expectations for band members, and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior. Band officers with any disciplinary referral in any class will be removed from office.
- 5) Remain academically eligible throughout the year. Ineligibility at any time will result in removal from office.

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## CALENDAR

It is the responsibility of the student to be aware of all dates and time associated with the Waxahachie band program. Check the calendar frequently.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the student to communicate to the directors in advance, if possible, of any circumstances that could affect a practice, performance, or any other situation important to the band program.

This next year is going to be a very exciting year for the Indian Band. As you well know, our band was 8<sup>th</sup> at the **2010 CLASS 4A STATE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP and A 2009 CLASS 4A STATE HONOR BAND FINALIST**. We will be hosting and performing at the UIL Concert/Sight Reading Festival, and will participate in the Desoto Invitational, Midlothian, UIL Region and UIL Area Marching Contests.

The Indian concert bands have done consistently well at U.I.L. competition and other band festivals, making sweepstakes consistently. This year we could earn another trip to the state marching contest in November! It will be an incredible experience for all. This is going to be an exciting and busy year, one that I am looking forward to with anticipation! Needless to say, our standards are quite high, but I feel that we are more than up to the challenge.

I feel honored to have you as students in the Indian band. An exciting challenge is ahead of us, and I feel that by working together we can meet those challenges and be rewarded by them. I'm sure you will agree that all the hard work will be worth it when you see and feel the pride from the results we will achieve.

Thanks,

Rich Armstrong  
Director of Bands Waxahachie High School

**Please sign the form below and return it to Mr. Armstrong. Thanks!**

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We have received and read the 2011-2012 copy of the Waxahachie Band HANDBOOK, and will make every effort to adhere to them.

Band Member Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Signature(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_