

**SPIRIT OF WAXAHACHIE INDIAN BAND
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES UPDATE
FALL 2009-2010**

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

ATTENDANCE

PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS: EXCUSED ABSENCES

All band members are required to participate in **ALL** performances. Please keep track of the Band Calendar that is distributed and posted on the website. *It is your responsibility to be on time to all scheduled practices, performances, and other activities..*

A written absence report with all doctors and/or parents' notes attached is required for absences to be considered excused.

Students have 2 days to produce all written documentation. (Absence reports are available online and/or in the Band Hall).

The following situations constitute an excused absence:

1. Illness--Requires a note from parent.
2. Death in the family--Requires a note from parent.
3. Extreme family emergency--Requires a note or phone call from parent.
4. Doctor appointment (emergency)--Requires note or call from parent. Please schedule all doctors' appointments around rehearsals and concerts. To be excused, a doctor's note must accompany the absence report and communication must occur prior to the absence.
5. All other circumstances considered to be extenuating according to the Waxahachie I.S.D. attendance policy and Band Directors.

REHEARSALS: UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Most absences, other than those listed above, are considered unexcused and subject to the discretion of the director. Any work related absence will be subject to the discretion of the directors.

Rehearsals/practice sessions unexcused absences will result in the following actions:

1. Content and valuable instruction time will be lost and cannot be recovered. As a result, a zero (0) will be given for each unexcused absence. Continued unexcused absences will result in removal from Band.
2. First unexcused absence in Band will result in parent communication via phone and/or e-mail, and a zero will be placed in grade book.
3. Second unexcused absence will result in loss of performance privilege, a zero for a grade, and placement in Concert Band (non competing band)
4. Third unexcused absence will result in removal from Band at semester.
5. Be responsible for your own actions concerning these matters!

PERFORMANCES: UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Students with one (1) unexcused Performance absence will be moved to the Concert Band at the semester and/or made an alternate in the marching band.

Students with two (2) unexcused Performance absences will be removed from the program at the semester.

Spirit of Waxahachie Band Policies and Procedures-2

EXTRA REHEARSALS AND SECTIONALS

In addition to regular rehearsals during school time, each member is required to attend additional rehearsals each week. These are required rehearsals and the same absentee rules apply to them as apply to our regular rehearsals! The day and time of sectionals vary according to section.

PERFORMANCES

All Band members are expected to participate in ALL performances including out of state performances. A missed performance will result in a lower grade for the nine weeks and may possibly jeopardize the member's chance for participating in contests and trips with the Band. Two unexcused performance absences will result in removal from Band.

TARDIES

Members should arrive no later than 10 minutes before the designated time for all rehearsals. All Band members must have their instrument, music, stands, etc. and be seated, ready to play at the appointed time. Anyone arriving after the scheduled time and not in their assigned place is considered tardy. Anyone arriving more than 15 minutes late results in missing valuable instruction time, and the academic grade may be affected accordingly. In addition, arriving this late creates a class disruption and will result in the lowering of the citizenship grade.

Tardies will result in the following:

1st Tardy	Grade reduction: warning
2 nd Tardy	Grade reduction; warning and phone call/e-mail home
3 rd Tardy	Grade reduction, detention
4 th Tardy	Grade reduction, detention, loss of performance privilege (placed as alternate in marching band)
Excessive	Placement in Concert Band and/or removal from Band

GRADES

Band members are allowed as many opportunities as necessary to pass off required objectives.

Daily Grade (30%): Includes but not limited to:

- Having all supplies necessary for a productive rehearsal (horn, reeds, music, pencil, etc.)
- Being on time for sectionals and rehearsals
- Participating in appropriate manner for a productive Band practice

Tests and Quizzes (20%): Includes but not limited to:

- Sectional playing grades
- Passing off music selections for UIL concert selections
- Theory quizzes
- UIL Solo and Ensemble participation

Playing Objectives (50%): Includes but not limited to:

- Scheduled concerts (An unexcused absence will result in a student earning a zero for this assignment)
- Certain UIL playing cuts
- Scale, Arpeggio, and other technical exercises

Spirit of Waxahachie Band Policies and Procedures-3

BAND PLACEMENT

Every student signing up for Band must audition to be placed in a band class. Placement in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble is based on a series of criteria, including but not limited to: the audition itself, participation in All-Region and Solo Ensemble, conduct, attitude, dependability, eligibility, attendance at rehearsals and performances, and the student's demonstrated ability to perform the level of the music for the Band in which they are placed.

Wind Ensemble

- Tryout for All Region Band
- Play a Class I solo and a Class I ensemble at UIL Solo and Ensemble
- 6 weeks objective tests using Smartmusic Assessments
- Weekly region band master classes Aug. 25-Dec. 5
- Weekly UIL music sectionals between Jan.-April
- Weekly 10-15 minute Listenings between Jan.-April
- Expected to participate in private lesson program and after school master classes
- Expected to participate in all performances in state and out of state

Symphonic Band

- Play a solo (class 1 or 2) at UIL Solo and Ensemble (Ensembles are encouraged)
- 6 weeks objective tests using Smartmusic Assessments
- Weekly marching band/region master classes between Aug. 25-Nov. 1
- Weekly UIL music sectionals between Jan.-April
- Weekly 10-15 minute Listenings between Jan.-April
- Encouraged to participate in private lesson program
- Expected to participate in all performances in state and out of state

Concert Band-*non competing band*

- Play a solo or an ensemble at UIL Solo and Ensemble
- 6 weeks objective tests using Smartmusic Assessments
- Weekly marching band/region master classes between Aug. 25-Nov. 1
- Weekly UIL music sectionals between Jan.-April
- Encouraged to participate in private lesson program

Jazz Band-

- Tryout for All Region Jazz Band
- 6 weeks objective tests using Smartmusic Assessments
- Perform at Jazz Café, TCU, UTA and other Jazz Festivals
- Encouraged to participate in private lesson program

Fall Color Guard

- All Wind Players should follow the playing requirements of their parent band
- All non-Wind players must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble A-4
- Entrance is by audition in the spring
- All fees must be paid prior to participating with the guard

MARCHING BAND 09

FOOTBALL GAMES, PEP RALLIES, AND PARADES

All eligible students in good standing with the band policies and procedures will perform at all football games, parades, and pep rallies. Each student will be assigned a marching position for the above events. However, the directors reserve the right to reassign students' positions to improve the performance of the band.

MARCHING CONTEST SHOW

This year our contest show will feature between 72-80 winds, 8-16 color guard, 11-14 drumline and 9-12 Front ensemble members. All other members will be placed as an alternate. Everyone is expected to attend all scheduled band activities. Students will be assigned to one of the contest positions based on their marching and playing abilities, attitude, and attendance at practices. Some students will not be assigned to the contest show. All eligible band students not assigned to the contest show are welcome to attend all contests and assist in other capacities. The directors reserve the right to reassign any student at any time to improve the performance of the band. Students not assigned to the contest show will be given opportunities to challenge into the contest show..

Challenge Process:

1. Communicate in writing on Monday (or first day of school week) your intent to challenge (forms in band hall)
2. Prepare to march and play the contest position on Thursday evening after practice
3. The best marcher and player of the position will win the challenge
4. If the challenger loses they will continue with their current assignments
5. If the challenger wins they will assume the responsibilities of the position on the following Monday
6. Challenging Students must play the same part as the person they are challenging
7. It is the responsibility of the challenger to learn the new material

EARNING THE PRIVILEGE TO WEAR AND PERFORM IN UNIFORMS

It is the responsibility of the student to complete all uniform requirements prior to the first game. Students not completing the requirements listed below will wear jeans and band shirt, be permitted to attend band functions, be allowed to perform in the stands, but will not be allowed to perform on the field. All students assigned to a contest position that do not earn the uniform by August 22th will be reassigned.

Uniform requirements to be completed by August 22, 2007

1. Marching fundamentals pass-offs with section leaders: Blue Devil Drill; Stop n Go's; and Box Drill
2. Winds-from memory play-Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, F,C,G, D concert scales and chromatic scale at 140, School Song, Fight Song
3. Percussion-from memory play-all required rudiments, Fight Song, School Song, and marching fundamentals
4. Guard-perform any/all fundamental marching exercises and show guard work determined by director

MAINTAINING HEALTH, HAVING MATERIALS, and BEING PREPARED

It is the responsibility of the student to maintain their health through out the marching season. Marching band is physically demanding and we expect our students to do the right things to prepare their body and mind for excellence. Students failing to maintain proper health will be reassigned and possibly not allowed to participate in after school practice.

All students are expected to:

1. Actively Maintain their health daily
2. Bring a 1-2 gallon container with water to every marching practice
3. Have good tennis shoes and socks
4. Bring all musical/drill materials to every practice (this includes flip folders)
5. Eat healthy meals and hydrate the body before all practice sessions
6. Participate in strength conditioning at practice-Students receive a PE waiver for participation in marching band

Spirit of Waxahachie Band Policies and Procedures-5

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 expected 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.

ELIGIBILITY

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.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are not required, but are highly recommended. Nothing can substitute for the knowledge and expertise gained from studying one on one with an expert on your particular instrument. Our band program has excelled because of the outstanding participation we have had in the private lesson program. Our philosophy on private lessons is: the better the individual student becomes on their instrument, the better our band will be! We have a fine staff of private lesson teachers. Make use of them!! The WHS Band Booster organization is dedicated in helping all students participate in private lessons by funding partial scholarships that help offset the cost of lessons. Please complete an application if you are interested.

LETTER JACKETS (Starting with Class of 11)

A student can earn a letter jacket in one school year by doing the following:

Attitude, Character, Citizenship, And Attendance

- Attend all scheduled band performances for the year (no unexcused absences from performances)
- Earn consistent "Excellent" conduct grades in band throughout the year
- Have no excessive tardies and/or absences from sectionals and rehearsals

Performance

- Make the All Region Band
- And/or Earn a Division I on a UIL Class I Solo and a UIL Class I Ensemble

A student can earn a letter jacket as a senior by doing the following:

- Attend all scheduled band performances for three years
- Earn consistent "Excellent" conduct grades in band for three years
- Have no excessive tardies and/or absences from sectionals and rehearsals for three years
- Tryout for the All Region band for three years
- Participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble contest for three years

Spirit of Waxahachie Band Policies and Procedures-6

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

Drum majors 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 made one of the all region ensembles: jazz, orchestra and/or band.
- 4) Must attend all summer practices, attend all leadership camps, scheduled meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities throughout the year.
- 5) Provide leadership through example, promote the highest expectations for band members, and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior.
- 6) Remain academically eligible throughout the year.
- 7) Must return completed Teacher Recommendation forms for each teacher.

Section Leaders

The directors appoint field officers. Officer must meet the following requirements:

- 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 made one of the all region ensembles: jazz, orchestra and/or band.
- 4) Must attend all summer practices, attend all leadership camps, scheduled meetings, and have no unexcused absences from band activities throughout the year.
- 5) Provide leadership through example; promote the highest expectations for band members; and show a zero tolerance for negative behavior.
- 6) Remain academically eligible throughout the year.

Band officers

Band officers are selected by the band staff coupled with a student evaluation. 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.

Spirit of Waxahachie Band Policies and Procedures-7

CONDUCT

The conduct of each Band member should be above reproach. By the time a student reaches high school, he/she should have the ability to exhibit appropriate behavior. The high standards set by the Waxahachie Indian Band will be strictly enforced. Poor behavior is a sign of lack of pride and a lack of concern for the Band. If a student's conduct grade falls below a "C" in Band or in any other class, he/she could be removed from their current band assignment. Members continually displaying inappropriate conduct or violating school policies will be removed from the Band Program

Below are listed habits that not be tolerated in the WHS Band Program. Any student continuing in this type of behavior will be subject to the following consequences:

1st offense	Warning, phone call to parents, grade reduction
2nd offense	Grade reduction, detention
3rd offense	Grade reduction, placement in Concert Band (a non-competing band)
4th offense	Removal from Band Program

WHS BAND PROGRAM UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIORS:

- Unprepared when conductor is ready
- Coming to class unprepared (lack of materials, horns, etc.)
- Leaving materials out in Band Hall areas
- Talking and interrupting rehearsals
- Unacceptable concert attire (a grade reduction of 10 points per item will be assessed)
- Tardiness and absenteeism (arrive for rehearsals or expect to be moved to Concert Band or removed from Band)
- Cell phones visible during rehearsal (all phones will be confiscated and turned into office) NO EXCEPTIONS!
- Working on other class work in rehearsal (books will be taken and homework destroyed)
- Use of computers for non-band activities
- Disobedience in rehearsals
- Dirty lockers
- Food in Band Hall (will result in detention for any drink and/or food at anytime before or after school)
- Hanging out in hallways and practice rooms
- Playing others' instruments (do not play a school owned instrument without permission from a director)
- Random moving during rehearsals (ask for permission and only at a break moment); use restrooms before/after practice
- Appropriate posture (if you can not do this, expect to move to the Concert Band)
- Negative talk about Band (if you do not like what you are doing, then find something else to do....NOW!)

Spirit of Waxahachie Band Policies and Procedures-8

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 11th at the **2005 CLASS 4A STATE MARCHING BAND CHAMPIONSHIP, A 2007 CLASS 4A STATE HONOR BAND FINALIST, AND THE 07 & 09 GRAND CHAMPION CONCERT BAND AT WINTERPARK!** 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!

We have received and read the 2009-2010 copy of the Waxahachie Band Policies and Procedures, and will make every effort to adhere to them.

Band Member Signature_____

Parent Signature_____

Date_____