

# WAKULLA MIDDLE SCHOOL



## BAND HANDBOOK 2020-2021

Director  
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EXPECTATIONS

Band is a team undertaking and a *co-curricular activity*. As a co-curricular activity, there are some after-school events that are *required*. Every person must be willing to do their best and contribute everything they can to the organization to help make the group better. Every member is valuable, and as such, every member is expected to be present and giving 100% at every band function. Band functions include rehearsals, performances, and special events. Mrs. Shimer will be sure to give advance notice of every band function such that each member is fully capable of attending and staying the entire time. If there is an issue, a parent/guardian must contact Mrs. Shimer *in advance* to receive an alternate assignment. *Communication between student, band director, and family is absolutely vital for success*. Band cultivates cooperation and a life-long love of music; your effort will not be wasted.

## CLASSES

BEGINNING BAND (BAND I): This course is designed for people who have never played a specific Band instrument before. No previous experience on any instrument or with music reading is necessary. Students in this class will learn everything from the beginning—music reading, music writing, music history, playing an instrument, care of instruments, and making music together! Students will have three performances during the school year in the form of public concerts. Attendance at each is mandatory. In preparation for these performances, there will be a few after-school rehearsals on specified dates. Attendance for these will also be required.

CONCERT BAND (BAND II): This course is for students who took Band I the previous year, or passed an audition with Mrs. Shimer. We will build on concepts and lessons from Beginning Band. Students will have more performance opportunities, including at least three required concerts, one football game, and the opportunity to participate in Solo & Ensemble, All-State Bands and Orchestras, and All-District Honor Band. Attendance at each *school concert/rehearsal* and *football game* is mandatory, but there will be a few optional events, as will be clearly communicated to families.

SYMPHONIC BAND (BAND III): This course is for all students who have successfully played an instrument in Band I and Band II, or who passed an audition with Mrs. Shimer. In this class, students will continue to build on concepts and lessons taught in the previous band class, but will work on more difficult music in a more advanced setting. Students will have several performances, including at least three required concerts, Music Performance Assessment (MPA), and performances at two football games. There will also be after-school rehearsals. At these performances and rehearsals, attendance will be required. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in Solo & Ensemble and/or audition for All-State Bands and Orchestras and our local All-District Honor Band (optional).

## PERFORMANCES/MUSICAL EVENTS

Notice of performances and rehearsals will be given well in advance by Mrs. Shimer. Student attendance and participation at each event is **mandatory**. If there is a valid conflict, Mrs. Shimer must be notified immediately and *in advance* by the parent/guardian of the student. Students who must miss an event for a valid reason will be given an alternate assignment to make up the grade that they missed.

If a student misses a performance and a parent/guardian does not contact Mrs. Shimer, or the excuse given is not considered an “excused” absence, the student will be given a grade of zero for that event (equivalent to a major test grade). Habitual unexcused absences will significantly impact a student’s grade, and a conversation between Mrs. Shimer and the family will occur regarding the student’s continued membership in the Band. Students are expected to be on time and stay for the entire event, unless prior approval is given by Mrs. Shimer.

**Excused absences** include student or immediate family member sickness, such that the student is unable to perform, or death in the immediate family. **Unexcused absences** are basically anything else—for example (not a complete list): lack of transportation, need to babysit, punishment, or student not communicating with family. Notice of performances and rehearsals will be given far enough in advance that these arrangements should be taken care of.

### CONFLICTS:

It is my philosophy that students should be able to participate in a variety of school activities (like band, chorus, sports, drama, Odyssey of the Mind, etc). When teachers, students, and families work together and communicate, the majority of potential conflicts can be addressed before there are any issues. However, the following guidelines should be considered in the event of conflicts:

- 1) a *concert/performance* or *game* should take precedence over rehearsals or practices
- 2) a conflict should be reported to the Band Director by the student AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
- 3) Wakulla Middle School events will always take precedence over non-school related activities

Conflicts will be handled on an individual basis. **Advanced notice is required**, but there is usually a solution available.

## DAILY PROCEDURES

All procedures will be discussed with students in class so that everyone is aware of them. Students will:

1. Come into the room quietly and quickly, get their instruments, supplies, and stands, and sit in their seats. Any student who has not completed these steps **three minutes after the bell has rung** will be considered tardy.
2. Students can *quietly* play *their* instruments until Mrs. Shimer steps onto the podium. At that point, all noise will cease.

3. At the end of class, students will be given extra time to put up their instruments in an orderly manner and return to their seats. Mrs. Shimer will dismiss each class, *not* the bell.

## RULES

1. Use pencil only.
2. Walk at all times.
3. Water only in class.
4. Only handle *your* stuff: this means do not touch anyone's instrument, case, supplies, pencils—*if it's not yours, don't touch it.*
5. Stay in your area (not in any of the 3 areas that are out-of-bounds).
6. Show respect to adults and classmates.

## POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES

1. Verbal Warning
2. Parent/Guardian contact
3. Removal from learning area to a “wind-down” area
4. Lunch Detention
5. Referral
  - a. If a student does something very dangerous, all other steps can be skipped and a referral can be written

## GRADING

The grading scale is as follows:

A	100-90%
B	89-80%
C	79-70%
D	69-60%
F	59-0%

Your grade in band will be determined as follows:

Composition Notebooks: 10%

Class Participation (materials, rehearsals): 30%

Tests/Quizzes/Performances (concerts, performances, tests in class): 60%

Students will each be issued a composition notebook. Every week (with a few exceptions), students will keep a record of goals, progress, and practice time in this book. Once a month, the composition book will be sent home for a parent signature, which will be a homework grade. They will also have a playing test every week (usually on Fridays) on specified material. Class Participation includes attendance at rehearsals, bringing

instruments to class, having a pencil, and bringing all necessary music and other materials.

## UNIFORMS

Students in all Band classes will need to purchase a special band uniform shirt. These shirts will be different depending on the band the student is in. Information about cost and ordering through the school will be sent home later. If there is a concern about the cost of the shirt, arrangements can be made, so don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Shimer! **All Band Students** will need *black dress pants* and *nice black shoes (with black socks and belt if needed!)*. These can be purchased anywhere—if there is a question or concern, please contact Mrs. Shimer.

## FUNDRAISING

Band is a nonprofit organization, and here at WMS, we do not ask parents to cover “band fees” out of their own pockets. Therefore, because we have a lot of expenses that we need to cover, fundraising is the only way we can meet our needs. There will be a couple of fundraisers during the school year. All band classes will be asked to participate, but parents can also chose to make a donation to the Band in lieu of participating. Funds raised cover purchase of music, music-related fees, instruments, instrument repair, and other miscellaneous items. **If there are any concerns, please let Mrs. Shimer know.**

## MUSIC, INSTRUMENTS, AND SUPPLIES

1. Most students will rent an instrument from Playground Music or Music Masters. Pricing is different depending on the instrument and will be discussed directly with the company.
2. Some students will rent school-owned instruments for the year. A contract will be signed and a fee of \$50 will be assessed for the year.
3. Students will be given music throughout the year. It is vitally important that students do not lose this music. If a student habitually loses music, he or she will be responsible for buying his/her own copy.
4. A 3-ring binder is required to help reduce the amount of music that is lost. It will also hold the student's packet of warm-ups that will be handed out during the first week of playing.

## PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons on a student's specific instrument are **strongly** encouraged, but are not mandatory. Private lessons allow the student to focus on instrument-specific information and to play music that he or she may not get the opportunity to play during a band class. Playing generally improves tremendously and it is very beneficial to the student. Mrs. Shimer has a list of private instructors in the area for interested parents.

## COMPOSITION NOTEBOOKS

Essentially every week, students will be required to use their (provided) composition notebook to record personal musical/playing goals and their progress toward those goals. Then, once a month (~twice per Nine Weeks), students will take those books home for a parent/guardian signature. These books are 10% of the overall grade. Students will have an entire week to turn in their composition books and a grade will be assigned based on correct completion.

## EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES

There are a few ways that students can earn extra credit:

- 1) On a Scale Test, the student may choose to learn an extra octave. This can earn them one extra point on a test grade (for example, an 11/10), and tests are 60% of their grade. Even though it's only one point, it can significantly increase their grade. They can *also* choose to play the scale fast—the exact speed required for 1 point of extra credit will be relayed to students before the test. If a student does **both**, he or she can earn two points. However, extra credit is not guaranteed just because you attempt it; if it's not done well, they can actually lose points.
- 2) Attend a concert or performance! Any type of music at any place is acceptable! For example, you could attend your little sister's chorus concert at Medart Elementary, or our WMS Chorus concert, or listen to the guy who plays guitar at your grandma's nursing home, or an Imagine Dragons concert...basically, anything you can **PROVE** you were at. In order to get credit, you need to turn in a ticket or a copy of the concert program. If I ask you some questions about it and you can't answer, you won't get credit—so don't lie, it's awkward for all of us. :)

WAKULLA MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND  
2020-2021

Ms. Haley Shimer, DIRECTOR  
Mr. Tolar Griffin, PRINCIPAL

This handbook states the rules and regulations of this Band organization. This is an agreement between the Band and its' student members and the parents/guardians of those members. All parties are aware of the obligations and agree to them as stated.

I have read the Wakulla Middle School Band Handbook. By signing this, both my band student and I agree to abide by the rules and obligations set forth. I hereby give my permission for my band student to participate in all scheduled band activities for this school year.

**I promise I'm not going to spam you—please provide your e-mail address so that I may e-mail you reminders and copies of papers that were sent home with your student (just in case they don't make it home).**

Student Name (PRINT)	Grade
Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
Primary E-mail of Parent	<input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in volunteering!
Phone Number for Parent	

## **SIGN UP FOR REMIND!!!**

*This will help you stay informed about emails and important dates!*

How do I join a class?

You can join a class or school to receive Remind messages via text, email, or push notification (or any combination of these).

### **To get text notifications:**

#### **Join by text:**

Participants text a unique class or school code to a Remind phone number. For U.S teachers, the Remind number is 81010. For example, if you wanted to join a class with the class code @math, you would text @math to 81010.

**OUR CLASS CODES:**     **Beginning Band is @wmsbb2020**  
                                 **Concert Band is @wmscb2020**  
                                 **Symphonic Band is @wms20band**

#### **Join online:**

Visit [remind.com/join](https://remind.com/join) and enter the class or school code along with your mobile phone number. You'll get text notifications at the number you entered.

### **Get mobile app notifications.**

[Download the mobile app](#) for iOS and Android devices and create a new account (or log in if you already have one.) To join a class, tap the + by Classes Joined and either join with your class code or search for your class. You'll automatically get app notifications.

### **Get email notifications.**

#### **Join online:**

Visit [remind.com/join](https://remind.com/join) and enter the class or school code and your email address.

#### **Join from your inbox:**

Send a blank email to [code@mail.remind.com](mailto:code@mail.remind.com). (If the class code were @math, for example, you'd send a blank email to [math@mail.remind.com](mailto:math@mail.remind.com).) You'll get a response with more instructions.

If you don't have a class code, you can log in to your account to search for your class.