

Wheaton Christian Grammar School

Cadet Band Handbook

2009-2010

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August 27, 2009

Dear Band Members and Parents,

I hope you are all as excited as I am about Cadet Band this school year. I am really looking forward to working with each one of you in creating the best sounding band we can be. In this handbook you will find my policies and procedures of the band program as well as information concerning this school year.

Parents

Thank you for allowing your son or daughter the opportunity of playing a band instrument. Playing in a concert band is a unique experience like nothing else. It is crucial that I have the support of parents as we partner in training your children in becoming great musicians. Please encourage your children in the area of practicing. Being an instrumentalist for over 40 years I know that the only way to improve as a musician is to spend time practicing. A musician's expertise on an instrument is directly proportional to the time spent practicing – it's as simple as that!

Response

Please read through the following information very carefully. Students and their parents must sign and return the attached sheet by Tuesday, September 8.

I'm looking forward to a great year together!

Sincerely,

Mr. David Wright

Discipline

Band by its very name suggests oneness, teamwork, ensemble, and cooperation, with everyone striving for a common goal. This all comes at a student's life when individual identity is desired. As Christians, we all recognize the importance of working together cooperatively, for one goal – bringing glory to God. A very small number of students find they cannot make this kind of sacrifice and become disruptive discipline problems in the band rehearsal. These students will not be allowed to affect the quality of learning taking place in class. Continued problems will result in that student being removed from rehearsal, and ultimately dismissed from the instrumental program. Consequences may include a one on one conference with the director, after school detention, call to parents, and a reduction of the student's daily grade. Band members need to accept *responsibility* for their actions, good or bad. Students should be looking to glorify God and work toward the success of our band program.

Daily Rules and Procedures

The following rules are set in place to create an atmosphere of learning and success. Students who violate these rules are responsible for reducing the amount of time for rehearsal and consequently hurting the entire band.

1. Enter the multi-purpose room in a quiet, courteous, and orderly manner.
2. Quickly get out your instrument and music and take your seat.
3. A student is considered late to class if they are not in their seat, ready to play by **9:05 a.m.** Class begins at 9:00 a.m.
4. **Students are not to play their instruments until directed by Mr. Wright. Warm-ups will be done together as a band. There will be NO PLAYING until this happens.**
5. Concert attention will be observed when the director steps on the podium and no further talking will be permitted.
6. Students will not play their instruments without permission.
7. Students will not play other students' instruments. **This includes percussion instruments and keyboards.**
8. Band members will have the following at every rehearsal:
 - a. INSTRUMENT (with the necessary accessories)
 - b. ALL MUSIC
 - c. PENCIL
9. All school books, cases, and equipment not needed for class should be left in the instrument lockers during band rehearsal.
10. Good posture is of great importance at all times.
11. Music stands are for music – ONLY.
12. When class is over, quietly remain in your seat until you are dismissed.
13. Instruments **MUST** be stored in instrument lockers when not being played at school. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT ON THE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM FLOOR, IN HALLWAYS, OR IN THE MUSIC ROOM!** If you would like to lock your instrument in your instrument locker, locks are available. Please use WCGS locks only.
14. Practicing is very important. More is accomplished in band rehearsal when you have learned your music at home. Leaving your instrument at school overnight should be the exception rather than the rule.

15. Students who do not bring their instruments to school for rehearsal will have points deducted from their participation grade, or after repeated incidents, lose chair ranking.
16. Absolutely no gum, food, or drink in the band rehearsal. (water is OK)
17. Respect the rights, safety, and property of others.
18. Accept responsibility for yourself and your learning.

Grades/Points

Grades are based on an average of practice/preparation, performance, and progress that includes participation/attendance at rehearsals, concerts, and sectionals. Points are accumulated for each activity listed above. The student's grade will be comprised of the following three "P's": Participation – 62%, Progress – 20%, Practice – 18%. In addition to these activities students may also earn extra points by doing the following:

Concert/Recital Attendance – Students may attend concerts or recitals to earn points. Concerts that you attend must be performed with live music and musicians. Bring in a concert program to receive your points.

20 points per event

Recitals – Each student who participates in a recital with their private teacher will earn points.

50 points per event

Private Lessons – Every instrumentalist should consider taking private lessons on his/her instrument. Students will receive points for taking weekly private lessons.

30 points per lesson

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest – Solo and ensemble contest will be coming up in February. Now is a good time to begin thinking about your involvement in this contest. Information will be sent home when it is available.

75 points per event

Rehearsal Clean-up - Earn extra points by helping Mr. Wright clean-up after rehearsals. *10 points per day*

Sectionals

All students in Cadet Band have scheduled sectionals during the regular school day. Since academic classes will be missed for sectionals, **IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK!** The only exception for missing a sectional is if a teacher is giving a test during that period in class and it cannot be made up at another time. **It is critical that every band student attend these sectionals. They are vital to the progress of our band's success.**

SmartMusic Practicing System

All students are required to practice at home several times a week. Consistent, daily work is essential to improvement on your instrument. This year, we will again use the SmartMusic computer program. Each Cadet Band student will be required to purchase a subscription and enroll in the SmartMusic program. The cost of a one-year subscription is \$21.25. Periodic assignments and playing tests will need to be completed and submitted throughout the year. These assignments will make up 15-18% of the student's quarter grades. Students who do not have access to a computer at home may submit their assignments at school either during class, before school, or after school. If you have a SmartMusic subscription make sure that you renew your license and enroll in Cadet Band online. If you are new to WCGS, or do not have a previous subscription, see the attached information and instructions for SmartMusic.

Instrument Care and Maintenance

All students must have instruments in good playing condition. Students are expected to maintain proper care of their instruments throughout the school year. This includes reeds, mouthpieces, mutes, valve oil, slide cream, cork grease, etc. Music and Arts, Inc. visits our school weekly and can be utilized for repairs. I recommend the following companies for purchasing supplies: Sam Ash Music (at Main Street and Roosevelt Road in Lombard), Music and Arts Center (at Naper and Ogden in Naperville), The Woodwind Brasswind – www.wwbw.com, or Musician's Friend – www.musiciansfriend.com.

Here is a list of accessories each student will need for the proper care of their instrument(s):

Flute

Cleaning rod
Small cloth
Silver polishing cloth

Oboe

Oboe reeds
Oboe swab

Clarinet

Clarinet reeds (min. 2)
Clarinet swab
Mouthpiece brush
Cork grease

Saxophone

Sax reeds (min. 2)
Sax swab
Mouthpiece brush
Neck strap
Cork grease

Trumpet/Horn

Valve Oil
Cleaning snake
Tuning-slide grease
Mouthpiece brush
Cleaning rag

Trombone

Water spray bottle
Tuning-slide grease
Mouthpiece brush
Trombone slide cream
Cleaning snake
Cleaning rag

Baritone/Tuba

Valve Oil
Cleaning Snake
Tuning-slide grease
Mouthpiece brush
Cleaning rag

Percussion

Drum Sticks
Bell Mallets
Bell / Combo Kit

Rehearsal Schedule

Cadet Band rehearses twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:00-9:40 a.m. Always be on time. Rehearsals are mandatory and may not be missed for any reason other than absence from school. If you know you will be out of school on a particular day, please see Mr. Wright ahead of time to cover what you will miss. Attendance and punctuality are a major part of your grading period average.

Seating Auditions

In an effort to assign a part to each student that is within their technical ability, students will play a group audition for me. This is not an audition to “get into the group,” only for part and chair assignments. These auditions will take place during sectionals during the first few weeks of school.

Challenges

On the basis of the results of the auditions in September, students will be assigned seats within the section. Students desiring to “improve” their position may do so by challenging the person directly ahead of them. A student wishing to challenge simply informs the director who will assign music to both players. At the end of the week the player who exhibits better preparation on the assigned music will take the higher seat.

Concert Dress Code

The concert dress code for Cadet Band is as follows:

Girls – White blouse, black skirt (see student handbook for appropriate length) or black dress pants, and black shoes.

Boys – White, collared dress shirt, dark tie, black dress pants, black belt, black socks, and black shoes (NO gym shoes).

Music Boosters Parent Organization

We are interested in maintaining a Music Boosters Parent Organization this year at WCGS. The purpose of this organization is to help encourage and promote music at our school. We are also looking for ways to raise money in order to provide equipment for our vocal and instrumental music groups that is not covered in our normal operating budgets. If you are interested in helping or taking a leadership role in this organization, please contact Mr. Wright at 668-1385, ext. 257, or email at dwright@wheatonchristian.org as soon as possible.

Concerts and Important dates

The concerts and events listed below are **mandatory** and may not be missed for any reason other than illness or a death in the family. Student’s grades for concerts cannot be made up with the exception of illness or death in the family. These events are to be viewed as a final exam. Failure to attend any of these events will cause a drop in the students quarter grade.

Attend Music Department Kick-off Concert7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 29, 2009
Christmas Band Concert. 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 8, 2009
Spring Band Concert..... 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 18, 2010

In addition to the above concerts, students may **choose** to be involved in the following events for extra credit:

IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Contest.....Saturday, February 13, 2010
Fine Arts Solo RecitalsMonday, May 3, 2010

Cadet Band Commitment Form

I have read the preceding information. I understand and accept the commitment and expectations of becoming a member of the Cadet Band. I also realize that I am making a one-year commitment for the 2009-2010 school year to the WCGS Cadet Band.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

**Please detach this form, sign and return to Mr. Wright by Tuesday,
September 9.**