

Weddington Middle School Band Syllabus

Website All important information and dates can be found on the WMS Band website. Check it regularly at www.wmsband.blogspot.com

Grading System

Each 6-weeks grade will be determined by the students' performance in:

	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
1) Playing Tests and Performances	70%	80%	90%
2) Classroom Grade and Written Tests	15%	10%	5%
3) Practice Records	15%	10%	5%

Class Rules

- 1) Be quiet in your chair with materials when class begins
- 2) No gum, candy, food, or drinks in the band room
- 3) Don't play your instrument unless you are under direction
- 4) Stay off equipment not assigned to you
- 5) Raise your hand to speak or to ask to leave your seat

Playing Tests

Playing tests will be held during class at the rate of about one per three week period. Any student who wishes to improve a grade on a playing test may do so if the student arranges a time with the director outside class to retake the test. Retakes on playing tests can be done up until the day before the end of the grading period.

Written Tests

One written test will be given per grading period and will concentrate on the theory and history of music. Study guides are given to students to prepare.

Performances

The band is a performing ensemble to which every student must contribute. Each student is expected to attend all performances of the band (between two and four each year). The dates of these events will be posted online far in advance to allow for schedule planning. In the event of personal illness and/or death in the family, the student may be excused from the performance without penalty provided that a note signed by the parent/guardian is given to the director the following day. All other conflicts must be approved by the band director at least one month BEFORE the performance. Extracurricular activities such as sports, cheerleading, dance, etc. are **not** excusable absences for an announced performance.

Practice Records

Each student is to turn in a signed practice record every three weeks which contains time practiced during those three weeks. **Instruments are to be practiced at home a minimum of 100 minutes per week.** Records turned in late (after five school days) will be accepted with a grade deduction. Records cannot be counted once the grading period has ended.

Classroom Grade	Grading in this area will be based upon the day to day preparation and adherence to the class rules by each student. Violations of classroom rules results in a deduction of the classroom grade (examples include: gum, candy, food, lack of supplies, forgetting an instrument or folder, disrespect for equipment, excessive talking, intentional improper playing, not following directions, etc).
The Rubric	Each student in the band is evaluated twelve times throughout the year utilizing the band rubric based on the National Standards for Music Education. The rubric evaluates areas such as posture, embouchure, breathing, tone, rhythmic accuracy, tonguing, intonation, pitch accuracy, sightreading, and classroom preparation. These numbers are used to help determine how to best group students by similar ability needs as well as determining what areas of technique need improvement.
Dismissal	A student may be removed from the band program permanently in the case of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Extreme discipline problems 2) An unexcused absence from a performance 3) Lack of musical progress (failing two or more grading periods)
Supplies	Each student is expected to have a mechanical pencil, their own method book sheets, a half-inch 3-ring binder with plastic page covers, and instrument at their seat. Brass students are expected to have valve oil and slide grease in their case at all times. Reed players are to have at least three good reeds in their reed case. Clarinets must use Vandoren reeds (strength 2.5 or higher). Saxes must use Vandoren reeds (strength 3 or higher). All players are expected to have proper equipment to clean their instrument. Supplies can be purchased before the school day begins or at the Music and Arts Center . Equipment will be checked periodically as part of the classroom grade. Students who lose their method book sheets must print another copy from the band website.
Clinics and Events	7th and 8th grade students have the opportunity to audition for special honor band clinics and festivals held throughout the area. Details are on the band website.
Concert Dress	All students are expected to dress appropriately for performances. Standard concert attire is ALL BLACK dress clothes. Ladies may wear dresses or pants. Men may wear polo shirts or dress shirts. All clothes, including dress shoes, heels, pumps, boots, etc must be all black. Details are on the band website.
Restroom	The master schedule for Weddington Middle School has bathroom breaks built into the school day before students come to their Related Arts classes. Students are to use the bathroom at the designated times and will not be allowed to leave the room during band or any other Related Arts class except in an extreme emergency. Abuse of this rule will result in parental notification and office referral. If a student is sick they may fill out a health room pass and be excused.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a necessary part of any band program in which every student is expected to participate. One fundraising project will be held each year to raise funds for equipment, music, transportation, and the operation of the band program.

In the Morning

Students will not be allowed in the band room or the hallway before 8:30am. Band students will be allowed to drop off **their own** instrument in the band room beginning at **8:30 am**. Students not in band will not be allowed to enter the band room for any reason. **Students must have their name somewhere on their case at all times.**

In the Afternoon

Students may pick up **their own** instrument on their way out to the parking lots. Non-Band students and band students not picking up an instrument will not be allowed in the band room.

In Closing

I hope you will take the opportunity to go over this material with your child as I have during class. Band is an exciting medium with which to learn music and I hope to see each child live up to his or her potential.

Mekel Rogers
Director of Bands