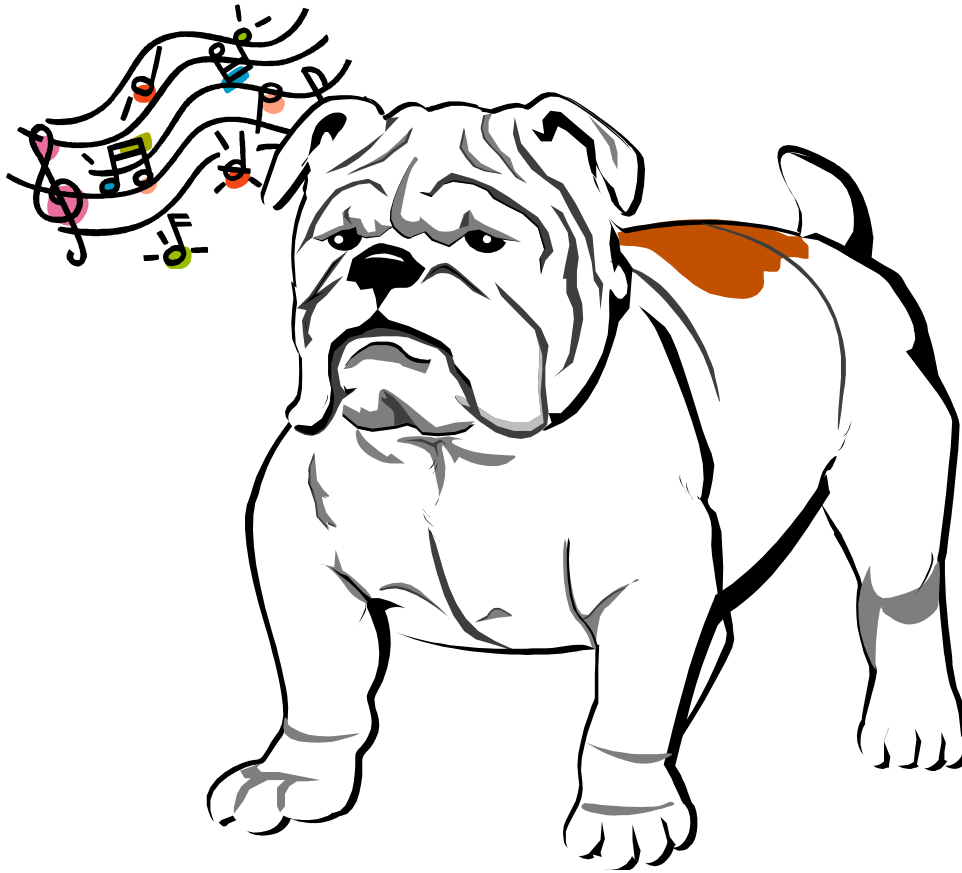


Woodland Park Middle School Band Handbook



Rules and Expectations 2015-2016

A Guide for Band Students & Families

“Always moving forward and striving for excellence!”

**Michael Schmidt
Director of Bands**

**Woodland Park Middle School
1270 Rock Springs Road
San Marcos, CA 92069
(760) 290-2455, Ext. 3901
michael.schmidt@smusd.org**

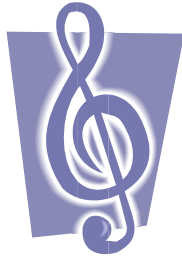
Welcome to the new Band Year!

You are about to embark on a great journey in life and that is making music! You are also going to be a member of one of the most exciting music programs in the San Marcos community. Please pay close attention to all the information provided in this handbook. This handbook is a guide to all of the things that are important and valued in the Woodland Park Middle School music program.

We believe:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in making music.
- Music is an integral part of a student's development; emotionally and intellectually.
- Achieving a high standard of performance in band helps foster a work ethic students will need to succeed in other areas of their lives.
- Music offers creative and aural opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- Through participation in band all students begin to develop excellent social skills, self-esteem and positive attitudes.
- Band gives students an emotional and expressive release during the school day.
- Music is an important part of our lives as students, people, and citizens of the world.
- Making music is not only a fun activity, but through hard work, dedication and practicing, there is much to be learned through band.

Everything we do in the music program is important, which makes **YOU very important**. Excellence is a journey. So let's start "moving forward and start striving for Excellence."



BAND HANDBOOK

Woodland Park Middle School
Michael Schmidt, Director of Bands

To all Music Students, Parents and Guardians,

Greetings from the Woodland Park Middle School band room! The primary activity in each class I teach is learning how to play band instruments at a superior level of musicianship. I hope that all of my students will learn cooperation and teamwork are essential in order to perform well at the highest levels of music.

During this school year, our students in the band program will have a variety of opportunities including performing at concerts, participating in band festivals, and performing at community events. A calendar of events is included on the following page. **Please plan ahead and mark your calendar early.** Your student's participation in all rehearsal and performances for their ensemble is very important for the success of the entire group.

Please review this handbook with your child, and let us begin our musical journey together. Returning the completed last two pages of your handbook, **The Band Medical form & Student Information form**, are your student's first assignments. These forms are due by ***Friday, September 12th***.

The Woodland Park Middle School Band is known to have an active parent group and your involvement can only help enhance our program. Volunteering in the band program is a great opportunity to remain active in your student's school life, create a family atmosphere at band events, and possibly make some new friends! If you can help us in any way, please indicate how on the Student Information Form.

Learning to play an instrument might be hard for some, but the journey learning something new is very rewarding. The continued health, happiness, and success of the band program as a whole is due to the hardworking students who strive for excellence, great school and community support, communication and cooperation from parents, and the wonderful staff at Woodland Park Middle School. It is my hope that this handbook will help guide all of us in our continued quest for excellence. Let's make this year a great one by creating beautiful memories and exciting music.

If you have any questions or would like to help out with our program, please contact me at (760) 290-2455 ext. 3901, or michael.schmidt@smusd.org.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Schmidt
Director of Music

2015-2016 PROJECTED BAND CALENDAR

BB – Beginning Band, **CB** – Concert Band, **SB** – Symphonic Band, **JB** – Jazz Band, **JGB** – Jazz “Gig” Band
PAC = Woodland Park Middle School, Performing Arts Center

September:

(**BB**) Thursday, Sept. 17th, Ice Cream Social – Beginning Band Welcome Night @ 6pm PAC

October:

(**JGB**) Saturday, Oct. 17th, Richland Halloween Carnival, AM

(**JGB**) Friday, Oct. 23rd, Knob Hill Halloween Carnival, PM

November:

(**CB**) Wednesday, Nov. 4th, Concert Band Rehearsal @ 1:30-3:30pm PAC

(**BB**) Friday, Nov. 6th, Beginning Band Coffee Concert, during class periods, PAC

(**CB, SB, JB**) Wednesday, Nov. 18th, Fall Concert @ 7pm PAC

December:

(**BB**) Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, Beginning Band Rehearsal @ 1:30pm PAC

(**BB, JB**) Thursday, Dec. 10th, Winter Concert @ 7pm WPMS GYM

February:

(**CB**) Wednesday, Feb. 17th, Concert Band Rehearsal @ 1:30-3:30pm PAC

(**CB**) Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, SMUSD Pre-Festival Concert @ MHHS, PM

(**SB**) Wednesday, Feb. 24th, District Pre-Festival Concert @ TBD, PM

March:

(**SB**) Thursday, Mar. 3rd, El Camino HS SCSBOA Festival, AM

(**BB**) Friday, Mar. 4th, Beginning Band Coffee Concert, during class periods, PAC

(**JGB**) Wednesday, Mar. 16th, San Elijo MS Jazz Festival

(**BB**) TBD Knob Hill Elementary Band Recruitment Concert

(**BB**) TBD Richland Elementary Band Recruitment Concert

April:

(**BB**) TBD Twin Oaks Elementary Band Recruitment Concert

(**CB**) Saturday, Apr. 23rd, Forum Music Festival, Knott’s Berry Farm

(**JGB**) Thursday, Apr. 28th, Artwalk, TBD, PAC

May:

(**BB**) Friday, May 6th, Beginning Band Coffee Concert, during class periods, PAC

(**SB, JGB**) Saturday, May 7th, Forum Music Festival Knott’s

(**BB**) Wednesday, May 11th, Beginning Band Rehearsal, 1:30-2:30pm, PAC

(**CB**) Wednesday, May 18th, Concert Band Rehearsal, 1:30-3:30pm, PAC

(**JGB**) Thursday, May 26th, 5th Grade Tour/Parent Night, TBD, PAC

June:

(**ALL**) TBD Spring Concert @ 7pm California Center for the Arts in Escondido

(**ALL**) Thursday, June 11th, Music Awards Night @ 6pm PAC

Suggestions to help you with conflicts and support your groups:

1. Post all dates on your family calendar
2. Keep your school and personal dates all on the same calendar
3. Invite family, relatives, and neighbors to all of your child’s concerts!

ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!

ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTIONS

Beginning Band

Beginning Band is open to all students who would like to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Instruction focuses on the development of basic performance techniques leading to a solid fundamental knowledge of the instrument and the ability to perform independently. **Students are required to participate in all assigned performances to receive full credit.**

Concert Band

Concert Band is open to all students who have had previous experience playing woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Approval of the instructor is required for admission in this class. Instruction focuses on the preparation of music and developing the key instrumental techniques of tone, rhythmic accuracy, technical facility, articulation, intonation, blend, balance, and musical expression. **Students are required to participate in all assigned performances to receive full credit.**

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is the most advanced band at Woodland Park Middle School. This band is open to all approved students who have had previous experience playing wind, brass, or percussion instruments. Approval of the instructor is required for admission in this class. Instruction focuses on the preparation of music and developing the key instrumental techniques of tone, rhythmic accuracy, technical facility, articulation, intonation, blend, balance, and musical expression. As one of the most visible performing groups of the music department, **students are required to participate in all assigned performances to receive full credit.** This group performs at state sanctioned-rated music festivals.

Jazz “Stage” Band & Jazz “Gig” Band

The two jazz bands meet before school as a zero period class. Concurrent enrollment in another band class is required for participation. All students must audition to participate in these groups. Auditions will be held during the beginning of the school year. Placements made after auditions are determined by Mr. Schmidt and are final. Both jazz bands have a standard instrumentation for this style: alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, electric bass, drum set, and percussion. Instruction will focus on the jazz band techniques of style, blend, rhythmic accuracy, improvisation, and advanced technical facility. The Jazz “Gig” Band performs extensively outside of school, and students are required to participate in all assigned performances to receive full credit. **Participating students will be DROPPED from Jazz Band for excessive tardies and/or absences.**

GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

Goals:

1. Develop individual musicianship
2. Learn to play a musical instrument with an emphasis on correct technique and facility within each ensemble
3. Develop good practice habits
4. Gain an understanding of the importance of working together to produce quality music

Expectations:

1. **ATTITUDE:** The attitude of a band student should be one that expresses satisfaction of accomplishment, willingness to participate in group settings, support for others, and a desire to do everything correctly. These attitudes are exhibited by the following rehearsal etiquette skills and responsibilities.
2. **ETIQUETTE SKILLS:** the way in which all students must demonstrate basic social functions.
 - A. Be in your assigned seat with instrument assembled, materials, and pencil at the beginning of class.
 - B. Use correct posture at all times.
 - C. Be the first one to stop and the first one ready to play when the conductor is on the podium.
 - D. When the conductor stops the group or is working with another section there should be no talking.
 - E. Attention to the front of the room, respect the podium.
 - F. **ABSOLUTELY NO GUM CHEWING.** Respect your instrument or the school's instruments by not chewing gum while playing.
 - G. **NO EATING OR DRINKING NON-WATER DRINKS** in the band room. Finish these items before entering the classroom or store them in your backpack during class.
 - H. **VANDALISM** of band equipment and/or facilities will not be tolerated.
3. **RESPONSIBILITIES:** the way one should behave or act in this class.
 - A. Come to class prepared
 - B. Play in tune/in time
 - C. Learn your part at home
 - D. Follow rehearsal etiquette
 - E. Listen, don't talk
 - F. Lead by example
 - G. Be respectful to yourself, peers, and equipment

ATTITUDE + ETIQUETTE + RESPONSIBILITIES = PROCEDURES!!!

GRADING POLICY

In the effort to become the best musician possible, band students at Woodland Park MS are expected to work to improve at each rehearsal. Daily practice at home is expected. If you need help, ask Mr. Schmidt. I am here to help you get better.

Check JUPITER GRADES for your current grades and/or missing assignments.

Band grades are based on a point system. Points are given in the following areas:

- 1. DAILY GRADE (25% percent of the total grade)**
 - A. Rehearsal procedure / performance
 - B. Behavior – your attitude, etiquette, and responsibilities
 - C. Attendance
- 2. PRACTICE LOGS (15% percent of the total grade)**
 - A. Recorded on school provided practice log, filled out correctly with appropriate signatures
 - B. Practice Logs are due the last day students have band each month.
- 3. ASSESSMENTS (30% percent of total grade)**
 - A. Benchmarks, competencies, worksheets, and performance reflections.
- 4. CONCERT PERFORMANCES (30% percent of total grade)**

In order to receive an “A” in band, each member must complete the following:

1. No more than 1 rehearsal missed (unexcused) outside of class time. Excused absences from outside-of-school must be reported to the attendance office and a written note from your parents must be given to Mr. Schmidt, before the actual excused absence. There are occasional after-school rehearsals. Please plan ahead.
2. An unexcused absence from a rehearsal will deduct points from your attendance grade. Please present Mr. Schmidt a note from your parents verifying a legitimate excuse.
3. Have your instrument labeled with your name / personal information, organized music binder (with plastic sheets), pencil ready and be in your seat 3 minutes after the bell rings. Leaving any of these materials at home or being late will lower your rehearsal progress grade for the day.
4. Behave in a mature, professional manner at all times. This includes not using profanity or being disruptive during rehearsals, as well as when representing our school off campus. The effect that this will have on the grade will depend on the severity and frequency of the problem, and if it drastically affects the student’s grade it will be discussed with the student and his/her parents.
5. BE ON TIME TO REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES! Being tardy or leaving early is unacceptable. Call times for concerts, rehearsals, or trips are intended to mean when ready. Plan on showing up a little early to get in the right position and make sure you have everything you need.
6. Pass all assignments in your class. This includes benchmarks and competencies.

HOMEWORK

1. All assignments will be turned in on time. Points will be deducted for each day late, unless students' absences are excused.
2. Students are responsible for finding out what they have missed in class. If a student would like help in figuring out what assignment to do and when, they must speak with me during a break or make an appointment to discuss the matter.
3. If an unexcused absence happens on the day of a competency, a student can make up the competency if their absence is excused. Makeups may be made at a time agreed upon by the teacher, and are generally after school.

ATTENDANCE

1. Attendance is one of the easiest ways for you to lose points in band. If you are not at a rehearsal, performance, or event you miss the making of music and all of the hard work in which we have put into the experience. When working hard on musical literature, if you are absent, you missed the information to excel on that music. Rehearsals can not be recreated reenacted like other homework may be redone or resubmitted.
2. For any unexcused absences, NO ASSIGNMENT may be made up.

POINTS WILL BE LOST IF:

Chewing gum, eating candy/food or having a non-water beverage in the band room.

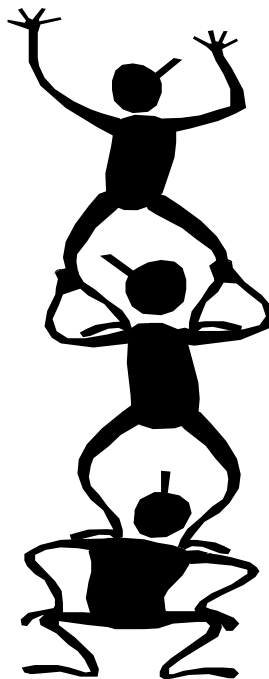
Instrument/binder/music/materials/pencil not brought to rehearsal or concert

Late to any band function

Causing problems for a substitute or student director

Not dressing appropriately in the performance

Excessive talking or disruptive behavior



ATTITUDE + ETIQUETTE + RESPONSIBILITIES = PROCEDURES!!!

TIPS ON PRACTICING

Why? REGULAR CAREFUL PRACTICE is a must if you are to become a better musician. Professional athletes and musicians always practice to reach higher standards and maintain their conditioning. If you don't approach practice and rehearsals correctly, you will feel frustrated, waste your time, and ultimately lose interest.

HOW TO PRACTICE:

- A good solid half hour of practice is more productive than two hours of aimless playing.
- Develop a routine to your practice and give it some structure.
- Stick with a regular warm-up pattern every time you play. Try something simple like long tones, slurs, scales, velocity studies, etc.
- Once you've warmed up, set some smaller goals for your lesson. (Don't overwhelm yourself by trying to master too much material all at once)
EXAMPLE: You might just concentrate on practicing from measure 12 to measure 22 in a particular piece of music or work on exercises #24-#27 out of the method book.
- Once you have made some progress, put your instrument down, pat yourself on the back, and reward yourself! You'll leave with a good feeling that you have improved some on your instrument that day.
- Tackle some other small sections of music in your next practice sessions. Soon you will have mastered an entire piece of music and you'll be hungry for more!
- Start working on passages SLOWLY, however fast you can play them with 100% accuracy. Gradually increase speed until you can play at the performance tempo.
- Always play with your best sound. Rest as much time as you play to maintain a good sound when practicing. Playing the same thing back and forth with a friend is a great way to measure this rest time.
- Be patient until your muscles can adapt to the new techniques that you are trying to learn. It is normal to encounter difficulties on your instrument from time to time. BE PATIENT with yourself.

PRACTICE LOGS

Home practice is a key factor in the progress and success of any musician. Parents and guardians can help by establishing a set time and place for your student to practice so that it becomes "routine." Practice logs are an excellent opportunity for parents to teach their students about honesty and integrity. Students: Remember to turn in practice logs on time, have correct signatures, and give yourself a grade for your effort each month to receive full credit on your practice log.

There is no I in team, but there is YOU in success!

CONCERT UNIFORMS

The Woodland Park MS Band not only prides itself on having high standards for our musical performances, but also on how we look. We take how we look seriously. We showcase our talents with pride and show responsibility in how we behave and appear at all times. A concert is a special occasion and students' attire should reflect that. Uniformity of dress truly enhances the whole event, creates fewer distractions for the audience, and is expected from students in the band program.

NO TENNIS SHOES AND JEANS!!!

Beginning Band

Black slacks/dress pants, black socks, and black shoes (no other colors on shoes)
WPMS Band polo shirt

Concert Band

Black slacks/dress pants, black socks, and black shoes
Tuxedo Shirt (butterfly collar)
WPMS Band polo for theme park trips

Symphonic Band

Black slacks/dress pants, black socks, and black shoes
Tuxedo Shirt (butterfly collar)
WPMS Band polo for theme park trips

Jazz Band

Black pants, socks, and shoes
Hawaiian Shirt



A generous donation from the Band Boosters has allowed us to purchase and check out bow ties and cummerbunds (red/blue) to every student in Concert and Symphonic Band, and Hawaiian Shirts to students in Jazz Band.

We appreciate any clothing donations (Black slacks, tuxedo shirts, or WPMS band polo shirts) to help dress the students appropriately for festivals, concerts, and events. Please have your student bring clothing items washed and folded to the band room.

TRAVEL POLICIES

When attending festivals or participating in any musical activity outside of school, Woodland Park MS students will:

1. Follow all of the Woodland Park Middle School rules as you would on a normal school day.
2. Represent the school and community with respect and in a honorable manner.
3. Respect the rights and safety of others.
4. **DO NOT ENGAGE IN ANY ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES**, such as use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs, which are prohibited at all times when representing our school and the group.
5. Act in a professional manner. Demonstrate appropriate behavior and wear attire reflecting the goals for which we strive.
6. Avoid using inappropriate language at all times.
7. Follow the trip procedure at all times, as prescribed by Mr. Schmidt. See your trip itinerary.
8. Respect all adults, chaperones, bus drivers, and each other.
9. Cell phones, iPods, and other electronic devices are allowed on trips at parents' discretion. **Mr. Schmidt and the San Marcos Unified School District assume no responsibility for any lost or damaged electronics that students choose to bring with them.** If you bring something, you are responsible for it.



MUSIC STORES / REPAIRS

San Diego Music Exchange
985 Civic Center Drive, #102
Vista, CA 92083
(760) 630-7451

B&H Music
354 East Grand Avenue
Escondido, CA 92025
(760) 480-1511

San Diego Music Studio
423 S. Las Posas Road
San Marcos, CA 92078
(760) 761-0055

These aren't the only music stores, however there are very reliable and used by other students and schools in our area.

Note to parents* when renting or purchasing an instrument for your child. Think **QUALITY** rather than **COST** – Quality instruments last longer and require less maintenance (less money later on).

TUTORS AND COACHES

The Woodland Park MS Band Program prides itself on having strong, motivated individuals. These individuals are encouraged to participate in a unique opportunity for individualized learning that can provide a major boost to students' musicianship.

Contact Mr. Schmidt if you would like the contact information of a tutor to help your child accelerate their musical ability.



Mr. Schmidt has the right to change/extend events, grading procedures, and handbook information throughout the 2015-2016 academic school year to better meet the needs of the students and the ensembles.

BAND MEDICAL ROSTER FORM

(Must be on file to participate in band activities)

Student Name _____

Date of Birth ____/ ____/ ____

Sex: Male or Female

Address _____

Phone Number (Home) (____) ____ - _____

Phone Number (Cell/Work) (____) ____ - _____

Name(s) of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

PERSON OTHER THAN PARENT/GUARDIAN TO CONTACT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Name _____ Relationship _____

Address _____

Phone Number (____) ____ - _____ Cell/Work (____) ____ - _____

Family Physician Information

Physician Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number (____) ____ - _____ Emergency (____) ____ - _____

List Medication / Allergies / Medical Conditions: _____
