Wiggs Middle School Wolverines

Band Handbook

2022 - 2023

www.wiggsmsband.weebly.com



“If you sound great when you practice, you are practicing the wrong thing”

Wiggs Wolverine Band

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915-236-3600

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Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome new and returning members of the Wiggs Wolverine Band. Please read this booklet, save it for reference, and **return the last page completed and signed**.

As a member of the Band, you are committing yourself to a music program, which is dedicated to continuing traditions of outstanding musicianship and school pride. The success of the Wiggs Wolverine Band will depend on the loyalty, cooperation, and dedication of all members.

**General Band Objectives**

The following objectives have been developed to encourage the highest standards of musicianship and self-discipline.

I. To develop a clear-thinking individual

A. To develop self-discipline

B. To develop good working habits

C. To assume responsibility

D. To develop a healthy competitive spirit

E. To develop a cooperative attitude

II. To work for continuous musical growth

A. In the school:

1. To develop an appreciation for good music

2. To promote high standards of performance

3. To maintain a well-organized band

4. To encourage the students to continue their musical growth.

B. In the community:

1. To encourage music in the home

2. To cultivate good public relations

3. To encourage attendance at professional music events

4. To contribute to the spirit and morale of the school

**EQUIPMENT:**

All instrument cases and music binders must be clearly marked with the student’s name. It is recommended that students own a music stand and a metronome for use at home to develop proper playing and practice habits.

**All Honor, Symphonic, and Concert Band students will need to purchase a 1/2” or a 1” black binder with a minimum of 6-8 sheet protectors for their music.**

\*All Beginning Band students will need the Essential Elements 2000 Book

\*All 2nd or 3rd year players will also need to have the Foundations for Superior Performance

Both books are available at local music stores

All students will be issued sheet music for which they are responsible. It must be identified with their name, have the measures numbered, and be at every single rehearsal. Students should expect to return it when asked to do so. All students must bring a PENCIL to every rehearsal.

All clarinet/saxophone players are expected to have at least 4 reeds at all times. Oboes/Bassoons are expected to have at least 2 reeds. Grades will be affected.

Brass players are expected to have valve and/or slide oil and have their instruments in proper playing condition.

**The concert uniform for all Wiggs Bands will be**:

White Shirt tucked in with collar

Black pants/Black socks/Black shoes

Uniform jackets will be checked out as needed for festivals and performances.

**DISCIPLINE:**

Participation in band is unlike most other classes in that participation is a privilege rather than a right. With that in mind, discipline problems of any kind will not be tolerated. Classroom disruptions waste time, energy, and create unpleasant rehearsals for everyone. Behavior problems will result in reassignment to a different band, and in persistent cases, the student may be denied the privilege of participating in band.

**RULES OF CONDUCT:**

BE RESPECTFUL OF YOURSELF AS WELL AS OTHERS

BE ON TIME

BE PREPARED

NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM INSIDE THE BAND ROOM

**CONSEQUENCES:**

The consequences for breaking a rule will follow the school’s code of conduct. See the Student Code of Conduct for more details.

**GRADING POLICIES:**

Parents/guardians who use the districts parent portal can see current grades in the class. If you have a question about your child’s grade, feel free to email us and we will gladly provide you with a current grade. **Please note that we will be adopting the districts new grading policy**.

Students will receive grades for the following:

**Participation** - Students will receive a weekly grade for participation. Students are eligible to receive a “100” for having their materials or can receive a “0” if they do not come prepared to class. Daily participation grades will be averaged on a weekly basis. Please not that participation grades cannot be made up.

**Playing Tests** - Students will be tested EVERY MONDAY on an assigned part from their music or book. A student, who tests on Monday before the end of the day, will receive a 100. Tuesday retests are 90’s, Wednesday 80’s, Thursdays are 70’s, and Friday’s are a 70.

**Theory** - Students will be given a theory worksheet periodically.

**Performances** - Students are required to play at all band performances. Every performance is counted as a **major test grade**. If the student does not attend, grades will suffer, with the exception of excused absences and emergencies. Please let the director(s) know in advance if possible. Missing a performance/concert will result in an unexcused absence.

**Extra Rehearsals** - Students will be asked to participate in some extra rehearsals outside of the regular school times. If the student does not attend, involvement in activities may suffer, with the exception of excused absences and emergencies. Please let the director(s) know in advance when possible.

**SECTIONALS AND EXTRA PERFORMANCES:**

Performing musical organizations often require rehearsals outside the school hours and participation in concerts and contests. It will be the responsibility of members of musical organizations to attend these rehearsals unless excused by the principal or director. Attendance at these off-school-hour functions, as required by the musical director, may be considered as part of the earned grade.

\*We will try to avoid conflicts with other school functions. Students will be excused for religious activities. If you have a routine doctor’s appointment, please try to schedule it around sectionals and regular band classes. If other unavoidable conflicts are brought to the director’s attention in advance, they can usually be excused. However, during the time directly preceding a major performance (see the calendar at www.wiggsmsband.weebly.com), i.e., band contest, absences will be accepted only in cases of extreme emergency. Absences may easily keep a student from performing, lower his/her seating, and/or lower the grade.

**PRACTICE:**

Practice is often fun, sometimes drudgery, yet always necessary. The best way to make practice times more enjoyable is to get into a regular habit/routine of practice every day. (Beginners start at 15 minutes a day) When playing improves, then all the time spent practicing will have been worthwhile, and the band improves as a whole. Daily practice is expected and required. Instruments and music folders left at school overnight, especially on weekends, will affect the six-week’s average**. INSTRUMENTS MAY NOT SPEND THE NIGHT IN THE BAND ROOM.**

Please remember that the band needs good players in every chair, and it really doesn’t make much difference what chair you are as long as you play your best.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

As everyone knows a grade of 69 or below on a report card will deny you competitive performance privileges. If everyone implements the following suggestions, we can minimize the problems which eligibility presents:

\* You are in school to do one thing, which is to learn.

\* Do all of your homework and hand it in on time.

\* Prepare all playing tests and assignments well in advance.

\* Don’t be afraid to ask for help.

Extra help is usually available during lunch or after school. Don’t wait until the last minute! If you don’t understand something, go in and see one of the Band Directors right away. Each student needs to assume responsibility for his/her grades and practicing. Students need to realize that their grades and practicing have the potential to affect other people. Students with repeated academic difficulties may be denied participation in many activities.

**SOLO AND ENSEMBLE:**

The school district sponsors a Solo-Ensemble Festival every year. The work of students on an individual basis on either solos or in small ensembles can provide the student with an excellent musical experience and is strongly encouraged. Assistance with finding appropriate music and preparation for performance is also available from the Band Directors.

**ALL-REGION:**

The Texas Music Educators Association sponsors a series of auditions to all eligible students in grade 6 through 12 for the purpose of selecting students for participation in All-Region Bands. A list of required audition music will be available from the directors. All students will receive the audition music during the 1st week of school. The preparation for the All-Region Band auditions will greatly improve student’s musical ability and the audition itself will provide valuable experience for future auditions.

**FUNDRAISING:**

Fundraising activities are essential in building and maintaining any outstanding organization. All students are strongly urged to participate in fundraising since they are the ones who benefit from the proceeds. Parents who do not wish for their student to fundraise may make a donation of $50 or more. This is actually better since we keep 100% of the donation and it counts the same as doing the fundraiser. We would like to get any donations taken care of **before** the fundraiser begins. The fundraiser is scheduled for Friday September 6th. Proceeds are used to offset the cost of trips, purchase equipment, music, contest entry fees, and transportation costs etc. Parents and students need to understand that the student will be held responsible for returning the money or merchandise at the end of the fundraiser.

**PRIVATE INSTRUCTION:**

Private study is very helpful for any student, however, is not required. Private lessons may help the student progress twice as fast as group instruction and may help the student better prepare for participation in band activities, region band auditions, and solo and ensemble. If you are interested in private lessons for your son or daughter, please contact the directors.

Sincerely,

Jaime Orpinel

**www.wiggsmsband.weebly.com**

**Please visit band website to view Band handbook and calendar for this year.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

My signature below indicates that I have read the Band Handbook & Calendar and I will abide by the policies to the best of my ability. I realize that if we are going to have a successful Band program it is going to take the efforts of everyone involved and I promise to do my part.

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Student ID Period Grade

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Student Name (print) Home Phone

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Student Signature Date

My signature indicates that I have reviewed the Band Handbook with my child and we understand the policies outlined.

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Parent/Guardian Name (print) Cell Phone

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Parent Email

**Please go to your app store and download the BAND App to receive messages about important Band functions such as concerts, rehearsals, fundraising etc...**

**\_\_\_\_ I have signed up on the BAND App to receive important Band information.**

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date