Westfield High School Band

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We want to welcome each of you to our Westfield Band family. Your time in the band here at Westfield promises to be some of the most memorable experiences of your life. You will meet some of your best friends in band, you will participate in some amazing performances, and you will grow as a musician and a person. Please read the following carefully as it will provide you information on what to expect out of your band class for the year.

The Westfield Band is a program that involves well over 200 students and eight performing ensembles including the Marching Bulldogs, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Band, Advanced percussion Ensemble, and the Color Guard. The band is known for its exceptional performances and innovative programming. The band is recognized in the area, across the state, and nationally as one of the top band programs around.

For a program to be successful, it is important to realize that no band can succeed without a partnership between director, students, and parents. The director must provide the expertise to provide the opportunity for students to be successful. The students must provide the hard work, effort, and pride to make the band excel. The parents must provide the support for the students and the director, either emotionally, financially, and through volunteer work.

Course Description

Westfield band classes are designed to aid students in becoming better individual and ensemble musicians. Students will have opportunities to perform solo and small ensemble literature as well as full band pieces. Students will also be evaluated on their technical skill and development on their instrument. **Band is a co-curricular class that involves activities, practices, and performances that take place both in class and outside of class that contribute to a student's grade.**

Materials Needed For Class

- Instrument in working order
- Music in a band binder with plastic inserts to protect music
- Pencil
- Metronome/Tuner
- Lock for instrument locker

All students will be issued music and other materials for class. It is the responsibility of the student to keep his music folder in order. Lost music and materials will be replaced at cost to the student.

Communication

We work very hard to keep you informed. Our website www.westfieldband.org is updated regularly with a great deal of information. Consult this website often as it will contain information on schedules, points of contact, and various other items of information. We try to send a regular newsletter out to you every few months. It is important that you keep us informed of your address and phone number so we can mail things to you. Your e-mail address will allow you to receive regular band updates and information. We have regular band parent meetings. Please make every effort to attend these important meetings. In addition, if you have a Twitter account you can follow us @WHS_BandBooster.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all after school rehearsals for ensembles in which they participate. A schedule of events will be given out well in advance. Work schedules should be adjusted accordingly. **Work is not an excused absence**. Excused and unexcused absences/tardies will be determined by the guidelines outlined in the school attendance policy. **Unexcused absences will result in the suspension of the student from the performance group and loss of all points for a particular performance.** Students should bring excuse notes for any absences or tardies. If a student has a conflict, they should make arrangements with the directors before hand. **Remember, that ALL practices and performances are part of your grade. If there are any conflicts with a scheduled event or practice, you must inform the director. ONLY the director will excuse absences. If you are thinking of scheduling something, just check with me first to avoid issues.**

***Excused absences from an after school rehearsal will be made up during two bulldog block sessions. Excused absences from a performance will require an alternative assignment such as a written paper or other assignment as determined by the director**.

After marching season the concert ensembles will be on the following schedule:

Monday: Jazz II 2:30-4
Tuesday: Symphonic Band 2:30-4
Wed: Wind Symphony 2:30-4 OR 6:30-8
Thursday: Concert Band: 2:30-4

Other ensembles in the band program carry their own schedule.

Important Dates

Dec 7-9 Holiday Concerts All Bands
March 2-3 Festival Concert All Bands
March 7-9 Band Festival All Bands
May 18-19 Spring Concert All Bands
May 28 Band Awards
June Graduation…Band will play at graduation.

Bulldog Block

The band room will only be open for students (during bulldog block) wishing to practice, receive extra help, or sectionals scheduled by the directors. Sign up for practice rooms will only be on Mondays and Thursdays. The band room will be limited

to 20 students. Students found not practicing or disrupting others will not be allowed to participate in bulldog block in the band room.

Private Study

The issue of securing a private teacher is an important one. We realize that this is an additional investment of time and money. If your child is in the Wind Symphony or the Symphonic Band, it is very important if we are to play the most advanced literature. While nothing ever replaces hard work, a private teacher can provide the intimate details associated with playing a particular instrument that will in turn give more enjoyment to your student as they participate in band. Please consult the private teacher on our website list as a starting point.

Uniform

All students are required to wear the appropriate uniform for every performance. More information on this will follow. **Students not in proper uniform for a particular performance will not be allowed to participate and will lose all points associated with that performance.**

Fees and Forms

All band students are required to pay band fees at the beginning of the year. A complete explanation of these fees can be found on our website. These fees over the basic costs associated with the wear and maintenance of the uniforms, the purchase of music and equipment, and for bringing in clinicians throughout the year. If needed, other arrangements for payment may be made with the director. If you have not done so, please complete the registration forms that can be found on-line at www.westfieldband.org. Please send the forms in along with payment by the end of the week. Students needing to rent an instrument will need to complete a rental contract and send that money in as well before an instrument can be issued. The medical forms and such are important when we travel.

Fund Raising

The band is sensitive to the financial burden band involves. We think it is a worthwhile investment. We offer several ways that you can earn money and NEVER have to pay out of pocket. Please take advantage of all our fund raising projects as they help you and the band program.

In addition, there are several mandatory fund raisers throughout the year. The first is TAG DAY on September 29.2012.

It is a class expectation that all families participate in fundraising at the minimum level.

Student Expectations

- Students are expected to participate in daily rehearsals.
- Students are expected to practice at home on a regular basis.
- Students will be on time to class and conduct themselves in an orderly, musical fashion.
- Students should respect themselves, their peers, instructors, and the band facility.

- Students will attend all performances.
- Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band students are required to audition for all district band, participate in marching band, and participate in solo and ensemble.
- Concert Band Students are required to participate in solo and ensemble.
- Students are expected to work hard and enthusiastically to achieve their highest level of musical potential.
- Wind Symphony and Symphonic band students should try to secure private lessons if possible. ALL students will benefit from private instruction.

Grades

Based upon three areas:

1. Music tests-60%
2. Music performances-30%
3. Patricipation-10%
4. Extra credit will be given each 9 weeks for any additional musical activities such as, concerts, private lessons, and participation in outside music groups.

***Students are graded upon achievement and improvement. Sometimes effort is not reflected in achievement. Band is a performance class. If you do not practice, chances are your grade will suffer**.

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Student Name:________________________________

Band Course Expectations

Please sign and return by September 7, 2012

We have read and understand the material above:

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Student **Date**

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Parent/Guardian **Date**