

Washburn High School Music Department

Senior High Band & Choir,
Junior High Band & Choir

2023-2024

Welcome to another year of Band and/or Choir!

The following will explain what every band/choir student will be graded on and their expectations for the school year. Parents, I ask that you please read through this contract with your child to make sure you are both aware of all expectations and policies. The back page must be filled out and returned to Mr. Moe ASAP. This will be the first band/choir grade of the year.

All parents who have a child in band or choir are members of music boosters and will be asked to help at certain times during the school year. Notices will be emailed prior to each music booster meeting. All band/choir parents are welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. We do a fair amount of fundraising each year to help defray the cost of running a music program. That money is also used to take a trip every four years in High School. Those students who have met their fundraising obligation will be able to go on the trip. Students who have not fulfilled their fundraising obligation may be asked to pay the difference in order to attend the music trip.

Why Music?

- **Learn a Life Long Skill** - Unlike a lot of things we do in High School music doesn't stop after senior year. Almost all big towns have adult community choirs and bands that are free to be a part of, most colleges and universities have music programs (some you can even do for free!), and studying and playing music can help exercise your brain!
- **Community Involvement**- besides getting to learn a life skill we get to give back. As well as putting on our normal concerts and music festival throughout the year the band and choir can be seen at events like Memorial Day, volleyball games, football games, basketball games, graduation, and the River Boat Days parade.
- **Improved Mental Health** – Music makes you feel happy. While listening, singing, or playing music your brain gets a surge of endorphins and dopamine which are chemicals in your brain that make you feel good. Music also lowers cortisol a chemical in your brain that makes you feel stressed!
- **Meet People** – In music you will attend camps, contests, festivals, and sporting events. The people you meet in these activities could become a lifelong friend!
- **College Scholarships** – Even if you decide music is not the career for you playing in band, orchestra, or choir in college could mean scholarship money!
- **A Break in The Day** – In music you get a break in the day from the normal classroom setting.
- **A Well-Rounded Education** – Increasingly, major universities are looking for students who have taken advantage of everything High School has to offer.
- **Trips** – Every four years we take a trip together. It's fun!

Student Expectations and Grading Policy:

Students will be graded on the following criteria each semester: concert/pep band participation (this includes performances outside of the school day and calendar), in class participation, instrument care and maintenance, in class worksheets or writing assignments, and playing tests.

All performances are required. If you notice a performance conflict it is the parent's/student's responsibility to let Mr. Moe know at least two weeks ahead of time so that an alternative assignment can be made. *The alternative assignment may not be equal to the grade of the performance.* Please note that all performances are planned well over a year in advance and are listed at the end of this contract as well as on the school and music websites. A missed performance will carry the consequence of a reduced band/choir grade as well as a makeup assignment when possible. If you are unsure always talk to Mr. Moe.

Pep-Band - The band is expected to play at most of the home athletic events and tournaments. The schedule for these dates are located in your folder, in this packet, on the school website, on the music website, and posted every day in class. Please note that some dates the junior high band will be part of the pep-band. All band students are expected to play except for if they are playing in the current game. Those students playing are expected to join the pep-band on stage as soon as their game is over. If a student is unable to make a pep-band event, they must let Mr. Moe know well in advance. Having to work or babysit does not count as an excused absence. Students who are playing an away game with their Washburn team are excused from pep band.

Students will start the beginning of each semester with 100 participation points. Everyday participation points will be assessed. The following are ways you can lose participation points. Tardy for class, talking/playing during an inappropriate time, forgetting instrument or class materials, or inappropriate or disruptive behavior in hallways or in classroom. The points a student has left at the end of the semester will be that student's participation grade. First point lost in a single class period will result in a verbal warning from Mr. Moe, second point lost will result in instrument being packed up and student will be talked to after class, third lost point in a class period will result in a detention. If a detention is given an email or phone call will be made to parents.

Senior High Band- Attendance will be taken at 8:10 every morning. Students are expected to be in the band room at the time of the 8:10 bell. Playing will begin at 8:12, at that time you are expected to be in your chair with all necessary materials. Some days band will start at 8:30 on those days you must be in the room before the tardy bell. On those days playing will start at 8:32. Those who are not in choir will be released to study hall at 8:42 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. *If you are in the room but not ready to play by 8:12 you can and will be marked tardy.*

Choir – All choir only students will begin choir in study hall. At 8:42 you will be released to come to choir. Attendance will be taken at 8:45am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. If you are not in your chair with your choir folder at that time, then you will be marked tardy.

Junior High Band – Attendance will be taken at the start of the hour. You need to be in the room by the time the tardy bell rings. Two minutes after the tardy bell you should be in your chair with folder and instrument ready to play. ***If you are in the room but not ready to play two minutes after the tardy bell you can and will be marked tardy.***

Cell Phones- Cell phones should not be out during class unless you are instructed to use them by Mr. Moe. If you are caught with your phone out the first time you will be asked to put it away and lose a participation point for the day. The second time you will be asked to put your cell phone in your cubby or on top of the folder cabinet and a second participation point will be taken away for the day. This can also result in an after-school detention.

Band Students are responsible for the care of their own instruments. The same goes for if you are renting a school instrument. Students renting a school instrument are liable for any damages down outside of normal wear and tear. All oiling and maintenance should be done outside of class time or during the beginning or end of class. Periodically, Mr. Moe will check instruments over to make sure they are being cared for; this instrument check can be a grade. If your instrument is not working properly, please talk to Mr. Moe about it at the beginning or the very end of class. Please take instruments in when they need repair! An easy fix can become an expensive fix if ignored for too long.

At no time should a student be handling an instrument or equipment that does not belong to them. Students are responsible for damage done to any instruments as a result of negligence, whether the instrument is theirs, another students, or the schools. Remember, an accident does not excuse responsibility.

Worksheets will periodically be done in class and students are expected to finish them to receive credit. Playing tests will be done in class in front of the band. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared for these tests. Remember you can take your instrument home to practice!

Band/Choir Room Rules:

1. Students should strive to achieve a positive “can-do” attitude.
2. All students will be honest, respectful, and polite.
 - a. If it does not belong to you, don't touch it. If it is not nice, don't say it.
3. Each student should strive for a maturity of conduct and attitude befitting of a first-class musical organization.
4. No food or drink in the classroom. Water in a resealable bottle is ok.

Detentions:

Detentions can be served before school or after school. Please check with Mr. Moe if you are planning to serve a detention to make sure there is not a schedule conflict. Detentions can range from 5-20 minutes depending on the severity of the problem. It is up to the student to secure transportation when they have to serve a detention. If a before or afterschool detention is not possible, please talk to Mr. Moe about a way to make it up.

Instrument Storage Cubby:

At the beginning of the school year each band student will be assigned a cubby for instrument storage. It is the student's responsibility to keep this area neat. Please, no food, drink, or garbage stored in your cubbies. If Mr. Moe sees something that looks like food, drink, or garbage it will be thrown away. Washburn public school is not responsible for instruments or belongings left in the cubbies in the band room. At no time should a student be messing around another student's cubby or belongings. If caught messing with another student's belongings said student will lose participation points, serve a detention with Mr. Moe, and/or possibly lose the use of their cubby. During class all cases need to remain in cubbies and not on the floor. Some larger instruments may be excused from this rule.

Bathroom Policy: The bathroom is to be used during passing periods not the middle of class. That being said if an emergency arises, please talk to Mr. Moe.

No food or Drink in Class: In an effort to keep our facilities nice there should be no food or drinks brought in to the band/choir room unless authorized by Mr. Moe. It is, however, acceptable to have a bottle with water in class. There will be some days where we have "Breakfast in Band" on those days' students are able to bring something into the band room.

Extra Credit Opportunities: Students can earn a better grade or extra credit in the following ways: Helping setup or tear down at elementary and high school concerts, helping to teach younger students before or after school, and trying out for Honor Groups.

Concert Attire:

- a. Students are expected to dress appropriately for a performance. Concert dress is black and white with school colors. (Black, White, Red, Gold)

Examples of this include:

- i. Black slacks or jeans with a white button up shirt or polo and a red tie if applicable.
- ii. Black slacks or long black skirt with a white or white dressy top and red or white accent pieces. A black long dress may be worn as well. An appropriate dress/skirt length for a concert, festival, or performance would be mid-calf or ankle length.
- iii. Casual dress is appropriate for a pep band performance.
- iv. School dress code will be followed for all performances.

Music Trips:

Every four years WHS choir and band students go on a music trip. Trips are very expensive and it takes multiple years of hard work and fundraising to put them together. In order to be eligible for the trip students must be in grades 9-12, must have met their fundraising obligations, must not exhibit behavior problems, and be in good standing with teachers and classes of Washburn High School. In some cases, a student may be asked to pay a remaining balance if they have not met their fundraising obligation over the years. Mr. Moe holds the right to refuse a student from attending a trip at his own discretion.

Lessons: Students who are working on solos, ensembles, or preparing a piece for an audition will be asked to come in for lessons outside of the normal class time. In some cases, Mr. Moe will be able to do lessons during the school day, check with Mr. Moe to see if he has that time available. Students doing solos or small ensembles who have not passed off their music for Mr. Moe will not be able to perform.

Extra credit will be given to all students doing lessons, trying out for honor choirs, and working on solos for festival.

John Philip Sousa Award / Senior Choir Awards:

The following conditions are to be met by the recipient of these awards. If no student meets the set criteria, then no award will be given that year. In some cases, more than one award may be given out.

- 1.) Better than average student.
- 2.) Cooperation above and beyond normal duties.
- 3.) Musicianship, Great attendance, Diligence, Inspiration to others, and overall Positive attitude.
- 4.) Ambassador to the Washburn Music Programs
- 5.) Senior Music Student in good standing with the group and director

Being a part of a band means you are depended on for the success of the group so students who sign up for band are expected to follow through with their responsibilities to the end of the school year.

If you have any questions or concerns about the above policies, please talk to Mr. Moe.

Thank You,

Dustin Moe
Washburn High School Band and Choir
701-462-3221
trumpetmoe@gmail.com

<https://trumpetmoe.wixsite.com/washburnmusic>

(This page is left blank for performance calendar)

Please sign and return only this page of the contract

By signing below both parents and student have read through this band contract and fully understand and agree to how they will be graded and what their responsibilities in band will be during the 2023-2024 school year.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU GO OVER THE PERFORMANCE DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR! MISSING PERFORMANCES CAN RESULT IN A LOWER GRADE AND NOT BEING ABLE TO GO ON THE MUSIC TRIP!

Student Signature

Student Grade

Parent Signature

Date

Parents Best Email:

Parents Best Phone:
