

**WEST
SALEM
MIDDLE
SCHOOL
BAND
HANDBOOK**



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*This is a resource book to help your family understand the requirements of our performance class of **BAND**.*

For access to this handbook, schedules, and other band info, go to this website:

<http://www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us/content/our-schools/middle-school/fine-arts/band>

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Daily Expectations

- Be prepared for class and in your seat with all needed materials within **two minutes** of the start of class. There is a countdown timer on the front screen. Please read the screen for instructions. Assemble your instrument and begin your warm-up before the timer hits 0:00.
- Please make sure to warm-up properly at a soft to medium volume only. Please no blasting!
- No gum chewing is allowed. All gum must be spit out before going to your seat.
- Be respectful of others in the class, including the director (student teacher, substitute teacher, etc.).
- Be respectful of all materials used – instruments, music, folders, etc.
- Only percussionists may play on the school percussion equipment.
- Please plan on using the restroom before coming into class.
- BE WILLING TO TRY - AIM TO GET BETTER - YOU CAN DO IT!

Home Practice Expectations

Growth and progress on a musical instrument comes with commitment to working on music exercises and songs at home. The minimum requirement is ONE HOUR every week, which is best broken into at least 4, 15-minute sessions. More sessions of shorter times are better than 1 or 2 longer practice sessions per week.

Students will periodically record their exercises, using their iPad and GOOGLE CLASSROOM. This is how we will know home practice is taking place.

Our most successful students practice 6-7 days a week for 20 or more minutes each time.

Make practice a fun time by using our practice strategies and work for speed by timing your exercises.

Assessments

All students will be evaluated according to the Wisconsin State Music Standards.

Most Band assessments are evaluated using a 5-4-3 scoring system which define the skills being assessed. At times, rubrics will be used for lessons, projects, and concerts, among other assessments. It is expected that students will complete all lessons and assignments to the best of their ability.

Assignments not turned in and incomplete lessons will be entered into Skyward with a “0” and will negatively impact a student’s grade. Assignments can be turned in through the end of the trimester for partial credit. Students may have the option to re-do an assignment if they feel they can improve upon their performance. Students need to talk to their lesson teacher for those opportunities.

Lessons

Students will receive an assignment at each lesson that needs to be prepared for the next scheduled lesson. Lessons should be approached like tests in other classes. The scores will be based on the student’s preparation and demonstration of correctly played rhythms and pitches, as well as demonstrating proper usage of music terms and symbols. Students are expected to have a minimum of 60 minutes of practice per week. This is the minimum requirement. Students will also be expected to make recordings of their lesson exercises in preparation for some lessons. This will be done on the school issued iPad and submitted in GOOGLE CLASSROOM.

Performances

Students in grades 6-8 will participate in all scheduled performances as indicated on the calendar. Concerts/marching performances are a class project and a requirement to receive a passing grade in the course. **Please read the Performance Policy on Page 6.** Band Students in Grades 7-8 will participate in four graded marching performances (Band Night, Torch Light Parade, Homecoming Parade, & June Dairy Days Parade).

Music Theory

Students in band will have a few in class assignments and quizzes on basic music vocabulary, symbols, and concepts. There is no outside of class homework, except for instrument practice.

Band Grading

- **Lessons** are worth about 40% of the overall grade. This is our opportunity to work with students one-on-one or in small groups. Students will be graded on performance on the required exercises.

Lesson Scoring will be done on a 5-4-3 system based on:
RHYTHM, PITCH, & MUSICAL DETAILS

5 = Proficient - Demonstrates accuracy - Will show up as 100% (A)
4 = Near Proficient - A few errors to correct - Will show up as 80% (B-)
3 = Not Prepared - Struggles to show skills - Will show up as 60% (D)
0 = Not Complete - Will remain a "0" until the lesson skills are demonstrated

- **Performance Units** are worth about 25% of the overall grade. Students must participate in the group concert. Students who have an excused absence must perform their concert music for the instructor AND also listen to the recorded concert and fill out a critique of the event. For 7th & 8th Grade, the marching performances will count as one collective unit.
- **Rehearsal Techniques** are worth about 20% of the overall grade. This will be based directly on technique and skill displayed during rehearsal time. Readiness for class will also be considered. This includes being ready on time with all needed materials (instrument, reeds, music, pencil, iPad, etc.)
- **Music Theory Worksheets/Quizzes** are worth about 15% and will be completed in class. This is the part of band in which students understand the basics of music notation, music symbols, vocabulary, and concepts.

Lesson Information

- Each student will be scheduled for a lesson approximately 12 minutes in length once every 6-8 school days. Lessons are scheduled during music class, Panther Time (Enrichment), and occasionally during recess. Before or after school lessons may be available if requested by the student.
- Lesson schedules will be posted outside of the band room.
- Students must come to their lessons on time. While waiting for the previous lesson to finish, band students should get music (instruments) ready and warm-up.
- If the director is gone for the day, the lessons will still continue with the substitute teacher.
- If a student misses a lesson, a make-up lesson should be scheduled immediately with the teacher. You need to be responsible in taking care of this responsibility.

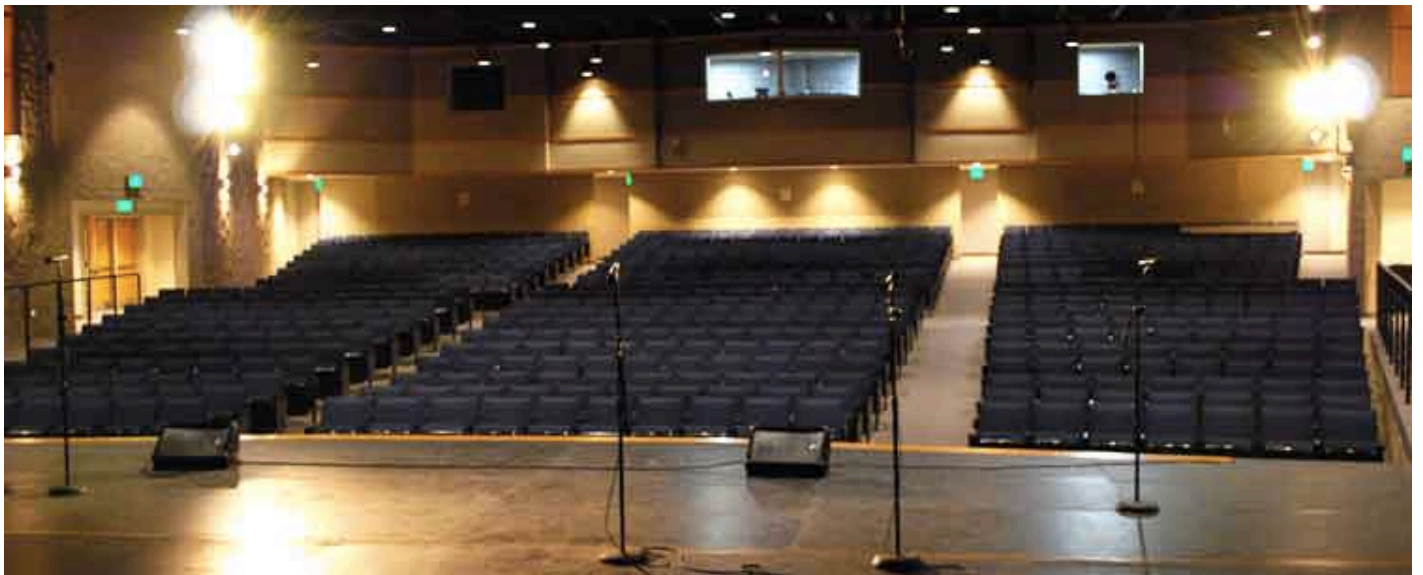
Performance Policy

- Since band is a performance-based class, all concerts are used as an important evaluation tool for the class.
- Parades/marching events are also required for 7th and 8th grade band students.
- Please check the schedule and reserve dates in advance to avoid conflicts. **Please notify your music teacher(s) of any excused absences (vacations, weddings, etc) at least 2 weeks in advance.** For excused absences, an alternative assignment will be given to the student, to be completed within one week of the missed performance. It is unacceptable to notify of a conflict with less than the 2 week window. Your child plays an important role in our performing group and we may have to make personnel changes if your child is gone.

- An **UNEXCUSED** absence could result in a Failing grade for that term.
- All performing activities are scheduled before the beginning of the school year. These dates are listed in the back of this WSMS Band Handbook and can also be found on the district website at this link:

<http://www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us/content/our-schools/middle-school/fine-arts/band>

- Conflicts that occur with school events will be resolved by the music teachers and activity advisors. If there is a conflict with a non-school event (club sport, dance, etc.), please give those coaches/advisors ample notice of your child's required class performance.



- With parades, it is possible that you may be involved with other activities that have an entry in the same parade. As a member of the marching band, you will be expected to participate with the band as it is a required performance. This is not because we feel that the band is more important, but rather it is because other groups are involved in the parade in a non-performance role.
- Please understand that by signing the handbook form, you clearly understand this part of the arrangement.

Performance Uniform

The following “uniform” will be required for all 6th, 7th and 8th grade music students for concert choir, concert band, solo & ensemble festival, marching band, and jazz band:

BLACK WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL POLO SHIRT (\$15 paid at start of year)

(8th Grade still has the Orange Shirt)



BLACK PANTS - You Provide

NOTE: Athletic pants, capris, and shorts are not acceptable for performance.

BLACK BELT - Optional

BLACK SOCKS & SHOES

There should be no skin showing below the waistline, especially at the ankles. Black uniform from waistline to toes.



Music Co-Curricular Activities

These co-curricular music groups are available to WSMS students. Please read through the requirements/expectations for these optional groups. Students involved in any of these groups are subject to the requirements of the WSMS co-curricular/extracurricular conduct code.

- **Color Guard** is available to all 7th and 8th Grade students at WSMS. Auditions may be necessary if there is enough interest. Color Guard begins at camp in August and runs through Homecoming in September. The Color Guard also participates with the June Dairy Days Parade.
- **Jazz Band** is open to WSMS 7th and 8th Band students and meets Wednesdays from 7:00-7:40am, starting in October and ending in April. Non-band students may be used on rhythm section instruments (drum set, guitar, bass guitar, piano) if no band student has filled those openings. Please commit to all scheduled performances if you choose to participate in this group. Students involved with athletics may still participate with jazz band.

Ordering Supplies

We are very fortunate to have two outstanding music stores in La Crosse, which service our school district. SSE Music and Leithold Music both send store representatives weekly to our schools to deliver supplies and pick up instruments needing repair. Items such as reeds, valve oil, lesson books, and drum sticks will need to be ordered from these stores either in person, by phone, or online. Both stores provide a secure internet shopping site, and free delivery to our band room is provided using the codes listed below. We have a handful of reeds and miscellaneous supplies that we are clearing out. Once they are gone, all items need to be ordered through the stores.

Please consult the list of recommended products on the next page.

Music Store Info



SSE Music

Toll free: 1-800-795-2850

Web: www.ssemusic.com

Coupon Code: *wetmsba*

Leithold Music

Toll free: 1-800-288-9743

Web: www.leitholdmusic.com

Coupon Code: *student*

Special Instructions for SSE Music Online Orders:

1. Go to www.ssemusic.com and click on the “accessories” key.
2. Choose a category and browse to choose the items you need. You may also “search” to quickly find what you need.
3. Click on “buy” to make your order.
4. You may change quantities or continue shopping. When finished, click on “checkout.”
5. When completing your checkout, please type in your child’s name in the “additional information” field.
6. Remember the coupon code for free delivery. Enter this in the “Coupon or Discount Number” field
7. This is a secure transaction. Credit card info will not be kept on file from an internet order.

Suggested Products - Band

The following products are ranked in order of quality and preference. As with most things, higher quality comes at a higher price, so it is your decision as to which brands to order:

Reeds for Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone :

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 1. Vandoren | Please indicate strength: "2½" for 6 th grade
&
"3" for 7 th & 8 th grade
(unless told different) |
| 2. Rico Royal | |
| 3. Juno | |
| 4. Rico | |

Oboe Reeds:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. Jones | Please indicate strength:
"Medium soft" for 6 th
"Medium" for 7 th & 8 th |
| 2. Lester | |
| 3. Fox | |
| 4. Renard | |

Bassoon Reeds:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Fox Renard | (unless told different) |
| 2. Emerald | |

Cork Grease/Oils/Slide Cream/Other Lubricants: all pretty much the same (Al Cass "Fast" Valve Oil and "Superslick" trombone slide cream are preferred)

If you have questions on products please feel free to contact Mr. Waldhart.