

St. Wendelin High School

Band

Student Handbook

Mrs. Tracy A. Fahim, Director

Bands

Band

This course is a study in the performance of advanced instrumental music and is open to any student in grades 9-12 who currently plays a band instrument at a proficient level such as: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, French horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. The band will function as a performing ensemble including: Marching Band, Concert Band and Pep Band.

Attendance at rehearsals and performances, including football games, basketball games, parades, concerts, and contests, is mandatory. Band is a yearlong course that will meet during period 8 and students will receive one credit towards graduation.

Jazz Band

This course is a study in the performance of advanced jazz music and is open to any saxophones, trumpets, trombones, guitars, and percussion (drum set and some auxiliary only) in grades 9-12. The jazz band will practice during homerooms and some after school rehearsals as necessary. The jazz band will perform at various concerts throughout the year. Attendance at rehearsals and performances is mandatory.

Performance Attire

Marching Band

See band camp information

Concert Band

Women – The women of the concert band will wear black dress pants or a long black skirt (to the ankles) and a white long sleeve button down collared blouse that will be worn for each concert. Nude pantyhose (optional) and black dress shoes with a small heel will be worn with the concert attire at all concerts. All school rules apply to hair, tattoos, and jewelry.

Men – The men of the concert band will wear black dress pants and a white long sleeve button down collared shirt. You will also be required to wear black socks and black dress shoes at all concerts. All school rules apply to hair, tattoos, and jewelry.

Instruments

Private Instruments

Privately owned instruments are the sole responsibility of the student. Every effort is made to ensure that the instruments are safe while at school. However, school insurance will not cover these instruments so it is recommended that each parent check with their homeowner's insurance policy to cover the instrument for loss or damage. Of course, only a properly maintained instrument will play to its potential. Please keep your instrument clean and well cared for.

School Instruments

The school does provide some school owned instruments. It is understood that the students using such an instrument is responsible for the care and maintenance of the instrument. This includes the financial responsibility for damages to that instrument caused by carelessness.

Music and Folders

Music and folders will be provided for the school year. Everyone will have his or her own folders and music for the year. Each member is responsible for the publisher's cost of the music and folder if it is not returned at the end of the concert/semester/year or if any of the music or folders are lost/ruined. All members are required to have a pencil in their folder for each class. **ABSOLUTELY NO PENS, HIGHLIGHTERS, OR MARKERS.**

Rehearsal

The majority of the rehearsals will be held during the school day. If extra rehearsal time is needed it will be the decision of the director. Attendance will be mandatory and will be announced well in advance. Punctuality to start the rehearsals will guarantee dismissal on time. "If you are early you are on time, if you are on time you are late."

Transportation

Most of our performances are held at St. Wendelin High School. Whenever necessary, a school bus will be provided for the group. Car-pooling to certain close performances/events may be needed at times.

Attendance and Grading Policy

Education can only take place when the students and teachers are available for learning. It is essential that all band members attend every rehearsal and performance for the band. This is a participation-based class and participation inside the classroom and outside the classroom is required. In order to encourage good attendance, participation, and to ensure that all rehearsals inside and outside the classroom are meaningful, the following policy has been adopted. It has been shared with the administration and has their full support.

1. Rehearsals, concerts, and other outside performances are required...**MANDATORY!!** The majority of our performance dates are planned before the school year begins, and are given to you the first day of school. Because of this advanced notice, you are required to attend all performances. You will receive a zero if you are unexcused.
2. The only excused absences that may be accepted are death in the immediate family, an illness with a written doctor's excuse given to me immediately upon your return, or a catastrophe. Written notice **MUST** be provided to the director at all times!
3. Unexcused absences may result with the following:
 - a. Your grade will be lowered several letter grades.
 - b. I will have a conference with you and will call home.
 - c. I will have a conference with you/your parent/administration.
 - d. You will be removed from this class after absences and non-participation accumulate to five times or more.

All of the above is at the discretion of the director.

Grading Scale

Your semester grade will be composed of the sum of the point values you earn on the following: participation, conduct, preparation, in-class work, rehearsal, performance, project, quiz, and test. Points will be deducted for inappropriate behavior and discipline problems, not coming to class prepared, and violation of any classroom or school rule. The school-wide grade scale is applied.

Classroom Rules

1. **All school rules apply when class is in session.**
2. Be in your seat with your instrument and folder before the bell rings.
3. Come to class prepared.
4. Be responsible for your own instrument, folder and music.
5. No gum, food or beverages allowed.
6. Be respectful to your classmates and to myself.
7. Participation is a must.
8. Swearing, horseplay, and inappropriate gestures are not tolerated.
9. No doing homework for other classes in my class.
10. You will only be issued four hall passes a quarter. Use them wisely.

Detentions will be issued if you ignore these rules.

Solo/Ensemble Contest

The Ohio Music Educators Association sponsors yearly contests for all instrumentalists. You may perform as a soloist or as a member of an ensemble. The music that you perform will be from a required list compiled by members of OMEA. Each solo/ensemble will receive written comments from the judge; this is to help you make further improvements for future performances. Each solo/ensemble will also be given a rating from the judge. The rating scale used by the judges is a I-V scale. Solo and ensemble contest is not mandatory, although highly encouraged for serious instrumentalists.

Music Awards

At the end of each academic school year, the music department gives out awards. Students that participate in a music ensemble for 1-4 years will receive an award at the end of the year. Awards are also given out to most outstanding musicians in each grade level, as well as director's awards, the Patrick S. Gilmore Award, and the John Phillip Sousa Award.

Patrick S. Gilmore Award

The Patrick S. Gilmore Award is awarded to a four-year band member. This award is only given to one senior each year. In the event of a tie, the director will decide whether to give one or two awards. This member is not necessarily the best instrumentalist, but the most hardworking and most improved.

John Phillip Sousa Award

The John Phillip Sousa Award is awarded to a four-year band member. This award is only given to one senior each year. In the event of a tie, director will decide whether to give one or two awards. This member must be of high character, a leader, and a superior musician.

In Conclusion

These rules are put into place to create a positive and comfortable learning environment. Please remember to respect everyone, their belongings, and their space. This can be a fun, upbeat, adult driven class if you chose for it to be. If you need help with anything throughout the school year please don't hesitate to meet with me. My door is always open. Good luck and have a great year! I am looking forward to many great memories.

St. Wendelin High School Band Schedule of Events 2009-2010

BE AWARE THAT SOME PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE SCHOOL DAY AND OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY MAY ARISE THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR BY REQUEST OF A LOCAL ORGANIZATION. I WILL ALWAYS GIVE YOU ADVANCED NOTICE.

Marching Band schedules have already been distributed. Please review it. If you need another copy see me immediately.

Pep band schedules and sign-up sheets will be distributed prior to basketball season.

Jazz band schedules and sign-up sheets will be distributed prior to the end of marching band.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Arrival Time</u>	<u>Performance Time</u>	<u>Notes</u>
11/01	Marching Band Appreciation Concert	3:00pm	3:30pm	Mandatory
12/13	Christmas Concert	3:00pm	3:30pm	Mandatory
2/13	Solo & Ensemble Contest	TBA	8:00am-5:00pm	Optional
3/5 or 3/6	Large Ensemble Contest	TBA	TBA	Mandatory
5/16	Spring Concert	3:00pm	3:30pm	Mandatory
5/23	Graduation	TBA	TBA	Mandatory

**** I realize that many of you are involved in sports and/or have part-time jobs. That is why you are receiving this schedule now. It is your responsibility to inform your coaches and employers of these dates in advance, as it is mandatory that you attend all performances and rehearsals. This is an academic class and grades are given for every rehearsal and performance. Please mark these dates in your planners and calendars now. Thank you!**

Please sign and return this form to the Band Room no later than Tuesday, August 25, 2009.

I have read the St. Wendelin High School Band Handbook and understand its contents, rules, obligations, and calendar for the 2009-2010 school year. It is understood that all performances and rehearsals are MANDATORY. This is an **academic class** and I am graded on every rehearsal and performance. It is also understood that any fees, including fundraising moneys, due to the St. Wendelin Music Boosters or school will be paid on time and that failure to comply will result in grades being withheld, and that your standing with the music department and the boosters could be in jeopardy until paid. It is also understood that grades will be withheld, and/or may be lowered until this form is returned.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date