

# Wetumpka “Pride of the Tribe” Band Manual



2016~2017

*Jason Warnix, Director of Bands  
Diana Frazier, Assoc. Director*

**Welcome...**

You are now a member of the Wetumpka High School Bands, musical ensembles that rank among the finest in the state of Alabama. In becoming a member, you are joining a distinguished list of musicians, which, through the years, has established a proud and long standing tradition. Just as the accomplishments of the present bands are built upon the foundation of past members, the future successes and reputation depends on **YOUR** hard work and dedication. Be proud of your organization and their ideals, for you are part of what is truly a unique high school experience.

The band manual has been written for you, a member of the Wetumpka High School Bands. It explains the various aspects of the band program, its policies and regulations. All band members should keep this manual and read it in its entirety at the beginning of each semester to avoid any conflicts or misunderstandings of the policies and rules stated herein.

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**Preamble**

*Be it known that this manual is the governing document of the officers and members of the Wetumpka High School Bands. It is the responsibility of the Directors, Parents, and Band Council to uphold and enforce the guidelines and rules set forth in this document. This manual will in no way ever supercede any federal, state, or local laws; any school policies; or any decisions made by the Director of Bands regarding rules or policies stated herein. It is here charged that it is the personal responsibility of all parents and band members to uphold the guidelines of this document and to solely support the band and its Director.*

Wetumpka High School's band program has everything you could want. The Marching Band regularly appears at Halftime and Competitions in stadiums across the South. The Symphonic and Concert Bands perform numerous concerts on campus, throughout the Southeast, and at ABA District and State levels. The Percussion Ensemble performs at concerts on campus and occasionally off campus at local events.

## **FACULTY**

A dedicated and highly qualified faculty makes the well-rounded music program possible at Wetumpka High School. They believe in giving each student as much individual attention as possible in helping each member attain musical and personal growth.

### **Wetumpka High School Instrumental Music Faculty**

Director of Bands: Mr. Jason Warnix  
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WMS Band Director/WHS Associate Director: Mrs. Diana Frazier  
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## **MEMBERSHIP/AUDITION REQUIREMENTS FOR BAND**

Auditions for all new members of the Marching Band and the Concert Bands are held during April or May of the previous school year or at a specified time during the summer for transfer students. Chair placement of the Concert Band is done usually in November. Challenges will be admissible at times designated by the Director. Auditions for the Drum Majors, Auxiliary, and all band officer/section leader selections will be held each year in the spring. Audition material for all playing ensembles and Auxiliaries will be distributed one month in advance.

Each student is required to pay a participation "fair share" fee to the Wetumpka Band Boosters that is set by the Band Booster Executive Board based on the band's budget needs for the school year. This year's fee for all marching band members is \$500. Color guard and majorettes will pay an additional \$175 to cover the cost of a custom-fitted uniform. The "fair share" fee in its entirety is due by October 28, 2016 for all members. All "fair share" fees can be paid through the fundraisers operated by the WHS Band Boosters or by making monthly payments through the WHS Band Boosters.

## **ATTENDANCE**

The Band Director, with the assistance of the Assistant Directors, Band Captain, and section leaders, is responsible for keeping all attendance records. Attendance for Band Students is **REQUIRED AT ALL** rehearsals and performances. The student must **ASK** permission from the band director in order for an absence to be excused. The only valid excuse for absences is either a death or serious illness in the immediate family, or personal illness (accompanied by a doctor's excuse). Any school activities approved by the principal are also excused absences. After an excessive amount of absences from rehearsals (5), or from performances (2), excused or non-excused, or a blatant disregard and absence from scheduled rehearsals or performances, the student may be dismissed from the band at the discretion of the band director and/or school administration. A parent conference will be set up after the first missed performance.

Attendance at rehearsals and performances is vitally important. Without the band functioning together as a unit, it can never obtain the desired results sought by all members. Remember, no one rides the bench in a band program.

## GRADE REQUIREMENTS

Every band member receives a numeric grade that becomes part of his/her permanent record. This grade is a weighted average based upon rehearsal and performance attendance, and class participation (having all materials for rehearsals: instrument, music, drill charts, pencil, etc.). Students are graded on a scale of 0-100. Grades will be weighted with Performances worth 60% of your semester grade, and Class Participation will be worth 40%. Every student should be enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> period Marching Band class as well as the appropriate concert ensemble.

Students are required to attend performances for the ensemble that the student is enrolled in. If the student is not present, their absence will result in an automatic "zero" unless the absence is cleared with the director at least 2 weeks prior to the performance. The best course of action is to never miss a performance.

## UNIFORMS

### MARCHING BAND

The attire for marching performances is the same for men and women. The Wetumpka High School Marching Band uniforms consist of a band uniform jacket, black bibber pants, black shoes with black socks, and a black shako (hat). Underneath the uniform, each band member is required to wear a short sleeve band T-shirt and black shorts. This is our way of maintaining a uniform look throughout the band. The Band Director will decide if it is necessary to remove the band coats during hot weather. Also, the band t-shirt may be worn with khaki shorts or blue jeans, and tennis shoes as an alternate uniform at certain events. There will be no jewelry, bright make-up, watches, sunglasses, or other accessories that are not part of the band uniform worn at any time while in uniform. One pair of small stud earrings will be allowed for the girls' ears, but no hoops or dangly earrings. All other body piercings are not permissible at all while in uniform. This includes upper ear piercings, gauges that stretch the earlobe, lip piercings, brow piercings, and/or nose piercings.

Uniforms will be issued to each member during the allotted times during band camp. **ALL** uniforms will be stored in the Wetumpka High School Band Room and cleaned and maintained by the Wetumpka High School Band Boosters.

Band members are expected to be in **complete uniform** at all times unless instructed otherwise by the Band Director. You must be in travel attire (Band T-shirt, black shorts, tennis shoes) when you get on the bus for away football games unless otherwise instructed by the Director of Bands. Uniforms will be distributed when we arrive at a performance, and will be collected before we get back on the bus to return home. We ask this so that the band might maintain a high quality of care for the band uniforms so that they will last longer than the average life of a band uniform. Visual Ensemble attire and procedures will be determined by the Director and respective leaders.

### CONCERT BANDS

Attire for concert season will be a tuxedo for all male students and a concert gown for all female students. This attire will be purchased and maintained by each student and used from year to year. Tuxedos will consist of a coat, trousers, shirt, bowtie, and cummerbund. Black patent leather formal shoes will need to be purchased by each male student to wear with your tuxedo. All females will need to purchase a black, closed-toe, formal type of shoe to wear with their concert gowns.

## **UNIFORM FEES AND REPLACEMENT PARTS**

All marching band students are required to pay a uniform rental of \$75 for the year. A \$27 charge is assessed so that the band boosters may clean the uniform.

From time to time, students may need to replace parts of the uniform. The following list is the cost to replace each item:

1. \$200.00 for Uniform Jacket
2. \$90.00 for Uniform Pants
3. \$30.00 for Shoes
4. \$45.00 for Shako
5. \$10.00 for Shako Case
6. \$10.00 for Band T-Shirt (will have to be ordered on an individual basis, extras not kept on hand)
7. \$5.00 per pair for gloves

## **SALE OF REEDS AND STICKS AND INSTRUMENT REPAIRS**

ALL brass, woodwind, and percussion students are responsible for providing their own instrument materials such as valve oil, reeds, drum sticks, mallets, and other materials necessary to perform correctly on their instruments. For Marching Season, all drum sticks and mallets will be the recommended sizes and name brands set forth by the Director of Bands. Large brass and woodwind instruments that are impractical for individual students to purchase, and ALL percussion instruments are provided for the students to use for performance. These are school owned instruments that are maintained by the band and cannot be kept or owned by the student at the end of the school year.

We do not stock maintenance parts for instrument repair, nor is the Director of Bands a repairman for your band student's instrument. When a quick repair can be done such as a pad or spring adjustment, a stuck mouthpiece, or replacing drum heads, the Director of Bands or one of his associates will take care of it to the best of our ability.

The Wetumpka High School band does stock woodwind reeds and drum sticks and mallets (for Marching Season) for sale to students. All reeds are \$3 each, and drum stick prices vary depending on the size and type of stick or mallet that it is.

Mr. Ron Mallory, a service representative from Art's Music Shop in Montgomery, comes to the band room every Wednesday to take care of our needs. If Mr. Mallory cannot perform a repair onsite, sometimes it may be necessary to take the instrument to the shop to fix it. There may be charges for repairs depending on the situation. If the instrument requires going to a repair shop, it is never sent in before obtaining approval from a parent.

## **INSTRUMENT STORAGE POLICIES**

The instrument lockers are provided for your convenience of storing school-owned or personally owned instruments. The instrument lockers are to be kept clean at all times. Use your own discretion about storing your instruments. If you choose to put a lock on your locker, please remember the combination or keep up with the key. Wetumpka High School and the Wetumpka Band Boosters will not be responsible for replacing your lock if it is to be cut off. **YOU MAY ONLY PLAY ON YOUR INSTRUMENT. DO NOT PLAY ANY OTHER STUDENT'S INSTRUMENT.**

## **PRACTICE ROOMS**

Practice rooms are provided for individual practice and for the use of our private instructors. These facilities are open to all students with an approval time from the Director. Only ONE student at a time is permitted to be in the practice rooms.

## FOLDERS/MUSIC BOOKS

Every member of the Marching Band is responsible for a lyre and flip folder. Members are expected to keep their marching band music in the flip folder in order to help them memorize and learn the music. You are expected to keep the flip folder with you at all band functions, including but not limited to rehearsals and games.

For all concert ensembles, each student will be responsible for keeping their music in a music folder that will be provided by the band or by each student upon arrangements made by the Director of Bands.

## THE BAND COUNCIL -- OFFICER SELECTION PROCESS

Band Officer Selections, except for Drum Major, are held every year during band camp for the following academic year. Drum Major will be chosen through a judged try-out process in the Spring of the preceding year. The decision of the try-out judges for Drum Major will be FINAL. The band director through the band placement process will choose section leaders. The decision of the Director for section leaders is FINAL. The student chooses whether they want to apply, or try out, or not. Officers begin their office on July 1 of that year or when elected.

The band student body will elect Band Captain and Band Co-Captain. Nominations and interested candidates will come before the band and make a one-minute speech on their behalf. The band will then vote for the most qualified individual. If there should be a tie between two applicants, a run-off will be held and the candidate will be decided by 2/3 majority rule. If a second run-off is necessary, the decision will come from the Director.

The Band Council consists of the following members: Director of Bands, Drum Major, Band Captain and Co-Captain, and Section Leaders/Aux. Captains.

## POSITION REQUIREMENTS

### Drum Major

- a) Must have auditioned for the ABA All-State Honor Band and passed the scale tryout to be eligible for a Drum Major position the following year.
- b) Takes complete charge of the band in absence of the Director(s).
- c) Assists in rehearsals.
- d) Helps carry out the discipline of the band.
- e) Assists in the uniform inspection of band members.
- f) Conducts the band at events assigned by the Director.
- g) Displays student leadership.
- h) Is the highest ranking marching band member.
- i) Helps carry out the Director's plan of the marching show.

*\*The Drum Major is auditioned and selected by a panel of qualified judges. The decision of the judges is FINAL. The student will choose whether they want to audition or not. The auditions will be closed. There will be an interview with the Director as well as teacher recommendation sheets as part of the audition. Specific audition guidelines will be distributed one month prior to auditions. The people present at auditions will be the Director of Bands, the judges, and all drum major candidates.*

### Band Captain

- a) Must have auditioned for the ABA All-State Honor Band and passed the scale tryout to be eligible for a Band Captain position.
- b) Promotes band activities.
- c) Preferably a Senior Band Member (not a section leader, captain, or drum major).
- d) Coordinates all student officers of the band.

- e) Assists the band Director in keeping attendance on a given Attendance Sheet for rehearsals and performances by collecting an absence list given by the Section Leaders/Captains.
- f) Publicly supports section leaders and officers to present a unified front to the band.
- g) Encourages good work often on every level.
- h) Exemplifies the best attributes of what a Wetumpka band member should be: assertive, disciplined, self-motivated, a good musician, encouraging, respectful of others, a team player, and a total supporter of the band program.
- i) Understands the goals and wishes of the Band Director and insures that they are carried out.
- j) Assists the Drum Major in accepting awards and trophies on behalf of the band at marching festivals and competitions.

### **Band Co-Captain**

- a) Must have auditioned for the ABA All-State Honor Band and passed the scale tryout to be eligible for a Co-Captain position.
- b) Assumes all duties of the Band Captain when necessary
- c) Preferably a Junior Band Member (not a section leader, captain, or drum major).
- d) Assists Band Captain wherever possible
- e) Coordinates the loading crew for all trips.
- f) Assists the Drum Major and Band Captain in accepting awards and trophies on behalf of the band at marching festivals and competitions.
- g) Your job is to:
  - Insure that the rehearsal area is clean after rehearsals
  - Insure that equipment is properly put away
  - Insure that everyone is doing their job and thank them for doing it
  - Be a positive, encouraging role model
  - Make the Director aware of anyone leaving trash, equipment, personal items, on the field or placed improperly in the band room.
  - Use the chain of command to solve problems

### **Section Leaders/Captains**

- a) Section Leaders must have auditioned for the ABA All-State Honor Band and passed the scale tryout to be eligible for a Section Leader position the following year.
- b) Will be auditioned and selected by the Director.
- c) Must be a Junior or a Senior for the upcoming season of leadership. Assistant Section Leaders may be Sophomore through Senior.
- d) Possibly the most important link in the chain of command. You not only have to insure that your people obey the Band Director's instructions; you must also stand and work alongside your section members.
- e) Assists the Drum Major, Band Captain, and Co-Captain in accepting awards and trophies on behalf of the band at marching festivals and competitions.
- f) Your job is to:
  - assist in the rehearsal of your section
  - turn in absences to the Band Captain to be recorded into the Attendance Sheet
  - make sure that all members of your section have their music
  - Be an example
  - Be an encourager
  - Know how to use the chain of command

## AUXILIARIES

### Color Guard/Majorettes

The Color Guard and Majorettes are auditioned and selected by a panel of qualified judges. The decision of the judges is FINAL. Captains for each unit will be selected by a combination of requirements that includes, but is not limited to, tryout scores, teacher recommendations, and the vote of each respective unit. The student chooses whether they want to audition or not.

The Color Guard and Majorettes are considered part of the band. All band rules and regulations apply to each Color Guard member and Majorette as well. They will sit with the band at all football games while in the stands. All members who play an instrument will also participate in their respective concert band class.

### Equipment

1. Your equipment and show are your first priority.
2. DO NOT leave equipment unattended. ALL Equipment must be at all rehearsals every day. NO EXCEPTIONS.
3. Your equipment and uniform are expensive and must be taken care of AT ALL TIMES. Uniforms should remain clean and flags should always be rolled up and stored in the designated area.

**----- THE WETUMPKA HIGH SCHOOL BAND CODES OF CONDUCT -----**  
**Rules and regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the Band Director.**

For the band to run efficiently there must be guidelines for people to follow. These rules are set not for disciplinary action to occur, but for the safety and learning process of students.

## DRESS CODE

Any time the band leaves the campus to represent Wetumpka High School; we carry with us an image to uphold. One way we do this is through our conduct; another is through our dress. There are many times that we are not in uniform that we are in the public's eye as the "Wetumpka High School Band" even though we are not performing. What we wear in those situations is the "dress code". Any time we are loading or unloading the buses and any time we are seen, all those involved with the band must be in dress code. All members must wear a band t-shirt and shorts unless told otherwise by the band director. The length of the shorts must be even with the fingertips when arms are fully extended down at side. Shorts any shorter will not be allowed. Faculty, Staff, and Chaperones will agree upon professional clothing to be worn. Those students not in dress code will not be permitted to load the bus. These guidelines are strictly enforced.

## LOADING EQUIPMENT

**Each band member is responsible for seeing that his/her own instrument and uniforms are loaded.** There will also be an assigned loading crew along with parents who will help load all instruments, clothing, equipment, and ensure that everything is loaded in the safest and most compact way possible. Listen for announcements about where to put your instruments and uniforms.

On the spring or overnight trips each member is allowed to take one carry-on garment bag, one medium suitcase for underneath the bus, as well as one additional small carry-on bag in addition to their instrument. This is necessary so that we will have plenty of room for the large amount of equipment that we carry.



## ALCOHOL/DRUG POLICY

The band adheres to School Board policies regarding alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and drugs. There will be **NO** consumption of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, or use of drugs at any band performance, on any band bus, or during any time the band is traveling.

## TRAVELING/BUS BEHAVIOR

If riding chartered buses, all rules of the bus company must be followed completely. Portable mp3 players, iPods, iPhones and other media players are permitted only with headphones. Movies must be approved by the Band Director. The Band Director, along with assistance from the bus captain is in complete command of the bus. When the bus stops, for any reason, remain seated until instructed otherwise by the Director of Bands. All students will travel together to all performances. If a student wishes not to ride the bus home, he or she must fill out the appropriate Check-Out Form and turn it in to the Director of Bands 24 hours in advance for ball games/competitions, and one (1) week in advance for overnight trips to request permission. The student will not have permission to leave without the accompaniment of a parent/guardian that will sign the student out at the bus after the event has concluded.

## HOTEL BEHAVIOR

When dealing with accommodations, you also must adhere to the following:

- 1) Absolutely no boys in girl's rooms; no girls in boy's rooms. If you are found in a room of the opposite sex, you will be sent home at cost to your parents and dealt with further by a school disciplinary committee.
- 2) Do not congregate in the halls or cause disruption or noise in your room.
- 3) Do not at any time cause any physical damage to the room or hotel in which you are staying as it will result in you paying for the repairs and possible dismissal from the band.
- 4) You must be present in the room for room check.
- 5) Bedtime will be determined by the Director and posted as "LIGHTS OUT!"
- 6) Absolutely no ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR DRUGS ALLOWED! This will result in dismissal from the band and suspension from school.

## BEHAVIOR OF BAND IN FOOTBALL STADIUM OR ON STAGE

- 1) Adhere to all policies set forth by the Wetumpka High School Student Handbook.
- 2) The band will meet at the time specified by the Director to begin to warm up and have uniform inspections.
- 3) Members will not play their instruments unless directed to do so.
- 4) The band is to be silent when anyone is in front of the band addressing the group.
- 5) There will not be any chewing of gum.
- 6) Band members sit only in their assigned seats with their section.
- 7) Members will not eat at any time while in uniform, **unless** instructed by the Director. Students will be instructed in advance if they will be allowed to eat during the third quarter break.
- 8) Drinks will be provided by the Band Booster Club, after the pre-game show and after the halftime performance.
- 9) Water is permitted at any time during the game, as long as you do not leave your seat.
- 10) Non-band members are not allowed to sit with the band at any time.
- 11) The Director will dismiss the band after the performance or after the post game concert.

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR AND POLICIES FOR THE BAND ROOM**

- 1) Enter the band room quietly, get out your instrument and materials needed for class (music, pencil, etc...), and quickly sit in your appropriate seat.
- 2) Begin an effective, appropriate personal warm-up on your instrument after you have completed item #1.
- 3) NO eating, GUM CHEWING, or drinking is allowed in the Band Hall at any time, day or night. This is strictly adhered to.
- 4) Adhere to all policies set forth by the Wetumpka High Student Handbook.
- 5) Members will not play their instruments unless directed to do so.
- 6) The band is to be silent when anyone is in front of the band addressing the group.
- 7) Band members sit only in their assigned seats with their section.
- 8) No talking while the Director is on the podium or instructing the class.
- 9) Properly dispose of your trash. There are garbage cans provided in adequate places.
- 10) Bathroom facilities are for your personal conveniences. You should take care of these facilities as if they were your own. You will keep the bathroom clean and neat.

**CONSEQUENCES FOR RULE VIOLATIONS**

Classroom rule violations and discipline for improper behaviors will be dealt with in accordance with discipline procedures of the Elmore County Board of Education and Wetumpka High School as stated in the Wetumpka High School or Elmore County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct.

Since Marching Band is a physical activity much like an athletic extracurricular activity that replaces, in a sense, the physical education class, other physical reinforcement activities such as running laps and doing pushups are used to physically strengthen students. At the same time, these physical activities should provide activity necessary to build strength to perform and execute marching band concepts correctly such as holding the instrument properly while marching and having enough lung capacity to play a wind instrument while marching.

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Please sign and return this portion to Mr. Warnix as soon as possible.

I have read the entire band manual and agree to all policies, rules, and regulations set forth by the Elmore County Board of Education, Wetumpka High School, and the Wetumpka High School Band as they apply to participation in the Wetumpka High School Band.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_