



WETUMPKA HIGH SCHOOL BAND

ORIENTATION INFO AND FAQ'S

Welcome to the Wetumpka High School "Pride of the Tribe" Band. Your membership in this organization is one of great value. Music is a worthwhile activity, and will strengthen the student's productiveness in society. Through this informational packet, we will address many Frequently Asked Questions and Information regarding what is required to be a part of the Wetumpka High School Band.

I am only the fifth band director in the Sixty-plus year history of the Wetumpka High School Band. My philosophy is that band should be an eclectic family of participants supporting each other to reach a successful outcome, which is molding students into disciplined, well-rounded human beings that can enjoy life through their love for music.

Music is seen by many as the solution to many of our cultural problems. All people on Earth are endeared to each other through our love for music. The theory of "multiple intelligences" tags instrumental music as one of the separate minds, and being exposed to music strengthens all other learning forms. National testing demonstrates scores rise proportionately higher with the length of time spent studying instrumental music in school.

We cannot take for granted what "being in band" means to our students. Although it might seem that we are just completing one performance and then preparing for the next, there is a much greater educational agenda being shared every day in our rehearsal room. Learning music is preparing our students to be successful in life. The hours of preparation, teamwork, and the discipline and motivation that your student learns in participation with this organization is the framework to create a more productive, well-rounded adult.

FAQ's

Students:

1. *Do I have to be at all Summer Rehearsals?*

YES. All rehearsals are mandatory for all students that apply to the rehearsal that is taking place. You must attend all Summer Band Camp Rehearsals for eligibility to participate with the Wetumpka High School Marching Band. The only exception for missing rehearsal/band camp is death in the family or student sickness to the point that the student cannot rehearse/perform, and you need to contact the band office at 567-5158 ext. 54247 to leave a message **before the student is absent**. DOCTOR AND DENTAL APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT EXCUSES FOR MISSING REHEARSALS. LACK OF TRANSPORTATION, BABYSITTING SIBLINGS, BIRTHDAYS, ETC. ARE ALSO NOT EXCUSES FOR MISSING REHEARSALS. These are planned events that can be changed to fit around the band rehearsal schedule. Honor your commitment. If you choose to be part of the WHS Band, activities are not a buffet where you can pick and choose what you want. Every member is important to the success of the entire band program. If a student misses a rehearsal, it affects the entire band because of the hole that is created in the drill or the part that is missing in the music. Commitment and accountability are the most important components to make the band successful.

2. *How often does the band rehearse during the school week/What will my scheduled class be?*

Each student will be enrolled in a Band Class. Majorettes and Color Guard will meet during their own class time, Percussion will meet during their own class time, and the Brass and Woodwinds will meet in either Symphonic Band or Concert Band. This allows the band director and staff to give more specialized instruction in preparation for performances. Marching Band will meet for after-school rehearsals in order to put all the sections together. After-school rehearsals are held on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30pm. After competition season is over, the rehearsal schedule is cut back to Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00pm. Once the football team reaches the playoffs, marching rehearsals are conducted as needed on Thursdays only from 3:30 to 5:00pm. Sample calendars from the previous fall and spring are attached to this packet to give you an idea of the schedule of events for the band throughout the year.

3. *Do I have to attend performances?*

YES. As I stated, all members are important to the success of the band program. Performing is what the band exists to do. Also, each student's grade is taken from participation in performances, rehearsals, and class participation. The band performs at pep rallies, football games, competitions, and all other events that we are invited to attend at the band director's discretion. Transportation is provided to all away ball games, competitions, and other events involving the entire band that does not happen in the city of Wetumpka except for Solo and Ensemble in Montgomery. If a student misses one (1) performance, a parent conference will be conducted. If a student misses two (2) performances, the student will be dismissed from the band.

4. *Does the band have activities on the weekend?*

Yes. The band will have a competition season that occurs starting at the end of September and usually lasts until the third or fourth week of October. The band will attend no less than two competitions that are usually held on Saturdays. If the opportunity presents

itself, the band will sometimes play at a college football game or a high school all-star football game as guest entertainment or as part of a mass halftime performance with other high school bands. Also, we will participate in the Christmas on the Coosa Parade that will be on the 2nd Saturday in December, and the Mardi Gras Parade in the spring that will occur on a Saturday. Other events such as Solo and Ensemble and Honor Bands are voluntary and on an individual basis but occur on the weekend.

5. Do I have to pay money to participate in the Wetumpka High School Band?

Yes. The Elmore County School System and Wetumpka High School provides the facilities, limited technology equipment, and the band director's salary. They do not provide any funds for the operation of the Band Program. But, if they did provide funding, the band could be limited in purchasing the things necessary to operate because of red tape in the school book keeping process. Financial support from donations to the school is seldom provided to help purchase equipment or other items. So, all of the expenses to allow the band to operate are provided by fundraising efforts by our students and band booster organization. Every extracurricular activity on campus has a fee or utilizes fundraising to support itself. We have a band fee to hold everyone accountable for their "FAIR SHARE". We are a team, and for a team to be successful, everyone has to do their part. The Fair Share amount that each student pays is used to buy music, pay for buses to events, buy school instruments, buy equipment that is used to transport and store instruments and other equipment, and purchases all of the other "stuff" that is needed to run the band program. The Wetumpka High School band has one of the lowest fees for an extracurricular or athletic activity, to my knowledge, on this campus.

Each student's Fair Share for the 2016-2017 School Year, aka "the amount of money that each student is responsible for raising for the band", will be \$500. This is contingent on the number of students that are in the band versus the amount of expenses that the band director and band booster executive board estimate spending during the 2016-2017 school year to support the needs of the band. If you have two children in band, the first student pays \$500, and the second pays \$350. The first \$150 will be due at the Rock-a-thon on July 16th, 2016. If you are a younger sibling, the amount due at the Rock-a-thon on July 16th will also be \$150. The remaining balance will be due by October 28th, 2016, and must be paid on the following schedule which will be concurrent with fundraising:

**First Student: 1st payment: \$150.00 due on August 26th
2nd payment: \$100.00 due on September 30th
Final payment: \$100.00 due on October 28th**

**Sibling: 1st payment: \$100.00 due on August 26th or September 30th
Final payment: \$100.00 due on September 30th or October 28th**

There will be fundraising opportunities to pay your fair share and other financial responsibilities to the band through our Band Booster Organization. We have a budget in place which allows us to determine how much money is needed to cover the expenses that the band anticipates and incurs throughout the year versus how much income we anticipate through fundraising efforts.

6. Do I have to be in band all year (i.e. marching and concert)?

Yes. With the current schedule setup, all band students will participate in Band during the entire school year and Marching Band in the fall as a requirement.

7. *What do the students wear when performing with the Wetumpka High School Band?*

During Marching Band season, each student will wear the Wetumpka High School Band uniform. Uniform expenses will be incurred on an individual basis and extra to the band fee. ALL uniform costs will be paid in FULL before being fitted for any part of the uniform and are due at the time of uniform fitting as described on the 2016 Summer Calendar. Uniform rental costs are described on a separate sheet in this packet.

During the concert season, each student will purchase a concert tuxedo or a concert gown. Fitting for these garments will be in the month of July when they are fitted for marching band uniforms. These will be custom fitted garments, and should only be a one-time purchase. Alterations and adjustments can be made, and use of these outfits will be on a yearly basis. The cost of these garments will be \$80 to \$125. This money will be due when the garments arrive to the band room.

8. *How can I participate in the WHS Jazz Band?*

Any student in the Wetumpka High School Band that fits into the Jazz Lab Band instrumentation (Flute, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Tuba, Percussion, Guitar, Bass Guitar, and Piano) can participate in the WHS Jazz Band as long as that student has room in their schedule for the class. The Jazz Band class meets 3rd period.

Parents:

1. *What can I do to help the band?*

If your student is in the Wetumpka High School Band, you, as parents, are expected to participate in the Wetumpka High School Band Booster Organization. The Wetumpka High School Band is not funded through any source other than fundraising through the Wetumpka High School Band Boosters, which is our parent organization that meets on the third Tuesday night of every month at 7pm in the WHS Band Room. We encourage you to attend our last two meetings of the year to start to “get your feet wet”. The next two meetings are on April 19th and May 17th. The purpose of the Wetumpka High School Band Boosters is stated in our By-Laws as follows:

2.01 To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and the Band Director may cooperate and promote the music education of the band students.

2.02 To provide funds for the general operation of the organization.

2. *How can I join the Wetumpka High School Band Booster organization?*

If you have a student in the Wetumpka High School Band, then you will automatically be a band booster member because you have a student currently participating in the band. There are no dues except for the Fair Share responsibility of each student.

3. *What types of duties can I expect to be asked to perform as a band parent?*

The most important thing that you can do as a parent is to be involved in your band student's education. Each student is encouraged to practice for 2 hours each week outside of the school day. Playing an instrument is a physical skill that relies on muscle memory. Also, you should encourage your student to participate in extra events such as the Elmore County Honor Band, college honor bands, All-State Honor Band Auditions, and Solo and Ensemble. The more they are working on their own, the better the whole band will become.

As a band booster member you will be asked to participate in a committee that will help the band operate more smoothly such as the Gatorade/Water Committee that helps keep the band hydrated at Summer Rehearsals, or the Transportation Committee which takes care of moving equipment to, at, and from the performances. Also, each band booster committee will need chairmen to head up the task the committee is trying to complete.

The Wetumpka Band Booster Organization operates the Wetumpka Home Football Game concession stand, which is the largest fundraising effort that the band booster organization does each year. You will be required to work at least one game in our Concession Stand.

The band will need chaperones to help supervise students on all trips that are taken on buses. There is a chaperone orientation meeting that you will need to attend in the month of August in order to be a chaperone.

Sometimes there are special projects that need to take place so that the band will have what it needs to function. The best thing that you can do is to volunteer your time and manpower to show your student that you care about what they are doing and to make them successful in their participation with the Wetumpka High School Band.

This can be a very rewarding experience if you will allow it to be. The band booster organization is not the controlling body of the band, but instead, it is the life support of the band program. Please do not view this organization as your way to make the band into what you want it to be. It is the job of the band director to make decisions concerning what the band rehearsal schedule/calendar will be, what the band is to perform, how it performs, where it performs, and when it performs.

Wetumpka High School Band Uniform Information

(Uniform Fitting Dates are on the Band Summer Calendar. You will not be fitted for any part of your uniform until ALL moneys are paid the day of the fitting.)

This check will be made payable to “**Wetumpka High School**”:

- \$75.00 for Uniform Rental

This check will be made payable to “**Wetumpka HS Band Boosters**”:

- \$30.00 for Dinkles Formal Marching Shoes (Patent Leather)
 - \$27.00 for Uniform Cleaning
 - \$5.00 per pair for gloves
 - \$10.00 for Band T-Shirt
-
- Students must supply Black Socks and Black Shorts to wear underneath uniform (athletic shorts, inseam must be longer than 2 inches, elastic waist)
 - The band t-shirt and shorts are worn under the uniform. The students will wear the shirt and black shorts while traveling and then put on their band uniform before entering the stadium.
 - Band students are responsible for their uniform and accessories. When you leave the buses or stadium, you must be sure you have everything including your instrument.
 - Any items left on the bus/stadium will be turned in to Mr. Warnix. For any item left more than once, the student will incur a \$10 fine that will be placed in the school uniform account to aid in the purchase of the next set of uniforms.

Fees to replace Lost Items:

Uniform Coat - \$200	Bibbers - \$90	Shoes - \$33	Shako - \$45	Shako Box - \$10
Garment Bag - \$12	T-Shirt - \$10	Gloves - \$5		

Hems:

Any Hemming that will need to be completed will be done by the WHS Band Uniform Committee shortly after uniform fitting in the summer.

Dry Cleaning and Uniform Maintenance:

1. Students will not be responsible for cleaning and maintaining uniform items. This will be done by the uniform committee when needed. The cleaning fee is assessed at the beginning of each school year in order to take care of this.
2. If the uniform becomes wet, all items must be hung up separately to air dry. Do not use heat or any other unnatural drying method.
3. If any stains soil the uniform, sponge the stain with water immediately so that the stain does not have time to set. When the uniform is turned back in to the uniform committee, make sure to point out the stain so that it can be cleaned.