

2023-
2024

WHS Band Handbook



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This handbook has been prepared for the Wamego High School Band so that you and your parents know the policies and expectations for the 2023-2024 school year. The following pages should be read and understood before embarking on the 2023 band experience.

Whenever the band performs or travels, its members are representatives of the Wamego school district, the community of Wamego, and all citizens, friends, and family that support the Wamego Band. Whether in uniform or out, at performance or at rehearsal, on the road or at home, band members must conduct themselves in a mature and responsible manner. Membership in the band is both a privilege and an honor. Just as our music must not falter, so must the manner in which we conduct ourselves be unquestionable.

Your experience in the band in Wamego is bound to be an exciting one. Through cooperation, solid effort, and a desire to succeed, we will maintain the strong tradition of excellence that has come to typify the Wamego Band program.

Christopher M. Richmond
Director of Bands
richmondc@usd320.com

Susan Gartner
Assistant Director of Bands
gartners@usd320.com

WHS Main Office: 456-2214 (ext. 5035)
Webpage: www.wamegobands.org

WAMEGO HIGH SCHOOL BAND CALENDAR 2023-2024

September

- 8- Home Football Game
- 13- State Fair Parade (times TBA)
- 15- Home Football Game
- 22- Home Football Game (HC)

October

- 4- ESU Marching Festival (times TBA)
- 7- KMEA NC Dist Aud Prep Day*
- 7- Ozttoberfest (Jazz Band only- 4:15)
- 13- Home FB Game (Snr/ Band Night)
- 23- Ft Hays Marching Fest. (times TBA)
- 26- Popcorn Concert (7:00 p.m.- HS Gym)

November

- Bi-District, Regional & Substate FB- TBA
- 4- KMEA District Auditions*
- 14- Jazz Night (JB/ 7:00 @ HS Band Room)

December

- 2- KMEA District Band* (Manhattan HS)
- 4- Feast of Carols (7:30 p.m. @ HS Aud)
- 7- Home Wrestling Dual*
- 8- Home Basketball Game*
- 12- Home Basketball Game*
- 19- Home Basketball Game*

January

- 5- Home Basketball Game*
- 6- KMEA State Auditions* (Salina)
- 9- Home Basketball Game*

January (cont.)

- 12- Home Basketball Game*
- 19-21- KSU Concert Band Clinic*
- 23- Home Basketball Game*
- 26- Home Basketball Game*

February

- 2- Home Basketball Game*
- 3- Regional Piano Festival*
- 7- League Band* (Chapman- time TBA)
- 8- Home Wrestling Dual*
- 13- Home Basketball Game*
- 17- State Piano Festival*
- 22-24- KMEA All-State Band* (Wichita)

March

- 2/27 - 3/2 - Substate Basketball*
- 6 - 9 - State Basketball*
- 21- Band Spectacular (7:30 p.m. @ HS)

April

- 2- Fine Arts Night (JB/ 7:00 @ HS Band Aud)
- 13- Regional Solo & Ensemble Festival*
- 17- State Band & Choir Festival
(full band- location and times TBA)
- 25?- District Jazz Tour (Jazz Band only)
- 27- State Solo & Ensemble Festival*

May

- 2- Spring Concert (7:00 p.m. @ HS)
- 4- MS Solo and Ensemble Festival
- 18- HS Graduation (2:00 p.m.-required)

****Any event marked with an asterisk is not a graded or required event.***

Performances are required and graded as stipulated in the handbook. Basketball Pep Band events are on a volunteer basis. You will be expected to perform during the 1st, 2nd, and 4th quarters of any athletic performance. Our success as an ensemble depends on your presence at the times that we are expected to play. Be in your seat ***and*** ready to play twenty minutes before game time for each athletic event.

If you anticipate a conflict, it is up to you to resolve it. **Use this calendar to clear your work schedules and plan around family events.** If conflicts cannot be avoided, *we expect to be notified at least two weeks prior to the event.*

Music at WHS

Course Guidelines for Band

Course Description: This class involves learning basic musicianship while working toward and participating in various concerts and festival performances. Membership is open to all students grades nine through twelve with the interest and desire to perform on a band instrument. The band meets two/ three days a week in high school with other rehearsals scheduled during Advisory time when possible. Individual practice is always encouraged and strongly recommended.

Course Objective: This class will teach students the technical aspects of music, expose them to different styles of music, and require them to work together to achieve maximum results.

Course Requirements: Rehearsal and performance attendance is required. The student must demonstrate a good attitude and willingness to participate, work, and cooperate with the director and the entire group. Rules as listed in the student handbook must be observed.

Grading System: All grades in band will be based on at least three performance assessments each quarter, one term or symbol quiz per quarter, and written self-reflections of each concert performance. *Please see below for more information.*

Attendance and Absences: Attendance is **mandatory** at all scheduled rehearsals and performances. The band operates with the belief that excellence comes from practice. It is the director's responsibility to provide a schedule in advance. It is the student's responsibility to see that all conflicts are avoided.

What if a student is absent from a performance? Band is a performance class. As such, **students are expected to be at all scheduled performances.** Each unexcused performance absence will result in the performance grade being lowered by one letter. All excused absences should be accompanied by a note or a parent e-mail to the director. It is important to inform the director as soon as possible when an absence is expected.

Appropriate and consistent ensemble and/ or solo work as well as District/ State band participation will count toward lettering in band.

Policies and Procedures

The Band Room

The room must be kept clean and organized at all times. With the vast number of band students that pass through the room on a daily basis, it is essential that we do this so that you can find what you need when you need it. An orderly room also prevents accidents. Please take care of stands, chairs, and other equipment as if it were your own. If behavior leads to the harm of this equipment, those responsible will replace it. Also please make sure that if something is borrowed, put it back where you found it when you are done. Leave the room in better condition than you found it.

School Instruments

An annual \$30.00 rental fee will be charged for the use of school instruments. Any repair needed beyond normal wear and tear will be the responsibility of those renting the instrument.

Lockers

Lockers **will** be used to store instruments. While the band is in session, please use these lockers to store your backpacks, books, and other school supplies. Wamego High School will not assume responsibility for the security of personal belongings brought to school nor assume responsibility for security of the assigned lockers. Security of lockers and locker rooms cannot be guaranteed at all times. Wamego High School is not responsible for lost or stolen items that are not secured in a locked locker.

Sheet Music

Everyone will be issued music at the start of each season (marching band, concert band, pep band). All music, charts, announcements, etc. issued to you are your responsibility. There will be slots assigned for you to keep your music. Keep it safe! *If we must copy music or drill charts more than once, a copy replacement fee may be charged.*

Pencils

You must have a pencil at every rehearsal. You will likely be asked to mark your music or drill charts every day. Failure to have a pencil is the same as coming to class unprepared.

Flip Folders/ Lyres

You will need a flip folder and a lyre for use during marching band and pep band. These will be provided. If flip folders and/or lyres are lost, you will be responsible for the replacement cost.

Reeds, Cleaning Supplies, Oil, etc.

It is your responsibility to come prepared to class with the essentials needed to play.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Music Room, WHS

1. Demonstrate a positive attitude and willingness to participate, work, and cooperate with the director and the entire group. Support and encourage all members of our class at all times.
2. When the director is giving instructions, listen and follow directions promptly the first time given.
3. Respect the property of the school and others.
4. No gum, food, or beverages will be allowed in the music room **at any time**.
5. Cell phones are to remain off and put away during rehearsal.
6. Form opinions about the music and activities only **after** you have experienced them. Share them with the director on an individual basis.

Consequences for Transgression

- 1st Offense:* Private conversation- teacher and student
2nd Offense: Telephone call to parents and conversation with teacher.
3rd Offense: Detention, telephone call to parents, and conversation with teacher.
4th Offense: All of the above apply; referral of situation to principal.

Severe Clause

The director reserves the right to send a student to the principal if disruptive or inappropriate behavior warrants it.

*All Wamego High School rules and regulations apply at all Wamego High School band events. Refer to the High School handbook.

Football Home Game Procedure

1. Pick up the uniform from the uniform storage room after school.
2. Report to the field at 6:15 p.m. for warm-up and attendance.
3. Sections will sit together in their assigned seats during the game.
4. Non-band personnel will be asked to leave the band block.

Performance

1. Pre-Game begins at 6:45 p.m. We will make our way to the field around 6:35 p.m.
2. Block band on field--Star-Spangled Banner, Fight Song
3. We will play through the first half of the game in the stands to support the team, perform our halftime show, take a short break during the 3rd quarter, and then play in the stands during the 4th quarter to help support the team until the end of the game.

Students must have permission from the director if they are leaving their assigned section for any reason until our halftime responsibilities are finished. This is so that we have full sections of instruments if we are called on to play at any time. ***Reminder:*** Students have third quarter off and will stay to perform for the fourth quarter of every home football game. Attendance will be taken after halftime. If you are absent, you will lose credit for that performance. Following our performance, you will be expected to return the uniform to the uniform storage room at the high school. ***If you do not return the uniform, you will be called at home and asked to return it.***

Pep Band

Pep Band is a voluntary group of HS Band students that performs at all home basketball games and various other athletic events (including tournaments)--Pep Band is not required, but we encourage you to join. The Pep Band is a very visible part of the band program here in Wamego. A lot of people judge our success solely on what they see on Friday nights. It is up to you to continue that tradition. If you want to have a good time playing rockin' music, be a part of the Pep Band.

EQUIPMENT

Rental of school owned equipment is covered in the school handbook. *An annual fee of \$30.00 will be required.* See the checkout form for details.

Students are responsible for purchasing their own:

- Reeds
- Oils
- Cleaning supplies
- Cork grease

Some lyres and flip folders are available for use. They will be checked out at the beginning of the year and must be returned at the end of football season. Replacement cost will be \$26.00.

Awards:

The lettering policy is based on a ten point system. Points are earned by participating in musical events that are above and beyond our scheduled events. To qualify for a letter, students must meet the following criteria:

- Have no disciplinary referrals while in band.
- Missed no performances.
- Have an "A" in the class.
- Earn 10 points based on the following activities:
 - BB Games- 1 pt each
 - KSU Concert Band Clinic- 1 pt
 - Auditioning for District Band- 1 pt
 - Making District Band- 1 pt
 - Auditioning for State Band- 1 pt
 - Making State Band- 2 pts
 - Drum Major- 1 pt
 - Jazz Band- 1 pt for the year
 - Section Leader- 1 pt (pending director review)
 - District Solo and Ensemble- 1 pt for each event participated in
 - Getting Superior Rating at District- 1 pt
 - State Solo and Ensemble- 1 pt for each event participated in
 - Getting Superior Rating at State Solo and Ensemble- 1 pt
 - Band receiving straight Superior Ratings at State- 1 pt
 - Any other instrumental music performance outside of class- 1 pt
 - 4 Years in Band- Automatic letter

Other awards are also given to recognize distinguished contributions, talent, service, and superior achievement including the John Philip Sousa Band Award, the Louis Armstrong Award, Section of the Year, and more!

Grading Policy 2023-2024

There will be four components to grades in High School Band. They are:

Performance Skills- playing/ marching skills (50%)

- There will be three performance skill checks/ quarter.
- Each performance skill check will be worth 100 points.
- You will be assessed on tone, note accuracy, rhythm accuracy articulation, dynamics, tempo, and symbol recognition.

Rehearsal Skills- points earned for daily work in rehearsal (20%)

- Rehearsal skills will be evaluated once/ week by informal observation.
- Some evaluations will be for a grade and some will not.
- Each graded rehearsal skill check will be worth 10 points.
- This is the ability to work productively in an ensemble- in other words: can you self-evaluate and make improvement?

Concert Performances- points earned for scheduled performances (20%)

-All performances are required.

- Following each performance, students will write an evaluation/ self-reflection of the performance. This is what will be entered in the gradebook.
- If a performance is missed, students will still be expected to write the concert evaluation/ self-reflection while watching the video recording of the performance.
- If a performance is missed and excused, students will be expected to perform their concert music either during class for Mrs. Gartner, during advisory, on MusicFirst, or after school to demonstrate mastery.
- If the performance absence is unexcused according to school policy, the performance grade will be lowered by one letter.

General Music Knowledge- 1 written assessment/ quarter (10%)

- This quiz must be passed with 70% accuracy.

A Band Final Exam will be given at the end of each semester. The Final will consist of:

Performance & written reflection of the final concert of the respective semester (Fall- Feast of Carols/ Spring- Graduation)	50%
Written assessment on terms, symbols, and music knowledge	30%
Two required scales	10%
Sightreading	10%

The written assessment will be given on the day of finals. Scales and sightreading will be performed in class individually a week before finals. The general list of terms/ symbols, specific scales, and general music knowledge curricular requirements are listed below. Specific requirements will be posted on Google Classroom and on PowerSchool.

Curricular Requirements for the Final Exam

- I. Terms/ Symbols
 - a. There will be 20 terms and symbols related to music that we will play during the semester.
 - b. These terms and symbols will be listed online and you will be given a copy for study purposes.
- II. Performance
 - a. Scales- each student will be required to perform two major scales as specified by their grade level
 - i. Scales are to be performed one octave up and down. Memorization is not required.
 - ii. Bonus points will be given if the student performs from memory and/ or performs more than one octave.
 - iii. Scale requirements are as follows:
 1. Fall Semester:
 - a. 9th Grade- Bb & Eb
 - b. 10th Grade- F & Ab
 - c. 11th Grade- C & Db
 - d. 12th Grade- G & D
 2. Spring Semester
 - a. 9th Grade- F & Ab
 - b. 10th Grade- C & Db
 - c. 11th Grade- G & D
 - d. 12th Grade- A & E
 - b. Prepared-
 - i. students will perform 8-12 measures of a piece we will perform during the semester
 - ii. The piece and the measures will be selected by Mr. Richmond
 - iii. Students will be assessed in the following areas:
 1. Tone (10 points)
 2. Rhythm (20 points)
 3. Notes (20 points)
 4. Articulation (10 points)
 5. Expression (10 points)
 - c. Sightreading-
 - i. Students will perform 8-12 measures of a sightreading selection
 - ii. Sightreading will be assessed on correct notes and rhythms (10 points each)
 1. Fall semester-
 - a. 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, cut-time
 - b. Up to 3 flats or 2 sharps
 - c. Up to 16th patterns
 2. Spring semester-
 - a. Up to 6/8 time
 - b. Up to 4 flats or 3 sharps
 - c. Possible syncopation or dotted rhythms
- III. Written
 - a. Fall semester
 - i. Pick one musical element that gives you trouble. Why is it a problem?
 - ii. What are two things you can do to improve it
 - b. Spring semester
 - i. Based on what we've learned about the musical time period we focus on this semester (Renaissance, Baroque or Classical, Romantic, or 20th Century/ Modern), you will listen to a piece of music and tell me if it is from that time period and why or why not.
 - ii. We will also listen to a piece of music from the chosen time period and you will tell me which composer that we studied you think composed it and why.

2023-2024 Band Handbook Acknowledgment Form

By clicking the link below and filling out the Google Form, you acknowledge that you have received the 2023-2024 Wamego HS Band Handbook, you have read its content, and you agree to the policies and procedures as described. You also understand that all performances are required and will make a reasonable effort to plan accordingly and to inform the director if a conflict arises.

If you prefer to not fill out the online form, you may print this page, sign it and date it, and then return it to one of the band directors.

Fill out the online acknowledgment **OR** return this sheet by Friday, August 18th.

Google Form link: <https://forms.gle/sytvNVSErDRn6VMA8>

(Print, detach, and fill out the portion below ONLY if you are not going to fill out the form online)

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received the 2023-2024 Wamego HS Band Handbook, I have read its content, and I agree to the policies and procedures as described. I also understand that all performances are required and will make a reasonable effort to plan accordingly and to inform the director if a conflict arises.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

(Student Signature)

Please sign and return this sheet by Friday, August 18th.