



**2023-2024**

**Wamego Middle School**

**Band Handbook**

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## **WELCOME TO THE WMS BAND PROGRAM**

Membership in the Wamego Middle School Band program is a privilege and an honor. It is expected that you will do your best in classroom participation and performance to continue the strong tradition of great bands in Wamego. It is the director's job to make sure that you are presented with the best music and rehearsals possible to help you in your growth as a musician.

This handbook has been prepared for Wamego Middle School Bands so that you and your parents know the expectations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Your experience in the Wamego Bands is bound to be an exciting one. Through cooperation and positive goal setting, we will maintain the tradition of excellence that has come to be associated with the Wamego School Bands. We are looking forward to having you with us!

**Mrs. Gartner** – Director of 6th Grade Band, 7th Grade Band, 7th & 8th Grade Band  
E-Mail: [gartners@usd320.com](mailto:gartners@usd320.com) WMS: 456-7682 Ext. 4036

**Mr. Richmond** - Director of 8th Grade, WHS Band, Jazz Band, & Pep Band  
E-Mail: [richmond@usd320.com](mailto:richmond@usd320.com) WMS: 456-7682 Ext. 4035 WHS: 456-2214 Ext. 5035

**We are looking forward to another year of great music and fun.**

**Let the Music Begin!**

## BAND PERFORMANCE CALENDAR 2023-2024

**All band performances are an expectation of band class and is part of their band grade.  
We have provided this calendar so you can plan accordingly.**

<b>Friday, October 13</b> WHS High School Football Game 8th Grade Students ONLY 7:00 pm @ WHS Sports Complex	<b>Week of December 11</b> Christmas Caroling to Local Nursing Homes 6th Grade only - Small Groups During Class Time
<b>Tuesday, October 24</b> WMS Band & Choir Concert 6:30 - 6th Grade Concert 7:30 - 7th & 8th Grade Concert @ WMS Gym	<b>Thursday, March 21</b> Band Spring Spectacular Concert All WMS Bands 6:30 pm @ WHS Auditorium
<b>Saturday, November 4</b> KMEA North Central District Middle Level Honor band Select 8th Grade Students only Times TBA - Junction City MS	<b>Saturday, May 4</b> WMS Invitational Band Festival All Bands Perform separately between 8-10am Solos and Ensembles throughout the day Times TBA
<b>Monday, December 4</b> Feast of Carols Concert 7th and 8th Grade Only 6:30 pm @ WHS Auditorium	<b>Tuesday, May 14</b> WMS Spring Concert 6:30 - 6th Grade Concert 7:30 - 7th & 8th Grade Concert @ WMS Gym

### WMS Music Festival Saturday May 4th, 2024

Every May, WMS hosts a large music festival invitational at the high school. **All WMS band students are expected to perform as a large ensemble that morning.** Many individuals choose to prepare a solo or participate in an ensemble (voluntary). The times will be announced as we get closer to the event. Parents will be contacted to assist with donations of money or time to help run the festival.

### 6th GRADE AFTER SCHOOL BAND LESSONS

We will provide free after school band lessons for 6th graders on Wednesday afternoons. You do not need to sign up for a time—just show up when you can. They will be in like instrument groups. Students may wait at school until their designated time or you can pick up/drop off.

#### Afterschool Band Times- Wednesday afternoons:

3:20-3:40	3:40-4:00	4:00-4:20	4:20-4:40
Flute	Clarinet	Saxophone	
Trumpet	Trombone/Baritone	Percussion	French Horn

## CONCERT DRESS

We ask that you do the best that you can as far as dress clothes. If you have questions on what's acceptable or you are having difficulty providing these items for your student, please contact us and we will do our best to help you out, we do have some clothing from the Raider Closet.

### Concert dress for 6th grade:

Nice dress clothes (could include dress pants, khaki pants, dresses, skirts, collared shirts)

### Concert dress for the 7th and 8th grade:

**All black dress clothes:** Black dress pants, dress or skirt, (please consider skirt lengths when purchasing), black shirt or blouse, black shoes, and socks.

**Please** - No shorts, athletic pants, jeans or torn clothing.

**School dress code applies.** Ladies-- please have skirts or dresses with appropriate lengths (preferably to the knee) and no spaghetti straps without a cover.

## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### ***BAND ROOM***

The band room must be kept clean and organized at all times. With the vast number of band students that pass through the room every day, we need to do this so that you can find what you need when you need it. Make sure all equipment and music is stored away properly after every rehearsal. An orderly room also prevents accidents. Please take care of chairs, stands, and other band equipment as if it were your own. If you damage equipment, you will be responsible for replacing it. The best thing to do is to leave the room in better shape than you found it!

### ***SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS***

There is a small rental fee of \$30.00 for students using school-owned instruments, including percussion. You will be given a rental agreement form to complete which should be returned with a check made out to USD 320. This fee will pay for any maintenance, repairs, and cleaning of the instruments. Additional fees may be charged if excessive wear and tear (abuse) on an instrument warrants.

## INSTRUMENT LOCKERS

**We encourage students to bring their own combination lock from home.** It MUST be a combination lock and NOT a key lock—keys get lost and forgotten. Also, please avoid locks that have changeable combinations. A lock for your locker ensures the safety of your instrument and also helps deter theft and vandalism. The school will not be responsible for damaged or missing instruments not secured by a lock.

## NEEDED EQUIPMENT

***Reeds, Cleaning Supplies, Oil, pencil etc.***

It is your responsibility to come to class prepared with the equipment you need to play. Make sure that you have everything you need every day. Showing up to class without reeds is the same as coming to class without your horn.

*Students are responsible for purchasing/ maintaining the following items on their own:*

Reeds  
Valve or slide oil  
Instrument Cleaning supplies

**Instructional Books** - The book we use is called Essential Elements for Band.  
(8th Grade uses Essential Technique.)

**6th Grade**— Book 1 (Yellow)

**7th Grade**— Book 2 (Red)

**8th Grade**— Book 3 (Teal)

There will be other supplemental materials that will be provided by the school and must be returned at the end of the school year.

**You can order items through Senseney Music, Manning Music or Glenn's Music, they make weekly stops at the school. You may also order from Amazon—just make sure the book is in English.**

## CLASSROOM CONDUCT & EXPECTATIONS

Because of the size of our classes, student behavior plays a large part of our productivity.

**While in class, all students are expected to:**

1. Work at a Zero Conversation/ Noise Level
2. Brain in the Game (actively engaged in class)
3. Ready to Go (prepared and physically set)
4. Be Positive and Encouraging
5. Do their very best

*Students can expect the following responses to their conduct in class.*

**Prepared for class:** Students who forget their instruments more than one time per quarter will be required to serve an “Extended Learning Opportunity” (detention) after school for 30 minutes to make up for the instruction they have missed.

### ***For Appropriate Behavior***

You will receive honest praise for your efforts. Positive notes home or to the student in school. Positive phone calls or E-mail to home.

### ***For Inappropriate Behavior***

1. One on one talk – student and director
2. Phone call or e-mail to parents. Possible detention.
3. Discipline referral - contact principal & parents.
4. Discipline referral - meeting with parents & principal.

**SEVERE BEHAVIOR CLAUSE:** The directors reserve the right to send a student to the office if disruptive or inappropriate behavior warrants it. Chronic behavior problems may result in permanent removal from class

## GRADING POLICY

### **Rehearsal Skills 30%**

Rehearsal skills will be evaluated using the 5 expectations listed above once a 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.

### **Performance Skills 40%**

There will be three to four performance skill checks per quarter utilizing our learning platform Music First. Students can use Music First to record at home or in class or they may perform in person.

Scale Tests will be worth 10 pts

Excerpts out of the book and concert music checks will be 25 pts.

Students will be assessed on tone, note accuracy, rhythm accuracy, articulation, dynamics, tempo, and Symbol recognition.

These playing tests must be passed with 80% accuracy. Students who score lower than 80% will remediate with Mr. Richmond or Mrs. Gartner and retake the test until understanding is achieved.

### **General Music Knowledge 10%**

There will be 1-2 written assessments per quarter.

Quizzes will be over music theory, such as note identification, dynamics, tone, articulation, rhythms and key signatures.

These quizzes must be passed with 80% accuracy. Students who score lower than 80% will remediate with Mr. Richmond or Mrs. Gartner and retake the test until understanding is achieved.

### **Concert Performances 20%**

All concert performances are **required**. **Parents will need to contact the director ahead of time if they know their child will be gone for a performance.**

Following each performance, students will write an evaluation/ self-reflection of the performance. Self-reflection and concert music assessment will be a combined score for an overall concert grade. **If a performance is missed**, students are still expected to complete a self-assessment form and perform portions of their concert music for Mr. Richmond or Mrs. Gartner to demonstrate mastery.