

West Rowan Middle School Bulldog Band Program



2019-2020

Band Handbook

Vol. 5



West Rowan Middle School
Bulldog Band
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Band Handbook



Mr. Nathan Bowman
Director of Bands

Welcome back to a brand new year of band! I am very excited to continue our traditions that are making our band program a superior one! Band is not only a class where we can all grow as musicians, but also a way for each member to grow together as a family! In this handbook, you will find all information regarding our band program. Each student AND parent is expected to read the handbook in its entirety so everyone knows all the expectations and responsibilities that will ensure each student's and our program's success!

Mr. Bowman's Big Three (Rules)

1. Respect yourself, your peers, and any others with one voice at a time in class.
2. 100% participation, 100% of the time
3. Class is easy and fun when you come prepared with both your mind and materials.

Expectations For A Great Band Experience!

Expectations

1. Respect to all people and from all people.
2. We will not talk down to anyone regardless of their abilities or attitude.
3. Derogatory language, insults or profanity will not be tolerated.
4. It is expected of the students to keep the band room and instrument storage room clean at all times.
5. If repairs are needed, they are to be requested outside of class time.
6. Absolutely No Food, Drink, or Gum allowed in the classroom or in the storage room. Water is permitted in a water bottle with a lid to prevent spills.

Preparation

1. Promptness of each student is expected for each class or rehearsal
2. Quickly and quietly get all materials needed in order to start class on time.
3. Bring your instrument, music folder, method book, planner, paper, pencil and iPad to class every day.
4. Band is an academic class just like all others, therefore; practice is a must! This is considered studying for band class. Weekly pass offs and playing tests will be used as assessments.

Participation

1. Concert participation are required of ALL students.
2. Unless pre-arranged accommodations (IEP, 504 plans) are in place, each student is expected to participate in ALL in class assignments both in groups and solo.
3. One can not participate if he/she does not have the correct materials. Lack of required class materials will adversely effect the weekly participation grade.

The West Rowan Middle School Ensembles

- 6th Grade Beginning Band - The beginning band meets daily. Students choose this class as their exploratory option along with PE. The schedule does not change. The Beginning band is split up between brass in one class and woodwinds and percussion in the other class.
- 7/8 Grade Concert Band - The Concert band meets daily. Comprised of 7th and 8th grade students, the band focuses on building strong fundamentals and preparing grade 2 concert music for MPA and the Spring Trip.
- 7/8 Grade Percussion Ensemble - The percussion ensemble will perform music made specifically for Percussionists. Select students in the percussion ensemble will also play at MPA with the concert band.

In Class Procedures

- Students should arrive to class early enough to get their instrument out from the locker room.
- Instrument cases should remain in the locker room in order to avoid clutter.
- At students' seats, all must have notebooks, music, iPad (if needed) pencil, and all appropriate instrument accessories.
- Brass instruments should be oiled and greased BEFORE rehearsal begins. There will not be time during rehearsal to do this.
- 5 Minutes will be given at the end of class to put up instruments and reset chairs and stands before dismissal.

Before School & After School Practicing

- The band room will be open after school (open before school only to those with permission to practice). Students who are in the band room during practice periods MUST be working on their music.
- If you want individual help with Mr. Bowman, open band room hours are the time for that.

Accessories

- There will be a small \$10.00 band fee this year. The band fee will cover regular school-owned instrument maintenance as well as music purchases, etc...
- Students will need to come to school with a BLACK 1/2 inch 3-ring binder. They will use this every day.
- Pencil, Paper, and iPad should be brought to class from each student EVERY DAY
- If your instrument requires reeds to function properly, such as Clarinets and Saxophones, the student must have on hand, AT LEAST 5 reeds (purchase a whole box. It will include 10 reeds). Purchase reeds from the local music store. Mr. Bowman will not have an unlimited amount to give out to students. What to buy: Vandoren size 2.5 or 3 (based on the student's progression in class [6th grade need to start on 2.5, I will notify you when to move to a 3])
- Brass players should always have slide grease and valve oil on hand that should be used on a daily basis.
- Percussion players must always have their pair of standard drum sticks for fundamental practice. Other sticks and mallets will be provided. What to buy: Vic Firth SD1 Snare Drum Sticks.

Instruments

- Each student is required to have an instrument to use every day.
- Students who play larger instruments such as Baritone, French Horn, Bass Clarinet, Tenor sax, Bari sax, or Tuba will have an instrument checked out to them for use throughout the year.
- Our band representative will be glad to set up an instrument, Rent-To-Own plan. Speak with the band director for more information.
- Students may drop off their instrument before school and pick it up before the bell at the end of the day (with permission from a last period teacher).
- If you need to rent an instrument that is owned by WRMS, there will be a fee of \$10 per month or \$80 in one sum (20% off). This cost is to offset the cost for repairs spent every year on school owned instruments. **This is reserved for those whose instruments are too big/expensive to rent (tuba, horn, baritone, bass clarinet, etc...) and to those who have financial hardship through Music and Arts.**
- A locker will be provided to each student for their instrument and music folder. Locker combinations will ONLY be given to the student who is assigned to that locker. Students will be responsible for their lockers and their possessions inside.

Repairs

- Repairs must be reported to the band director as soon as possible in order for a repair to be made promptly.
- Repairs will **NOT** be made during instructional time. Students will still need to participate as best as they can until class ends and the instrument can be examined.
- Students **MIGHT** be able to borrow a loaner instrument, **IF** there are any available in the band inventory.
- Parents will be informed if payment needs to be rendered before the repair is made.

Concerts

There will be multiple concerts throughout the year, at least one concert per semester as well as band competitions in the spring semester. These performances will be treated of the utmost importance. Concert etiquette will be observed at all performances, in respect for every student who performs.

- **ALL CONCERTS WILL BE HELD AT WEST ROWAN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM** (unless otherwise advertised)!
- A call time will be determined, written on the band schedule and announced in advance to the class. Students are required to be at the meeting location with their instruments ready to warm up and prepare for the performance. This means students should arrive at least 15 minutes early in order to get their instrument and music ready to play.
- No absences will be tolerated, without director approval. The latest time to request an absence is two weeks in advance.
- In the event of an emergency please contact me as soon as possible. An emergency consists of: death in the family, contagious sickness or hospitalization. If you are sick enough to skip the concert, you are sick enough to bring a doctor note when you return to school!!
- For an approved absence, an alternate assignment will be given as a make up grade. The assignment must be turned in by the due date to receive performance credit.

Concert Behavior

Concerts are the music departments way of showcasing AND assessing each student's work. It is very important to know that each student worked very hard to give a successful concert, therefore; all students need to demonstrate superior concert behavior.

Before the Performances

- **Arrive EARLY!** Make sure your instrument is out and that you have visited the bathroom before the performances begin!
- Sit in the section that has been roped off for you, you will not be getting up and down during the performances.
- The auditorium at WRHS has a strict NO food, gum, or drink policy, so please do not bring that into the auditorium space.

During the Performances

- There is NO talking during performances. Talking is distracting and disrespectful to the performers.
- Your cell phone's and iPads should be put away and turned OFF. They will be confiscated if they are seen out during a performance.
- If you MUST go to the bathroom or leave the auditorium during a performance, wait until the piece or song is over and the audience is clapping in order to avoid causing a distraction during a performance.
- Recognize the performers by applause ONLY. Yelling, whistling, etc.. is unnecessary.
- ALWAYS applaud at the end of a performance, even if you absolutely hated it. Remember, the students, ensembles, and other performers have worked very hard to prepare this concert for you and your families. Be respectful by complimenting and acknowledging their hard work and performance.

After the Performances

- Students are required to stay for the entire concert (unless otherwise approved by Mr. Bowman). Remember, those who perform last were respectful for your performance so always return the favor.
- Clean up the areas you used (the band room with all of your instrument cases, the stage with your music on it, bathrooms and your audience seat where you may or may not have trash).

Misc. Behavior and Etiquette Expectations

- Concerts have a start time, but not a set end time. Concerts will usually NOT last longer than 2 hours maximum.
- Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the concert to support not only their own child, but also, the entire WRMS Music Program

Concert Dress

Professionalism is of the utmost importance. When going to a festival contest such as Carowinds, Busch Gardens, or our State MPA, first impressions are made immediately depending on how professionally dressed we are. It is our aim to practice that professional presence not only at contests, but at all of our concerts in the community.

Students are expected to appear in uniform for all concert and performance events. The director will announce any changes in the uniform or dress expectations well in advance. The uniforms are as follows for each student

For all Females

- Black Dress Pants OR knee length black skirt
- Black socks or hose
- Black Shoes
- Black Collared Blouse
- Black knee length dress (with cardigan if shoulder straps are less than three fingers in width.
- All shirts must be tucked in.

For all Males

- Black Dress Pants
- Black Socks
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Belt
- Black Collared Shirt (Buttoned down the middle)
- All Shirts must be tucked in.

The following is NOT permitted dress for concerts:

- Jeans of any color
- Tee Shirts/Shorts or Short Skirts
- Sneakers/Flip Flops
- If any student needs assistance with obtaining proper dress, contact Mr. Bowman as soon as possible (at least two weeks prior to event).
- If a student does not arrive in proper attire to a concert or performance he/she will not be allowed to participate which will result in a performance grade of 0.

Field Trips (Day Trips)

- Students are expected to abide by the school-wide established policy as well as the rules established in the Rowan-Salisbury Schools' Code of Conduct on any trip taken by the band.
- Students that have received ISS or OSS within two weeks prior to the trip will NOT be eligible to attend.
- If it is a required trip and ISS or OSS prevents a student from going, the student will be given an alternate assignment to complete while the class is on the trip.
- If this is a paid trip, refunds will not be given due to the fact that the trip will already be paid in full.

Field Trips (Overnight Trips)

- Students are expected to abide by the school-wide established policy as well as the rules established in the Rowan-Salisbury Schools' Code of Conduct on any trip taken by the band.
- The first deposit for the trip will be non-refundable. This is in order to make sure we can pay for busses and all early expenses that go with the trip. This WILL NOT BE REFUNDED for any reason.
- Students that have received ISS or OSS within one month prior to the trip will NOT be eligible to attend the overnight trip.
- Refunds after the non refundable deposit will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Playing Tests

- It is expected that each student practice AT LEAST 20 minutes per day (100 minutes per week) in order to be fully prepared for any and all performances and Web Assignments.
- Web assignments/playing tests will be done via Canvas, SmartMusic, or in class depending on the assignment.

Grading System

Daily Assignments (50%)

- Daily Participation Scores
- Playing Tests

Assessments (50%)

- Concert Attendance, Behavior and Performance
- Concert Critique
- Substitute Assignments and Projects

Extra Credit

- By attending other musical events including, but not limited to, WRMS Chorus, and West Rowan High School Band and Chorus programs, extra points can be added to your grade. In order to receive credit for attending, bring a copy of the program to class on the next school day AND a written performance review of at least one page.

Late Work Policy

- I will give a final date for when ALL assignments are due (this is usually at the end of the grading period), if work is not turned in by the final due date, a 0 will be given and will not be able to be made up.

All Rubrics for grading can be found on the weebly site (www.wrmsbands.weebly.com)

Absences

Missed Assignments

- If work is assigned to the class on the day of your absence, the assignment will be placed in an assignment folder, at the front of the room, for you to pick up and complete within 3 days of your return to school.

Missed Playing Tests

- If you are absent on the day of an in class playing test, it is your responsibility to reschedule your playing test outside of class. The director will be happy to help you find a suitable time for your playing test.

Missed Concerts or Performances

- If you have an **EXCUSED** absence from a concert or other performance, an alternate assignment will be given to you to complete in its place. This assignment will take the place of the two missed concert grades.
- Unexcused absences will not receive an alternate assignment and will automatically receive a grade of 0 (refer to page 3 for full details of concert attendance).

Communication Is Key!

I encourage all parents to call, email or set up a parent-teacher meeting at any time they feel is necessary. I will also work hard to keep parents involved with their student's struggles but even more importantly, their successes.

I use the **BAND app** to quickly communicate with students and parents.

Click the following link to register for the BAND app: <https://band.us/n/a5af10Hb51wcW>

Nathan Bowman

Email: nathan.bowman@rss.k12.nc.us

Phone: 704-633-4775

Website: www.wrmsbands.weebly.com

Facebook: WRMS Band

2019-2020 WRMS Band Calendar
Bold Denotes a Required Event

Band Booster Meeting/Parent Meeting @ 6:00pm	August 12
<i>There will be a RSS Volunteer Training meeting in the band room at 5:00 PM for anyone who wishes to volunteer.</i>	
Band Booster Meeting.....	September 10
8th Grade Band Night (@WR High).....	September 20
Band Booster Meeting.....	October 8
Band Booster Meeting.....	November 12
All County Band Auditions 3:30 PM (@ WRMS)	November 14
Band Booster Meeting.....	December 10
WR Community Holiday Fest (Concert Band) (@WR High)	December 12
Beginning Band Winter Concert (@WR High)	December 17
Band Booster Meeting.....	January 14
All District Auditions.....	January 11
Middle School Recruitment Week.....	January 13-17
All District Band Clinic.....	January 24-25
Band Boosters.....	February 11
All County Honor Band Clinic (@Carson High).....	February 21-22
Pre-MPA Concert With CLMS and EMS 7:00PM(@WR High)	February 25
Music Performance Adjudication (@Wingate University)	March 4,5, or 6
Band Booster Meeting - Spring Trip Parent/Chaperone Meeting	March 12
7/8 Grade Spring Trip.....	April 3-5
Band Booster.....	April 14
6th Grade Carowinds.....	April 25
Rising 6th Grade Parent Meeting.....	April 28
Spring Concert 7:00 PM (@WR High)	May 5
Band Booster Meeting.....	May 12

Student and Parent Handbook Agreement and Permissions

Please complete and return this page to Mr. Bowman no later than August 16, 2019 for your first grade of the school year. The West Rowan Middle School Band is dedicated to setting the highest standard for excellence in music. Each member plays a vital role in our program where everyone is of the upmost importance to succeed. Please understand the expectations of OUR organization by reading this handbook. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Bowman at nathan.bowman@rss.k12.nc.us or by phone at 704-633-4775 ext. 135.

Video and Photo Release

The band participates in multiple events both on and off RSS campuses that showcase the talent of all our musicians from the school. Often, the ensemble is recorded, video taped, and snapshots are made. Please fill out below giving, or declining the right for WRMS Bands to use photos and concert recordings that may include your child.

_____ I give the WRMS Band permission to record and photograph my child at concerts and other musical events, including rehearsal to share with public and school media.

_____ I do **NOT** give the WRMS band permission to record and photograph my child at concerts and other musical events, including rehearsal to share with public and school media.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Code of Conduct Contract

1. I have read and understand all of the guidelines and procedures written in this handbook and furthermore; agree to abide by these guidelines and procedures for the 2019-2020 school year.
2. I have received and understand the calendar of events (printed in the handbook) for the 2019-2020 school year and agree that I/my child will attend every scheduled rehearsal and performance unless the absence is excused.
3. I understand the consequences if the guidelines and procedures outlined in this handbook are not followed.
4. **Failing to sign does not exempt students from procedures and events set out in this handbook.**

Student Name (Printed): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Parent Involvement/Volunteer Form

One person can not run the program on his own, therefore; parents are a key factor of making our band program a huge success! Below is a form for each parent to fill out indicating in what way they want to be involved.

Please fill this out and return with the Handbook Contract on August 16, 2019

Parent Name: _____ Student Name: _____

Parent Phone: (_____) _____ - _____ Best Email: _____

Volunteers must complete the Rowan-Salisbury School System volunteer training before becoming a volunteer or chaperone. Visit <http://www.rss.k12.nc.us/volunteer> to complete the volunteer training. [If attending Carowinds or another spring trip, you must complete all TIER 2 requirements before hand]

I would like to be involved in the following: (Select as many as you are able and willing to do)

Volunteer Descriptions:

- MPA Field Trip Chaperone: Ride the bus to Wingate University to chaperone students, help keep students in line, orderly, etc... also get to experience wonderful performances from our bands and other bands around us.
- Winter Concert Chaperone (also for Spring concert): Parents will sit with the students to ensure discipline, quiet and polite behavior while listening to other ensembles performing.
- All County Auditions Volunteer: Assist Mr. Bowman in running the All-County band auditions at WRMS. Parents will sell concessions, monitor students practicing in the gym, keep order in the audition hallways.
- Vendor Expo and Flea Market Volunteer: Assist in the annual Vendor Expo and Flea Market. Duties include but are not limited to, running the Band's yard sale table, selling food, helping vendors get parked and set up, coordinating parking, etc...
- Spring Trip Chaperone: Chaperones will be in charge of 5-10 students on the trip, take attendance, relay important information to Mr. Bowman that the kids need, etc.
- Wish to help serve the band in any way needed: Parents are willing to help in any way not necessarily listed above if available when needed.
- I do not wish to, or am unable to volunteer during the 2019-2020 school year: check this if you are unable to volunteer.

<p>_____</p> <p>Grade MPA Field Trip Chaperone (will need to ride bus)</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Winter Concert Chaperone (sit in student section, keep order)</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>All County Auditions Parent Volunteer (auditions held at WRMS this year)</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Vendor Expo and Flea Market Parent Volunteer</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>Spring Concert Chaperone (sit in student section, keep order)</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>I wish to help serve the band in any way needed</p>
<p>_____</p> <p>Spring Trip Chaperone (Carowinds, Busch Gardens, etc...)</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>I do not wish to or am unable to volunteer during the 2017-2018 school year.</p>

Please detach this copy of the calendar to keep for your reference.

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