

Band Handbook  
2013-2014

**Watertown High School**  
**Watertown, WI**

**Preface**

This handbook has been written to help students gain the most from their band experience as well as provide guidance to the practical everyday experiences of the band program.

The success of the band program centers on pride, commitment to task, and the willingness to work hard to achieve a common goal. We do not expect every student in the band program to become a virtuoso musician. However, we do expect every student to establish both short and long range goals for improvement on his/her instrument, to exhibit mature responsible attitudes and actions at all times, and to be willing to contribute a lot of hard work for the benefit of all. It is not the directors' responsibility to develop and achieve goals for improvement. It is the directors' responsibility to provide opportunities for achievement and it is the student's responsibility to work towards these goals.

The band program exists to provide an excellent music education for the students. This is achieved through individual study and varied performances in many venues (both marching and concert) supporting a curriculum which places an emphasis on comprehensive musicianship. Performance opportunities include large ensembles, chamber ensembles, and solos. The skills that band students acquire in these activities are directly related to skills necessary for auditions, public presentations, and interviews in other career fields.

The band program also will develop a student's social skills. Participation in band enables students to form close friendships within the school through their collaborative efforts. It also provides the opportunity to work with their peers as part of a team. As a member of the Watertown High School Band, students make long-lasting friendships and develop a sense of camaraderie that is unique to our organization. There will be many opportunities for musical fellowship and fun through participation in band. Organizational goals are clearly established, and the students depend heavily on each other to achieve them. As a result, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship will develop as each student experiences the world of music. It is important to remember that students cannot realize these values without participating in the numerous social and performance opportunities presented.

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## **Our Mission**

The ultimate goal of the Watertown High School Band program is to produce graduates who are knowledgeable about music, can perform successfully with confidence, can operate within a structured framework, and can work to develop the skills necessary to become a life-long musician. In addition, the program also strives to produce informed adults of high integrity who understand and appreciate music and musicians, and who will foster the continuing development of artistic endeavors in their community.

## **General Goals and Objectives**

### **I. Mental and physical discipline**

- A. Develop concentration
- B. Memorize music
- C. Learn techniques of preparation as they relate to group and individual performances
- D. Develop self and group discipline

### **II. Citizenship through group endeavor**

- A. Develop leadership abilities
- B. Develop responsibility
- C. Develop ability to cooperate with others and to work as a team member
- D. Develop diligence
- E. Develop mutual respect for each other

### **III. Physical conditioning**

Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination

### **IV. Value Judgments**

Obtain the ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening (as they pertain to a musical setting). Students will learn to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.

### **V. Music theory**

- A. Know and utilize note values and rests
- B. Know and utilize keys, key signatures, and scales
- C. Know and utilize musical terms, signs, and symbols
- D. Recognize and tune intervals and harmony
- E. Develop ear training/listening skills

### **VI. Proper instrumental technique**

- A. Care of the instrument
- B. Assume correct posture and playing position
- C. Develop the embouchure/stick grip/hand position
- D. Develop characteristic instrumental tone
- E. Develop proper breathing techniques
- F. Develop technical instrumental proficiency (fingerings, articulation, rudiments, scales, etc.)

## General Conduct and Expectations

Band members will observe all policies set forth by the Watertown School District in addition to the following (as they pertain to the instrumental setting):

1. All students are expected to conduct themselves properly at all times. Display of profanity, temper, flagrant violation of rules, etc., will not be tolerated. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
  2. Students will follow any and all directors' instructions.
  3. Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area *ready to work* at the set rehearsal time. *This does not include simply being in the North Hallway or being in the bathroom. Students must be in the band room.*
  4. Students will bring all equipment including music, pencil, instrument, and all supplies to rehearsals daily.
  5. Students will keep hands, feet, and other objects to themselves.
  6. Students will maintain a high level of good and acceptable behavior.
  7. Students will refrain from bringing food, drinks, candy or gum into the band room. Water in a sealed container is acceptable.
  8. Students will not attempt to play on equipment they do not own or do not have permission from a director to use. **Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument, uniform, or personal belongings; this includes percussion equipment and pianos located in the band room.**
  9. Students should ask for permission to speak by raising their hands and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be extremely quiet so that our time will be utilized wisely.
  10. When allowed in the band room, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsal or lesson in progress.
  11. Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Each student is responsible for keeping their storage area clean. Students who demonstrate great difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band room or North wing lockers.
  12. Students will not enter the director's offices without permission. *Please knock (even if the door is open).* Mr. LaDew's office (closest to band room) is not a passageway to the practice room hallway. Students must access the practice rooms through the entrance near the back of the band room. There are no excuses. Also, students should access Mr. Roberson's office through the North hallway N-111 office doorway if possible.
- Please note: These rules are not meant to deter students or parents from approaching, visiting or speaking with the directors in their offices, but rather an attempt to clear the workspace of students who are simply there to "hang out."*
13. Students will not deface or mark on music stands, walls, doors, equipment, etc.
  14. Any behavior, which is not representative of good citizenship, as perceived by the band staff, may result in the student's dismissal from the activity and, if habitual, the band program as well. This also applies to the actions of student leaders in both public and private events.

### **School Owned/Issued Instruments**

The Watertown School District will provide a limited number of instruments for student use. These instruments include such highly expensive instruments as the Bassoon, Oboe, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, French Horn, Euphonium, Tuba, various marching horns, and Percussion equipment. This equipment is purchased by the school district for student use because of its extremely high value. Thus, all school-owned equipment must be handled with optimum care. Students failing to care for, or take care of their school issued instrument will lose the privilege to use such instruments. The following is a list of general procedures for school- owned instruments:

1. If the student is using a school-owned instrument and does not personally own an instrument, the student will be charged an annual \$50 rental fee payable to the bookkeeper. In addition, the student must provide all of the necessary supplies to perform the instrument such as reeds, valve oil, cleaning supplies, etc.
2. If the student is a percussionist, he/she will be charged an annual \$25 usage fee to cover the use and maintenance of the extensive number of percussion instruments provided by the school district. However, all percussionists should own and bring to each rehearsal a set of percussion mallets and sticks including concert snare drum sticks (5A, 5B or similar), marching snare drum sticks (Corpsmaster or similar) (only required if assigned to marching snare drum or desiring to be assigned to marching snare drum), Timpani mallets (general), and Keyboard mallets (American M2 medium hard or similar). Also, the mallets and sticks should be stored in a stick bag and locked in the individually-assigned locker.
3. If a student is assigned to a school-owned instrument by one of the band directors as a means of balancing the instrumentation of the performance group, and the student maintains ownership of his/her original instrument with the intent of continuing to play that instrument, the student will be exempt from the \$50 rental fee. This does not, however, apply to percussionists. In fact, percussionists are required to leave their personally-owned drum or mallet instrument at home for individual practice.
4. The Watertown School District does not provide insurance for individually or school owned equipment. Students will be held responsible for school owned instruments issued to them. This responsibility will include fire, theft, accidental damage, abuse, and general maintenance not incurred through normal use.
5. Each instrument will be issued in good playing condition. Each issued instrument will be checked and cleaned prior to issue. Students are expected to maintain their issued instruments accordingly.
6. The band member is financially responsible for all equipment and/or materials checked out to him or her.
7. All equipment and materials must be kept in their proper storage locations when not in use.
8. The Watertown School District will assess a fee for any cleaning, maintenance, or repair of school district-owned instruments that is considered by the band directors to be beyond normal use.

**Please remember:** School owned instruments are not to be treated as “free” or “cheap” instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made just like personally owned instruments. Please strive to treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most school owned instruments exceed a \$2,000.00 value.

**Students renting a school-owned instrument must  
complete & return the form on page 16.**