

## **Performing Ensembles**

Students are placed by audition into one of three classes at Watertown High School: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. Our curriculum is designed to improve individual performing skills throughout the year. Please check the band calendar for all concert dates and times.

Students in all aspects of the program are expected to maintain passing grades and display satisfactory conduct. The responsibilities for students in each group are outlined below:

### ***Wind Symphony***

DeWayne Roberson, Director

The Wind Symphony is our top performing ensemble. Membership is by audition. Students must be enrolled in band during both the fall and spring semesters in order to be considered for placement in any of our bands.

Wind Symphony members are expected to be exemplary students in all aspects of their high school career. Failure to maintain a passing grade in all subject areas, failure to maintain satisfactory conduct, and failure to positively contribute to the overall band program are means for dismissal from this band. Becoming a member of the Wind Ensemble does not mean a high-level goal has been achieved and the work no longer needs to continue. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Wind Symphony members are expected to continually prove their high-level standing by participating in all the band program has to offer including marching band, jazz band, pep band, pit orchestra, solo/ensemble, and other chamber ensembles that are offered. Full participation in these activities brings with it a significantly improved and dynamic Wind Symphony.

Students in this organization are highly encouraged to audition each year for the Wisconsin School Music Association State Honors Project.

### ***Symphonic Band***

Reid LaDew, Director

The Symphonic Band is the second of three performing ensembles. Membership includes students in all grade levels who have not auditioned into Wind Symphony. Students in this organization are expected to maintain a passing grade in all classes and satisfactory conduct. As with the Wind Symphony, participation in all of the activities offered by the band program will bring an increase in individual performance skills which will then improve the band's overall performance and allow the student to progress to the next level of performing organizations.

### ***Concert Band***

Reid LaDew, Director

The Concert Band is the partner ensemble to the Symphonic Band and includes students from all grade levels. Students in this organization are expected to maintain a passing grade in all classes and satisfactory conduct. As with the Symphonic Band, participation in all of the activities offered by the band program will bring an increase in individual performance skills which will then improve the band's overall performance and allow the student to progress to the next level of performing organizations.

Please note: The Concert and Symphonic Bands are two equal bands and, as of the 2013-2014 school year, may be combined into one band for the first semester. In the second semester, the bands will be separated to perform as two groups.

**Marching Band**

DeWayne Roberson and Reid LaDew, Directors

The Watertown High School Marching Band is the most visible organization of the band program. The Marching Band includes all registered band members. Rehearsals will be held during band camp week in the middle of August and during class hours in the first quarter of the school year. In addition, there will be a minimum of three rehearsals for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and any other special parades that may be scheduled.

On the night of a field show, students are required to be in full uniform and ready to rehearse in the North parking lot of the high school at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise announced by the band staff. Tardiness to these rehearsals will result in the individual event grade being lowered one-half letter grade for every 15 minutes of tardiness.

Marching show rules and expectations:

1. After the warm-up rehearsal band members are required to parade to the field together.
2. After the pre-game show the band will sit in the assigned seating for the group.
3. Band members may only leave for restroom use or concession purchases by permission of the directors.
4. Band members MUST remain in full uniform until they return to the high school band room after the halftime performance.
5. Students will be expected to listen for and watch the directors and Drum Majors during the game.
6. Students will need to be prepared to perform at all times.
7. Students will refrain from playing their instruments on an individual basis. The band will perform as a group or with approved small ensembles.
8. At the appropriate time, the band will be dismissed from the stands for the halftime performance. At this time, the band must move quickly, quietly, and efficiently to the appropriate area and prepare for the show.

Infractions of these rules will result in the individual event grade being lowered and/or removal from the event which would result in a failing grade.

Football Game Schedule

For football games, the normal schedule is as follows:

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 6:00 | All band members on the North parking lot in full uniform, ready for rehearsal |
| 6:30 | Parade to football field   |
| 6:50 | Pre-game performance in front of stands  |
| 7:00 | Game begins  |
| 8:00 | Halftime performance   |
| 8:30 | Students dismissed   |

Inspection

Inspection is a vital process of the marching band "pregame" to determine who is prepared for a successful performance. All students will be called to attention in their attendance block and will remain in that position until inspection is completed and the Drum Majors dismiss the band. Inspections will be completed by the Drum Majors and band directors. Uniform infractions will result in a 10 point deduction per infraction.

Music Inspection

Music inspection will occur prior to a marching band performance. Students will be asked to display music, lyre (if appropriate), and flip folder. The music must include all markings for the drill. Students who do not pass music inspection may have their grade altered for the event.

*Marching Band Student Leadership Positions*Section Leaders

Section leaders will be responsible for efficient operations of their sections. They will help with field discipline, provide instruction, serve as a positive role model, and assist the directors as needed. Selection of section leaders is based on demonstrated commitment to the band program, marching skills and demonstrated leadership characteristics.

Drum Majors

Drum Majors will be selected by the Drum Major audition process. Drum Majors will be used in the instruction of marching skills as well as the general marching drill. The Drum Major will be the field commander and conductor for the marching ensemble. Drum Majors will serve the marching season for which they are selected. Any Drum Major who is not a senior must re-enter the audition process the next school year.

Non-leadership Marching Members

A primary marcher must meet the following expectations:

1. Attempts to complete memorization of the show music by the first performance.
2. Demonstrates high quality marching skills.
3. Has marked his/her music and drill charts with each move.
4. Has a clear understanding of the entire drill.
5. Is punctual in report times.
6. Is present at all rehearsals and performances.
7. Maintains academic eligibility.

*General Attendance*

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, attendance from all members is essential. The following guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the marching band:

Roll Call

Roll call will be completed promptly at the start of rehearsal in the attendance block.

Tardiness

Students not in the announced formation block at the assigned time will be marked tardy.

Excused Tardiness

Tardiness will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Tutorials, appointments, etc., will not be an excuse for tardiness unless prior arrangements are made and approved.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy will have the event grade lowered 10 points for every fifteen minutes of tardiness.

Absence

A tardy will be converted to an absence 30 minutes after the rehearsal begins unless previously cleared with a director.

Excused Absence

Absences will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials, etc. will not be an excuse for absence. Personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, and serious problems will be considered as an excused absence. Students who are continually ill, may need to provide a doctor's note releasing them for participation in order to insure the well-being of the child and to reduce band director concerns. If in doubt, an absence should be checked with the head director.

Important: A note (or phone call) from a parent or guardian is required for every performance or rehearsal outside of the regular school day. Please see official attendance policy for further details.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence will not be allowed any make up credit for missing a performance.

***Jazz Band***

Reid LaDew, Director

Jazz Band membership is open to all band members. Placement in Jazz I or Jazz II will be at the director's discretion, with auditions being utilized as one of the determining factors in addition to satisfactory participation in the rest of the band program. Jazz I is restricted to the instrumentation that is characteristic of the idiom. Jazz II is more flexible in its instrumentation but uses the typical jazz instrumentation as a basis. Being a member of one of the Jazz Ensembles significantly improves a student's performing skills but in no way replaces the numerous other band offerings. Therefore, students should continue to participate in as many band activities as possible in order to achieve the best band experience. Students in this organization are expected to maintain a passing grade in all classes and satisfactory conduct. Rehearsals for the Jazz Band are before school or on Monday evenings. Performances are usually outside of the school day.

***Pep Band***

DeWayne Roberson, Director

The Pep Band is open to all band members. The band has no audition requirement. The band plays at twelve basketball games each year and a few extra events as necessary. The role of the Pep Band is to be an important spirit component teaming with the cheerleaders and Blue Revue dance team. The band is also a great vehicle for social interaction due to its "laid back" approach.

***Pit Orchestra***

DeWayne Roberson, Director

Sarah Hafenstein, String Specialist

Members of the Pit Orchestra are usually selected from the Wind Ensemble and String Orchestra. Although membership may not be exclusive to those ensembles, it is the goal of the directors to select the best musicians available due to the high intensity and expectations of such an organization. Rehearsals will be held on Sunday evenings or late afternoon starting in mid-September. Nightly rehearsals will begin two weeks ahead of the first musical performance. Some rehearsals may also be several hours long especially when the orchestra joins the remainder of the cast.

## Grading Policy

### Attendance Policy

Participation in performances by performance-based music classes (vocal and instrumental) is an intricate part of the learning process. It is understood that in performances outside of the normal class period conflicts will arise from time to time. Following are the guidelines for resolution of those conflicts.

A calendar of all required performances will be given to participating students during the Spring of the previous school year and at the beginning of each semester, copies will be posted in the rehearsal room and in the band newsletter "Fanfare", and the entire schedule can be found at the end of this handbook. Early notification of conflict by the student is essential. If the conflict is with another school-sponsored activity, it is the responsibility of the director and advisor/coach to meet and resolve the conflict to avoid the student being placed at risk in either activity. However, **this process cannot be put into motion without advanced notice from the student** that the conflict exists.

Conflicts other than those caused by school activities such as family activities and/or job-related activities should also be communicated in advance and in writing. **At no time will a job related conflict be considered as an excused absence.** Employers are more willing to discuss adjustments in work schedules when they are given notice of school events well in advance. It is requested that the parent or guardian send a signed note to the instructors to indicate their knowledge and approval of the absence.

### **\*Performance\***

For the purpose of clarifying the performance grading, a band activity is defined as the following:

- Concerts
- Lessons
- Rehearsals for the marching band (scheduled outside of normal school hours)
- Other events identified by the directors as "required."

*These grades count for 75% of the total quarter grade.*

### Performance Grading

Performances are worth 100 points. When a student is absent from a performance, the student will receive 55 points (55%) if he/she turns in a note of excuse signed by a parent or guardian and the excuse is considered by the band directors to be legitimate. Failure to turn in a written excuse will result in 30 points (30%).

Students who turn in a legitimate note of excuse earn the right to perform a play test to earn up to a B+ for the event that was missed. *Within one week*, students may arrange with one of the instructors to play the music from the missed performance or rehearsal. The teachers will grade the quality of the student's performance in the same manner that a lesson would be graded. The play test grade will replace the 55 points (55%) earned with the note of excuse. A student's total make-up grade will not exceed a B+, 88 points (88%).

### Lesson Grading

*Each lesson will be graded as "Proficient/Not Proficient." At the end of each lesson rotation grades will be entered. In addition, assigned milestones must be completed within a given grading period. These milestones will also be graded and entered as a Lesson Grade. All band members will be required to take "studio" lessons during their class period or other period mutually determined by the students and director.*