



Wade Hampton HS Band
2021 - 2022
Student & Parent Handbook

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WADE HAMPTON BAND'S MISSION

The Wade Hampton High School Band program strives to provide a high quality music education for all students while focusing on the development of a well-rounded individual in society. By providing a rigorous music curriculum in a safe environment, the Wade Hampton High School Band program aspires to foster a life-long relationship with music and the other fine arts.

VISION STATEMENT

To challenge and empower our students to be successful in a highly creative and competitive world.

MUSIC STANDARDS/COURSE GOALS

(2017 South Carolina College and Career Ready Instrumental Music Anchor Standards)

1. I can compose and arrange music.
2. I can improvise music.
3. I can produce a characteristic tone.
4. I can perform with technical accuracy and expression.
5. I can perform using musical notation.
6. I can analyze music.
7. I can evaluate music.
8. I can relate musical ideas to personal experiences, culture, and history.
9. I can relate music to other arts disciplines, other content areas, and career path choices.

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

CONCERT BAND

All instrumentalists will participate in concert band. Wind players and percussionists register for “Instrumental Music 1-8”. The class covers fundamentals of music including music theory, music history, and instrumental performance pedagogy. Students at the Fine Arts Center are encouraged to participate with the concert band even if they are unable to register for the class.

MARCHING BAND

This competitive outdoor ensemble will meet after school for rehearsal three days a week, participate in all home football games, and compete on Saturdays throughout September and October.

WINTER GUARD

Winter guard is an indoor creative art distinct from the guard’s role in the fall marching show. Students are highly encouraged to participate in the fall color guard as well as the winter guard. This ensemble rehearses after school two to three days a week and competes at several local and regional competitions. This ensemble is open to all students at Wade Hampton High School and eighth graders who are zoned for Wade Hampton.

JAZZ BAND

Revived in the 2020-21 school year, the Wade Hampton High School jazz band explores jazz pedagogy and music theory through American standards. While instrumentation varies based on needs, we will accommodate interested players as well as possible.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

SCHOOL RULES

All Wade Hampton ensembles are co-curricular (tied to course credit outside of school hours). When rehearsing, performing, or traveling with the Wade Hampton Band, all school and district policies are in effect. While band instructors and student leaders may implement consequences for breaching the following policies, school discipline procedures will also apply when necessary.

ATTENDANCE

Members are expected to arrive at all scheduled events 15 minutes early unless otherwise communicated. This allows time for preparation before the rehearsal or performance begins. Events which are not scheduled at the beginning of the school year will be communicated as early as possible to avoid conflict with work and other responsibilities. Absence or tardiness will only be excused with written advance notice from the responsible adult (guardian, teacher, coach, etc.)

BULLYING

Bullying/Cyberbullying is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. Any reporting of bullying could warrant grounds for immediate dismissal from any after-school band program at the discretion of Mr. Ritchie. If a member is dismissed, they are still responsible for all previous financial obligations.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

Members must remain engaged and respectful during rehearsals. **Effort and dedication are requirements for success.** Interruptions/disruptions, profanity, defiance, and use of electronic devices will not be tolerated. Instructors and leaders are here to help and deserve patience.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The behavior and achievements of band members reflect on the ensemble as a whole and Mr. Pagett as a teacher. Members are expected to be professional ambassadors for the band program in each interaction with school and community

officials. We cheer for every band and every team, and we save our criticisms for the bus ride home.

FACILITIES

The Band Room is a shared space 365 days a year and must be treated as an area of professional collaboration. Band members will keep the room clean and organized at all times. Outside students are not permitted in the band room or at band rehearsals. Food and drink (except water) are not permitted in the band room unless required during a group meal.

A band that neglects its duty to the larger school cannot sustain competitive success or professional relationships. Students **will not** leave designated rehearsal areas to wander the auditorium, practice rooms, or other classrooms. Any intentional damage to school property is considered criminal vandalism and will result in removal from the ensemble and appropriate school discipline.

PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION

Band friendships and relationships are deep and meaningful because of the many hours we spend together. Because band activities are professional engagements, students should not engage in public affection that would be inappropriate for a workplace. Non-member boyfriends and girlfriends will often want to visit with members at football games and competitions. This should be reserved for post-performance free time at the competition, never during our scheduled activities.

DRUGS, ALCOHOL, AND NICOTINE

Use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco/nicotine vaporizers at band functions will not be tolerated at any time from students or adults.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Adult volunteers are an integral part of the band's operation. By district policy, all adult volunteers must pass district background checks and clearance procedures (found [here](#)). Travel chaperones (anyone who might be alone with students for any reason) have Level II clearance. Volunteer opportunities include:

FOOTBALL GAMES AND CHAPERONING REGULAR TRIPS

The band needs volunteers to help at football games and supervise students during day travel.

EQUIPMENT TRANSPORTATION

Parents will be needed to drive equipment trucks to and from events.

PROP BUILDING

Any parents with building skills/talents/connections are welcome to help with prop building. These types of props will vary from year to year; however, your work adds a great deal to the production value of the performance.

PROP CREW

Parents will be needed to assemble and move props at all contests.

BAND CAMP AND COMPETITION MEALS

Preparing and serving dinners during band camp and meals during competition travel.

HOSPITALITY

Assisting with special events such as Middle School Night, bake sales, winter formal, and the Band Banquet.

MARCHING BAND

ELIGIBILITY

The marching band is open to all WHHS students and 8th graders zoned for WHHS. Incoming freshmen are required to participate in marching band unless they have a fall sports conflict or a documented medical condition preventing physical activity. Fine Arts Center students are not required to be in the band class to join the marching band. **(Exempt for the 2021-22 school year due to COVID-19 but will be in effect during the 2022-23 school year.)**

AUDITION/COMMITMENT

Because the creation of the marching band show takes many months, students must commit to participation in the marching band by mid-May each year. When you submit a commitment form, we immediately start spending money for you. Please keep your commitment.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Participation in the marching band requires a \$500 membership fee split into smaller payments. This fee helps to offset the enormous costs of a well-rounded band program. Because costs are paid well in advance, refunds cannot be issued except in extreme circumstances.

Each season, the booster club will communicate an expected schedule of payments. If families are unable to meet this schedule, the booster club offers a [Financial Hardship Waiver](#). Upon approval, this allows for extended payments, additional support, and reduced costs. With this communication and effort, the Wade Hampton Band will make every effort to accommodate financial needs - students should **never** be excluded from participation because of their family's financial security.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

Members may incur these additional costs (often one-time):

- \$37 for the purchase of uniform shoes (ordered through the band)
- Lyre and flip-folder with seven pages (ordered through the band)
- Rehearsal and uniform clothing (purchased by families)

REHEARSALS

Students are expected to have the following at every rehearsal:

- Tennis/athletic shoes with socks
- A hat (sunglasses optional)
- Music binder with warm-ups, show music, and pencil
- Coordinate sheet or drill breakdown
- Sunscreen
- A water jug (at least half-gallon)
- (Except front ensemble) Knee pads
- (Wind players) Towel to lay under instruments when on asphalt.

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Mr. Ritchie and the student leaders will communicate additional expectations at each event. Members are expected to follow all written and verbal instructions. When in doubt, follow posted schedules and ask student peers for clarification. We will engage every challenge with patience and peace.

CONSEQUENCES

Breaches of student expectations may result in:

- Additional physical training
- Cleaning responsibilities
- Suspension or removal from the ensemble at Mr. Ritchie's discretion.

CONCERT BAND

WHHS band students are expected to participate in concert band. Each year, the concert ensemble presents the following performances, each with two or three after-school rehearsals:

- Winter Concert in mid-December
- Pre-Concert Performance Assessment concert in early March
- SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment in late March
- (Tentative) Symphony Orchestra concert in April
- Spring Concert in May
- Graduation (with Orchestra)

Additionally, Wade Hampton Band students will participate in Greenville County and South Carolina Band Directors Association sponsored events throughout the year, including:

- All-County Band Auditions (January) and Clinic (February)
- Region Band Auditions (January) and Clinic (February)
- All-State Band and Orchestra Auditions (February) and Clinic (March)
- Solo and Ensemble Festival (May)

PARTICIPATION BY FINE ARTS CENTER STUDENTS

Students at the Fine Arts Center may participate with the Wade Hampton concert band even if they are unable to join the class. Interested students should let Mr. Pagett know in October. Students are expected to practice concert music individually and report to after-school rehearsals prepared.

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Use of a school-owned instrument requires the completion of an Instrument Use Agreement and the payment of a \$50 instrument maintenance fee (waived for those with documented financial hardship). The fee is not doubled if multiple school instruments are required for concert and marching band.

OTHER ENSEMBLES

Participation in Jazz Band, Winter Guard, etc. is dictated by the instructors of those ensembles. Alignment with WHHS Band values and school rules is always expected.

ADDITIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

Mr. Ritchie reserves the right to amend this handbook at any time or make exceptions to its requirements.

MEDIA OPT-OUT POLICY

Throughout the year, photos are taken of members of the band in a variety of circumstances - rehearsals, competitions and beyond. These photos may be posted on various websites, including the band website, Facebook, district website, local newspaper sites, and SC Band Directors Association site.

If, for any reason, you do not wish for your child to have their picture taken and used, please indicate your preference in the Directory & Publish Preferences form you complete online. Every reasonable effort will be made to omit your child's information and image.

Please note: if your child appears in a group picture, the picture may still be used. Please speak to Mr. Ritchie if you have any concerns.

Band Handbook Agreement 2021-2022

I, _____, do hereby acknowledge that:
Student Name

I, _____, do hereby acknowledge that:
Parent Name

- 1) I have received a copy of the Wade Hampton High School Band Handbook.
- 2) I will keep all pertinent information (address, email addresses, phone numbers, etc.) up-to-date with the Band Director.
- 3) I have read this handbook in its entirety, and understand its various sections;
- 4) I am aware that the policies contained in this handbook have been approved by the Wade Hampton High School Administration;
- 5) I agree to abide by the policies set forth in this handbook for as long as I am a member of the Wade Hampton High School Band.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____



Download WHHS 2021-2022 Handbook

Wade Hampton High School Band Commitment Form 2021-2022

I, _____, having been chosen to be a member of the Wade Hampton High School Band Program, do hereby agree to fulfill any obligations of an Wade Hampton Band Member for the **2021-2022** school year. This includes participating in all ***scheduled rehearsals and performances, fulfilling all financial responsibilities***, as well as abiding by the ***rules and regulations*** of the Wade Hampton High School Band. I understand that failure to complete my obligation to the band program will cause me to forfeit my present and future membership and can result in the lowering of my grade.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Instrument: _____

Student signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

****Please turn this form in along with your \$125 (first payment) on or before July 30th, 2021. This form along with payment ensures your spot for the 2021 Marching Season.**