
Woodlake Hills Middle School



Wildcat Band Program 2021-2022 Handbook

Nicholas Rodriguez, Director of Bands
Mark Mallow, Assistant Band Director
Daniel Brooks, Principal

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Woodlake hills Middle School Band Program! The goal of this handbook is to provide information about our band program to you in a more detailed manner.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, ***the contract attached to the back of this handbook should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.***

****Enrolling in band is a full year course, and students who enroll are expected to commit for the full academic school year****

Contact Information

The directors encourage positive communication and are willing to discuss any aspect of a student's progress in band with his/her parents and/or guardians. **The best and fastest way to communicate with a director is through email.**

Nicholas Rodriguez, Director of Bands
nrodriguez@judsonisd.org
(210)661-1110

Mark Mallow, Assistant Director
mmallow@judsonisd.org
(210)661-1110

WRITE A NOTE

You may send a note with your child. Please include a phone number and/or e-mail address that you can be reached and the best time to reach you.

Remind and Smore

Text @whwband to 81010. Weekly or Bi-Weekly

Conference Periods

The directors' main conference periods vary and can be found on the WHMS website.

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student.

Due to sectionals and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach us before or after school. If we are working with students, please understand that they are our highest priority and deserve our complete attention.

E-MAIL Policy

We will be sending home many updates and communications via email throughout the year. Due to the nature of e-mail, all major concerns will need to be addressed through conferences or phone communication. This is to avoid any misunderstandings or unclear intentions through e-mail communication. Parents are encouraged to use email to get more information or clarification regarding events, or to schedule a parent conference.

Student Communication

Students are also encouraged to communicate with the directors before concerns become issues. They should do this in person at an appropriate time, one on one. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year.

Throughout the year, we will be sending information home in the form of letters. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Goals and Objectives

- Organizational skills
- Practice techniques
- Mental and physical discipline
- Citizenship through group endeavors
- Cultural growth
- Value judgment
- Music theory
- Proper instrumental technique
- Life lessons
- Creative self-expression
- Aural skills
- Music appreciation
- Teamwork/social skills
- Performance skills

Conduct Expectations

Band members will observe all procedures set forth by Judson ISD, in addition to the following, as they pertain to the instrumental music setting:

- 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 at hand as well as the band program.
- All students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the WHMS Middle School Student Handbook. Individual behavior during a band function is a reflection of the group.
- Students will follow directors' instructions.
- Students will be in their assigned rehearsal area with all necessary equipment at the beginning of rehearsal time.
- Students will keep their hands and feet to themselves.
- Students will not use or play on equipment that they do not own without permission from a director.
- Students will not touch, handle, borrow, or use anyone else's instrument or personal belongings.
- As part of rehearsal procedure, students should request permission to speak by raising their hand and waiting to be acknowledged. All rehearsals are expected to be quiet so that time will be utilized as wisely and efficiently as possible.
- When allowed in the band hall, either before or after school, students will not disturb any rehearsals in progress.
- Students will respect the property of others, and return their equipment to its proper storage place when not in use. Students should keep their equipment in the designated storage area, and keep said storage area clean and neat in appearance. Students who have difficulty with this may lose the privilege of having a storage area in the band hall. Only band music and supplies should be stored in their instrument storage area.
- Students will not deface or mark on music stands, chairs, walls, etc.
- Students will not write on the dry-erase boards or use electronic equipment without permission from a director.
- Students will utilize their assigned storage slot for instrument cases during rehearsals. Cases should not be brought into the rehearsal area unless requested by a director (exceptions: flute, clarinet, and oboe)
- Disruptive behavior may result in the student being removed from rehearsal and given an alternate graded assignment. Repetitive disruption may result in an office referral or removal from the program.

Financial Obligations

It is the philosophy of the Woodlake Hills Middle School Band that no student should be denied the privilege of band membership due to financial hardship. For options in meeting financial obligations, parents should contact the director.

Fundraising

Participation in fundraising is encouraged, but not required. The fundraiser will be used to defray the trip expenses. Any other money raised will be used to purchase additional materials and equipment for the WHMS Band Program.

The WHMS Wildcat Bands

Honors Band

Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the TMEA Region process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations and UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Honors Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. In UIL Activities, this group will be designated the "Varsity" band.

Symphonic, Concert Bands

Selection into any of these groups is by audition. These groups, at varying levels, will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of Symphonic Band will have one section rehearsal/assigned hearing time each week outside of the school day. These groups will give a variety of performances. In UIL activities, these groups will be designated as the "Non-Varsity" and "Sub Non-Varsity" bands.

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert band by audition, as well as observation throughout the year.

Band Placement

Yearly placement in each band and occasional changes are based on the following criteria:

- Instrumentation needs and limitations
- Eligibility status
- Overall performance and consistent progress
- Attitude and behavior
- Audition

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food or drinks are allowed in the band hall except when authorized by the directors.
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided.
- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will be dealt with severely and appropriately. Every band member is responsible to help the directors monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on walls, destroying music, or breaking school property.
- Use of practice rooms is a privilege which can be revoked if the room is not used properly.
- Due to the heavy student traffic going in and out of the band hall, as well as the possibility of theft of instruments, students not enrolled in band are not allowed in the band hall at any time.

Attendance

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. While the WHMS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the WHMS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. Absences from activities held outside the school day will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused. If the student knows of a schedule problem in advance, discuss the schedule conflict as soon as possible with the directors in order to come up with a solution.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence from any required band performance will receive a 50% test grade; rehearsal/sectional absences receive a 50% daily grade. Concepts learned in group rehearsals, concerts and contests cannot be made up. Students with an unexcused absence to a sectional rehearsal may be required to schedule a make-up lesson with their band director within one week.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their schedules for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year and are mandatory. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. For the student, the concert begins at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

Daily Supplies

Each student plans to bring the following items to rehearsals and/or performances. Other items may be added at the discretion of the directors.

- All issued music
- Pencil
- All supplies relative to their instrument
- Black band binder
- Korg TM-50 metronome/tuner
- Korg Contact Microphone Pickup
- Other equipment as needed

Uniform

Each performing band has a required uniform.

- **Honors Band:** Issued cummberbun, tie; student provides White Long Sleeve Tuxedo button down shirt, Black Slacks (not jeans), Black Dress Shoes (*no open-toed, no flops, no sparkly Toms*), Black Socks.
- **Symphonic and Concert Band:** Issued cummberbun, tie; student provides White Long Sleeve Tuxedo button down shirt, Black Slacks (not jeans), Black Dress Shoes (*no open-toed, no flops, no sparkly Toms*), Black Socks.
- **Beginning Band:** Designated WHMS Band T-shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes.

Section Rehearsals

Students in Honors and Symphonic Bands will have weekly section rehearsals with their instrument's section. Section rehearsals are small group instructional sessions to give students the skills needed to meet their goal of growth and success on their instrument. Absences from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Attendance is required. Any student with a conflict will attend a "make-up" session within one week of absence from a sectional. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly.

(We will notify students and parents when will be able to hold sections)

Eligibility

All WHMS Bands adhere to the eligibility rules and regulations as stated by TEA, UIL, and WHMS. Some band activities are designated as extra-curricular. Students participating in UIL activities are governed by eligibility requirements. A student shall be suspended from participation in all UIL activities sponsored or sanctioned by the school district during the six week period following a grade reporting period in which the student received a grade lower than 70 in any class. Loss of eligibility does not take effect until seven days after the end of the reporting period. Ineligible students are not suspended from practice or rehearsal for UIL activities.

Students may regain eligibility under certain circumstances. If a student has been suspended as a result of failing, he/she may regain eligibility by passing ALL courses by the third week of the following grading period. Reinstatement of eligibility would occur seven days after the three-week progress report period.

The eligibility law does not affect activities that are considered curricular components of any course (band concerts). Examples of these activities are all rehearsals and performances that take place as a regular extension of classroom instruction. Any performance that is competitive in nature or for which admission is charged is deemed extra-curricular, and eligibility rules apply.

Grading Policy

DAILY/QUIZZES GRADES – 60%

- Weekly Sectional grade:(Advanced Bands only)
- Class Participation
- Equipment and Band Binder check

TEST GRADES – 40%

- Playing Tests/ Music Pass-Offs
- Written/online assignments
- Performances

Band Equipment

Student Instruments

Individually owned instruments are the responsibility of the student; WHMS will not be responsible for loss or damage that occurs to a privately-owned instrument.

School-Owned Instruments

The school provides some of the larger, more expensive instruments. Students are responsible for the care and daily maintenance of the instruments and are expected to keep them in excellent playing condition. School owned instruments are being issued in new, excellent, good or fair condition. Once the student has their instrument, it is his/her responsibility to keep it in playing condition throughout the school year and return it in the same or better condition. This includes the condition of the case. Rough handling will shorten the life and destroy the appearance of the case and diminish the it's effectiveness in protecting the instrument. There is a \$60 usage fee per year (\$30 per semester) for the use of school instruments and students are responsible for keeping the instrument in working condition and servicing the instrument at the end of the school year. Prior to the annual inventory/audit, the instrument will be checked by a director for playing condition and repair damage caused by the students. All students and parents will be required to fill out and return a form stating that you will be responsible for the condition of the instrument. Students who do not have the instrument usage agreement form on file by September 1st will not be able to continue to use the instrument until the form is turned in. Any student who does not have an instrument will receive an elective change and be removed from the WHMS Band organization. All instruments must have the students name on it.

Instrument Storage Lockers

Each student will be given a locker for storage of their instruments during the school day. Students may bring their instrument to the band hall before school and may pick up their instrument after school before going to bus. Their locker is for instruments and band related supplies ONLY. All cases must be latched and in their locker when not in use.

Discipline Techniques:

The purpose of discipline is to help students improve themselves and learn from each situation. This list of techniques is not intended to be a list of progressive sanctions.

- Oral correction
- Preferential seating
- Counseling by director
- Removal from rehearsal; alternate graded assignment
- Parent-director conference
- Behavioral Contract
- Withdrawal from privileges, such as participation in class, or an incentive activity
- Dismissal from program

Performance Conduct

Any display of inappropriate conduct, rude or disrespectful behavior, physically or verbally abusive behavior before or during a competition will result in the student being suspended from the competition. In addition, inappropriate behavior after the competition will result in student discipline. At the discretion of the director and/or administration, depending on the seriousness of the incident, could result in the student being suspended from future contests, performances, or dismissal from the program.

School-sponsored Trips

Students participating in school-sponsored trips are expected to ride the transportation provided by the school to and from the event. As approved by the principal, directors may establish procedures by which exceptions may be granted. We will also need chaperones from time to time. If you would like to volunteer to be a chaperone, please contact Mr. Rodriguez at nrodriguez@judsonisd.org.

Handbook Signature Page

Students,

I have read the WHMS Band Handbook and understand the requirements for being a band member. I realize it takes full cooperation and dedication (100% from me) to help our band meet its potential. I also realize that my failure to follow policies and directions could result in disciplinary action, which could lead to placement in another band or dismissal from the band program. I have received a copy of the WHMS band calendar for the current school year.

As a member of the WHMS, I acknowledge the following as responsibilities I must fulfill if I wish to remain a member:

- Adhere to the conduct expectations in the WHMS Student and Band Handbooks
- Be punctual and prepared for weekly sectionals
- Practice with a purpose and document practice time to be graded
- Demonstrate my best on playing assignments and written theory tests
- Attend all concerts, rehearsals and contests
- Treat my peers and teachers with respect, and maintain appropriate conduct
- Maintain my grades for eligibility and self achievement
- Have a high standard for improvement in class and on my own

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parents,

I have read the WHMS Handbook and am willing to support it and my child.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

Turn this form in by Friday, September 17th to your band director.

Woodlake Hills Middle School Bands Trip Permission and Medical Release Form

I grant permission for (student's name)_____ to attend all school all school sponsored Band activities during the 2021-2022 school year. I understand that I will be notified in writing prior to all activities involving travel. I consent in advance to any medical treatment or procedures that might be necessary in case of injury or illness during school sponsored Band activity. I understand that every effort will be made to reach me incase of serious illness or injury, and I grant permission to the sponder and/or Judson ISD administrator(s) in case of medical emergency.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Emergency Medical Information

Student Name _____

Parent /Guardian _____

Address _____

Email _____

Cell Phone # _____ Work Phone # _____

Emergency Contact Person _____

Emergency Phone# _____

Insurance Company _____ Policy# _____

Doctor's Name & Number _____

Known Allergies _____

Any other medical information _____

Photo Release Consent Form

We are sending you this personal consent form to both inform you and to request permission for your student's photo/image to be published on the Band's and/or School's website.

As you are aware, there are potential dangers associated with the posting of photos or images on a website since global access to the internet does not allow us to control who may access such information. The dangers have always existed; however, we as schools do want to celebrate your child and his/her work. The law requires that we ask for your permission to use information about your child.

Check on of the following choices:

_____ **I/We GRANT** permission for this student's photo /image and name to be published on the Band's and or school's internet site.

_____ **I/We DO NOT GRANT** permission for this student's photo /image and name to be published on the Band's and or school's internet site.

_____ Student's Name (Please print)

_____ Student's Grade

_____ Print name of Parent/Guardian

_____ Signature of Parent/Guardian

Relation to Student _____

Date: _____

Woodlake Hills Middle School Band

Calendar of Events 2021-2022

Date	Event	Times	Location	Who is Included
October				
15th	7 th & 8 th Graders to Judson Game	TBA	Rutledge Stadium	7 th & 8th Grade Members
19th	JISD Band Extravaganza	3:45 PM to 8:30 PM	Rutledge Stadium	Advanced Band Member
26th	Fall Concert	7:00 PM to 8:00 PM	WHMS Cafeteria	Advanced Band Members
November				
6th	TMEA MS Region Band Tryouts	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Resnik MS	8 th Grade Members
9th	WHMS Fine Arts Picture Day	During Band Classes	WHMS Band Hall	All Band Students
12-13th	TMEA MS Region Band Clinic and Concert	ALL Day both Days	Judson PAC	Region Band Members
December				
7th	Winter Concert – Combined	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	WHMS Cafeteria	All Band Members
16th	Fine Arts Showcase	During School	Judson PAC	Honors Band
January				
13th	Recruiting Tour	During School	Elementary Schools	Beginning Band Members
February				
TBA	Pre-UIL JISD Middle School Bands	During School	Judson PAC	Honors and Symphonic
March-April				
31-1	UIL Non-Varsity Concert & Sight-reading	TBA	Steele HS	Honors and Symphonic
TBA	American Classics Contest / Fiesta Texas	TBA	TBA	Honors and Symphonic
May				
	Spring Band Concert	6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	WHMS Cafeteria	All Band Members
TBA	Kids in the Park Festival / ZDT's	10:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Steele HS / ZDT's	Beginning Band Members
TBA	WHMS Solo and Ensemble Contest	During Band Classes	WHMS	All Band Members
August				
TBA	Summer Band Camp	8:00 AM to Noon	WHMS Band Hall	Returning Band Members

Link to JISD Chaperone Training: <http://www.judsonisd.org/apps/volunteerCheck/index.cfm?event=start>

All dates and times are subject to change. A detailed itinerary will be sent out prior to each event.