



Band Handbook

Table of Contents

Ensemble Opportunities.....	2-4
Uniform Procedures.....	5-8
Attendance Policy.....	9-10
Behavioral/Bullying/Harassment/Travel and ALL other Policies and Procedures.....	10
Band Lettering System.....	11-12
Communication.....	13
Band Handbook Agreement Form.....	14

Ensemble Opportunities

Marching Band

During the fall term, the marching band performs at all HOME varsity football games, selected away games, and participates in occasional Saturday competitions. Marching band is made up of wind players, percussion/drumline, and colorguard. Returning students also have the opportunity to serve in elected leadership positions.

Students wishing to be in the marching band at WBHS will need to show up for Band Camp (see schedule for dates) with a contract signed by both students and parents which includes the intention to pay fees by schedule or all upfront. Any parent who feels they will have a problem paying fees should contact the band directors in private so that arrangements can be made for your child to participate. No student will be deprived of band participation because of money when we have multiple opportunities throughout the season/year for families to participate in fundraisers to offset the cost of fees.

Our contract also includes behavior, attendance, and performance expectations. Please read the contract carefully as students will be held to very high standards in all aspects of the WBHS Band program.

Summer Band Practice

All prospective students will be given our summer calendar before the end of the school year. We offer two dates during the summer that students are highly encouraged to attend. Please keep your calendar handy for reference. Students are, of course, excused for family vacations and summer camps, but are expected to come to practice if they are in town.

Band Camp

Band camp information is contained in a packet that each student will be given on the first day of summer band practice or band camp. The packet will include a detailed itinerary, music, and important documents to be signed. It is imperative that these forms be signed and returned to the band directors as soon as possible. Online registrations may be available. Please check the website.

Band camp is required for participation in the marching band. The show is written for a specific number of individuals. If a student is unable to attend camp, they may not have a spot in the show. We do our very best to accommodate extreme circumstances which most often include taking on new students; medical, etc. Each circumstance will be discussed and evaluated by the directors.

Leadership, Drumline, and Color Guard

Tryouts and camps for drum major, leadership, drumline, and color guard are held in late April or early May each year. Drum majors and other leadership must be playing members of the band and must have participated at least one full

year in the William Blount High School Band before being eligible to try out. Color Guard are not required to play an instrument in the band and are eligible to try out as freshmen. Drumline camp is held at the end of the spring semester when the line for front ensemble and drumline will be set and ready for all summer rehearsals as well as band camp.

Leadership Roles:

The Directors will select students based on their behavior in and out of class, musicianship, character, work ethic and interview.

Drum Major: This position requires membership in the WBHS Band for at least one year. The Drum Major(s) serves as the field leader, leads music through conducting, assists in teaching basic marching fundamentals, and maintaining discipline. Drum Major(s) are vocal, active, and involved in the unity of the whole band.

Band Captain: Serves as a mentor to all other leadership positions. Works alongside the Drum Major to maintain discipline and focus in rehearsals and at all performance venues. Assist directors in organizational tasks and verifies that officers are meeting their responsibilities.

Brass Lieutenant and Woodwind Lieutenant: Each area will have a representative who will serve as the first point of contact for section leaders. They will assist in teaching marching fundamentals as well as basic music instruction.

Section Leaders: For each instrumental section, including drumline and front ensemble. These leaders are responsible for teaching marching fundamentals, and assisting their grouped sections as needed. The “immediate supervisor” for these leaders will be the Area Lieutenant, Drum Major, and Band directors.

Percussion Lieutenant: The Percussion Lieutenant will be responsible for the care and handling of all percussion equipment and storage area. They will assist with the loading and unloading of equipment. They will be responsible for their section’s marching, performance, and preparation for class/rehearsals. The “immediate supervisor” will be the Drum Major and Band directors.

Color Guard Captain: ***** Auditions will consist of a routine determined by an instructor and a live interview.

Librarian: This position requires membership in the WBHS Band for at least one year. The librarian will assist with distributing, organizing, and filing music for the band.

Chief of Logistics: Student point person in charge of putting together a team who will assist boosters with moving equipment on trailers, prepare fields for rehearsal; measure and paint lines, move directors' podium and stands, speakers, metronome, and any other equipment as needed. Indoor rehearsals and other tasks will also be set up by this student and their team.

Band Historian: Captures photos throughout the year and creates a video for end-of-year banquet.

Concert Band

A one semester course during the Spring term. The Concert Band will be divided into two bands, the Academy Band and Main Campus band, each meeting during different periods. Freshmen will automatically be placed in the Academy Band. Directors may require auditions for chair placements accordingly.

Once the student has begun a course in band, they are expected to continue for the duration of the semester. Freshmen are highly encouraged to participate in the first year of Concert Band. During this first year, students acquire and develop the necessary skills to successfully continue in band for the following three years.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is an after school rehearsal and is open to all current participants of the band program. An intro course to support Jazz Band will be offered after school on Wednesdays, 3:30-4:30 once school begins in the Fall, and will continue during the marching band season. After fall break, the Jazz Band will be officially formed and meet Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-4:30pm until the Holiday Concert. Jazz Band will continue to meet on the same days/times in the Spring semester. The Jazz Band will perform at various gigs throughout the remainder of the year.

Percussion Ensemble

Percussion ensemble is held during the spring semester after school on Thursdays from 4-5pm. The purpose of this ensemble is to support both concert bands as our percussion section will be shared between the two. During this rehearsal, we will rehearse music from the concert bands as well as work on developing stronger skills needed to be miles ahead in technique. We will also rehearse and perform music specifically designed for percussion ensembles.

Uniform Procedures

Concert Band Attire:

- Black and white professional attire/black suit/white shirt/black tie
- Dresses-mostly black- need to be below the knee!!!
- Black shoes/socks

MARCHING BAND UNIFORM STUDENT GUIDELINES

The Marching Band Uniform consists of a marching jacket, bibbers, shako and plume (all provided by the school), tall black socks, black gloves and marching shoes (provided by the guardian).

GENERAL RULES:

1. DO NOT run in uniform.
2. DO NOT eat in uniform. An exception to the eating rule, students may eat during the third quarter at football games as permitted by directors, but they MUST be extremely careful with condiments such as ketchup, mustard, soda, and other stain-causing foods.
3. NO makeup is allowed to be worn with uniforms.
4. Do NOT sit or kneel in the grass or on pavement. This causes excessive stains on the knees and back of the uniform and can require additional cleaning at the expense of the family.
5. Avoid walking through standing water if possible to keep mud spots from splashing onto bibbers. These can not be cleaned with just water, they have to be taken to the dry cleaners.
6. Do not play around outside in show shirts, get sweaty then plan to put your uniform on. If you plan to relax and play around make sure to wear a different shirt so your show shirt will not be sweaty. The sweat and smells transfer to your uniform and could cause additional cleanings to help with odors.
7. Uniforms are a sign of unity. The directors will instruct the section leaders if jackets will be able to be removed after half time. If jackets are allowed to be removed students will need to follow the stand guidelines to keep the jackets safe while in the stands.
 - a. Place Shako, top down on the bleacher cover
 - b. Remove gauntlets and set next to shako
 - c. Remove jacket and fold arms in towards the middle then fold it in half.
 - d. Have assistance from someone in your section to put gauntlets onto bibbers (angel wings). With buttons facing OUT.

GARMENT BAG will be used only for away games/competitions.

Bibbers

- a. Bibbers should be folded along crease (line up inside seams and fold in half over hanger)

- b. Bibbers are hemmed at the appropriate length for these shoes. When wearing different shoes or no shoes at all, this can result in the pants dragging, causing fraying and damage to the pant leg.
 - c. Students need to put bibbers on THEN their shoes. Bibbers are hemmed using buttons that can come undone easily when wearing shoes. Students should use caution putting on the bibbers to make sure their feet do not get caught in the cuff of the pants and cause them to become unsnapped. Shoes also need to be removed first when taking Bibbers off.
 - d. If a student notices their bibbers have come unsnapped they need to go directly to a member of the uniform committee to have them fixed so they do not drag the ground which could cause fraying and damage.
2. Jacket
- a. Jacket should be hung with the front of the jacket towards the side with the label on the hanger.
 - b. Hang Jacket facing TOWARDS the inside of the bag (away games/competitions only. The zipper of the jacket should meet the zipper of the bag. (think zipper to zipper)
 - c. Jacket needs to be zipped. You do not need to clasp collar or buttons.

GARMENT BAG ZIPPER POCKET ABSOLUTELY NO SHOES!

After hanging your uniform in the garment bag, see your section leader or uniform parent for odor control item (dryer sheet, charcoal bag, etc) then hang the garment bag on the appropriate rack within your section. Section leaders are responsible for checking each section's uniform. (Section leaders can complete this before or after they are hung on the rack). Section leaders will need to let the uniform committee know when their section is done to be checked off. If they have a student that is consistently having problems with hanging garments, section leaders are responsible for setting up a meeting with the student and a member of the uniform committee to work on proper hanging.

Garment Bags should be left open to air out unless the uniform committee requests them to be zipped.

SHOES Rush's will come during band camp to fit students for shoes. They will be delivered to the school. Payment is made by check (paid to Rush's) or cash. Cost will be given to the students using band communication (ie. Band App). Shoes are the responsibility of the student. Some students choose to leave them in their band locker while others take them home. It is the student's responsibility to remember to bring them for football games and competitions and to keep them clean and polished.

SOCKS Students are also responsible for their own long black socks, with no colors on the heels or toes.

UNDERGARMENTS Because there will be times the students need to change in/out of their uniforms in a parking lot or a bus, students need to wear clothing under their uniforms. Students are expected to wear their show shirts and a pair of shorts under

their bibbers. Most students have found black compression shorts or leggings (such as Under Armour) to be the best option. Please don't wear anything bulky that will bunch up or show through the bibbers such as jeans or khakis or long joggers.

HAIR Students with hair longer than the collar of the uniform will be required to secure their hair up under the shako in a very high bun and secure loose hair with bobby pins, a wide black headband and/or hairspray.

If you require help in securing your hair, please make sure to watch for times posted on band communication for a uniform committee member to help. Please bring your own supplies (headband, hair ties, hairbrush, hairspray, bobby pins, etc.). Hair needs to be up and secured before competitions unless you have spoken to the uniform committee about needing assistance in advance.

*Hair exception is for PIT when they will NOT be needing a Shako for pregame. Anyone in PIT with hair longer than their collar will need to wear their hair in a braided ponytail to keep it out of their face during the performance. If hair is too short for a braided ponytail, the front 1/2 of the hair will need to be put up.

SHAKOS/PLUMES Shakos should be worn on your head not against the ears. When putting your shako away, they should be placed upside down or on their side if needed in the shako boxes to air out. Shako boxes should be placed back on the correct shelf with your section.

Plumes will be passed out and secured by a member of the uniform committee or a chaperone before going onto the field for performance (football games) or at the trailers when lining up (competitions). Plumes will be collected by the uniform committee at the end of any performance.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS No large or excessive amounts of jewelry is to be worn with the uniforms – this means large dangling earrings, multiple necklaces, multiple bracelets, multiple rings, etc. Also, no nail bright polish is to be worn if the student does not wear full gloves.

MISSING ITEMS If you find that you are missing any item from your uniform, CHECK WITH YOUR SECTION LEADER FIRST! Then come see the uniform parent or a member of the uniform committee. We do have extra socks, headbands and gloves, but you will be charged should you need items. Garment bags and hangers must be put back on the carts after the band gets dressed or changes out of uniform on site.

STORAGE The marching band uniform will be kept at school.

1. Football HOME games
 - a. Students arrive at school early to get dressed into their uniform.
2. Football AWAY games, Competitions, Parades
 - a. Students will dress at the host school.
 - b. Uniforms are NOT to be hung on trailers or vehicles.
 - c. Uniform bags are to be hung back on the correct rack after putting on the uniform

CLEANING

Each student will be fitted and assigned various pieces of their uniform. These uniforms are very expensive, difficult to replace, and have to last at least for 15 more years or more (brand new last year). Students will be financially responsible for each piece of the uniform. Damage to or loss of any part of the uniform due to negligence on the part of the student will result in full replacement charges (see below). This includes dry cleaning if the stains are excessive from unnecessary events (such as spilled food or drink from the concession stand, kneeling or sitting after rain, etc). The student is to notify a uniform parent if anything happens to their uniform so they can assess the damage and possibly fix it, give guidance, or decide if it will need to be cleaned.

1. There will be two uniform cleanings provided by the band. One cleaning will occur during the marching season and the other after the season is over. The band takes care of this. If, due to negligence it needs to be cleaned prior to the end of marching season, the parent is responsible for this.
2. Every effort will be made to put your student in a uniform that fits, but the uniforms are not tailor made to fit. Hemming will be done by the uniform parents and a sewing committee. If alterations need to be made throughout the season the student needs to advise the uniform coordinator as soon as possible.

Uniform Replacement Cost:

Shako (hat) **\$40.00**

Plume **\$15.00**

Jacket **\$300.00**

Bibber **\$150.00**

Shako Box **\$35.00**

Garment Bag **\$20.00**

Uniform Cleaning cost: **\$150**

Attendance Policy

Band is a performance based class of which EVERY students' consistent attendance is essential for the success of the entire ensemble!

-WB Band Directors

Band Class Attendance & Participation

Absences and early dismissals from band during regular scheduled class time will be recorded in PowerSchool based on documentation provided to the attendance office. If a student has an excused or unexcused absence or dismissal from school, the same will be recorded for band class. Duplicate documentation is not necessary. However, communication to the directors is always appreciated. If a student sits out for more than 15 minutes in a rehearsal without providing a doctor's note, that will be considered an "unexcused absence".

After School & Band Performance Attendance

The band schedule is provided in advance to avoid conflicts. Attendance is essential for success! Regularly scheduled appointments should be scheduled to NOT conflict with performances and rehearsals. If a conflict of time cannot be avoided, notes for a pre-arranged absence from a rehearsal and performance MUST be submitted to the directors in writing at least two days prior to a rehearsal or performance. Excused absences will be determined at the directors' discretion. To be considered an excused absence, documentation is needed upon return for emergency doctor visits and absences for illness. If a student sits out for more than 15 minutes in a rehearsal without providing a doctor's note, that will be considered an "unexcused absence".

Excused Absences WITH documentation provided:

- An excused absence from school (see student handbook for specific situations)
- An emergency including illness, injury, death in the family, etc. with proper notification in writing
- Appointments with unavoidable rehearsal time conflicts with proper notification in writing



Procedure for Excused absences - Fill out the [WB Bands Absence Notification Form](#) AND turn in any documentation to a director.

Unexcused Absences & tardies are not tolerated and the consequences are as follows:

1st offense - written notification to student and parent contact email/phone call. -

2nd offense - written notification to student and parent contact email/phone call and the loss of third quarter break during football season.

3rd offense - written notification to student and parent contact email/phone call, loss of 3rd quarter break, and loss of performance privileges on Friday Night.

**All offenses could result in a reduction to the overall performance grade.

**Students will still need to be in attendance for performances even if they are not performing as a result of the above policy in order to avoid further consequences.

**Excessive excused and unexcused absences may result in loss of performance privileges in all performance groups and could result in dismissal or suspension at the directors' discretion. Parents will be notified and a conference with student, parent, and directors may be scheduled.

Points will be deducted from the band lettering chart as indicated for absences.

Behavioral/Bullying/Harassment/Travel and ALL other Policies and Procedures

WBHS Bands will follow policies and procedures of the William Blount High School Student Handbook. Any violation of these policies and/or procedures will be handled accordingly through the high school administration and could result in dismissal from the WBHS Band Program.

WBHS Student Handbooks are available online at WBHS:

<https://sites.google.com/blountk12.org/wbhs-techconnect/home>

If you have any questions or would like a paper copy of the WBHS SCHOOL Student handbook please email the band directors or contact the front office at WBHS.

Band Lettering System

Band lettering is a way for students to receive recognition for their commitment and achievements in the band by earning merit points. To earn a letter, students must uphold high standards and accumulate points. This system rewards students not only during their high school years but also for life as it takes extremely hard work and dedication to play a musical instrument at the performance level. Upon reaching the designated point threshold, students will be awarded a letter and certificate initially, followed by a bar and certificate each subsequent year they meet the criteria. Students have the option to sew the letter and bars onto a jacket, create a shadow box, or find creative ways to showcase their accomplishments.

How it works:

- Each student will begin the year with the required 300 points. Students will need to maintain these points throughout the entire year within the **3 main categories**.

Attendance 100 points

- For ALL rehearsals during and after school in ALL participating ensembles of which the student is involved.
- 10 points per unexcused absence will be deducted.
- Excused absence will have no deductions with the proper documentation.

Participation 100 points

- Up to 15 points per pass-off may be deducted if music/routines are not at the expected performance level. Students will have plenty of notice of when these pass-offs will occur.
- 10 points for lost/missing music and/or drill cards
- 5 points for sitting out during marching rehearsals for more than 15 minutes without a doctor's note. Case by case basis with directors.

Code of Conduct 100

- As a student of WBHS Bands, each individual member is held highly accountable for their actions and represents the program with the highest of esteem, both away and within rehearsals and performances.
- Detention - 10 per day of detention
- In-school suspension - 50 per incident
- Out-of-School Suspension - 100 points

Opportunities and to earn extra points which may make up for deductions at the director's discretion. Color guard will present extra point ideas to the directors for approval.

Audition for Clinics:

All-East, TSSBDA, Spin, etc...(see directors for specific info)

- Add 50 points

Audition and PLACE into All-East

- Add 100 points

Attend BAND or ORCHESTRA concerts outside of WBHS of which the student does not perform:

- Add 25 points

Audition and PLACE into ALL-STATE

- Automatic letter

ROLL-OVER POINTS ARE POSSIBLE IF A STUDENT ACQUIRES MORE THAN 300 POINTS IN A YEAR. HOWEVER, ROLL-OVER POINTS WILL NOT BE USED TO MAKE UP FOR OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION.

The Directors will be keeping a record for each student and will share this record with students at the end of each quarter. If any student would like to contest or appeal a record presented at that time, they may do so by emailing the band directors before final grade is due for that term.

Communication

Clear and frequent communication is vital to the running of a successful band program, and we make information readily available to band parents and students through a variety of different resources.

Band App: The Band app is a platform for band students and parents ONLY. You will find anything you need on this app including calendars, announcements, and more! To join, please use this QR code:



Social Media: Announcements and praises will be made on the WB High School Band Social Media page.

<https://www.facebook.com/bandwbhs>

Website: The website will be a central hub for all things happening with WBHS Bands.

<https://www.wbhsband.com/>

Please check each form of communication FREQUENTLY! As news and information may change upon an emergency, these are the fastest possible forms of communication to our large program.

Director's Contact Information:

Noah Tuten
noah.tuten@blountk12.org

Deidria Tankersley
deidria.tankersley@blountk12.org

Students:

In becoming a member of this band program, I understand I must do my personal best in an attempt to attain both personal and musical success. I realize that consistent attendance of all rehearsals and performances is pertinent to my learning process and the successful operation of the program. I have read the information about the band program in the band handbook and I fully understand the consequences of my misconduct.

Please use the DIGITAL SIGNATURE: We ask that each STUDENT submit a digital signature via the Google form:

<https://forms.gle/4fWt8LyuXPTzeKDR7>



IF you need to print and sign, please let a director know and we will print a copy of the handbook for your records and allow you to sign.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Disclaimer:

Mr. Tuten and Mrs. Tankersley reserves the right to modify this band handbook at any point during the school year to allow for a fair and successful band program. Parents and students will be supplied with any changes in writing.