



**Worthington Kilbourne High School
Band Handbook
2017-2018**

Don Nathan

Director of Bands
dnathan@wscloud.org

Alex Brough

Associate Director of Bands
abrough@wscloud.org

Worthington Kilbourne High School

1499 Hard Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43235

614-450-6477

www.kilbournebands.org

Dear WKHS Band Families,

Welcome to the Worthington Kilbourne High School Band Family and congratulations on your decision to be a part of this organization. We offer 3 curricular band classes as well as 4 co-curricular high school offerings. Our goal is to offer a comprehensive band program that will help each student grow into a mature musician. The primary focus of our band is to **do everything with excellence**. You will learn to approach band, whether it be your own practicing, a sectional, a full band rehearsal or a performance with the best attitude and effort you can give. As a result, you will learn to be a team player and a vital part of the success of the entire band. We will work hard every day to prepare the best that we possibly can. It won't always be easy, but the rewards are great and the lessons you will learn will stay with you throughout your life

We have tried to cover as thoroughly as possible every facet of the band program. **Students and parents should read this handbook carefully and must sign and return the agreement on the last page upon becoming a member of the WKHS Bands each year. Band members will be expected to understand and abide by all rules and regulations.**

When you sign up for the band program you are signing up for all of the experiences that the class can offer, as well as all of the expectations. These include homework in the form of practicing regularly, active participation in class, and participation in formal concerts and other performances. The band program is a team that relies on every members' best efforts to be successful.

Band Faculty

Don Nathan - *Director of Bands*

Alex Brough - *Associate Director of Bands*

James DeFrancesco - *Phoenix Middle School*

Meg Alexis - *McCord Middle School*

Curricular Offerings

The Wind Ensemble is our premier organization. Members must demonstrate a commitment to mastery on their instruments. Wind Symphony performs music at OMEA class AA level. This group has performed at OMEA state conference, the Ohio Band Directors Clinic, and in the National Band and Orchestra Festival at Carnegie Hall. In addition, they will perform 4 – 6 concerts at the school and in the community and may perform at OMEA district and state contests. This is our newest curricular band that features a diverse collection of full band and small ensemble literature selections.

The Wind Symphony is our enhanced ensemble. Members must demonstrate a commitment to mastery on their instruments. Wind Symphony performs music at OMEA class B and A levels. In addition, they will perform 4 – 6 concerts at the school and in the community and may perform at OMEA district and state contests.

The Symphonic Band performs music at OMEA Class B or C. Members of this organization must be committed to making continuous improvement and achieving a high level of performance. Even though the difficulty level of the music is not as high as that of the Wind Ensemble/Wind Symphony, the commitment to excellence in performance of that music is the same. This ensemble will perform 4 – 6 concerts at the school and in the community and may perform at OMEA district and state contests.

Co-Curricular Offerings

Marching Band is the largest co-curricular offerings in the school. We perform at all home and away football games as well as community parades and concerts. In addition, the band may compete at OMEA and/or Mid-States contests.

Membership in the marching band is open to anyone in grades 9-12 who is currently enrolled in good standing in either of the 3 curricular bands and meets district co-curricular eligibility requirements. Color Guard members need not be enrolled in a curricular band.

Jazz Band is a “big band” consisting of saxes, trumpets, trombones, a piano, a bass, a drum-set, and a guitar. Membership is by audition. Members must be committed to attending regular rehearsals as announced. This band performs the music of Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Stan Kenton, and other jazz greats. Students will learn to play in correct jazz style and will have the opportunity to learn to improvise. The Jazz Band performs several times per year at school concerts and in the community.

Pep Band is a group for band members in grades 9-12 who perform at most home basketball games. We play between the JV and Varsity games as well as throughout the game and at halftime. The time commitment is usually very minimal requiring a practice before that evening’s game. *This ensemble is open to everyone in the curricular band program. You do not have to be a member of the Marching Band to perform with the Pep Band.*

Pit Orchestra is a group that rehearses from the end of the marching band season until the performance of the musical. Instrumentation will vary depending on the requirements of the show. Membership will be by audition or permission of the director.

Honors Groups

There are many opportunities beyond the ones listed above to further your musical growth. These opportunities include but are not limited to:

- Capital Junior Winds (grade 9)
- Columbus Youth Wind Ensemble (grades 10 – 12)
- OSU Honor Band (9-12)
- OSU Summer Band Clinic (9-12)
- Columbus Symphony Youth Orchestra (10 – 12)
- Columbus Symphony Cadet Orchestra (9 – 10)
- South Central Region Orchestra (9– 12)
- All State Band and Orchestra (9 –12)

Membership in these ensembles is usually by audition and requires a monetary commitment as well as a commitment for the required length of enrollment.

Grading Procedures and Expectations

Band is a unique course at Worthington Kilbourne. It has curricular requirements just as any other academic discipline, but it also has “out-of-class time” requirements. The strength of our band program is the consolidation of these requirements into one performance based, academic course of study. The band program is a team and every student’s participation is crucial to the overall success of each performing ensemble.

Concert Performance/Attendance

45% of overall quarter grade

Performances are viewed as major tests. A performance is a learning experience that cannot be duplicated in a rehearsal hall or practice room. A performance is an important evaluative tool. Absences from performances are only excused in the event of an extreme emergency: serious illness or hospitalization of the student, death in the family, religious holiday, or other reasons deemed excusable by the director(s). Except in rare emergencies, the band director(s) must approve all absences from performances or rehearsals IN ADVANCE. Students are expected to remain until the end of the concert for that evening. This promotes an atmosphere of support and camaraderie among the bands.

Daily Participation

30% of overall quarter grade

Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory, whether they be class time or special after school rehearsals. Excessive rehearsal absences will undoubtedly affect a student’s performance. Rehearsals are not optional. They are reflected in the student’s daily grade. Students are expected to play in class on a daily basis. Any student who is unable to play in class due to personal illness is expected to bring in a note from their parent stating their expected return to the ensemble. A note is also required for all instrument repairs. If your instrument is not in working order, please show it to one of the directors before taking it to the shop. Sometimes a director can fix minor problems without the time and expense of taking the instrument to a music store.

Class Preparation (Homework)

15% of overall quarter grade

Homework for band is primarily practicing your music. On rare occasion, written homework may be assigned as well. A student should be consistently prepared for class (music prepared and practiced, having instrument, music, a pencil, and other needed items such as mutes, reeds, sticks and mallets).

Sectional/ Individual Performances

10% of overall quarter grade

Sectional performances are an opportunity to evaluate the students in small ensembles or individually to get a more accurate idea of the progress of each student. These are not meant to embarrass any student but to aid them be better prepared for the next rehearsal or concert. These may be announced or unannounced.

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE IS ESSENTIAL!!
*Commitment to excellence in musical performance is preparation
for commitment to excellence in life.*

Grading Scale used by WKHS Bands

A=100 - 90
B=89-80
C=79-70
D=69-60
F=59 and below

Attendance Expectations

A. Excused Absence

If you miss a concert/rehearsal **and** it is excused, you may be required to play your concert music for a director as a solo performer upon returning. You must seek out the director to arrange this time. You may be required to listen to a recording of the concert and give a detailed critique. In addition, projects that equal the length of time that the other students spent performing the concert may be necessary. Excused absences without makeup work **will** result in the lowering of your final quarter grade.

B. Unexcused Absence

If you miss a concert/rehearsal **and** it is unexcused, you will receive a grade of “F” for that portion of your quarter grade. There is no makeup for an unexcused absence. Two or more unexcused absences may result in removal from the band program.

C. Conflicts

Scheduling conflicts between band, choir, theater, athletics, and other school related activities will be avoided whenever possible. Should a conflict arise, please notify both directors and/or coaches immediately. At that time, the directors/coaches will work to come up with a mutually agreed upon solution. Please do this as early as possible. Give All involved parties the opportunity to work it out. If you come to us at the last minute and it is determined that enough time could have prevented this, it may affect your overall grade if you miss the concert.

D. “Too ill to participate”

Band is a participation class. If you are feeling too ill to participate then you may be asked to take notes during rehearsal and turn them into the director at the end of class, or you may be given some project to earn your daily grade. If you are too ill to perform this, you will be sent to the school nurse. These projects do not count towards your completion of your quarterly service credit. Daily rehearsals and concerts make up the major part of the grade and cannot be duplicated. Should you not be able to attend a rehearsal or a concert, please notify a director in advance. If you become ill between the time school is

out and the concert, the parent can call the band office at 614-883-2615 and leave a message.

Absences from a class must follow the policies and procedures set by WKHS in the Student Handbook. **WORK AND NON-SANCTIONED, NON-SCHOOL CONFLICTS ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES.** School athletic events that have been cleared by a director and the coaches are excused as long as prior notice has been given. Make sure to check **ALL** your calendars. Many times it is possible to participate in both on the same night if time is given to work things out.

General Guidelines

Daily Class Procedures (all bands)

Students are required to know and observe all WKHS student code of conduct expectations.

Students are required to be prepared for each rehearsal with your instrument (in proper working order), music, AND A PENCIL every day. When you enter the room for rehearsal, please get set up quickly. Rehearsal will start 3 minutes after the tardy bell to give you time to get yourselves set up properly. If you are not ready to go when the director starts class you may be marked tardy.

Refrain from excessive talking during rehearsals. An air of camaraderie is important and class should be fun, but abuse of talking wastes time and energy.

Do not bring other books into the rehearsal area. Place book bags out of the way of the lockers and not in the middle of the percussion section. Work from another class is not to be done during band time.

Facility

Food, gum, candy, and beverages (other than water) are not allowed in the band room. It is the responsibility of ALL OF US to keep the area clean. If we all do a little, no one has to do a lot.

Each student is provided a locker and lock in the band room for the purpose of keeping your instrument safe and off the floor. **ALWAYS KEEP VALUABLE (PURSES, I-PODS, ETC) LOCKED IN YOUR LOCKER!!** Theft of money from purses and electronics is common when items are left unsecured. There are many people that use the band room after hours, so in order to maintain the safety and security of the instruments and our facility, locks need to be locked at the end of each rehearsal. Lockers are for your band related items. Please do not keep your closet or a personal textbook library in your locker. **Only band department locks are permitted to go on band area lockers.**

Please do not write or draw on music stands. Also, please do not lean or sit on them. Many of them are loose and no longer hold up the music because of past abuse. Treat them with respect.

Music and Folders

The music that is issued is property of the Worthington Schools. Musical arrangements are published with a certain number of parts and are only complete when all parts are returned. You are responsible for returning your music in good condition. You will be expected to pay for replacement of lost or damaged music.

All sections/students are given folders to keep the music and a slot to keep the folder. Lost music is not the directors' responsibility. Music is not to be left on stands after rehearsals. Please make sure that you place the folder in the correct slot and not in your locker. Students that wish to have their own practice copies need to see a director individually.

Instruments

ALL INSTRUMENTS, whether personal or school owned, must have an id tag. School-owned instruments are rented each year and become the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. There is a rental fee of \$40.00, which is used to maintain and repair school instruments. This fund is for normal wear and tear. Students will be responsible for any damage caused by abuse or neglect.

Always show the director your instrument before taking it in for repairs. Remember that horseplay can cause damage to instruments and equipment.

PLEASE LEAVE THE REPAIRS TO THE PROFESSIONALS!!

There are many people that are handy with tools but only a few that actually have the right tools for this kind of job. Instrument repair is tricky and needs to be handled by properly trained people with the proper tools. PLEASE send the instruments to THOSE people. Sometimes a reasonably cheap repair can be a **very** costly replacement if not done correctly. Never play around with or play on anyone else's instrument. This includes the school owned percussion as well as the guard equipment. Individual instruments must always be maintained in top playing condition. Be careful with your instrument. Place it out of harm's way if it is necessary for you to put it down. Leaving an instrument on a chair or the floor and walking away is NEVER a good idea.

Percussion

Please make sure that ALL equipment is covered and placed properly in its assigned spot. It is the responsibility of ALL the percussionists to keep the percussion room clean and orderly.

Traveling and Trips

Traveling to and from school events:

There will be times when the bands travel to off campus venues. It is the Worthington Board policy that all students participating in school sponsored events ride to and from the event on school busses. This includes students that have reached their 18th birthday. In the event that a student cannot travel on the bus, **a parent or guardian must sign a note and that parent MUST DRIVE the student to and from the event.**

A student who is going home with a parent after an event must have a note signed by the parent turned in to a director. The student and parent must physically find a director before you leave and show that you are leaving with your parent. On bus trips, all Worthington Schools bus rules will be in effect and the bus driver is in charge at all times. Attendance will be taken on each bus so please do not switch or ask if you can switch to another bus.

Large ensemble trips

There will be times when the bands take large trips. This may be any performing ensemble under the umbrella of the WKHS Band Program. These trips are designed to further the education of the students and enhance their performance experience. They are performance based educational opportunities. While fun is always the goal, it is important to remember that we are there to do a job and not just have a vacation. Large trips are never required. If you cannot participate, a note from a parent stating the reason must be given to a director. Refunds for trip payments will be issued when possible. Sometimes a non-refundable deposit is necessary. Fundraising opportunities are always available to help defray the cost of large trips. It is the Worthington Schools policy that no student is **required** to participate in a fundraiser. They are simply offered for additional help.

When these trips happen, a detailed itinerary will be give with all hotel & contact information. There will be release and medical forms that will need to be turned in as well as a payment schedule.

The 4-Year Trip

This is usually a large trip and requires much advance planning. Some trips will be open to all students in the program, while others may be limited to students who are members of select ensembles (i.e. a trip to perform at a bowl game would only be open to marching band members) *To be eligible for a trip, students must be currently in good standing in the band program, and meet all requirements set forth by the Worthington Schools co-curricular handbook regarding student eligibility.*

The “In-Between” Wind Ensemble Trip

In the middle year between the four-year trips, the curricular bands may take a trip to perform at a special concert venue and/or for esteemed adjudicators. In 2008 and 2012 the Wind Ensemble performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Calendar

Since a calendar is a “living” document, rather than publish a calendar here, we are asking you to direct your web browser to www.kilbournebands.org and click on the “calendar” link. The web calendar includes performances and important dates and is updated frequently.

Uniforms

Symphonic Band

Boys: Tuxedo (rented from the boosters), black socks, black shoes, white pleated tux shirt.

Girls: Dress (rented from the boosters), black, closed-toe dress shoes purchased from the boosters.

RENTAL COST: \$40, made payable to Worthington Band Boosters

Wind Symphony

Boys: Tuxedo (rented from the boosters), black socks, black shoes, white pleated tux shirt.

Girls: Black concert dress (rented from the boosters), black hose & black, closed-toe dress shoes purchased from the boosters, white pearl necklace

RENTAL COST: \$40, made payable to Worthington Band Boosters

Wind Ensemble

Boys: Tuxedo (rented from the boosters), black socks, black shoes, white pleated tux shirt.

Girls: Black concert dress (rented from the boosters), black hose & black, closed-toe dress shoes purchased from the boosters, white pearl necklace

RENTAL COST: \$40, made payable to Worthington Band Boosters

Jazz Band

Members will be expected to purchase a black shirt with the WKHS Jazz logo. The boosters will collect money and order forms and obtain the shirts for you.

Solo & Ensemble Performances

Dress in nice clothes appropriate for the type of professional setting in which you will perform.

Marching Band

You will be instructed to wear either the summer or the winter uniform.

All rented uniforms are property of the WKHS Band Boosters and need to be properly cared for. Unless otherwise directed, rented dresses and tuxedos must be turned in at the conclusion of each concert

Contract and File Information

Please complete and return this form with uniform rental fee (\$40) by Friday, August 25th. Returning this signed contract is considered a homework assignment and will count toward your grade.

(Please print legibly)

STUDENT NAME _____

GRADE _____

STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESS _____

PARENT(S) NAME(S) _____

EMAIL _____

EMAIL _____

Please list secondary parent information (if needed)

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

Our family has read, understands, and agrees to abide by ALL of the material expressed in the WKHS Band Handbook. We have looked at the current band schedule posted at kilbournebands.org and acknowledge that all of the rehearsals and performances stated therein are required for full participation and credit.

PARENT
SIGNATURE _____

STUDENT
SIGNATURE _____