

WINNETONKA HIGH SCHOOL

2011-2012 Manual

Pride Band Handbook

ATTENDANCE:

One of the most important non-musical skills band will teach is the skill of punctuality. We have to have you here in order to operate. This is a group activity! Attendance is expected at all performances, all rehearsals, and any additional sectional or before school rehearsals that may be called throughout the year. All you need to remember is this, "If you're on time you are LATE!" The expectation is that we start at the actual start time and not 5 minutes after it.

ABSENCE REPORTING AND EXCUSAL

Certain absences are excused as per school policy. The Pride Band follows the same policy as the school when it comes to absence excusal. The band will excuse a personal illness, death in the family, or another school activity. However, an absence MUST be in writing as soon as possible. Email works great for informing a director of this. If you are going to miss a performance and the Director does not know about it in advance, a phone call from a parent must be made the day of the absence. Directors have the final say as to what is excused or unexcused.

GRADING

Grading in the band program will be based on the following categories: Daily Participation, Performance Tests, as well as Performance Participation.

Daily Participation

- Having all the required materials for class (instrument, music, marching supplies, pencil)
- Being actively engaged in the betterment of the ensemble
- Being on time to class, sectionals, and early morning rehearsals

Performance Tests

- Music Memory tests (marching season)
- E-Tests (performance tests during concert season)
- Drill tests
- Scale Tests
- Theory Tests

Performance Participation

- Being ready for every downbeat and warm-up of performances
- Having all parts of your uniform and performance materials

ELIGIBILITY

In order for you to compete or perform in any MSHSAA event, you must be "eligible". Eligibility requirements are the same in this group as any other extracurricular or co-curricular activity. If you fail to maintain the required grade point average or fail classes you will not be able to perform. All other school policies regarding extracurricular activities apply to band also. Participation in Marching Band is a privilege and if grades are not met in core classes then membership will not be allowed. Also all marching band students need to have a MSHSAA commitment form on file in the WHS Activities office.

SUMMER BAND CAMP

The summer band camp is an intense and physically demanding couple of weeks. The temperatures are often the hottest of the summer and there is no shade on the field. It is taxing on the body and the brain. During this camp, the band will learn all of its show music, pre-game music, drum cadences / cheers, color guard routines, marching fundamentals, and some of the drill to the field show. It is important for the band's success (and your survival) that you follow some of these helpful tips:

1. Wear light colored and lightweight clothing.
2. Bring a full water bottle to every rehearsal.
3. No sandals or flip-flops. A comfortable pair of tennis shoes is best.
4. Wear sunscreen.
5. Avoid heavy or greasy foods while we are on break. Drink water or sports drinks and eat lots of fruits. Stay away from carbonated drinks.

INSTRUMENT POLICY

If you use a school owned instrument during the school year you will need to pay the \$20.00 maintenance fee. If something breaks or won't play. Do NOT take it in to get repaired without seeing a director first. Do not let other people play your instrument. If someone else breaks an instrument that is checked out to you, you will pay to have it replaced or repaired. If you own your own instrument, keep it well maintained. IF IT'S YOURS, TAKE CARE OF IT. IF IT'S NOT YOURS, DON' T TOUCH IT.

Keep all supplies handy at all times (i.e. reeds, oil, slide grease, etc).

UNIFORM POLICY

The uniform is to be worn in its entirety unless otherwise instructed.

1. Jacket and pants will never touch the ground; these should be on your body or on a hanger.
2. No smoking, drinking, or cursing in uniform.
3. Uniform jacket needs to be completely on or carried over your arm. Pants need to be zipped up.
4. Alterations will be done with director approval only.
5. Specific guidelines for women: Minimal makeup. Only small stud earrings are allowed – large spacer earrings will need to be removed. Hair that falls to the shoulders needs to be pulled back under the hat.
6. Specific guidelines for men: Only small stud earrings are allowed – large spacer earrings will need to be removed. Facial hair is allowed as long as it is trimmed and neat. Hair that falls past the shoulders needs to be pulled back under that hat.

LETTERING

With participation in Pride band comes the opportunity to letter. A Band "Letter" is something that is awarded for a student who goes above and beyond the basic requirements for membership in the group. A band letter can be achieved several different ways. See attached form for requirements. Color guard also has the opportunity to letter based on the attached color guard form.

BAND TRAVEL RULES

All Winnetonka discipline policies and procedures are in effect.

Reminders:

- Loud, noisy, rude, profane, or immoral behavior is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.
- Use or possession of any controlled drug or alcoholic beverages is not allowed.
- Use or possession of tobacco is not allowed.
- Sloppy dress is detrimental to the image of the band.
- Bus clean up will be the responsibility of EVERYONE ...
- Parents/chaperones should be treated with utmost respect ... they are volunteering for YOU!
- Time schedules are made (and usually printed) for you ... stick to them.

TRANSPORTATION POLICY

All students of the Winnetonka School System will be transported by bus to and from required band activities off school grounds. If a student is transported in any other manner to a required band activity, they will need written permission signed by a parent/guardian. This written permission needs to be IN A DIRECTOR'S POSSESSION prior to the activity. Parents/guardians may also see a director face-to-face at an event and "sign their child out".

LEADERSHIP

Any school organization must have a strong student leadership group to be successful. These spots are interviewed the prior school year. This is comprised of Drum Majors and Section Leaders. Those interested in leadership positions in the future should start thinking about it now.