



WHITE PINE BANDS



2024 - 2025

**White Pine Bands - High School
Student & Parent Handbook**

www.whitepinebands.com



Welcome To White Pine Bands

We Believe:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in school music.
- Music is an integral part of a student's intellectual and emotional development.
- Band develops self-discipline, positive work habits, and group skills necessary for success in life.
- By achieving high quality standards in Band, high quality standards will transfer into all other areas of the students' lives.
- Band offers creative and aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- Students' social skills, self-esteem, and positive attitudes are developed through Band and Instrumental Music.
- Band affords an emotional and expressive release during the day.
- Band teaches students to strive for excellence in all areas.
- In order to achieve greatness, you have to **WANT** it. **YAGOTTAWANNA**

————— **Remember** —————

Everything you do in White Pine Bands is important, which in turn makes YOU important.
Excellence is attained through this attitude, and it is this attitude that is the basis of

————— **The White Pine Band Program** —————



Mission Statement

The White Pine Band Program

"Academic excellence, artistic achievement and professionalism in performance are our goals. We strive to promote citizenship, scholarship and musicianship while helping students to realize their full potential as musicians and individuals, in all facets of their lives. "



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Meet The Directors

Zebulon M. Bellon, M.M., A.B.D.

Director of Bands, White Pine County School District

B.M. Music Education & Oboe, University of Nevada

M. M. Music Education & Wind Conducting, Northwestern State University

D.M.A. Candidate, Wind Conducting, Texas Tech University

CONTACT: zebulon.bellon@wpcnvadmin.com



Zebulon M. Bellon is a native of Nevada, and graduate of White Pine High School! Mr. Bellon is extremely excited to be back in his hometown and is looking forward to giving back to the school district and community that helped shape his love for music and education.

After leaving Ely, Mr. Bellon attended the University of Nevada for his undergraduate education, where he served as Drum Major for the Nevada Wolf Pack Marching Band and performed as an oboist in the Nevada Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Undergraduate Scholarship Wind Quintet, and various other ensembles. Mr. Bellon began his graduate education at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, where he also served as a graduate teaching and research assistant. As part of his duties, he assisted in all facets of the university band program including the Northwestern Wind Symphony and the 300+ member "Spirit of Northwestern" Marching Band. He also assisted in teaching undergraduate coursework in wind literature, instrumental methods, music education, and conducting. At Northwestern, Mr. Bellon was part of performances at the Music for All Southern Regional Concert Festival, NCAA Tournament, and a performance with the internationally known Boston Brass. While completing his DMA coursework at Texas Tech University, Mr. Bellon conducted research related to wind band, assisted with undergraduate wind conducting and music education courses, and assisted with all facets and ensembles of the TTU band program. These included the nationally-renown Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the 450+ member "Goin' Band from Raiderland," the largest collegiate marching band in the United States. While at Tech, Mr. Bellon participated in performances at the NCAA Tournament, the Big 12 Tournament, the College Band Directors National Association, and the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago Illinois, as well as the production of studio recordings of Urban Requiem by Michael Colgrass and Avner Dorman's Ellef Symphony.

Mr. Bellon has taught in band programs of all levels across the United States, both as a director and as a visiting instructor. High school bands under Mr. Bellon's direction have received consistent superior ratings and accolades that include numerous sweepstakes awards, numerous students selected to honor, all state, and all-northwest ensembles, the US Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award. His ensembles have been selected to perform in FBS bowl game appearances, appearances at the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade, appearances at the Disney Magic Music Days Festival, USBands Grand Champion Awards, and both division placements and finals appearances at Bands of America Regional Championships. As a high school director, Mr. Bellon also worked with Drum Corps International to revive and host "DCI Drums Along the Rockies" in Boise, ID. Mr. Bellon frequently serves as a clinician, adjudicator, and consultant with band programs across the Western, Midwest, and Southern US.

Mr. Bellon's research interests include French music of the late Romantic and Early 20th Century, religious symbology in music, contemporary wind band music, the commissioning and performance of new works adding to the expansion of the wind band repertoire, the promotion and inclusion of works by minority composers, social justice in classical music, and cultural appropriation in wind music. His primary teachers include Dr. Sarah McKoin, Dr. Jeffrey Mathews, Dr. A.G. McGrannahan III, Dr. Lauryn Salazar, R.Alan Sullivan, and Andrea Lenz. Mr. Bellon holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Nevada and a Master of Music degree in Wind Conducting & Music Education from Northwestern State University. He is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting at Texas Tech University. He holds membership in the College Band Directors National Association, Nevada Music Educators Association, New Mexico Music Educators Association, Texas Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, California Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity, and Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society. As an oboist, some of his experiences include performances with the Lake Tahoe Symphony Orchestra, Toccata Chamber Orchestra, the Ruby Mountain Symphony Orchestra, the Reno Wind Symphony, the Nevada Winds, and "Concordia Santa Fe" Wind Symphony.

Mr. Bellon's responsibilities include teaching Beginning Band Flutes, Beginning Band Clarinets, Middle School Woodwind Sectionals, High School Brass & Woodwind Sectionals, Directing the High School Wind Ensemble, Directing the High School Athletic Bands, and administering the entire 6-12 Band Program.

Ben C. Foster, B.M.

Associate Director of Bands, White Pine County School District

B.M. Music Education, Harding University

CONTACT: ben.foster@wpcnvadmin.com



Ben Foster is proud to serve as Associate Director of Bands for White Pine County School District. Prior to moving to Ely, he taught in TX, in Dallas, Ferris, Andrews, and Red Oak, and performed in the DFW metroplex with the Dallas Asian Winds and Arlington Community Band. He has participated in concerts with artists including Journey's Steve Smith and Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez, performed at Carnegie Hall and other significant venues, and for important figures such as previous Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Mr. Foster attended Rockwall-Heath High School, where he earned superior ratings at UIL State Solo & Ensemble every year under the guidance of percussionists James Gist, Andrew Eldridge, and Rod Kosterman. He completed his bachelor's degree at Harding University in Searcy, AR, where he graduated cum laude with a degree in instrumental music education in the spring of 2014. There he studied percussion under Wesley Parker and performed in many ensembles including wind ensemble, orchestra, percussion ensemble, jazz band, Bison Pep Band, and the Thundering Herd Marching Band, in which he served as Drum Major. During this time, Mr. Foster also exhibited twice at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PASIC) in a bass drum ensemble and in the 50th Anniversary Marimba Orchestra with musicians from all over the world, which was "life-changing". Additionally, he played as part of the Little Rock Wind Symphony under the direction of Karen Fannin, twice took part in the annual ASBOA Intercollegiate Band, and taught private percussion and piano lessons through the Searcy Community School of Music.

When Mr. Foster is not teaching music, he enjoys spending time outside, playing video games, quilting, writing, and hanging out with his two rescue cats, Coda and Lucas.

Mr. Foster's responsibilities include teaching Beginning Band Trumpets, Beginning Band Trombone, Middle School Brass & Percussion Sectionals, Directing the Middle School Varsity Band, Directing the Middle and High School Percussion Ensembles, assisting with the High School Athletic Bands, and assisting with the overall 6-12 Band Program.



Welcome Letter

August, 2024

Dear WPHS Band Students, Parents & Families,

Welcome to the White Pine Band Program! White Pine has a long, amazing history of highly successful bands spanning over 100 years. It is our sincerest hope that we will be able to use our experience and education to help restore the luster of our historic band program. The public face of our band program is right here at WPHS. The opportunities for leadership, college, teamwork, scholarship, and life-skills that a successful band program can offer our students are endless.

The best band programs in the United States all share an important quality: Direct, heavy, family and community involvement. I hope that, over the course of the year, you will find ways to become involved in our Parent Booster Organization, performances, fundraisers, plans, and travel. The best way to stay involved with our program is to check our website www.whitepinebands.com regularly and attend band monthly booster meetings (our boosters can be reached directly at wpbandboosters23@gmail.com).

The exciting events on our calendar take time, energy and a small army to accomplish – but what they do for our students make it worth it! There are many areas in which family and community members can be involved. I hope that you will consider volunteering for our program and sharing your individual strengths, and talents.

Please feel free to email us if you have any questions about our band program, or questions about how to get involved! I look forward to getting to know and working alongside all of you to help ensure the success and growth of White Pine Bands and our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zebulon M. Bellon'.

Zebulon M. Bellon, M.M.
Director of Bands, White Pine County School District
D.M.A. Candidate in Wind Conducting, Texas Tech University
zebulon.bellon@wpcnadmin.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben C. Foster'.

Ben C. Foster, B.M.
Associate Director of Bands, White Pine County School District
ben.foster@wpcnadmin.org



Attendance Expectations

- Students are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and ALL performances of the group in which they are a member. Failure to attend required rehearsals and/or performances is unacceptable unless it is an extreme emergency. Extreme emergency is defined as severe illness/hospitalization or a death in the immediate family.
- Unlike assignments for core classes such as English and Math, it is not possible to “make up” a rehearsal or performance. This is because each individual’s musical contribution is crucial to the success of the entire group – being in band is a team commitment. The band directors must approve all absences **IN ADVANCE** if they are to be considered “excused.” The full calendar for the 2024-2025 school year is on www.whitepinebands.com – please look it over carefully. Additional required events will not be added to the calendar after the school year has begun, and any necessary changes (for example an event rescheduled due to inclement weather) will be communicated as early as possible.
- In order for an absence to be considered for excuse, notice must be given according to the following timeline:
 - **Weekly After-School Sectional** – One Full Week Prior
 - **After-School Dress Rehearsal** – Two Full Weeks Prior
 - **Concert or Festival Performance** – Beginning of The 24-25 School Year – This is very serious and must be fully planned. It must be communicated **no later than Friday 9/6** for consideration for excusal/continued participation to be made.
- **An EXCUSED absence** is one that the directors have prior knowledge of and/or is based upon an acceptable reason (ex. illness, death in the immediate family, long-planned event communicated at beginning of school year). **An UNEXCUSED absence** is one that the director has no prior knowledge of and/or is based upon a reason that is unacceptable to the director. No-call, no-show is not okay – this is a life skill that band students know well.
- **In the case of ANY absence (excused OR unexcused)**, the student will have the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment that will be given by the director. The alternate assignment for each situation is as follows:
 - For an **excused** rehearsal/sectional absence, the student will have to show competency of missed work within one week of the missed sectional/rehearsal. A student will be asked to check this off with a director at lunch, before school, or after school.
 - For an **excused** performance absence, the student will have to complete an assignment roughly seven pages in length, and will be asked to prepare a solo performance to be part of the next concert or an in-school event.
 - For an **unexcused** rehearsal/sectional absence, the student will have to complete an assignment no less than three pages in length, and they will also still be required to show competency of missed work within one week of the missed sectional/rehearsal. A student will be asked to check this off with a director at lunch, before school, or after school.
 - For an **unexcused** performance absence, a student will be given a choice: To leave the program, or complete an assignment one page in length for every rehearsal leading up to that performance (for example, 30 school days and 10 sectionals = 40 page written assignment), in addition to preparing a solo performance. An unexcused absence from a performance represents a **very serious violation of commitment and trust to the entire ensemble** – the alternate assignment is representative of the severity of this circumstance.
- **Consequences of Absences:**
 - If a student has an unexcused absence from a rehearsal and does not complete their alternate assignment, it will result in a grade of ZERO for that week.
 - If a student has an unexcused absence from a performance and does not complete their alternate assignment, it will result in removal from the band program for the remainder of the school year.
 - Additionally, habitual absences, tardiness, or a lack of effort that impact the learning experience of the entire ensemble through a student being unprepared may result in a student not being allowed to perform, or removal from the program – every student’s part is important and, therefore, we need every student present and prepared to contribute.
- We do understand that very occasional extreme emergency instances can come up. In such a case, it is essential communicate with the band directors via email immediately so that a resolution can be made. Whenever possible, the directors will always work with you! Communication is key!



Behavior Expectations

To provide and protect an enjoyable and productive learning environment for all students, the following expectations must be adhered to, by all students, always:

1. Enter the band hall quietly and get ready for class as quickly as possible.
2. We only warm up and play as a group, during rehearsal – individual practice happens outside of class time, not during group rehearsal. Individual playing is not allowed in the band hall unless it is asked for by the director.
3. There is no talking, without permission, while the director or visiting teachers are working with the class.
 - If you ever have a question – raise your hand silently and wait to be called upon.
4. Be seated, with all required materials ready to go, by the time the metronome starts. The metronome and warm-up will begin exactly two minutes after the tardy bell. Any students not seated, with their equipment, participating in warm-ups at this time will be marked tardy.
5. Any student who does not have their required class materials will be given one warning. A second or subsequent violation will result in the student being marked absent from class – if they are not prepared, they cannot participate in rehearsal and are, therefore, absent.
6. All musical sounds stop when the conductor or teacher stops.
 - Any sound, musical or non-musical, which disrupts learning for others in the classroom will not be tolerated.
7. Respect all people and property.
 - Any form of rudeness or disrespect towards staff or fellow students will be dealt with quickly and without prejudice.
 - Your instrument belongs to you and no one else – do not let others handle your instrument. Likewise, do not touch equipment or items that belong to other people. Percussionists are the only students allowed to handle percussion equipment. Musical equipment is extremely expensive and delicate, and must be treated with respect – to put it simply “you break it, you bought it.”
8. No food, drink, or gum allowed in the band room.
 - These can not only damage band instruments, but also pose a choking hazard and affect their ability to play correctly.
 - Chewing gum, eating, and drinking non-water beverages can also lead to mold, rust and bacteria in instruments that can pose a serious health hazard to students using them.
 - If students eat lunch or a snack PRIOR to band rehearsal, it is important that they thoroughly rinse their mouths and wash their hands before playing their instrument.
 - Water in a closed container is permitted, and is the only form of beverage allowable in rehearsal. If a student wants to drink water, they need to be prepared with a water bottle. They will not be allowed to get up and leave class for water – it is too disruptive to rehearsal.

Consequences for not following behavior and procedure expectations will be:

1. Immediate Teacher Warning
2. Pack-Up, Parent Phone Call or Email
3. Teacher/Student conference, Parent Phone Call or Email
4. Detention, Parent/student/teacher conference
5. Class suspension with office referral, possible removal from program

Any student-specific, alternative, or intermediate corrective action needed will be discussed with students, parents, and/or campus administration. It is understood that students are individual human beings, not every student is the same, and many students have outside-of-school factors that can come into play during the school day. With this said, a base-line of behavior and decorum is necessary for our bands to be successful, which is what provides positive experiences and opportunities for our students. Communication from home to the school is key in finding solutions that allow struggling students to be both healthy and successful in our program.

The use of cell phones, smart watches, earpods, headphones, hats, and hoods are not permitted in class unless specifically expressed by the band directors.



Grading Procedures

Members of the White Pine High School Band Program will be graded on attendance, participation, attitude, preparedness, homework, and achievement (also known as performances & playing tests). These are the necessary components of an excellent music education. As a **Co-Curricular Class** (as opposed to an extra-curricular or core curricular), band requires commitments (rehearsals, events, performances) that fall both during and outside of the normal school day. By choosing to participate in band, this is something that each student and their family agrees to.

WPHS Bands Traditional Percentage Grading Scale: 0 – 5.9 = F, 6 - 6.9 = D, 7 - 7.9 = C, 8 - 8.9 = B, 9 – 10 = A.

Student course grades will be built on the following:

- **Participation & Preparation (50%):** Includes bringing required materials to class, and weekly class/sectional attendance,
- **Performance Grades (50%):** Includes performances. This component is pass/fail – this means that a single missed performance will result in a ZERO for 50% of the course grade. **Please note this will result in automatic failure of the course and removal from the program.** Students cannot miss performances.

Instruments should go home with students every evening and be brought back each day for rehearsal. Instruments must be taken home in order for students to complete their homework practice assignments. Students will be expected to practice regularly in order to maintain embouchure and muscle strength, muscle memory, and in order to prepare parts. Students will be given practice assignments to complete – for some students they may require more practice time than others to complete.

Playing tests and chair tests will occur for all band students. Playing tests come in two forms – 1) Part Checks (which may be a pop-quiz and are a simple pass/fail that are designed to check whether notes and rhythms have been learned), and planned playing tests. These provide a physical demonstration and evidence of homework practice. Any chair placements will be “blind” (this means the director will not know which student is playing until after the chair tests are concluded). If a chair test is missed for an unexcused absence, the opportunity for chair placement will be lost. Below is a brief rubric of how points are determined in playing and chair tests:

Chair & Planned Playing Test Grade Components	
Tone Quality	40
Articulation	15
Technique	15
Rhythm & Pulse	15
Musicianship	15

Students are welcome to re-attempt a playing test once to earn a higher grade. A re-attempt must occur within 1 week, and must be scheduled with the director before school, after school on a Thursday, or during intervention/advisory WITH approval from their teacher.

Students are able to challenge-up for a higher chair if they are not satisfied with their chair placement. In this case, they must notify the student they are challenging and the director. To ensure fairness for each student, the director will assign a challenge-assignment from class material, and a class time when the challenge will take place. Chair-Challenges may not take place within 30 days of a performance.



Attendance & Grading Continued

Philosophies & Details Explained

- Unlike many classes, when a student is late or absent to Band, it does not only affect that individual. It negatively affects the entire ensemble and makes it impossible for the group to rehearse or improve as a whole. This includes missing warm-up because of poor punctuality. Band is very much a GROUP activity, not an individual activity, and cannot be “made-up” individually. Time lost from a rehearsal is permanently lost for everyone involved.
- Absences and tardiness to rehearsals must be cleared with the directors **beforehand** in order to be excused, according to our timeline above. If it is not communicated, professionally, it is not excused. This is not only important for our program; it is a basic employability skill that must be learned by our students for them to be successful beyond high school.
- All students are expected to come to class and participate with a POSITIVE working attitude. Exhibiting disrespect for staff or fellow band members, or exhibiting a bad working attitude may result in the lowering of a student’s final grade or removal from the ensemble.
- Promotional and fundraising events are important to the well-being of the program as a whole, and all of its members. Funds and exposure generated at promotional events benefit the entire program and all of its students. Each student will be expected to participate in any scheduled promotional performances and fundraising events on the calendar.
- Being prepared for rehearsal means knowing your individually assigned part. Notes and rhythms in parts, as well as scales, should be learned during private practice time (homework), outside of class. Rehearsal is designed to build skills as an ensemble – it’s team practice. Group rehearsal is not a place to learn individual parts. It is expected that students arrive with their individual parts and scale assignments prepared by deadlines given by the directors. This is the homework for this course. If students are unprepared and, therefore, unable to contribute to rehearsal, this will be treated as an uncompleted assignment (just as in any class) and the student’s grade will be affected. A band is only as good as its weakest player. If one person cannot play their part, the entire band cannot perform well. If a student is having difficulty with their instrument or a specific part, they need to ask a director, a staff member, their section leader, or a private instructor for additional help. The directors and staff WILL make themselves available for students that need help.
- All students must come to rehearsals with ALL of their required equipment and materials. This includes, but is not limited to a working instrument, sticks/mallets, reed, music, pencil, etc. Arriving unprepared is equivalent to being absent and will be graded as such. If a student has a problem obtaining required equipment, they need to speak with the directors PRIOR to rehearsal to receive assistance. Simply showing up unprepared without communication is unacceptable.
- Part of being prepared means making sure that your instrument and attire are prepared. Uniforms and concert attire must be clean and presentable before a student will be allowed to perform. In addition, all metal instruments MUST be polished before each event. This is not only an important part of our reputation and presentation, but a requirement for competition at many of the festivals that our ensembles participate in.
- Outside sectionals/rehearsals are required to take place once a week, from 3:45-5:00PM on Mondays. Sectionals are run by our directors, section leaders, staff members, and private instructors. Rehearsals are led by the directors. Those individuals will take attendance at sectionals. Sectional attendance is mandatory. It is part of a student’s attendance grade and a requirement for participation in band. WPCSD will provide transportation for students needing it on these days and the directors will work with athletes to share times.
- A student may raise a low grade through extra credit. Extra credit will be awarded at the discretion of the directors for various activities including: extra private lessons, attending outside concerts/festivals, cleaning/filing/organizing duties in the band room, music-related research, or the preparation of solo performances. Other extra credit may be awarded on a case-by-case basis.

What Generally Qualifies as "Excused?"

It is important to remember that band is a group activity and missing one member affects every single student in the ensemble. The only excuses that will be accepted for absence from a performance are serious illness/hospitalization with doctor's note, death in the immediate family, wedding in the immediate family (communicated well in-advance and documented with invitation) or exceptional emergency circumstances, with documentation. This is accurately representative of the expectations that will be set-forth in a scholarship-granting collegiate program or a professional ensemble and, therefore, are the expectations of our ensemble. These circumstances must be communicated in-advance or as soon as possible after occurrence, and documentation must be provided to the Director of Bands within one week for excusal.

Band performances, rehearsal times, and camp dates will be given well in advance (often several months in advance) and will always be available on the website. Work schedules, appointments, vacations, and all other personal agendas should be scheduled around the performance and rehearsal calendar. Last minute or uncommunicated vacations, trips, conflicts, and work schedules will not be excused. Vacations, trips, appointments, and work schedules intentionally scheduled over band rehearsals and performances will, likewise, not be excused.

Conflicts with other school activities are always workable (we want students to participate in everything possible!), but must be communicated with all parties well in advance. Remember that band is a class with a grade, that affects GPA, based on performance. As such, performances will always take precedence and it is expected that students will be at performances.

The Band Directors will deal with any other conflicts or absence requests on a case-by-case basis, at their discretion. Communication is KEY! There's always a solution!

Alternate Assignments:

If a student is tardy or absent from a rehearsal or performance, they will be given the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment in order to repair their grade. **The assignment in all cases will be extensive academic writing on a relevant topic chosen by the Director of Bands.** Students will be expected to complete original research on the topic and write on it, as directed. Papers should be completed in 12-point, Times New Roman Font, and double-spaced. Students' research papers should be written using the Chicago Manual of Style (including footnotes) and should include a bibliography citing all sources (this is not included as part of the length requirement). Sources must include at least one academic or peer-reviewed example. Plagiarism and academic dishonesty (Including the use of AI) will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic failure of the alternate assignment.

- Alternate assignment academic writing will be graded on content (0.7 of assignment grade) and conformity to the Chicago Manual of Style (0.3 of assignment grade). It will be expected that assignments have been proofread for major grammatical and spelling errors. Unreadable work will be returned to the student for correction before being accepted for grading.
- The alternate assignment for being tardy to a band rehearsal (unexcused) is one half page of writing. 0.1 of total class grade.
- The alternate assignment for being absent from a band rehearsal or sectional (unexcused) or tardy to a performance call-time (unexcused) is one full page of writing. 0.5 of total class grade.
- **The alternate assignment for being absent from a performance (excused or unexcused) will be one full page of writing for every rehearsal spent on literature working towards that performance.** For example, this means that if 32 school periods and 8 after-school sectionals (roughly 8 weeks of school working toward a concert) were used to prepare for the missed performance, the student will be expected to complete a total of 40 pages of academic writing. This is because any rehearsal spent by the student working towards a missed performance will have been wasted and must be made-up.

A partially completed assignment below the total number of required pages will not be accepted. The alternate assignment is fully intended to be equivalent in work load, rigor, and preparation to the missed performance and all preparation leading up to it. Missing a performance is extremely serious and will be treated as such - 50% of total class grade.

While completing an alternate assignment for a missed performance will allow a student the opportunity to repair their grade, it will not automatically allow them the opportunity to regain their position within the ensemble. **Missing a performance represents severely damaged trust between the student and the rest of the ensemble.** Rather than preparing for remaining performances, the student will instead be given alternate work for the remainder of the semester. If they so choose, they will regain a playing position within the ensemble the following semester when they are able to start on a fresh page. Exceptions to this policy will be made on a case-by-case basis, at the discretion of the Director of Bands.



Required Materials

All students in the WPHS Band Program will need to be prepared for class every day. This is done in several ways. First and foremost, come to class having practiced your part or assignment adequately so that you will make a positive contribution to the ensemble and make individual improvement. Staying on top of your own assignments in band will help you improve on your instrument and will help the ensemble be successful!

In addition to the above, here are materials that you will need EVERY DAY:

1. A positive, "I want to learn" attitude
2. Pencil with an eraser.
3. Folder with all music, warm-ups, and handouts. A 1" Black Binder with sheet protectors is strongly recommended.
4. Instrument in good playing condition and any needed accessories (valve oil, slide grease, slide spray bottle, reeds, etc.).
5. Reed players (clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon) are expected to have three good reeds at all times, which should be rotated each time they play. A cracked reed is the same as not having an instrument.
6. Clarinet and Saxophone players will ONLY be allowed to use Vandoren "Blue Box" Reeds (the dark blue/indigo box). This is the only consistent, quality student reed and no other reed brand will be allowed. These are stocked locally at "Jay's Music Exchange" on Aultman St. They can also be purchased in boxes of 10 on Amazon.
7. Percussionists will always have (and use) their own assigned sticks/mallets that they will keep in their personal stick bag (students should have a name tag on their stick bag and their name on all sticks/mallets).
8. Students will need appropriate performance attire for concerts. This is explained in detail in the "Performance Attire" section.

***If families have difficulty in obtaining any of these items, they should notify the director immediately.**



Performance Attire (CONCERT BLACK)

For all performances, students of White Pine Bands will need to wear Solid Black "Concert Black" unless specifically told otherwise from their director. "Solid Black" means no patterns, stripes, etc. – SOLID BLACK. The point of concert black is to blend in and perform as a group, much the same as a uniform. Students should all look the same in a performance setting. This is achieved through "Concert Black."

Concert Black Includes the following:

- Visibly Clean/Good Hygiene.
- TOP: Solid Black, button-up dress shirt, with black buttons. T-shirts are not acceptable. Sweatshirts are not acceptable. It must be a formal dress shirt. Shirts must be tucked-in. Any undershirt or undergarments must be black if visible. No ties are to be worn.
- BOTTOM: Solid Black slacks or dress pants with a solid black belt. Jeans or sweatpants are not acceptable – they must be formal dress pants or slacks. Dresses are acceptable, but must be well below the knee when seated. Students will not be allowed to perform if the skirt/dress rides above the knee when seated, it is inappropriate and inconsistent with school dress code. Black stockings, nylons, or leggings are encouraged to be worn underneath dresses.
- SHOES: Solid Black, closed-toe dress shoes WITH long black socks. Short socks or exposed ankles in pants are not acceptable. Tennis shoes are not acceptable. Open-toe shoes are not acceptable. Brown or white accents are not acceptable – SOLID BLACK. Black flats are a good, cheap option for females.
- Jewelry and makeup should be minimal. Lipstick is not allowed. Small studs and permanent piercings are acceptable. No necklaces should be visible. Bracelets should be removed. Non-religious rings should be removed.
- Nails should be either solid-black or natural. French tips are allowed. Nails must be a length that allows for proper playing.
- Long hair should be up in a bun or ponytail with a BLACK hairband. All hair accessories should be solid black.

Students should let the director know immediately if they need assistance acquiring these items!

Students in inappropriate attire will NOT be allowed to perform with the band and will receive a grade of ZERO.



Medical & Dental Appointments

Please look at the calendar and schedule dentist, doctor, and orthodontist visits for times other than band class and sectionals. The isolated nature of our community can make scheduling appointments challenging, which means looking at the calendar carefully, in advance, is extremely important. If this is absolutely unavoidable (with the exception of a medical emergency), it must be communicated to the director in advance in for excusal consideration. Because of the group dynamic involved with band, all students must attend all rehearsals and performances. When someone is missing, the group is incomplete, and the entire ensemble suffers as a result.

Absences from performances due to Medical or Dental Appointments will NOT be excused. It is the responsibility of the student and family to check the calendar and plan accordingly. This is an important life skill that is affirmed through participation in band. Again, please look over the calendar carefully to avoid conflicts.

Regarding braces and orthodontia – Woodwind and brass players, if there are plans (even if only a consideration) for braces, please be mindful of the timing involved in getting them. Braces are a fact of life for many students, and should you get braces, you will continue to be successful after the first week or so of getting them. It takes time to get used to them. For this reason, we ask that you avoid have braces put on OR removed within two weeks of performances. We also ask that you avoid having braces tightened or adjusted within one week of performances. Finally, please inform the director of your early intention to get braces (or remove them) so that they can plan accordingly (this changes some of the materials and teaching approach that will be used).



Substance Policy

White Pine Bands strive to promote class and excellence in all members and, therefore, upholds a zero-tolerance drug, tobacco, vape, and alcohol policy. Any student caught using, trafficking or possessing tobacco, marijuana, illegal substances, vape, or alcohol will be immediately reported to school administration and/or law enforcement, and will be removed from the band program for the remainder of the year. This policy applies to students both on and off campus, as well as at all band and WPCSD events. Students are expected to be excellent representatives of this program at all times. This includes remaining substance-free their time at WPHS. All students must complete a consent to drug test with WPCSD in order to participate in band. Testing will occur at the beginning of each semester and randomly throughout the school year, with the school nurse.



Academic Achievement Policy

Academic excellence is a primary concern within the White Pine Band Program. It is of the highest importance to us that each student place their graduation from high school at the top of their priority list. This being the case, we have what we call a “NO PASS, NO PLAY” policy. Quite simply, that means that if a student is not passing, they will not play. This is also an eligibility requirement for many of the trips, festivals, and competitions that we participate in.

Every student must maintain passing grades in all courses, in order for guaranteed performance with White Pine Bands. If a student receives a grade lower than a C (7) they will be placed on a “watch list” for academic improvement. If this occurs during marching season, that student may be placed in alternate status (similar to being on the bench in football). In concert season, a student will be re-seated and may be removed from important parts, or placed in a noncompetitive ensemble, at the director’s discretion.

Any student who is receiving what is considered to be a failing grade (Anything lower than a D- or a 6) will not be allowed to travel or perform with White Pine Bands until their grade has improved. They will likely be assigned tutoring during class and sectional time. White Pine Band members who exhibit frequent substandard academic achievement or those who do not show demonstrable effort towards academic improvement may be removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the semester. They will may be placed into study hall/tutoring during their band class in order to better focus on their failing coursework, and will still be expected to attend performances during this time.

White Pine High School is proud to offer tutoring services on Fridays (Friday School) for students that may be struggling. We encourage any student that is having difficulties in any of their classes to contact their teachers and/or academic coordinators to take advantage of this valuable resource.



Professionalism

The White Pine Band Program will pride itself on a high level of professionalism, sportsmanship and integrity. This applies to students, staff, AND parents. Competition is fun, but we must not forget what is truly important about what we do. Hard work, discipline, endurance, graciousness (regardless of placement), developing musical appreciation and skills, and forging new friendships top our list. These things are far more important than any championship, score or trophy that we can receive. In being a part of this organization, you will find that these are the qualities our administration, directors, and staff continue to stress every day while demanding the high standards necessary for our students to reach their fullest potential. It is the duty of our parents to reinforce these ideals to our students outside of the classroom. Please remember it is equally important for our parents to show excellent sportsmanship and character as it is for our students.

Students and parents are expected to act in a professional and humble manner, in all situations. Students are expected to support each other AND our fellow musicians from other institutions. As a member of White Pine Bands, you are always representing this organization and more importantly White Pine High School and White Pine County. Please make sure you are an excellent representative.



Internet & Online Conduct

Online Posts

There are an abundance of social media platforms, apps, blogs, chat spaces, and other online forums that students and parents participate in. These include TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Tumblr, Twitter, Facebook, etc. These sites often become littered with posts that can unintentionally reflect poorly on individuals and organizations. It's apparent that some people do not realize that their personal thoughts, when subjective, controversial or inflammatory, reflect on their entire group. Unfortunately, there have been incidents, in many organizations, where someone has accidentally posted something offensive or upsetting. Even when not intended, this would be highly destructive, distracting, and off-brand for our program. The safest way to avoid criticism or scrutiny is simply NOT to post. However, if you do choose to post comments as a representative of our band, please remember that you may be speaking on behalf of the entire White Pine Band Program and we want to uphold an excellent reputation. This expectation applies to both our students and our parents.

Social Networking Policy for Students

Students WILL NOT request the "friendship" of or "follow" the personal pages of the White Pine Band Directors or any White Pine Band Staff. The directors and staff WILL NOT accept student friend requests. This policy applies to any social networking app or site.

Student & Parent Communication with Staff & Directors

All communication between students, parents, staff, and directors should take place through the official email addresses provided in this handbook. The staff and directors will not communicate with students through ANY other platform. Likewise, the staff and directors will not communicate with parents about student, band, or school-related issues through any platform other than email.

Online Media: Videos, Recordings & Digital Photos

It is natural that students and their families will want to document their experiences with White Pine Bands through photos, videos, and recordings. This is highly encouraged and is a wonderful way to look back on past experiences. However, these forms of media must remain offline. Due to the highly competitive and public nature of what we do, only the media that best represents White Pine Bands will be allowed online. We always want to show the world our best product!

Please DO NOT post ANY videos, recordings or photos of ANY White Pine Band rehearsals. This is strictly prohibited. This includes full ensemble marching & concert band rehearsals, sectionals, indoor guard rehearsals, and visual rehearsals. This ensures that our rate of progress throughout the year remains within our own community and also that our competitions outside of our community remain fair.

Please DO NOT post ANY videos, recordings or photos of ANY White Pine Band performances. Again, we only want media that best represents us making the "final cut" onto the online community. If you have media that you would like to post online, please submit it to the director for approval. If it is approved, it will be posted under the official White Pine Bands YouTube Channel, our official social media accounts, or on our website, where the original owner will be credited. This will ensure that only our best and most highly polished product is represented to the world.

Copyright Compliance

Along with representing our program in the best possible light, posting media online is often restricted for copyright reasons. In order to protect the rights of original composers and copyright owners who license their materials to White Pine Bands, we strictly prohibit the sharing of unapproved video, photo, and audio media online. This includes livestreaming. Cooperation in this is necessary for our program and its members to comply with the law.



Travel Conduct

An essential part of music education is exposure to other performing groups as well as performance beyond local events. The ensembles within the White Pine Band Program will travel frequently. In order to maintain an outstanding reputation and ensure the safety of all our students, we uphold a strict set of travel policies:

- An itinerary will be given to every student BEFORE every trip. These itineraries will generally include a schedule, emergency chaperone and staff contact information, check-in and curfew times, a list of "what to bring," and all other important information specific to that trip. Students MUST adhere by the itinerary that they are given. Failure to do so may result in a student being sent home from a trip at their parent's expense or the student being confined to their chaperone's immediate supervision.
- A permission slip will be issued for every trip that must be signed by the student's parent or legal guardian. Students MUST return their signed permission form before they will be allowed to travel.
- Students must travel to and from band events with the group, on the bus. Parents wishing to pick their students up early from an event must have a completed travel release form on file prior to their student getting on the bus. This is a legal requirement.

- Any student that becomes involved in illegal activity of any kind while traveling will be sent home IMMEDIATELY at their parent or legal guardian's expense. In addition, they will be removed from the White Pine Band program for the remainder of the semester and placed into study hall. Their future membership in the ensemble may also be prohibited.
- Any student that is arrested while traveling with the White Pine Band Program will NO LONGER BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF WHITE PINE BANDS OR WHITE PINE HIGH SCHOOL. It will be the parent or legal guardian's responsibility to deal with any and all resulting ramifications of their student's arrest including, but not limited to: travel expenses, legal fees, damage costs, and bail. Students that are arrested while traveling will be removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the semester.
- While traveling, students will be financially and legally responsible for any and all damage that occurs to hotel rooms, facilities and equipment. Property and equipment damage may lead to a student being sent home from a trip and/or being removed from the ensemble for the remainder of the semester. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the White Pine High School administration and Director of Bands.
- All trips are considered to be school events. ALL rules, regulations and policies contained within this handbook and the White Pine County School District Codes of Conduct will apply.
- An Emergency Medical Release Form MUST be on file with White Pine Bands in order for students to travel.



2024-2025 Fees & Donations

Band is an expensive activity, and having a basic budget allows us to repair equipment, purchase new equipment, buy music, bring in professional clinicians to work with our bands, and provide fun, educational experiences for our students. We are *extremely* fortunate to have a highly supportive School District, Board, Superintendent, and Principals who are committed to growing and supporting our program. Their support helps to offset the largest costs of running our growing program as it grows back into the Award-Winning program it once was.

To support this effort, we ask that each White Pine High School band student pay a "Fair-Share Fee" of \$120 for their student's participation in band. Payments can be made to the WPHS front office via cash or check. Checks should be made payable to "White Pine High School Band."

These fees will be the student's "Fair Share" of what is needed to support and improve the entire band program and all students involved. The monies will go to offset the cost of festival buses and entrance fees, our program's "Smart Music" subscription (a software our students will use throughout the year), band binders, sheet music, copies, visiting clinicians/instructors, the St. George BOA (Bands of America) Regional performance, and the maintenance of some of our large percussion instruments that benefit the performance goals of the entire band.

Band Fees are decided by the White Pine Band Boosters each spring. The Band Boosters are comprised of primarily parents and community members, and they discuss and decide fee amounts based on the needs of the program and what they decide to be a reasonable contribution from families. If you would like to be part of this process, you are encouraged to attend monthly meetings - dates can be found on our calendar at www.whitepinebands.com.

A student will never be denied membership in band due to financial hardship. Families in need should contact the directors and/or administration directly for assistance. Likewise, generous families are welcome to make donations to the program that will help offset costs for struggling families. Families are also encouraged to contact the Band Boosters at wbandboosters23@gmail.com to make donations toward student accounts and projects.



Spring 2025 Band Trip & Fundraising

This spring, the Middle School Varsity Band will be travelling with the HS Band to Los Angeles, Santa Monica Pier, Disneyland, and Universal Studios from 3/12-3/16 of 2025. In addition to performing inside Disneyland Park, the students will have the opportunity to participate in a recording session and educational clinic inside the Disney Recording Studio where movie soundtracks are created. They will also sight-see at Santa Monica Pier & Beach, spend two days with hopper-passes between Disneyland and California Adventure Park, go to a dinner at Medieval Times, and spend a day at Universal Studios Hollywood/Harry Potter World. This trip DOES NOT include our beginning band.

The cost of this trip will be \$1,400.00 per student, and the finances are being handled by the White Pine Band Boosters. The cost includes transportation, hotels, 5 meals, Disney/California Adventure tickets, and Universal Studio tickets. Our travel agent is Cavalcade USA, which specializes in school band travel. The cost of the trip can be paid to the boosters in full, or broken into 5 payments. Payment due dates for the trip are as follows:

September 26 th	- \$280
October 24 th	- \$280
November 21 st	- \$280
January 30 th	- \$280
February 27 th	- \$280 – Final Payment/Total Due

Payments should be made to the White Pine Band Boosters. Payments can be given in-person via cash or check at booster meetings, or online via PayPal. Please make checks payable to "White Pine Band Boosters." Invoices will be sent out electronically each month by the band boosters. Other arrangements can be made by contacting the boosters directly at a booster meeting (these dates are available on our calendar at www.whitepinebands.com) or by emailing them at wpbandboosters23@gmail.com.

Fundraising opportunities for this trip have been provided since May of 2024, and many students have already begun to save in their booster accounts. As the 2024-2025 school year goes on, we will be fundraising for this trip and the program needs as a whole. The band boosters will do their best to provide as many opportunities for students to raise money, as possible. They will work to provide a fundraiser for each payment, and additional fundraisers as available. These opportunities will be emailed out to parents from the directors and boosters themselves, and shared with students in class. The best way to stay informed about upcoming fundraising opportunities is to check your email regularly, check the band website regularly, and attend monthly band booster meetings. Ultimately, how much a student is able to raise through fundraising will depend on their personal drive, effort, and initiative. If students raise funds in excess of the trip cost, they may use it as spending money.

The spring tour to Los Angeles is a required performance event for our Middle School Varsity Band Students and our High School Band Students. Please understand that by choosing to participate in band, you are agreeing to attend the trip in Los Angeles and are responsible for its associated costs. If a student or family is concerned about this cost, it is their responsibility to communicate their concerns with the band directors and band boosters as early as possible and participate in fundraisers offered throughout the year. Financial assistance cannot be offered to students who do not participate in fundraising events.

Students must be in good academic standing to travel on this and all band trips. Students who are removed from the program due to eligibility, substance use, or behavior issues are not entitled to a refund of payments towards the trip. The band directors will communicate any concerns regarding behavior or eligibility early on so that we have an opportunity to address it long before eligibility becomes an issue.

Parents wishing to travel on this trip with the band (in a chaperone or guest capacity) should reach out to the directors by September 26th in order to reserve seats for themselves and/or their family members. We are able to offer a limited number of additional "Packages" to our families through this group travel.



2024-2025 Band Hours

Band Hours are volunteer for activities that either raise funds for the band program or help serve it/promote it directly in some way (IE a service project like filing in the library or a performance, etc). What constitutes a band hour is decided by the Band Directors and the Booster Organization.

Band Hours were a long-standing part of the success of the White Pine Band Program for many decades, until recent years. This year, we are bringing them back as a program requirement in order to better serve and grow our program. Various examples of band hour opportunities are the annual Mine Cleanup, filing music in the library, running concessions, helping at large fundraisers, playing in basketball band, etc. Often opportunities for hours also include opportunities for fundraising.

For the 2024-2025 School Year, High School Band students will be required to complete a total of 15 band hours. Beginning band students DO NOT need to complete band hours. Band hours must be completed by February 27th, 2024. Students must complete their hours by this time in order to be eligible for the Los Angeles Tour and Spring Contest.

Band Hour opportunities have been provided since May of 2024, and many students have already begun to earn their hours. As the 2024-2025 school year goes on, the directors band boosters will continue to provide opportunities for students to earn their hours. Information will be emailed out to parents from the directors and boosters themselves, and shared with students in class. The best way to stay informed about upcoming Band Hour opportunities is to check your email regularly, check the band website regularly, and attend monthly band booster meetings.



Instrument Rentals & Purchases

Once a student has an approved instrument selection, there are a few ways you can get a great instrument and mouthpiece for them to learn on!

1. Music & Arts Partnership With WPCSD:

We are proud to be partnered with Music & Arts, a highly trusted nationwide music wholesaler to provide high-quality, low-cost purchase & rental options to our students. The directors have a long-standing professional relationship with this company and have used it for students of all levels, in many states. Monthly payments for instruments begin as low as \$27, and include repairs, the proper mouthpiece, accessories, and method book as part of the rental. Music & Arts offers rentals, rent-to-own payments, and outright purchases of both new, and used instruments. Additionally, payments and/or instruments can be traded towards a switch instrument or towards the cost of a more advanced "step-up instrument" later on.

All instrument brands/models offered to our students by Music & Arts are Yamahas approved by the directors for use in our classrooms. Instruments can be rented or purchased online or over the phone and shipped directly to the school. The directors will then confirm receipt with Music & Arts and check the instrument over fully before giving it to the student.

To rent or purchase online: Visit www.musicarts.com, click "Rentals", click "Public, Private, or Traditional School", and enter our school. You can also find a direct link on our website, www.whitepinebands.com under the "Documents" tab.

2. Purchasing Or Renting On Your Own – PLEASE REFER TO OUR "PARENT GUIDE" AND "RECOMMENDED LIST" ON THE WEBSITE!!!:

There are many places to buy quality new and used instruments. These include in-person sales such as music stores and local purchases, as well as online options like eBay, Mercari, and Reverb. What is most important is that the instrument is a quality brand, in good working condition, and is a good price for the brand/model/condition. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that instruments are of good quality, from a reputable brand, and function properly. Low quality instruments cannot be used correctly and will not be allowed in band rehearsals because of musical problems and the loss of instructional time they cause for the entire group.

In order to assist with this, we use a "Recommended Equipment List" and provide a "Parent's Guide to Buying an Instrument." These are available on the band website, www.whitepinebands.com, under the "Documents" Tab. It is highly important that you refer to this list when making a purchase or rental to ensure that the instrument is usable in class, and to make sure that you are getting the best value for your money. If you aren't sure, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE contact the directors via email before making a decision. Mr. Bellon and Mr. Foster will be happy to assist you in finding a great deal on a good instrument.

3. School-Owned Instruments:

We STRONGLY encourage families to rent or purchase their own instruments, with the exception of tuba players and percussionists (who are expected to furnish their own respective mouthpiece and sticks/mallets). WPHS maintains a very limited inventory of instruments. These primarily include large instruments that are too expensive for average families to afford to purchase and maintain (Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Bari Sax, Tuba, Large Percussion). The yearly fee for these

instruments is \$50, which goes towards the maintenance & cleaning of the instrument. These instruments are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for students in need. Our primary concern is that every student has the opportunity to experience band and we will do whatever it takes to ensure that this happens.

If using a school instrument, it is the responsibility of the student (and the financial responsibility of the parent) to return the instrument in the same condition that it was issued. **A Rental Agreement Form must be on-file and the rental fee must be paid to WPHS in order for the instrument to be issued. Fees should be paid at the WPHS front office in the form of cash or a check made out to "White Pine High School Band."** Any loss or damages to instruments, accidental or intentional, will be the responsibility of the student and their parents. In the event of damage or loss of instrument, fees assessed will be the actual replacement cost or costs of repair of the damaged equipment or instrument.

4. "Granny's Ol' Clarinet!" - Hand-Me-Down & Vintage Instruments:

Over time, instruments have come a long way. Much like computers, power tools, and other devices, they have been improved and modernized greatly over the years. While a hand-me-down or family instrument may have special sentimental value, that does not always mean it is right for the classroom. Sometimes these instruments will work, but sometimes they won't. Older instruments may not play in-tune with modern instruments, or may require significant repairs (far more expensive the value of the instrument itself) in order to play correctly. Some use different fingerings than modern instrument and some play in the wrong key entirely.

Please allow the directors to make a determination on the useability of an instrument on a case-by-case basis. Likewise, please understand that if the instrument is determined to be unusable in the classroom, it's "nothing personal," and the decision was made to ensure the student's success. Granny's Ol' Clarinet can still be enjoyed as a family heirloom at home. ☺

5. Necessary Policy On Extremely Low-Quality Instruments (For the Safety & Success of ALL of Our Students)

To ensure the success and safety of the entire band, extremely low-quality and off-brand instruments **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE USED IN OUR BAND PROGRAM**. This is primarily because they cause rehearsals to slow, stop, and become unproductive when they frequently break or fail to play. When an instrument becomes non-functional, we must take class time to stop and assess the issue while the rest of the class sits and waits. In a short, 47-minute period, this can quickly derail an entire lesson. Although many of the "instrument-shaped-objects" look good, most do not play correctly brand new, out of the box, even for professional musicians. Some also contain hazardous materials that are not part of normal import checks because they are labeled as "musical instruments" and not categorized as materials of concern. They are a true scam for the purchaser, and a source of extreme frustration and embarrassment for both the student and the directors. The issues with these instruments ultimately affect instructional and rehearsal time, as well as enjoyment for ALL students in the class. This time could be better used teaching and making music!

To avoid any issues, please refer to the "Parent's Guide to Buying an Instrument" and the "Recommended Equipment List" available on www.whitepinebands.com under the "Documents" tab. If you are still unsure, email the directors! They will help guide you towards a quality, inexpensive instrument. ☺



Varsity Letters & Bars

Letters and patches are a symbol of achievement and excellence at the high school level. Once earned, they can be displayed on a student's letterman jacket or band jacket. Students will receive gold bars to add to their letter in the case they achieve varsity status multiple times.

Varsity Band Letter Requirements:

- Students must receive Director Recommendation (based on attitude & participation)
- Students must participate in 2 full years of High School Band, in good standing.
- Students must have no delinquent fines with WPCSD or the Band Boosters.
- Guard Students must demonstrate technical & dance proficiency:
 - 100 consecutive drop spins on a 5 ó' pole
 - 50 consecutive weapon spins
 - Prove understanding of basic dance positions to instructor/director satisfaction
- Instrumental Students must demonstrate musical proficiency:
 - Must play all 12 Major Scales and all 36 minor scales full-range (12 scales in their 3-forms), 2-octaves, in the circle of 5ths (Percussion on Mallets)
 - Percussion must play all snare rudiments
 - Percussion must demonstrate the ability to tune timpani and demonstrate all 3 timpani grips (German, French, and American)
- Winds Must play a chromatic scale that covers the full-range of the instrument (Percussion on mallets, with appropriate pattern)

Winter/Indoor Guard Patch - Must complete one season of Indoor Guard.

Leadership Patch - Must serve as a section leader, band officer, or ensemble rep for one year (Any ensemble).

Honors in Music Patch - This is our most elite patch. In order to receive this patch a student must participate in an NMEA Honor Ensemble for at least one year, and must perform a solo at a home concert or solo & ensemble festival.



Special Needs & Circumstances

We often have students in our program that require special education, have individual needs requiring resources beyond usual classroom offerings, or have disabilities requiring accommodation. Sometimes these challenges look a little different in band than they do in other classrooms. We believe that every student should have the opportunity to participate in music and are proud to offer a place in our band program to ALL students who are willing to give their complete efforts.

If a student has special needs or circumstances, the director needs to know about it in order for it to be correctly accommodated in a music classroom setting (as opposed to a general or core classroom setting). If the director is aware of, and has a full understanding of a student's individual needs, then they are able to better address the situation. As a result, the student will receive a better musical education and a more positive experience in our program.



Our Social Contract

"All Human Beings are born free and equal, in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience, and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

- Article 1 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The White Pine High School Band is a unified ensemble that WILL function as one, singular entity, with shared interests, goals, failures, and successes. The White Pine High School Program is a safe space designed for our students to thrive and achieve together, as an ensemble. By being a part of this program, it is understood that students, staff, instructors, parents, and volunteers will treat one another with respect and dignity regardless of individual opinions, backgrounds, beliefs, age, education, socioeconomic status, talent, or ability. We are all part of ONE BAND and will function only as ONE BAND.

Derogatory, racist, homophobic, or hate speech of any kind will not be tolerated. These behaviors and/or bullying of any kind do not have a place in this program. Period. Everyone has a place in this program that is willing to work hard, as a team, with respect for one another. It is expected that all students, parents, and staff of the program adhere to this social contract.



2024-2025 WPHS Band Performance & Event Calendar

***Rehearsals, Sectionals, and Performances are mandatory for all students. These events are a requirement for participation in band. Attendance at Band Booster Meetings is not required for parents, but is strongly encouraged. Students & Families should look at the calendar carefully to avoid conflicts and plan accordingly. Any necessary changes to the schedule will be communicated ASAP. Fundraising and hour opportunities will be communicated via email and added to the google calendar on the band website as they become available. No additional required events will be added to the calendar.

Weekly High School Band Sectionals:

Full Band: Mondays, 3:45PM – 5:00PM w/Mr. Bellon & Mr. Foster
Jazz Lab: Thursdays, 3:45PM – 5:00PM w/Mr. Bellon

Sectionals Begin The Week of September 9th-12th (No Sectionals Prior To This Week)

Late Buses or rides to Ruth, McGill, and other areas will be provided, as-needed, by-request.

Fall 2024 Semester

Spring 2025 Semester

8-19-8/22	Band Camp (Mon & Tues 3-7, Wed & Thurs 1-5) @ WPHS	1/16-1/17	Tentative Band Retreat/Contest Boot Camp
8/28	First Day of School	1/14	January Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
9/10	September Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS	1/30	Disney Payment #4 Due
9/19	Tentative Homecoming Bonfire @ WPHS (Time TBD)	2/4	February Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
9/20	Home Football vs. GVC, 5PM Call (Homecoming)	2/11-2/12	NMEA Honor Band @ Elko (Optional – Students Who Audition Only)
9/26	Disney Payment #1 Due	2/27	Disney Payment #5, Final Payment, Due
10/8	October Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS	3/4	March Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
10/24	Home Football vs. Lincoln (MS Night)	3/11	WPCSD Band Concert & Art Show, 6:00PM @ WPHS
10/24	Disney Payment #2 Due	3/12-3/16	Spring Disney/Los Angeles Tour
11/1	Home Football vs. Dayton, 5PM Call	3/24-3/26	NMEA NE Contest Dates @ Elko (TBD-NMEA Chooses)
11/9-11/10	Bands of America, @ UT	3/28-4/6	Spring Break
11/12	November Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS	4/8	April Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
11/21	Disney Payment #3 Due	5/6	After School Board Performance @ WPHS
11/27-12/1	Thanksgiving Break	5/13	May Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS (Fees & Hours Decided)
12/10	December Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS	5/13	Returning Member Info Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
12/18	HS Winter Band Concert, 6:00PM @ WPHS	5/21	Spring Concert & Awards, 6:00PM @ WPHS
12/20-1/5	Winter Break	6/3	High School Graduation Performance, Times TBD
		6/10	June Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS (Board Elections)



2024-2025 WPHS Band Handbook Contract

This Document Must Be Signed In Order To Participate In The White Pine High School Band Program. Due by 9/5/2024 - Students without a completed contract will be dropped after this date

Student Initials	Parent Initials	
		I have access to and/or received a copy of the 2024-2025 White Pine Middle School Band Handbook.
		I understand that my attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. I also understand that major grades will be taken for all band events as outlined in the White Pine Bands Middle School Handbook.
		I understand that I am responsible for informing the directors when conflicts arise that might prevent me from being in attendance at a rehearsal. I also understand that an <u>unexcused</u> absence from a performance will result in failure of the course and removal from the band program.
		I understand what the difference is between an excused and unexcused absence from required band events.
		I understand the grading policies that will be used for band class.
		I understand the materials that I will need in class every day as outlined in the White Pine Bands Middle School Handbook.
		I understand that all important band information and documents can be found at www.whitepinebands.com and that I should check the website frequently.
		I recognize the necessity of quality, daily practice in order to be successful as a musician and to fulfill my obligation to my peers within my ensemble.
		I understand that I must attend my assigned sectional rehearsal each week. Transportation will be provided as-needed.
		I understand that I the Spring 2025 Los Angeles Tour is a required performance.

We have read and understand the White Pine Middle School Band Handbook, and we agree to abide by its expectations and policies.

	Adult: XS S M L XL XXL
Printed Student's Name	Student T-Shirt Size (please circle)

Student's Signature	Date
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Parent's Signature	Date
--------------------	------

Parent's (Best) Email	Parent's (Best) Phone Number
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