



# 2021-2022 Handbook

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## **Waterloo West Band Program**

The Waterloo West High School Band Program has a long tradition of excellence in music. The Wahawk Band prides itself on a well-balanced program with a focus on music education, performance and a commitment to teaching students how to succeed in life through hard work and a passion for learning. Ensemble offerings include the Wahawk Marching Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Jazz Bands and Pep Bands. Students also have the opportunity to perform in a Solo & Ensemble Festival, Symphony Orchestra, and various honor bands.

Membership is open to all high school students who currently play a band instrument. The course is designed to give every student an equal opportunity to participate in the various aspects of the band program and enhance his/her musical growth through individual study and performance as it applies to his/her particular instrument. In addition, the student will be given the opportunity to appreciate music both as listener and performer.

Students participating in the Wahawk Bands are able to participate in any other activity West High offers. Accommodations are made by the directors and other teachers/coaches to allow students to be actively involved in a variety of activities.

## **Wahawk Marching Band**

The Wahawk Marching Band is a successful competitive marching band. The band performs for all West High home football games as well as five to seven competitions across the state. This fall, the 'Wahawk' Marching Band will perform at:

- Linn-Mar Marching Festival – Marion
- Bands Across the Prairie – Cedar Rapids
- Five Seasons Marching Festival – Cedar Rapids
- IHSM State Marching Band Festival – Waterloo West
- ValleyFest Showdown – Valley Stadium, West Des Moines
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Students rehearse periodically throughout the summer with rehearsals scheduled by directors, marching band staff, or section leaders. A Freshman Orientation is held the Friday prior to Band Camp starting to kick off the Fall Season. Band Camp begins the two full weeks prior to school starting, with rehearsal from 9:00 AM - Noon and 1:30 to 4:30 PM (dates included on Summer mailing). Band Camp will be followed by three night rehearsals, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM. At Band Camp, students learn music and marching fundamentals, memorize music and drill so that future rehearsals can be used to clean and refine the marching band show. An Open House and Picnic are also held in August.

The Wahawk Marching Band rehearses daily from 7:10 AM through the first period of the school day and one evening per week (Monday/Tuesday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM). Additional rehearsals may be scheduled if the need arises. Rehearsals will occur on the West High School practice field and in Kersenbrock Auditorium at West High.



### **Concert Ensembles**

The Waterloo West Band Program has two concert bands split by grade level and/or audition. Symphonic Band is composed of students in grades 10-12 and meets during Period 1. The Freshmen Concert Band consists of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and meets during the school day. . Additional or extended rehearsals may be scheduled as needs arise. This information will be posted on the calendar.

The Concert Ensembles perform at six events throughout the year. Three concerts are held in Kersenbrock Auditorium at West High School in December, February, and May. All of the ensembles participate in the IHSMA State Large Group Festival in May at Cedar Falls High School and an end-of-the-year Pops Concert at the RiverLoop Amphitheatre in downtown Waterloo. Additionally, all sophomore and junior band students perform at the Graduation Ceremony at the McLeod Center or Young Area in May.

### **Solo & Ensemble Festival**

All students in the Waterloo West Band Program have the opportunity to participate in the IHSMA Solo & Ensemble Festival or similar festival in March/April in either the Waterloo or Dubuque areas. The directors will confer to place the students in ensembles of appropriate size, instrumentation, and ability level.

### **Lessons**

Students receive regular individual 15-20 minute lessons during the semester. The grading periods are: mid-term, quarter, mid-term, semester). Student will be scheduled during their seminar or open periods, or before/after school. Credit will be given for no more than one lesson per week.

Students who study privately may obtain a Lesson Waiver from one of the directors. This form will need to be signed by their private lesson teacher and returned for a grade. However, private lesson students may still need to take part in periodic playing checks for the Directors. A grading scale for lessons can be found on page 7.



### **Pep Band**

The Wahawk Band actively supports the West High Basketball teams by performing at ten different home games. Students are assigned by the directors to one of two pep bands that perform at these home games. These assignments are to ensure proper instrumentation and experience level in both ensembles. Students are expected to perform or find a substitute of the same instrument for each of their pep band's six performances. This is part of their band grade. Band points will be awarded to students who perform beyond their required five performances. Students **cannot** make up missed performance by attending performances of their non-assigned band.

### **Jazz Band**

The Waterloo West Band Program has two auditioned large jazz ensembles: Jazz I and Jazz II.. Jazz I is made up of the more advanced jazz players; every student will work on improvisation and advanced ensemble skills. In Jazz II, students will focus on the basics of jazz style and improvisation.

Auditions occur in mid-to late October near the end of the marching band season and are an assessment of the students' current jazz skills. The specific expectations and requirements for these auditions will be made available prior to the end of the marching band season, but students may expect to be asked to sight-read, play scales, and improvise.

Jazz I and II participate in (Jazz II may not all attend contests):

- Tallcorn Jazz Festival in February - University of Northern Iowa
- Coe College Jazz Festival in February - Coe College, Cedar Rapids
- NEIBA Jazz Festival in March - Waterloo West High School
- Iowa Jazz Championships at the end of March – Civic Center, Des Moines IA(if qualify)
- “Jazz and Dessert” in late March/early April - Waterloo West High School Commons

Each week, the jazz bands rehearse on average of twice a week set up by the Directors. Instruction and assignments for the jazz ensembles will focus on aural skills, listening to jazz, building jazz vocabulary for improvisation, and preparing the ensemble parts.

### **Symphony Orchestra**

Wahawk Band students have the opportunity to perform with the Symphony Orchestra at West High. The orchestra and band directors will solicit musicians. This need is determined by the literature selected to be performed. This schedule will be posted on the calendar.



### **AP Music Theory**

AP Music Theory is a year long course. Students will build their knowledge of basic music theory concepts. This course will emphasize material in the areas of musical notation, major and minor key signatures, scale construction, chord construction, musical and rhythmic dictation and the realization of two part voice leading. Students will develop a sense of self-discipline required for the study of music, a sense of relative pitch, verbal musical literacy, and the ability to listen actively. AP Theory covers more advanced Music Concepts for students who wish to study music after high school.







### **Drill and Music Binder**

Each student is required to have a hardbound 3-ring binder with his or her name and individual number clearly marked on the outside cover. This notebook will contain:

1. All Marching Band Music (Pre-Game, Half-Time, and Pep Band). Music will be marked clearly and correctly with drill instructions and musical expressions.
2. Clear, plastic protective sheets to hold music and drill.
3. Pencil and highlighter

### **Drill Packet**

Each student will be issued packets of Marching Drill formations. On each page, students will need to:

- Hi-lite their position with a highlighter
- Document, in writing their individual position, including distance (in-steps) from the nearest yardline, as well as their nearest vertical landmark (front sideline, front hash, back hash, or back sideline).
- Document what measures in the music the drill move corresponds with.
- Document the number of counts to the drill page and movement specifics (ie. Move 16, Halt 8)

### **Music Binder**

- Student will need to document their drill movements and pages in their Marching Band Music by writing in their counts and movements in the music, as well as what page in the Drill the music corresponds with
- Students will also document any horn moves or other choreography pertaining to specific areas of the music (Horns to Box, Feet Apart, etc)

The Drill and Music Notebook are the Instrumental Music Project for the marching band season. Students are expected to have BOTH books at EVERY rehearsal. Assignments will be given from these books periodically throughout the season. An alternative assignment will be made for drum majors and pit percussionists.



### **Attendance Policies**

Band members are required to attend all rehearsals and all performances for the full scheduled time. Students will be on time for all band functions. To be “on time” means to be in the designated location, with all necessary materials, ready to go prior to the assigned time. Being on time and present at rehearsals and performances is the most important thing you can do for the band.

### **Tardiness to or Absence from Rehearsal**

Attendance is taken at the beginning of each rehearsal. Attendance and tardiness do have an impact on the student’s grade, as Band is a team-centered class.. As soon as students or parents become aware of any potential conflict with a rehearsal time, they are asked to e-mail the directors immediately ([dobbsj@waterlooschools.org](mailto:dobbsj@waterlooschools.org), [langes@waterlooschools.org](mailto:langes@waterlooschools.org)).

If a student has two or more unexcused absences from rehearsals the week of a performance, that student will be placed on an alternate status for a performance (will attend, but will not perform).

### **Absence from Performance**

Attendance at Band performances is a requirement of the Class. Except in cases of extreme emergency, (death in the family, illness, or immediate family member wedding day), students will not be excused from a performance. Any written excuse must be written, signed, and dated by a parent/guardian stating the student’s name and cause of absence seven (7) days prior to the absence. All excuses will be placed in the student’s personal file. Any absence that is not brought to the director’s attention for approval prior to the performance will be considered unexcused. All absences must be approved by the Directors (not all absences may be excused).

### **Alternate Travel Plans**

Occasionally the need arises for a student to find a way two or from an outside performance/competition other than riding the bus with the rest of the students. If this is the case, an Alternate Travel Plans form must be filled out, signed, and returned prior to the event. Alternate Travel Plans forms will be included on the Band website.



## Rules and Regulations

- Students will bring instruments, music, and proper equipment to EVERY rehearsal or performance.
- Students will be at the designated location and ready to rehearse or perform prior to the designated start time.
- **Unauthorized use of cellular phones and other electronic devices are not permitted during any rehearsal or performance. These items will be confiscated by the directors.**
- Eating or drinking of any kind during any rehearsal or performance is not permitted in the Music Area (water bottle acceptable).
- Daily announcements will be posted. Students are expected to check these announcements for instructions on rehearsals, performances, etc. prior to asking the directors.
- Music folders, instruments, and equipment will be kept in the proper storage places when not in use. Any items not stored properly will be confiscated by the directors.
- Non-music related materials are not allowed in the Music Area. These items will be confiscated by the directors.
- The Music Area is for practicing, rehearsing, and performing music. Students using the area for other activities will be asked to leave.
- Percussion instruments may only be used by percussionists and in a proper manner.
- Students must have permission from a director to enter the Music Offices.
- **Personal belongings are not secure in the Music Area. Please store them in your locker.**
- Do not litter in the Music Area.
- Vandalism, destruction or theft of school or personal property WILL NOT be tolerated.

Any violation of the above rules and regulations may result in confiscation of materials, a referral, or detention.

## School Owned Instruments

Students using school owned instruments will take ALL responsibility for the care and maintenance of that instrument. There will be a rental fee of \$50.00 per year assessed to each student for *each school owned instrument* (e.g. marching mellophone and concert french horn = \$100.00). Percussionists will be assessed a \$50.00 fee to defray the cost of replacement heads, mallets, etc. Wind players performing on percussion instruments during the marching band season will only be assessed a \$25.00 fee. Instruments will be issued to students in working condition. Students are responsible for ALL repair costs incurred while the instrument is in their care.

All students renting a school owned instrument must fill out an Instrument Rental Agreement found at the back of the handbook or on the website.



## **Uniforms**

At the beginning of the school year, students will be issued a marching band uniform and a concert band uniform to be used at performances and competitions.

### **Marching Band Uniform**

- Uniform Coat (with sleeved, white T-shirt underneath)
- Uniform Pants (with athletic shorts/tights underneath)
- Hat/Beret and Shako
  - Hat is worn 2 fingers above the nose
  - Long hair must be tied up or braided under the hat
- Black Marching Shoes
- Black Socks (calf-length or longer, not provided)
- Black Gloves (fingertips cut for flutes and clarinets)

### **Concert Band Uniform - Men**

- All Black, long-sleeved collared dress shirt (not provided)
- Black dress slacks (not provided) -no jeans
- Black Socks (calf-length or longer, not provided)
- Black Dress Shoes (not provided)
- undershirts need to be all black with no visible lettering or logos

### **Concert Band Uniform - Women**

- Long Black Dress (worn with a slip or appropriate undergarment). Length below the knee.
- Or...Solid Black Blouse (collar preferred)
- Black dress slacks
- Black Shoes (heels or flats, no open toes, not provided)

### **Jazz Band Uniform – Men (not provided)**

- Dress Shirt (optional dark suit jacket)
- Tie (necktie)
- Dress Pants
- Dress Shoes
- Dress Socks
- Belt

### **Jazz Band Uniform – Women (not provided)**

- Dress Shirt and Dress Pants
- Dress Shoes
- Dress Socks

### **Uniform Rules and Regulations**

- Students are responsible for the proper care and maintenance of the uniform.
- The uniform is NEVER to touch the ground. (sitting, placing, etc.)
- No eating or drinking when in uniform.
- Students are either in full uniform or out of full uniform. Nothing in between.



### Band Letter

Students are given the opportunity throughout the year to accumulate points toward a band letter. The directors will keep track of these points and award a West High Band Letter to those students that have met the criteria. Listed below are ways in which a student may earn/lose points through participation. An emphasis is placed on performance aspects of the program.

Jazz Band	30 points
Pep Band	5 points per additional performance
Symphony Orchestra	10 points per performance
Musical Pit Orchestra	15 points
All-State Audition	10 points
All-State Band/Orchestra	20 points
NIEBA Honor Band	15 points
Solo & Ensemble Contest	15 points per performance
Concert Attendance	5 points each submitted program
Outside Performances	10 points per performance
Band Volunteer Opportunities	5 points per event (10 point max – student) (10 point max – parent)
Unexcused Tardy to Rehearsal - including Band Camp	-2 points for each offense
Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal including Band Camp	-5 points for each offense
Unexcused Absence from Performance including Band Camp	-15 points for each offense

To earn a Band Letter, students must adhere to the following criteria:

1. Total of 75 points or more for the school year
2. Maintain a B+ average or higher in Band



## Schedule of Major Performances

This is a tentative schedule. For the most up-to-date schedule, check [www.WahawkBands.com](http://www.WahawkBands.com)

Day	Date	Start Time	End Time	Event – Location
Friday	August 27	5:45 PM	10:00 PM	Home Football Game (Waterloo East) – Memorial Stadium
Friday	September 11	5:45 PM	10:00 PM	Homecoming Football Game – Memorial Stadium
Saturday	September 25	ALL DAY		Linn-Mar Marching Invitational
Friday	October 1	5:45 PM	10:00 PM	Home Football Game – Memorial Stadium
Saturday	October 2	ALL DAY		Bands Across the Prairie/Five Seasons Marching Festival – Cedar Rapids, Prairie HS/Kingston Stadium Cedar Rapids
Saturday	October 9	ALL DAY		IHSMA State Marching Band Festival/ValleyFest – Memorial Stadium/West Des Moines Valley
Monday	October 18	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	9th Grade Band Concert - West HS (7:30)
Friday	October 15	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	Home Football Game ( Sr Nt)– Memorial Stadium
Saturday	October 23	ALL DAY		All-State Auditions - Hampton-Dumont
Thursday Friday Saturday	November 18 November 19 November 20	ALL DAY		All-State Music Festival – Ames
Saturday	December 4	ALL DAY		NEIBA Honor Band - Oelwein HS
Sunday	December 19	2:00 PM		Winter Music Concert - West HS
Saturday	January 8	ALL DAY		NEIBA Honor Jazz Band - CR Kennedy
Friday	January 21	ALL DAY	ALL DAY	U. of Dubuque Honor Band
Monday	February 21	7:00 PM		February Band Concert – West HS
Friday	February 18	ALL DAY		Tallcorn Jazz Festival – UNI
Friday	February 25	Time TBD		Coe College Jazz Summit – Cedar Rapids
Saturday	March 5	ALL DAY		NEIBA Jazz Festival – West HS
Friday	March 25	4:30 to	8:30 PM	Solo and Ensemble Festival – West HS
Monday	April 4	6:00 PM	7:30 PM	Jazz and Dessert – West HS Commons
Tuesday	April 5	ALL DAY		Iowa Jazz Championships – Des Moines Civic Center
Monday	May 2	7:00 PM	8:00 PM	Spring Band/Orchestra Concert – West HS
Saturday	May 7	ALL DAY		IHSMA State Large Group Contest – Cedar Falls HS
Wednesday– Saturday	May 11 – May 14	ALL DAY		IBA Conference (All State Jazz Band) – Des Moines
Monday	May 16	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Band Banquet -West HS Commons
Wednesday	May 25	6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Graduation - McLeod Center, UNI or Young Arena
Friday	June 10	TBD		My Waterloo Days Parade - Waterloo



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### **Band Boosters**

The West High Band Booster club exists to:

1. Encourage excellence in music education and performance.
2. Support these efforts financially.
3. To encourage student, parent, and community participation in the band program.
4. To foster enjoyment of and encourage lifelong appreciation for music.

Membership is available to anyone interested in the progress and development of the Wahawk Bands. Participation in the Booster Club is limited to those with current, paid membership status. Current dues involve a small donation to the Booster Club. The Board of Directors consists of the Club Officers, Standing Committee Chairs, Parent Representatives, and Band Directors.

General meetings are normally held in the Band Room on the 2nd Monday of the month and begin at 6:00 PM..

**Committee listing of Parent names is listed on the Band website**



### West High Instrument Rental Contract

Please read the following statement, sign it and return this form to the instrumental music office. Both your signature and your parent or guardian’s signatures are needed. Failure to sign this statement does not alter the terms of the policies. The rental must be paid and this form signed before the student will be allowed to perform. The rental cost covers the entire school year.

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to pay an instrumental rental fee to the West High Music Department for the use of school owned instrument(s) or equipment for the 2020-2021 school year. Furthermore, I accept all individual responsibility for the care and maintenance of said instrument(s) or equipment. Should any damage or abuse to the instrument occur during the year, I agree to pay the full cost to repair that instrument.

Instrument No. 1 _____	Instrument No. 2 _____
Model No. _____	Model No. _____
Serial No. _____	Serial No. _____

_____ Student Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Parent or Guardian Signature	_____ Date
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Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Brass Rental	\$50.00 per instrument
Woodwind Rental	\$50.00 per instrument
Percussion Fee	\$50.00
Wind Player/Percussion Users Fee	\$25.00







## Participation Contract

Please read the following statement, sign it and return this form to the Music Office by August 27, 2021. Both your signature and your parent's/guardian's signatures are needed. Failure to sign the statement does not alter the terms of the policies. This form must be signed and returned in order for the student to perform.

As a member of the West High School Band, I have read the information in this handbook and understand its contents. Furthermore, I agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Instrumental Music Department and exhibit behavior both in and out of school that makes me worthy to represent the ideals, principles and standards of our band program and West High School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Make sure you also submit this email address on the band website, [www.wahawkbands.com](http://www.wahawkbands.com) under the **Join Mailing List** tab, so that you receive all of the important band updates and information.