

# Warrior Run Band Program

## 2021-2022



**Ignite Your Inner Musician.**

# STUDENT/ PARENT HANDBOOK

\* Music Note Logo provided by OnFire Promotions\*

## **Welcome**

Dear Students & Families,

Welcome, and welcome back, to band! We are so excited that you've chosen to pick up a musical instrument or that you are continuing to study your instrument of choice!

Each band will perform at least 2 concerts throughout the year as well as at special performances and contests. These dates will be brought to your attention as soon as possible. Please check the band webpage for important performance dates, fundraising information, and forms. The site will be updated periodically to include the most updated information for your use.

Every student should have the opportunity to connect with music on a personal level regardless of age, race, gender identity, sexuality, and background. The goal of K-12 musical education is the growth of lifelong lovers of music.

Our hope this year is that you will expand upon your growth as a musician, enjoy our time with the band, and most importantly, have fun! We can't wait to get started!

Musically,

Ms. Taylor Rhodes, Director of Bands

Mr. Ryan Czekaj, Middle School Band

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### **Warrior Run Music Department Mission Statement**

We, the Warrior Run Music Faculty, believe that music education is a right of all students and that the goal of K-12 music education is a life-long appreciation of musical expression. We seek to provide tools for students to better connect with the music around them and create original musical thoughts. Our faculty, students, and community work together to create significant musical experiences. It is our steadfast belief that musical understanding is essential to the growth of well-rounded human beings.

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### **Check Out Our Band Website!**

Check out our band website for all the latest, up to date information about concerts, lessons, and fundraising!

<https://wrband.weebly.com>

## Table of Contents

WR Band Parent Association .....	3
Fundraising .....	3
Concert Dates & Attendance.....	4
Concert Dress .....	4
Supplies Needed .....	5
Upgrading or Switching Your Instrument.. .....	5
Lessons & Attendance .....	6
Alternate Makeup Lesson (HS Only) .....	6
Practicing .....	7
Rehearsal Attendance & Expectations.....	7
Grading .....	8
Discipline Plan.....	9
Exiting Band .....	9
Student & Parent Contract .....	10

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## Warrior Run Band Parent Association

### **Calling All Parents!**

The Warrior Run Band Parent Association (BPA) is a group of parents who work to support all levels of band within the Warrior Run School District. The BPA provides meals for the marching band, helps run pit crew for the marching band, provides snacks for concerts bands when on trips, and supports students at every level of band.

If you are interested in being a part of the WRBPA please consider joining us at a meeting. We hold meetings every third Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the MS Cafeteria.

We welcome you to join us and for you to show your support for the students!

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## Fundraising

All students are expected to be involved in fundraising so that we have funds for special celebrations and money to take trips. Fundraising money is used to support all students in the band at every level.

Information regarding fundraisers will be announced in school, posted on sapphire, and posted on the webpage. Please consider participating and building the funds for our group.

## Concert Dates & Attendance

This year the concerts for each of the bands fall on the following dates:

- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Recital: **Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7pm**
- 5<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert: **Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7pm**
- Solo & Small Group Performance (Optional): **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 7pm**
- 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert: **Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7pm**
- 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert: **Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7pm**
- Band Celebration Picnic: **Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6pm**
  - o Help us celebrate a successful year for the band program! Immediate families welcome!

Any other concerts or performance will be announced as soon as possible.

### **All Students are required to attend the concert.**

We work together as a team in rehearsals to perform as a team in the concert. We can only sound our best if we have everyone present.

The only excuses accepted for missing a concert are severe illness, extreme emergency in the family, or death of a family member. A makeup assignment will then be given in place of the concert.

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## Concert Dress

### **4th Grade- 6th Grade Students**

Any nice dress clothing. Please consider school dress code and how you play your instrument when choosing your outfit.

### **7th Grade- 12th Grade Students**

**Concert Black.** All articles of clothing that you are wearing are solid black. Acceptable concert black includes the following: black button-down shirt, black dress pants, black skirt, black dress, black socks, and black shoes. Please avoid colored shirts, colored ties, and colored socks.

**\*\*No t-shirts, jeans, or sneaker! We want to look as professional as we sound!\*\***

If purchasing these items will put a financial burden on your family, please contact Ms. Rhodes or Mr. Czekaj. We are more than willing to help in any way that we can.

## Supplies Needed

### **Beginning Band Supplies**

In order to get the most out of your band experience you will need to obtain the following items. These items will help make you more successful in the long run.

Our local music store, Robert M. Sides, will have a representative at Warrior Run Middle School for an information meeting on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30pm to answer all of your questions.

Please make sure you have the following items as soon as possible:

- Traditions of Excellence Band Method Book: Level 1 (for your instrument)
- Any accessories for your instrument. See the chart below for what you should purchase. Robert M. Sides will provide many of these items for you if you are renting an instrument.

Flute	Cleaning rod, cleaning swab
Oboe	Cork grease, cleaning swab, at least 2 reeds
Clarinet	Cork grease, cleaning swab, box of size 2.5 reeds (no rico please)
Bassoon	Cleaning swab, at least 2 reeds
Saxophone	Cork grease, box of size 2.5 reeds (no rico please)
Horn	Valve Oil- recommended Al Cass, Blue Juice
Trumpet	Valve Oil
Trombone	Slide Treatment (Super Slick Rapid Comfort)
Baritone	Valve Oil
Tuba	Valve Oil
Percussion	Vic Firth Sticks (size A5), Hard Plastic Mallets

All other students, grades 5-12, are expected to have the same materials as listed in the chart above. Other materials may be added at the discretion of your lesson teacher.

**\*\*Music is a joy that every child should experience. Be sure to talk to a director about your options to rent, purchase, and borrow.**

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## Upgrading or Switching Your Instrument

Please initiate a conversation with your lesson teacher about both topics.

**Upgrading:** We want to make sure you are playing a quality instrument that will suit your needs and future needs as a musician.

**Switching:** Requests to switch instrument will be discussed *prior* to the switch between student, parent, and teacher, ensuring thorough consideration and a positive outlook.

## **Lessons & Lesson Attendance**

***Attendance at all lessons and rehearsals is paramount to your success as a musician!***

Lessons will be taught by the following teachers:

**Ms. Rhodes-** 4 Brass, 5 Brass, 6 Brass, 7-8 Brass & Percussion, All High School

**Mr. Czekaj-** 4 Winds & Percussion, 5 Winds & Percussion, 6 Winds & Percussion, 7-8 Winds

Lessons occur during the school day on a rotating basis. A schedule will be provided to all students at least a week prior to a marking period switch. These schedules will span the length of a whole marking period. Lesson schedules will be available on the website under the MS Bands page (link found on pg. 2). Lessons are also read on the announcements every day. Lesson groups will always meet on the same day of the week.

Students are expected to attend 8 lessons during a marking period. Each student gets 1 “miss a lesson for free” pass per marking period.

If it is determined by the core subject teacher that the day’s content cannot be missed, students may remain in class and must schedule a makeup lesson.

Students must have the following materials present at all lessons:

- Instrument
- Folder with method book and music
- Pencil

If the instrument is missing at the lesson, the students will be sent back to class and will need to schedule a makeup lesson.

If a student is absent on the day of their lesson, they will be excused from that lesson.

Grading for lessons is explained on page 7.

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### **Alternate Makeup Lesson**

***\*\*this option is available for High School students only\*\****

In the event that you cannot attend a makeup lesson during a marking period, you may complete an alternate makeup lesson. You are only allowed 1 alternate makeup per marking period as the most beneficial lesson is one with Ms. Rhodes.

In order to complete an alternate makeup lesson, students will do the following

- Request an alternate makeup from Ms. Rhodes, she will then provide you with a form
- 30 minutes of focused practice on assigned material
- A video recording of an assignment as determined by your lesson teacher
- A turned in parent sign-off

## Practicing

You go to your sports practices so that you can build your strength and build your muscle memory and you have so much fun with you finally get to play a game where you don't have to think about the details, but instead are focusing on heart, energy, and playing the game! Practicing your instrument regularly does the same exact thing! Playing a musical instrument will also teach you important life lessons such as dedication, perseverance, and give you a great sense of accomplishment.

Practicing a minimum of 25 minutes per day will have you seeing great results and we guarantee that you will enjoy playing your instrument so much more.

Keep in mind: If you practice you get better. If you get better you play with better players. If you play with better players you play better music. If you play better music you have more fun. If you have more fun you practice more. If you practice more you get better.

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## Rehearsal Attendance & Expectations

Band rehearsals for each ensemble occur on the following days/ periods:

- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: AE on even days
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: Period 9 on days 1, 3, & 5
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: Period 9 on days 2, 4, & 6
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Band: Tuesdays from 1:00-1:30pm, and Fridays from 8:50-9:20am
- HS Band: Period 6

All students are expected to have their instrument and their music at all rehearsals. Grading for rehearsals is explained on page 7.

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals.

If students have work to make up, we encourage them to speak to their teacher and see if there is an alternate time when they can make up the work. If there is no other time available, then they will be excused from that rehearsal. However, students will not be permitted to leave rehearsals two weeks before a concert.

Students are expected to:

- Come to rehearsal and sit down quietly
- Have all materials at all rehearsals
- Promote a focused atmosphere by removing all distractions before entering the room
- Follow directions the first time
- Listen when someone else is talking, singing, or playing
- Respect yourself, others, and your materials
- Always try your best

Remember we need to all rehearse together to have great success! There is no way to replace a rehearsal or create that experience of playing together as a group.

## Discipline Plan

Should the Rehearsal Expectations (see page 7) not be met or a student is causing disruptions, the following steps will be taken:

1. A **warning** will be given to the student from the director
2. A **consequence** will be given to the student from the director
3. The director will **contact the parent/guardian** regarding the behavior
4. The student will be **referred to administration** for disciplinary action

\*Extreme circumstances may result in swifter disciplinary action. If deemed necessary, the student may be removed from the ensemble/course at the discretion of the directors and/or administration.

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## Exiting Band

In the instance that a student finds that band is just not for them we have a procedure for exiting the band program. (*But you're going to have a blast so why would you quit?!*)

First, students may only leave the band program at three times during the year:

- Within the first 3 weeks of the school year
- Within the first 3 weeks after the second marking period
- At the end of the school year

We have this in place because as a member of the band you are working together for one common goal: beautiful music! If you choose to exit band in the middle of a marking period you are letting the others in the group down. We need you to fulfill your commitment to the band and help us make beautiful music.

In order to exit the program, the following steps must be completed:

1. A note from a parent or guardian must be turned in to the director explaining the reasoning for exiting the program
2. The student must have an exit interview with the director to give feedback on things they enjoyed and things they did not enjoy about band
3. Students must return all school district materials to the director. Examples: instruments, books, mouthpieces, sticks, mallets, etc.

Once you have completed all of these steps you will be removed from the class.

Keep in mind that if you find that you wish to rejoin band you are always welcome.



## Grading

For grades 5-12 only. Grading for band is broken down in the following way:

Performance	20%
Rehearsal Preparedness/ Participation	25%
Small Group Lessons	25%
Playing Tests	15%
Creative Projects	15%

### **Performances**

Students will participate in 2 concerts per year: one in the winter and one in the spring.

All students are required to attend the concert. The only excuses accepted for missing a concert are severe illness, extreme emergency in the family, or death of a family member.

### **Rehearsal Preparedness/ Participation**

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and to be prepared with their instrument, all accessories, and their folders. Students should follow all expectations listed under “Rehearsal Attendance & Expectations” on page 7. Points will be deducted from this grade for the following reasons: missing instrument, missing music, or students is disruptive during rehearsal. One point will be deducted per missing item. This grade may not be made up

### **Small Group Lessons**

Students are expected to attend 8 total lessons during a 9-week marking period. Each student will have one ‘miss a lesson for free’ pass that they can use to miss one lesson during the period. High school students may complete one “alternate lesson” in lieu of one makeup lesson per quarter. Students are expected to have their instrument, music, and pencil at all lessons. If a student does not have their instrument they will be sent back to class and will need to schedule a makeup lesson with their lesson teacher. If a student is absent on the day of their lesson they will be excused from that lesson.

### **Playing Tests**

Students will be given playing tests selected from the following: scales, exercises from their lesson book, and band music. These tests will always be announced and students will have time to practice before assessment.

### **Creative Projects**

Students will be given creative assignments such as researching a famous performer or creating their own melody on their instrument. We want to encourage the students to explore their instruments and to have fun and make music!

These projects will always be announced and will be due as determined by the lesson teacher.

# Warrior Run Band Program

## Parent & Student Contract

By signing below, you state you have read and are aware of the procedures, grading, and expectations of students in the band program.

### **Behavior Expectations**

*To maximize the success of both the individuals and the group, students will:*

- Arrive on time
- Be Prepared with All Necessary Materials
- Follow Directions the First Time They Are Given
- Attend All Rehearsals
- Respect Themselves and Others Around Them
- Leave Every Space Better Than When They Found It
- Respect the Sanctity of the Band Room as a Safe Place for All

### **Musical Expectations**

*To maximize the success of both the individual and the group, students will:*

- Perform in All Classes, Rehearsals, and Concerts to the Best of Their Ability
- Practice!
- Collaborate with Others in an Open, Positive, Kind, and Supportive Way
- Be Engaged in Music At All Times

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Student Name (printed)

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Student Signature

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Parent/ Guardian Name (printed)

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Parent/ Guardian Signature

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Parent/ Guardian email

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Date

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Secondary Parent/ Guardian email (optional)

*Please return to your band director by your first lesson!  
We are so excited to have you as part of the band!*