



Wydown Middle School Band Handbook 2021-2022

TEACHING STAFF:

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WELCOME to the online version of the Wydown Band Handbook.

In order to reduce the amount of paper used, this digital handbook is for you to access at any time. Please read the entire document carefully with your child because it contains very important information about every aspect of the Wydown Band Program. Required forms will need to be completed as instructed by the indicated deadlines. This will help all of the directors, students and parents stay informed during the course of the school year.

Forms that will need to be returned:

Parent/Student Signature Form

Student Information Form

Band Shirt, Binder, Book and SmartMusic Order Form

Welcome

It's going to be a great year!

We hope you are as excited about this year's band as we are. We have a lot of exciting things that we would like to accomplish. You need to read over this packet carefully, show it to your parents and let them read it also. **Now, you need to understand** the process and what will be expected of you for this year. It is very important that you read over this packet carefully with your parents.

The Wydown Ways: Perseverance, Compassion, Respect, Integrity!

The Wydown Ways were developed to help us all become better individuals and members of our school community. Let's review how these four traits contribute to making Wydown Bands a source of pride:

☐ I WILL TREAT EVERYONE WITH COURTESY AND RESPECT.

This means exactly what it says . . . EVERYONE! That includes all teachers, students, staff, and guests all of the time.

☐ I WILL TREAT PERSONAL AND SCHOOL PROPERTY WITH RESPECT.

We are very fortunate to have quality equipment. However quality does not come cheaply. Equipment costs anywhere from \$50 for a music stand to \$5,000 for a tuba to over \$10,000 for a marimba. Student instruments are expensive too. If we are going to have a quality band, then we need quality instruments in good condition.

☐ I WILL CREATE AND MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT.

You've heard it said, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." Well, in band, we all need encouragement. Our goal for you in band is to have fun, have a great band, and to have band members that are constantly improving. We hope that you will like band so much that you will want to be in band for a very long time. However, these things will not take place in a negative environment. You can help your fellow band member in a positive manner if they make mistakes.

☐ I WILL COME TO SCHOOL PREPARED AND ON TIME FOR LEARNING.

We have a limited amount of time each week. You need to be prepared to get the most out of class. You need your instrument, your music, any supplies and a pencil **EACH CLASS**. (Band supplies may be purchased from one of the band directors before or after school.) What is our definition of "On Time?" For our purposes, on time means that you are in class and you are **in your seat** with your music, music stand, instrument, and supplies when the director steps onto the podium or begins class. After that, you are considered tardy/absent.

□ **I WILL ACT RESPONSIBLY AND ACCEPT CONSEQUENCES FOR MY ACTIONS.**

Basically, this means that you will do the right thing. It is as simple as that. If, by chance, you don't do the right thing, then be mature enough to admit and accept the consequences without trying to blame someone else. Blaming someone else or rationalizing is not acting responsibly or maturely.

□ **I WILL HELP EVERYONE IN THIS SCHOOL FEEL CAPABLE, CONNECTED AND CONTRIBUTING.**

These are the famous Three C's! Capable, Conconnected and Contributing. Band is a team. We are nothing without each other. This last statement ties the entire Code of Conduct together. We must always remember to take care of each other, to help each other, to create a band that we can all be proud of. The French have a phrase for that: *Esprit de corps*. *Esprit de corps* is "a common spirit of comradeship, enthusiasm, and devotion to a cause among the members of a group" (American Heritage Dictionary, 2004). Great groups have great *esprit de corps*.

Band will be one of your most fun classes if we all work together, but we have to remember that musicianship has to be the priority at all times. We love our jobs and we love teaching, so by working together as a team, we WILL accomplish our goals.

Responsibilities/Grading Criteria

Your grades in band are divided into three categories: **Prep/Practice (includes Daily Ensemble Contribution); Class Assignments, and Assessments (includes Performance Grades).** You will be responsible for making sure that everything in these categories is addressed to the best of your ability.

PREP/PRACTICE (Ensemble Contribution Responsibilities) (40%)

Rehearsal Preparation and Participation

Rehearsal Etiquette

Rehearsal Wrap-up

Goal Sheets (6th Grade Only)

ASSESSMENTS (Performance Grade Responsibilities) (30%) - Your performance grade will be based on your director(s)' evaluations of the following criteria.

Performance Attendance

Performances are a required part of your grade. It is your responsibility to be at the warm-ups on time and remain at each required concert until all of the groups have performed and you have been dismissed by your band director. Full credit will be awarded to students that fulfill all requirements. Previously scheduled commitments that conflict with a required performance should be reported to a director in writing prior to September 15 of the current school year.

Performance Etiquette

As representatives of the school district, students are expected to follow the director(s)' standards for proper stage etiquette. Good performance etiquette includes not participating in any action that draws attention away from the ensemble.

Audience Etiquette

As representatives of the school district, students are expected to act in a manner that does not draw attention away from the performance and that does not interfere with another person's ability to enjoy the performance.

Appropriate Dress

Refer to dress code in this document

Post Performance Evaluation

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (Playing-20%, Written-10%)

Online Assignments/In Person Playing Tests

Post-Concert and Self Evaluations

Music Theory Worksheets and *Required Forms (*includes parental signatures)

You will need to pay for books, binders, music, band polos, and rehearsal accessories if they need to be replaced. This includes if they are stolen, lost, eaten, etc. You are responsible. Remember to put your music and supplies away at the end of class. All items should be kept in your band locker during the school day. Cases must be kept closed and latched shut. If you would like to have a lock on your locker, you must request and use a band issued combination lock. No personal locks will be allowed.

All instruments will be put back into their cases and into their lockers at the conclusion of band class. The ONLY exceptions are tubas and percussion. To keep instrument repair costs low, it will be a tremendous help if instruments are put properly into their cases with latches closed, and are stored in the assigned band locker. Instruments should never be left in the hallway or in any other part of the building other than the band room.

Percussionists are responsible for all percussion equipment. Please inform the teacher of any broken percussion equipment immediately. Make sure that all equipment is put away and all mallets instruments are covered at the end of class. Any damages incurred as a result of negligence will be the financial responsibility of the student.

All Students are expected to keep their instrument in good working condition. This includes personal instruments, rental instruments, scholarship instruments, and school instruments. Needed repairs should be made in a timely manner to avoid loss of rehearsal time and effective ensemble contribution. Any damage to a school owned instrument will result in a fee being charged to the student/guardian. The fee will be determined by a professional estimate of the damage.

Dress Code

The dress code for all required performances and public appearances will be as follows:

Band Shirt (tucked in at all times while being worn).

Black Pants (no jeans)

Black Belt

Black Socks (minimum crew length)

Black Shoes with black soles (no tennis shoes, flip-flops, or open-toed shoes)

*Please note that no other color except black should be visible anywhere on the shoe

Consequences

Should a student choose to not fulfill their responsibilities, the following consequences may be necessary:

Verbal Reminder and Loss of Daily Ensemble Contribution Points

Conference with the teacher

Phone Call Home

Office Visit

Lunch Detention/R & R Room/AIM

EE Interactive and Breezin' Thru Theory

EEI and Breezin' Thru are online platforms that will enhance your practice routine and increase your musical knowledge. They will be used routinely throughout the year to help us evaluate your progress in band.

Smartmusic

Smartmusic is a subscription-based platform that will enhance your practice routine. It may be used throughout the year to help us evaluate your progress in band.

Supplies

Many of the supplies you will need can be purchased at Wydown from the band office. These purchases should be made before or after school. .NOT DURING BAND CLASS. You will need to make sure that you have all of the appropriate supplies for your instrument. Reed instruments should have at least *four good reeds at all times*. Brass instruments should have either *valve oil or slide cream/oil*. The following supplies are available for sale at Wydown:

- Reeds (must have 4 or more good reeds at all times)
- Reed Guards
- Cork Grease
- Swabs
- Valve Oil (French horns must have rotary oil)
- Tuning Slide Grease
- Trombone Slide Oil/Cream
- Mutes (7th and 8th grade brass only)
- BERP (brass only)

Rehearsal Etiquette

Entering the band area

When you enter the band area, you are to go straight to your locker, get your instrument out, and IMMEDIATELY sit down in your assigned chair. Do not approach the podium or leave your seat for any reason. Cases are either under your chair or back in your locker. During full band rehearsals, Percussionists should prepare their area quickly and stand quietly in the back. DO NOT BEGIN PLAYING. You may talk quietly. As soon as you sit down, check the board for any daily directions, put your binder, book, and pencil on your stand. You may NOT play until requested by the director. PLEASE WAIT WITH QUESTIONS UNTIL AFTER WARM-UPS/ANNOUNCEMENTS. QUESTIONS WILL ONLY BE ANSWERED WHEN A STUDENT IS QUIETLY SEATED WITH THEIR HAND RAISED

Playing in band

The moment the director steps on the podium, you need to IMMEDIATELY stop your conversations and GIVE 100% attention to the director. Anything less than total focus will not

be acceptable. We will always start with some type of warm-ups in class! Warm-ups are extremely important for tone production, technique, and chop building. AFTER the warm-ups we will go over announcements and answer questions with everyone. If you have a broken instrument or any other type of “crisis”, sit down and raise your hand to get the attention of a director.

100% focus includes several things: Posture and instrument carriage must be exemplary, no exceptions. This includes both the times you are playing and times you are not playing. The director will go over specific expectations at the beginning of the year and will review them periodically with the ensemble. Height adjusted music stands help students with proper posture while they are playing.

Talking and/or “dinking” is not allowed during class while the director is on the podium or working with a section. If you are talking or playing while the director is talking, you are interfering with both your ability and others’ ability to learn. Continued talking or playing out of turn will result in consequences deemed appropriate and in line with the handbook by the director.

Pencil usage (NO PENS)

When a director tells you something that is not already marked in your music, you need to make the appropriate changes without being told. You also need to mark musical items that you miss such as accidentals, dynamics, rhythms, and articulations. Missing something once is excusable. Missing something twice because it is not marked IS NOT excusable. This will be checked on a regular basis. The best sound to a director’s ears is pencils being picked up off the stands. YOU MUST HAVE A PENCIL ON YOUR STAND EVERYDAY!

End of class

Do not leave class until the director dismisses you. The director will give you adequate time to clean your instrument and put your instrument away at the end of each class. You are to put your music and instrument back into your locker until you are ready to take them home. Don’t forget to latch your case and close your locker door. You will wait in the classroom until dismissed by a band director. Once dismissed, you need to WALK to your next class or to your lunch period without delay.

Homework

From time to time you will have written and playing homework assigned. These are to be completed on time and are assigned to help you become a better musician. If you do not have the work done, you will have an opportunity to make up the written or playing work during lunch detention or AIM after school. This includes Smart Music and Web Assignments. Incomplete assignments may keep you from participating in any school activity.

No Instrument or Music in class

If you forget your instrument, you will go to your assigned seat with your music and “air play” during class. If you forget your band binder or book, you will go to your seat, raise your hand, and ask the director for assistance.. **For either infraction, a loss of ensemble contribution points will result.** For repeat offenders, lunch detention or AIM may be assigned.

Common Guidelines to Follow

You are not to put your hands on anyone!

If it is not yours, DON’T TOUCH IT!

Food, gum, and drinks are not to be brought into the Fine Arts Wing. This includes before and after school.

Use common sense!

Cell phone usage is allowed only with director permission.

AIM (Alternative Instrumental Music)

Each week after school, AIM tutoring sessions may be implemented. These sessions are designed for students who miss rehearsal for various reasons. AIM may be assigned by any of the band directors. In an effort to minimize lost rehearsal time, students not following proper rehearsal expectations may be assigned an AIM session in order to recover lost rehearsal time. Examples of incidents resulting in an AIM session include, but are not limited to behavior issues, excessive talking, excessive distractions, missing music, forgotten instruments, and inappropriate equipment or materials. Students will be expected to serve their AIM session on an assigned day after the infraction. If a student misses an AIM, he or she will then serve two sessions. When a student is assigned AIM, a form requiring a parent’s signature will be sent home and must be returned before the AIM is served.

Lunch Detention

Lunch Detention may be used in lieu of AIM at the directors’ discretion. Band students serving lunch detention should grab their lunch quickly and report to the band office.

For Parents and Guardians

Your student's musical progress results from a partnership between student, parent and teacher. We can teach and guide, but the student must follow through with practice. You need to be supportive in this by providing time and space for practice, necessary supplies, any repair of the instrument when needed, and frequent words of encouragement. If finances are an issue or if you have any questions in general, please do not hesitate to contact one of the band directors. It is through communication and our common interest in your student that this will prove to be a successful year!

Private Lessons

If you are really motivated and want to progress at an even faster pace, you may want to take private lessons in addition to your band class at Wydown. If this is something you think you might like, we have a list of private teachers. Ask us! The directors at Wydown and select CHS students are also available for after-school help sessions by request.

2021-2022 Wydown Bands Schedule of Events

October 7	7:00 PM	6th Grade Cadet Band Debut Concert	WMS Theater
October 14	6:00 PM	WMS Band Fun Night	Virtual
October 25	TBA PM	SLSMEA MS Concert/Jazz Honor Band Aud	TBA off campus
November 14	All Day	Wydown Bands Mattress Sale	WMS Gym
December 2	7:00 PM	WMS and CHS Jazz Band Concert	CHS Auditorium
*December 14	7:30 PM	Clayton Night of Bands	560 Music Center
January 9	2:00 PM	SLSMEA Honor Groups Concert	Kirkwood HS
*January 18	6:00 PM	Wydown Band Ensemble Night	WMS FA Wing
*February 28	7:00 PM	7-12 Pre-Festival Concert	CHS Auditorium
*March 2	All Day	WMS Band Day	WMS Band Room
*March 8-10	TBA	Potential Dates for Large Group Festival	TBA
April 7 (Perc*)	7:00 PM	Night of Percussion Concert	CHS Auditorium
April 9	All Day	SLSMEA Solo Festival	Holman MS
April 9	All Day	6th Grade Mizzou Clinic	Columbia, MO
April 12	7:00 PM	Clayton Night of Jazz	Sheldon Aud.
*May 9	7:00 PM	6 th , 7 th and Wind Ensemble Concert	WMS Theater
*May 11	7:00 PM	CHS and 8 th Band Concert	CHS Auditorium
May TBA	TBA	WMS Wind Ensemble/Jazz Band Trip	TBA
*Indicates required event for all 7 th and 8 th grade band students			

You may view the complete Clayton Fine Arts Calendar by going to the link:

<http://www.claytonschoools.net/Page/8371>

ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES for WYDOWN BAND 7th & 8th GRADE BAND MEMBERS

SLSMEA All-Suburban Band



All of our 7th and 8th grade students are encouraged to audition for the prestigious St. Louis Suburban Music Educators Association (SLSMEA) All-Suburban Band in October. Students from all over the suburban area audition at the host school (TBA), and the top students are selected. There will be about five rehearsals at the host school beginning in November. The event culminates with a concert in January 2022.

More information on that will follow.

Students interested in auditioning for the All-Suburban Band should be prepared to play five concert key scales (C, F, B^b, E^b, A^b), the chromatic scale, and the two All-Suburban etudes.

Jazz Band



Jazz band is open to all students who meet the audition requirements. Students who would like to play in the jazz band but do not play a jazz instrument (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, guitar, percussion), should talk with Mrs. Holm to see what options are available. The school does have a limited number of instruments to lease for those playing a secondary instrument. If you have any questions, be sure to ask Mrs. Holm. Jazz Band rehearsals are held before school two mornings a week (Tuesday and Friday) and will begin in the early fall.

Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is open to all students enrolled in the 7th or 8th grade band or orchestra who meet the audition requirements and have a desire to play fun, challenging music with other highly motivated students. Any student who passes the audition on a wind instrument, percussion instrument, or string bass will be allowed to join (This may include 6th graders who play at an advanced level). Regular rehearsals are held one morning a week (Thursdays) before school. Sectionals and dress rehearsals may be added as needed. If you have questions, be sure to ask Ms. Shenberger or Mrs. Holm.

SLSMEA Solo Festival/WMS Ensemble Night

If you would like to perform a solo at a music festival, you're in luck! All 7th and 8th grade band members are eligible to participate in the SLSMEA Solo Ensemble Festival held in April, 2022 at Holman Middle School. **If you would like to perform in a small ensemble**, you may opt to participate in an extra small chamber group at the WMS Ensemble Night in January.

Percussion Ensemble 6, 7, & 8th Grade

Percussion Ensemble will be an integral part of band for all percussion players. It will rehearse as a regular part of the percussion curriculum during class. Its purpose is to give percussionists an exposure to a genre of music composed specifically for the percussion family. Performance opportunities include the Solo/Ensemble Festival in April, Night of Percussion concert, and possibly some other appearances. If you have any questions, see Mr. Petti.



Band Staff Emails

Ms. Sophie Browning sophiebrowning@claytonschoools.net

Woodwinds

Mrs. Tricia Holm triciaholm@claytonschoools.net

7th Grade Band, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble

Mrs. Alyssa Overmann. alyssaovermann@claytonschoools.net

8th Grade Band

Mr. Noah Petti noahpetti@claytonschoools.net

Percussion

Ms. Jennifer Shenberger. jennifershenberger@claytonschoools.net

6th Grade Band, Wind Ensemble



Parent/Student Signature Form



Please initial/check each area of the form below and provide signatures to acknowledge that you have read and understand the information provided in the Wydown Middle School Band Handbook.

Students must return this form by Friday, September 10, 2021 to receive 100 points toward "written assignments."

- ☐ 6th Grade Cadet Band
- ☐ 7th Grade Concert Band
- ☐ 8th Grade Symphonic Band

Student Name: _____

_____ I have viewed my student's teacher website and understand how to access important information, (If home internet access is unavailable, please inform your band director.)

_____ I have read the 2021-2022 Online Band Handbook and understand how the information applies to my son/daughter. (Hard copies of the Band Handbook are available upon Request) Please check the following categories to indicate that you have reviewed them with your student.

- ☐ The Wydown Ways
- ☐ Student Responsibilities/Grading Criteria
- ☐ Rehearsal Etiquette
- ☐ Performance and Audience Etiquette
- ☐ Dress Code
- ☐ For Parents and Guardians

_____ I understand that it is my son's/daughter's responsibility to have his/her instrument and needed materials (books, binders, music, pencil, reeds, valve oil, etc.) in rehearsal each day.

_____ I have read the grading criteria and understand the importance of each component and how each component contributes to the student's quarter/semester grade.

_____ I have reserved the performance dates for my son's/daughter's band on the family calendar and understand the commitment of attendance as well as grade implications regarding attendance. I also understand that I must report previously scheduled commitments that conflict with a required performance to a director in writing prior to **September 15** of the current school year.

_____ I am aware of the dress code for my son's/daughter's band and will ensure that my son/daughter is compliant at each performance.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____