

Williamsport Blue Band Handbook

2008-2009

Greetings Students and Parents!

This is an incredible time to be a member of the Blue Band! I can't believe how far this band has come in only one year. Together, we will continue to be *The Pride of Williamsport!*

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the underclassmen and their families to the Williamsport Blue Band, and would also like to invite all parents to attend our monthly band booster meetings. There will be more information forthcoming.

Everybody involved understands that this is a huge time commitment, and if we are going to make this commitment, then we might as well work hard while we are here. This year's show, "The Storm," is going to be incredibly exciting. This show is written to be very competitive. It is exciting, challenging, and fun. This show has the potential to take this band as far as you would like to go.

We will be competing in the Tournament of Bands Circuit, Chapter XIII and we are a group IV band. I want as many dedicated members as possible, so if you know of anybody would like to join our ranks and would be a positive contributor, please let me know.

Parents, if you are interested in helping chaperone, work the concession stand, help with equipment, tow the trailer, or volunteer in any other manner, please speak with one of our band booster officers. You will be receiving plenty of information on ways that you can help.

Communication is very important to a successful program. I have already begun compiling a list of email addresses to keep everybody informed. Also, our website, www.whsblueband.org is very close to being launched. Please check it for updated information frequently.

I am always available to speak with parents, answer questions, listen to concerns, etc. Please contact me at stikerob@wcboe.k12.md.us to schedule a meeting.

Looking forward to a great season,

Mr. Robert A. Stike
Director of Bands
Williamsport High School

Rules and Regulations:

The Marching Band is a school sponsored co-curricular activity. All rules that are in effect during the school day also apply during marching band activities. This includes but is not limited to:

-Smoking Policy- Use of tobacco products will not be tolerated during band activities. Anyone caught will be written up following school procedures.

-Drug and Alcohol Policy- I have a ZERO TOLERANCE policy when it comes to drugs and alcohol. Anyone caught under the influence or in possession of an illegal substance will be dealt with according to school district policy. This includes, not only involving the Administration, but also the Police. ALL MEDICATION MUST BE GIVEN TO THE DIRECTOR OR HEAD CHAPERONE BEFORE ALL TRIPS. Students will follow all district policies in regards to prescription medications.

-Respect for other students- Disrespect or belittlement of others will not be tolerated. Fighting, arguing, name-calling, insulting, swearing, harassing, mocking, etc. will not be tolerated.

To be a member of WHS band, you must be committed to the organization. Attending rehearsals, activities, and performances must be a PRIORITY for you. If you are not committed to the organization completely, please consider whether or not you belong in our group. The band is ALWAYS flexible.

IF YOU MUST MISS A PERFORMANCE OR REHEARSAL: a note from home is required at least TWO WEEKS in advance. Emergencies and illnesses require a note from home immediately upon your return to school (within 2 days). YOUR ABSENCE IMPACTS EVERY OTHER MEMBER OF THIS BAND.

PERFORMANCES:

When we are outside of Williamsport, we are representing not only the band and the music program, but also the entire high school, school district, and town of Williamsport. When we travel out of state, we are also representing the entire state of Maryland. If we make a poor impression while we are on tour, we will be adversely affected by it in the future. The band is one of the best forms of public relations for our school and town. We need to leave an impression of professionalism, class, and dignity. Inappropriate behavior while at a performance will NOT be tolerated. Missing a performance without written notice to the director will result in conference between staff members and the student. The student's grade will be lowered and their future in the band will be

discussed. A decision will be made as to whether or not the student may remain as a performing member in the band.

REHEARSALS:

Rehearsals are held on Monday evenings for the entire band, and the guard and drum line will have additional rehearsals on Thursday evenings. These rehearsals will run from 6:00-9:00 pm on Mondays and 6:30-8:30 pm on Thursdays. There are also rehearsals on some Saturdays. Additional rehearsal time may be scheduled at the discretion of the director, but ample notice will be given.

Rehearsals will begin promptly at 6:00 pm, which means you must be at the high school at approximately 5:45 pm to gather your equipment and head to the field.

LATENESS POLICY:

More than 15 minutes (unexcused) late to the weekly rehearsal will result in loss of third quarter break privileges at the next football game. More than 15 minutes late to 4 rehearsals in any given month will result in loss of the right to perform at the next performance. Extenuating circumstances must be presented to the director. **EXCEPTION: STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN SPORTS. I WILL EXPLAIN THE SPORTS POLICY INDIVIDUALLY.**

ATTENDANCE POLICY AND AFTER SCHOOL JOBS:

Work is NEVER an excuse to miss a rehearsal. You have been given the schedule with plenty of advance notice, and you are expected to arrange your work schedule accordingly. PLEASE DO NOT **EVER** ASK TO BE EXCUSED FROM ANY REHEARSAL OR ACTIVITY DUE TO AN AFTER SCHOOL JOB, **ESPECIALLY DURING BAND CAMP!** Unexcused absences will result in the loss of the right to perform, and they will negatively impact the students' grade. A conference will be held after 4 unexcused absences. The student's grade will be lowered and their future in the band will be discussed. A decision will be made as to whether or not the student may remain as a performing member in the band. Extenuating circumstances must be presented to the director in writing and signed by a parent within 2 days of the student's return to school.

ELIGIBILITY AND ACADEMICS

I will STRICTLY follow the district's eligibility rules. One of the most important things that marching band teaches you is time management. Your academics come first. You need to budget your time so that you can keep up with your classes. I expect all band students to be stellar students. I will keep in contact with all of your teachers and coaches to be sure that you are meeting your commitments on all ends.

BEING PREPARED:

All students are expected to have all equipment, instruments, music, accessories, colorguard equipment, and drill charts at every rehearsal. Failure to bring an above listed item is considered being unprepared. Frequent un-preparedness will negatively impact your grade.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:

Throughout the year, the band may be asked to perform at community functions, school activities, spirit events, etc. Please remember that we are the entertainment, the music, the pride, and one of the strongholds in each of these activities. You are expected to give EVERY performance 100%

“Three-Strike” Policy

The WHS Marching Band will maintain a level of excellence in regards to music, marching, attitude, pride, and behavior. The director will enforce a three-strike policy. This policy will not affect you unless you are found to be guilty of a major behavioral infraction. In the case of a major behavioral infraction, several steps will take place as a strike is issued. This is just a system of checks and balances to ensure a positive season for EVERYONE.

1. The staff member issuing the strike, the director, and the student will discuss why the strike was issued.
2. The incident will be documented and kept on file.
3. A letter will go home requiring a parent signature, explaining why the strike was given. It will also list other strikes and the dates they were earned.

If three strikes are earned within the regular competitive season (band camp through November), the student will no longer be a competing member of the band. HE OR SHE WILL BE GIVEN ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENTS AND NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE PROGRAM.

Every opportunity will be given to each student to explain his/her actions, and strikes will not be handed out unfairly. However, once it has been decided, beyond any reasonable doubt, that a student has earned three strikes, he or she will NOT get another chance. The director has the final decision as to whether or not the strike(s) are valid, and whether the student may remain in the band.

Please read and understand this section very carefully! To successfully move forward, we need to eliminate any and all distractions. Everyone on the field has a similar desire. That desire is to be the best band possible, and to have a great time doing it. We CANNOT allow a few weak links to break our chain. With focus and determination, this policy will not be necessary.

Uniform Wear and Care

As everybody is fully aware, we are proud to debut our new uniforms this year. In order to protect our investment and insure that these uniforms last, there must be more responsibilities taken by each student. Here are a few:

- While wearing the uniform jacket, the **ONLY** items that may be consumed are:
 - Water
 - Sprite/7UP/Sierra Mist
 - Plain Pretzel
 - Plain Popcorn (NO BUTTER)
- The following items may never be eaten while the jacket is on:
 - Any kind of burger
 - Any kind of hot dog or sausage
 - Nachos w/ Cheese
 - Any condiments
 - Any chocolate or candy products
 - If in doubt, don't eat it.
- Students may eat other foods, but they may **NOT** do so while wearing the uniform jacket. Before trips to the concession stand, the jackets must be folded **APPROPRIATELY** (you will be taught), and placed carefully on the stands.
- If the director gives permission for the uniform jackets to be removed, they **MUST** be folded and laid down properly.
- Shakos may **NOT** be carried by the strap. They must always be carried by the actual hat.
- Shakos, when placed on the ground, must **NEVER** be placed with the top of the hat on the ground. Place it as you wear it.
- Each student will be responsible for their own plume. You must put it in the cardboard case and transport it appropriately. Again you will be taught how to do this.
- The uniforms will **NEVER** travel home with you unless special permission is granted (i.e. for senior pictures).
- Shakos will always travel in the appropriate shako case.
- Uniforms will be worn with **PRIDE!**
- Swearing and PDA will not be tolerated in uniform. You will have respect for that uniform and in turn, you will be respected for wearing that uniform.

Financial Obligations

Please be aware that there is a financial obligation to belong to this group. Unfortunately, due to rising fuel prices the prices have increased. We are also going to be sending out all of the uniforms to be dry-cleaned together. We have gotten special group rates which will save EVERYBODY money. Just think, to clean just the jacket is about \$7.00. If you were to send the uniform out after every show you would be responsible for about \$63 or more in dry cleaning. We are only charging \$40.

If you need financial assistance, please speak with Kim Baker (Booster Treasurer) or Mike Baker (Booster President) privately and as soon as possible. **Payment plans and other arrangements can be made!**

Another change this year is that the boosters will be taking care of the transportation fees as well. You will only need to write one check. In the future years, we are planning on setting up a PAYPAL account online and from our website you will be able to charge your band fees if you would like.

ALL RETURN CHECKS SUBJECT TO \$25.00 FEE

Transportation Fee: 75.00

Membership Fee: 40.00 (Second Child's Membership Fee 20.00)

Instrumental Rental: 20.00 (Guard, Percussion, Pit, any school owned instruments)

Uniform Cleaning: 40.00 (guard will purchase their uniforms and will keep them)

Students will be responsible for purchasing shoes and gloves as well.

- Shoes: **Black Drill Masters Shoes – \$24.95 can be purchased at www.bandshoppe.com** (Students will need these by the first performance)
- Gloves: Can be purchased from the director at the school and are usually about 3.00 a pair, or you may also purchase them at the above web address. **Sure Grip Deluxe Guard Gloves 2.85 online.**

Drum Major and Band Captain MUST have white gloves with them at every evening rehearsal!

Bus Rules

Students will follow all WCBOE bus rules at all times. On short trips, students will wear their band t-shirts and uniform pants (known as “halves”)

Radios are permitted at a reasonable level, but may not be taken off of the bus. Students may be asked by chaperones or bus drivers to turn it off at any time. Drumming is **ONLY** permitted on the soft side of a “Real Feel” practice pad, and this privilege may be revoked at any time.

Etiquette

While we are in the public eye, please remember to be professional, dignified, and respectful. Use manners, treat people with respect, and show your gratitude for favors done for you. Public displays of affection (PDA) **ARE NOT APPROPRIATE** while in uniform. It is also not appropriate during rehearsals, in the stands, or on the band bus. Please be considerate of those around you.

The band will always travel as a group. This means that when we are moving to or from one location, we will be marching as a group **OR** walking in relaxed lines of two. This is not up for debate. WHS will look and act as one unit not 100 individual people.

Other Details

At every football game, you will be given a break during the third quarter. After we perform our halftime show, you will be on break for the entire third quarter. Please use this time to get some refreshments (SEE UNIFORM WEAR AND CARE SECTION), use the restroom, and relax. However, you **MUST** be back in the bleachers at the specified time, usually 2:00 remaining on the time clock (end of 3rd quarter). This time will be at the director’s discretion. You will have adequate time. I will make every effort to ensure everybody gets food and rest. If you do not get through the line, come back and tell me, at which point, you may be sent in small groups back. However, the band needs to be ready to play when the 4th quarter begins.

FRESHMEN: Freshmen are responsible to clean up the trash after football games. Every class of freshmen has done this since the ‘50s. It is our privilege to have the concession stand, and we must keep the stadium clean. There are only 5 home games and the job is relatively easy.

Any member who forgets the necessary items at a performance (uniform, socks, shoes, instrument, shako, will not march. He/She/They will remain at parade rest on the sideline during the performance.

There are items not covered in this book. The director and administration has the final say in ALL issues.

WHS Marching Band Contract

Student's Agreement

I _____, agree to abide by all of the rules set forth in the 2008-2009 Handbook. I am dedicated to this organization and agree to be a POSITIVE participant. I understand my obligations to this group, my fellow band members, my parents, Williamsport High School, and most importantly, myself. I will make every effort to be at every rehearsal and performance in a timely manner. I will treat others with dignity and respect, and am ready to have a great time while surpassing all of our goals.

Parent's Agreement

I/we, the parent(s)/guardian(s) _____, agree to the rules set forth in the 2008-2009 Handbook. I have read the **Three Strikes** rule and understand that my child will be held responsible for his/her actions. I am willing to support this organization and my child's involvement in it. I understand that each student is relied upon by every other student and will make an effort to encourage my child's attendance.

Director's Agreement

I, Mr. Stike, promise to make every student's band experience worthwhile. I will advocate a safe, fun, social, and educational environment for every student. I will treat each student with the dignity and respect they deserve. I will keep the parents informed of all pertinent information. I will be available for pre-arranged conferences with any parent or student. I will not tolerate any student being treated unfairly or with disrespect. I will ensure student safety on all of our trips. I also will make every effort to release students on time. I will act as a guide, helping these students progress individually and as a unit.

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Director Signature: _____

Williamsport High School Blue Band Uniform Agreement

I, the undersigned, acknowledge I will be assigned a Williamsport High School Blue Band Uniform as follows:

Jacket	Pants	Gauntlets	Raincoat	Hat/Hat Box	Plume
\$250.00	\$125.00	\$30.00	\$125.00	\$45 / \$10	\$15.00

I accept responsibility for the proper wear and care of the uniform pieces. Should an accident or some misfortune occur to the uniform, I will IMMEDIATELY notify the Band Director, Band Booster President, or the Uniform Committee Chairperson of the damage or loss.

With my signature I agree to reimburse Williamsport Band Boosters, Inc. for the cost of any lost or damaged items at the prices shown above, which are subject to change. Reimbursement will be made prior to the end of the school year.

A uniform rental fee will be charged this year for the proper care and cleaning of this uniform for the year. If any additional cleaning is needed due to carelessness, weather, etc. additional fees will be collected.

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>GUARD</u>	<u>PERCUSSION</u>	<u>PIT</u>	<u>WIND PLAYER</u>
Membership Fee	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Uniform Rental/Cleaning Fee	Will be required to purchase uniform. Info to follow.	40.00	40.00	40.00
Equipment Rental	20.00	20.00	20.00	If Applicable, 20.00
Transportation	75.00	75.00	75.00	75.00
TOTAL				

NOTE: 2nd Child Membership fee is \$20.00. (First child is still \$40.00) Make change in amount shown above and List sibling name _____

Check# _____ Cash _____ Date Paid _____

Make check payable to Williamsport Band Boosters, Inc.

ALL RETURN CHECKS SUBJECT TO \$25.00 FEE

I, the undersigned, agree and accept all the conditions as stated in this Williamsport High School Blue Band Uniform Agreement.

Blue Band Member Signature _____ Grade _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____