

**I acknowledge that I have received this WPHS Band hand book and will have my parents sign all forms and return these forms within 1 week from the date given to me. I will not be able to perform and will receive unexcused absences for not having the forms turned in for all performances.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Please)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Forms Required to Be Handed In Are:**

Authorization for Medical Treatment – please initial Tylenol section  
Parent UIL Marching Acknowledgement Form  
Band Handbook Parent Understanding Form  
Wills Point ISD Drug Testing Parent Understanding Form  
Tiger Band Parent Information Form

**Please retain your copy of the Band Handbook for your student is responsible for all rules and regulations.**

# **FORWARD – Board Approved June 2009**

As a member of the Wills Point Band Program, you are a part of one of Wills Point ISD's most respected school organizations. *The success of the Band will depend on the LOYALTY, COOPERATION, and DEDICATION of each and every member.*

The guidelines outlined on the following pages are simple, sound, and easy to understand and follow. They reflect years of experience and hours of careful thought and planning. In following them, you are meeting an obligation that you owe to your Band, School, community, and most importantly - **TO YOURSELF!**

## **BAND PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

To teach an appreciation and understanding of the performing arts and how music influences and reflects history and culture.

To teach the importance of self-discipline, cooperation, loyalty, and respect for others, as well as the importance of responsibility.

To create in students a desire and appreciation for excellence in performance of any endeavor.

To teach students how to set individual goals in life and how to accomplish those goals.

To teach students the skills and tools needed to perform to the best of their ability.

## **THE BAND MEMBERS RESPONSIBILITY**

Be regular in attendance and account for all absences.

Become responsible for and expect to assume the consequences of his/her actions.

Be personally clean, neat, and dressed appropriately.

Have the proper respect for those in authority.

Be personally responsible for all information regarding the band, rehearsals, events, and schedules and be responsible for relaying such information to parents and/or guardians.

Follow all classroom rules, school handbook, regulations, and travel instructions for trips.

Be honest and fair with others concerning equipment, music, and school life in general.

The school provides a secure environment for the storage of instruments but it is the responsibility of the individual student for their personal and school owned instrument. It is recommended that you make sure that your Home or Renters Insurance covers your personal band instrument. You can purchase insurance from a number of different providers. If you lose or damage a school instrument it is the students responsibility to repair or replace the instrument. Lockers are provided for most owned instruments that have the capability of using a combination lock. This lock combination must be given to the Band Director to have access to the locker.

Cooperate with fellow band members and share with them the responsibilities and privileges that are part of the band program.

Make a real effort to learn and improve daily, to read and play music with insight and statement.

## **BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE**

***Exemplary behavior is expected of all band members at all times.*** Remember that you are a representative of your band, your band is a representative of your school, and your school is a representative of your community.

There is no way to list all the dos and don'ts of being a band member. Common sense must prevail. ***The Director of Bands reserves the right to exercise the authority to make the final decision regarding disciplinary action/removal from the band program. This removal will be done with the Principal's approval.*** The following infractions are some of the more obvious that qualify for disciplinary action, and/or immediate removal from the program.

1. Any disrespectful behavior such as foul and/or abusive language to students or teachers.
2. Excessive tardiness or absences at rehearsals or performances.
3. Any misuse or abuse of school property, or property of others.
4. Alcohol, smoking or drug use at any school function, at any time. (Alcohol or drug use or any other illegal indulgence at any time or activity, school related or otherwise)
5. Any action which dishonors or disgraces the Wills Point Band or the school in any way.
6. Other infractions of the rules as stated in the Wills Point I.S.D. Student Handbook or as stated in the Wills Point I.S.D. Band Handbook.
7. ***Repeated disregard of Band Member Rules.***
8. ***The Student Code of Conduct applies to all band activities.***

# BAND MEMBER RULES

1. Be prepared for rehearsal on time (instrument, music, pencil, etc.).
2. Be prepared for performances on time (all necessary items).
3. Eating, drinking, or chewing gum is not allowed in the band hall at any time. (Due to work load and schedules, staff and Director of Bands are exempt.)
4. Play your own instrument and no one else's, unless with director approval.
5. Instrument, case, music, books, etc. should be kept in their proper place before, during, and after rehearsals.
6. Give 100% effort during all rehearsals and performances. Do not disrupt or disturb rehearsals with inappropriate activities.
7. Play your instrument in the right way, time, and place.
8. Always conduct yourself with honor and integrity. Horseplay and pranks are activities that are not allowed.
9. **Absences should be reported in advance**, in writing if possible, to be excused. (See attendance) Notification of absence after an event is excusable under extreme circumstances (emergencies). Excessive absences are unacceptable, and will result in failing grades, student placed on alternate status and ultimately dismissal from the program (Director of Bands discretion).
10. All High School Band Students are issued a **band uniform** for performances. Each student is responsible for the uniform. Any damage to the uniform is the responsibility of the student that uniform is assigned to. All students will provide the mandatory black marching shoes, white gloves, black socks, instrument lyre and band T-shirt's. Any items issued such as Berps, Lyers, mutes etc...must be maintained and turned in when requested. If lost these items must be replaced or paid for. Monies owed to the program will be reported to the school administration for payment if not paid for in a timely fashion.
11. **School instruments** are the sole property of the Wills Point ISD and must be taken care of. Students using School instruments will be held financially responsible for any damage to the instrument(s) during the course of using the instrument. The director will get a quote on repair and have the instrument repaired with the understanding of reimbursement by student. The student will also be responsible for instrument being stolen or damaged by a third party, rain or fire.
12. Always strive, persevere, and maintain a positive attitude toward achieving your goals as a band member during the tough times as well as the good times. **NO ONE IS EXPECTED TO BE PERFECT.....BUT EVERYONE IS EXPECTED TO GIVE THEIR ALL!**

# Discipline

Discipline within our band program is a very important reason for our success. We follow the rules of the Student Code of Conduct. In addition we as a program try to handle discipline in a positive way. Lunch Detentions can be assigned by the directors for tardies. **Marching band discipline for misbehavior and or tardies will be marching exercises and or loss of third quarter privileges. Marching exercises occur after practice and are monitored.**

## BAND TRAVEL

Full instruction will be given before leaving for the destination. All band members will travel to performances, destinations, etc., on school approved transportation. Students may ride back from a performance with parent or guardian if signed out on location. The school Alternative Travel form must be used and issued to the director prior to departure. No student is allowed to leave with anyone but their own parent or guardian unless arrangements are made prior to the trip, with approval from the principal and the band director. Only music devices such as CD, Mp3, DVD players can only be used with headphones will be allowed on buses.

***Band Trips*** Traditionally, the High School Band attends a major festival/performance within the State and nation. Students and Band Boosters share cost. Fund-raisers are provided to help the student with finances. The Tiger Band will typically travel every two years. The cost to the student ranges from \$300 to \$800. The students are encouraged to begin saving funds from the time they are in the 8th grade band. ***Examples of WPHS Band trips taken in recent years are: Chicago, Illinois... Corpus Christi, Texas...Orlando, Florida...Panama City Beach, Florida... South Padre Island.*** Travel plans are typically confirmed, and announced to students and parents by May of the previous year. Parent chaperones are considered and chosen based on participation in the Band Booster Organization.

***Alternative Travel*** is allowed only from any band event. If a band student wants to leave any band event after its conclusion an alternative travel form must be attained and approved by the building principal and or other administrative personnel. Each student must ride to the activity with the program and only under special circumstances will this be altered. **ONLY THE PARENT OR ADULT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BAND STUDENT IS ALLOWED TO BE THE ALTERNATIVE TRAVEL PROVIDER. NO SIBLINGS EVEN IF OVER 18.**

***Parents*** It is very important that you understand the way the Parent Participation Credit and the Student Points programs work. Both of these programs are extremely beneficial financially to you and your band member. That information can be learned at the Band Booster Meetings and the web site [www.willspointbands.com](http://www.willspointbands.com)

## Grading

Grading at all levels of instrumental music classes (9th through 12th) are based on participation and skill development. The following are areas in which students are graded.

**PARTICIPATION** How the student enters and leaves the band hall.

**How** the student shows interest and desire to learn in class.

**How** the student maintains his/her instrument, learning materials, and storage area.

**How** the student and parent maintain practice records.

**How** the student shows respect for instructors, peers and self.

**SKILL** How the student progresses on his/her instrument (tests).

**How** the student attends rehearsals and performances with emphasis on dress, behavior and promptness.

**How** the student contributes to the ensemble in skill and attitude, as evidenced in performance and behavior.

**Do not expect a high grade in band if there is a deficiency in any of the above areas. Any student with a reasonable work ethic and a willingness to respect rules and authority will succeed in band, regardless of talent and/or aptitude. Any student lacking in respect or good work ethic will not succeed in band, regardless of talent and/or aptitude.** (Chair placement procedures are at the discretion of the directors.)

## AUXILIARY GROUPS

**Drum Major(s)** will be chosen by audition. Drum Majors will be chosen each year. Drum Majors must in no way jeopardize good standing in the band program. Any situation involving a Drum Major which the Director of Bands deems to be a compromise of the program's integrity, can and most likely will result in the immediate dismissal of that Drum Major from his/her duties. In that unfortunate event, the Director of Bands may use his discretion whether to replace that person or not, and the process by which a replacement will be chosen. The Drum Major being the most visible member of the band may have to conform to a more rigid dress code in the area of personal grooming. All band-grading procedures apply.

**High School Auxiliaries** members are selected after an audition camp is set and attended. Attendance at the practice camp is part of audition score. Members of the Colorguard do not have to be members of the band program but will be scheduled in the first semester band class only. Participation in the Colorguard is demanding and time consuming. The fees involved for Colorguard will average between \$125 and \$175. All band-grading procedures apply.

**Tigerette Drill Team members** are encouraged to audition and be a part of the Band Auxiliary unit of the Marching Band. Being a member of the marching band auxiliaries is an activity supported by the Tigerette Drill Team and sponsors. These students will be scheduled into the Marching Band class and will have all privileges of the Marching Band students including all trips and activities.

*\*\*All auxiliary members are encouraged to limit any additional activities through November. This is to avoid placing undue stress on the student since these areas of participation do require extra practice and commitment. Any student displaying difficulty in maintaining their role in the band auxiliary unit will be subject to removal by the Director of Bands. (Director's discretion)*

**Feature Twirlers:** Though our band program does not have a performance place for High School **Feature Twirler(s)** in Pep Rally, Halftime or Contest show there is an opportunity for band students who excel at a very high level in baton twirling. Students who have taken private lessons and are presently taking lessons have the opportunity to participate in the UIL twirling solo competition and the region and state level. The Parent serves as the chaperone and is responsible for transportation to and from said event. The student must take private lessons from an established twirling teacher and demonstrate ability level of twirling 45 days prior to twirling event and registration. The National Baton Twirling Association is an excellent source of organized competition that is offered in our state. Information on the NBTA can be obtained at [www.ustwirling.com](http://www.ustwirling.com)

## JAZZ STUDIES

A jazz studies is offered to any high school band student wishing to explore this area of musicianship. All players must be enrolled in band class. These students are expected to maximize their musical potential through performance, refining playing skills and synthesizing compositional theory. Students planning on further college study of music would be well advised to schedule this class each year. There is always a possibility that the class does not make due to lack of participation. This group performs several concerts each spring, including civic events and community service. Rhythm section players can be admitted from outside the band program if approved by director. Grades are based on participation only. Students are accepted into this class by audition or director's discretion.

Students that leave the program or are removed from the band program will not be allowed to be in the Jazz Band.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

All graduating band seniors are eligible for college scholarship money. Several local Junior Colleges and many Universities consistently offer Wills Point Band Seniors scholarship opportunities. Being a Tiger Band member continues to pay off every year. Students do not have to be music majors to qualify, and nearly all of our graduates are offered great discounts on tuition, out-of-state fee waivers, along with that once in a lifetime chance to experience the excitement, fun, and new found friendships as a member of a college/university band.

## BAND BOOSTER ORGANIZATION

All band parents are encouraged to become a member of the Band Boosters. This organization is the Band program's support group. The Boosters' responsibilities are to service the band program through fund raising and support as needed. This group's primary goal is to help meet the financial needs of the students. Everything this organization does is for the student. The Band Booster Organization does not participate in policy making or implementation within the WPISD instrumental (Bands) music program. The Director of Bands serves on an advisory basis to better guide the Booster organization as to the needs of the program.

**PARENTS WHO HAVE STUDENTS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL BAND ARE EXPECTED TO BE ACTIVE AS A BAND BOOSTER. Please see participation credit**

## Parent Participation Credit Guidelines

Revised 2-12-2008

At the inception of these guidelines, the High School Band travels in alternating school years. The participation credits will be earned over a two-year period prior to the trip. Credits will be applied at trip time (credit year is defined as Spring-Fall & Spring-Fall). After the trip, any remaining unused credits will be dropped and the process will begin again.

A portion of the funds raised by the Wills Point Band Boosters will be used to assist band students with trip expenses by paying for the cost of transportation (charter buses). Operating the concession stand during the football season raises the majority of these funds. The Band Boosters developed the Parent Participation Credit Guidelines in the 2003-04 school year in order to encourage greater participation by all parents in the fund raising process and in the enormous task of operating the concession stand. These guidelines were revised on 08-02-2005 in an effort to simplify the guidelines and ensure fair and adequate opportunities for all parents to participate and earn the needed credits for their students to be eligible to receive funds at trip time.

Required participation credits are per family regardless of the number of band students in each family. For example, a family that has three children who are all in the high school band would only need to earn the same number of credits as the family of a student who has one student in the high school band.

Anyone can work to earn credits for a student. If a parent is unable to work, the student can ask other adult extended family members or adult friends to work on their behalf. Persons who work on behalf of the student must designate who is to receive the credit at the time the credit is earned. If a student's family is truly unable to participate, the band director can recommend to the Band Boosters that the student be allowed to work for him or herself.

A participation credit pool will be established for students who do not have family that is able to participate. Workers who have earned enough credits for their child/children may be allowed to work additional shifts if workers are needed and apply credits to the pool. Credits accrued in the participation credit pool will be distributed to students in need, after review by the executive committee, and based upon recommendation of the high school band director.

To receive funds provided by the Band Boosters for transportation (charter buses) each family must:

1. Accumulate a total of 4 parent participation credits prior to the band trip.
2. Earn 2 points each year by working two shifts in the concession stand. One shift earns 1 credit.

Concession stand shifts are defined as follows (1 credit per shift):

Friday Night First shift: 5:00 – 8:00  
Second shift: 8:00 – 11:00  
Thursday Night First shift: Freshman game (est. time 5p – 7p)  
Second shift: Jr. Varsity game (est. time 7p – 9:30p)  
Spring Track Meets 1 Meet = 1 shifts (est. time 5p – 8p)

#### **Special Circumstances:**

1. Families of transfer students who are new to the district and band in the year that the band will travel will only be required to earn a total of 2 participation credits by working 2 shifts in the concession stand.
2. Families of students who are first year participants in auxiliary units (drill, flags) and have not participated in band prior to the year that the band will travel will only be required to earn a total of 2 participation credits by working 2 shifts in the concession stand.
3. Families of students who are freshmen in the year that the band will travel will be allowed to earn all 4 required participation credits during that school year by working a total of four shifts in the concession stand. (Eighth grade students have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to earn credits if parents choose to work in the concession stand at that time.)

Band Booster funds are apportioned based on the total amount spent for the charter buses divided by the approximate number of students going on the trip to determine the bus cost per student. Students whose families have not earned the total required participation credits prior to trip time will receive a percentage of funds equal to the percent of credits earned. For example, if a student's family has only accrued 3 credits they will receive 75% of the amount provided to students whose family earned 4 credits as outlined above.

Band Booster funds do not include or cover any hotel, entertainment, meals, or other trip associated expenses. Students will be advised by the band director as to what they will be expected to pay for hotel, meals, entertainment and other trip associated expenses.

***BAND BOOSTER MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FIRST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE HIGH SCHOOL. Any change to this will be notified on the web page at [www.willspointbands.com](http://www.willspointbands.com)***

## **4x4 Graduation Requirements**

The Texas requirements for graduation do allow for our band students to be involved in other activities such as athletics, Agriculture and Theater. Wills Point Independent School District supports the sharing of students within all co-curricular and extra-curricular classes. Please see the recommended class structure of students for the 4x4 program. A copy of this recommended class schedule for the entire high school years can be found at the back of this handbook. Copies can also be picked up at the band hall office or from the counselors.

## **SUMMATION**

Participation in the Wills Point Band program is dependent upon effort and a true desire to succeed.

The rules stated in this handbook are easy to understand. The Band Directors and administration of the WPISD feel these rules are fair, just and are in the best interest of the overall Tiger Band program, school, and each individual who participates.

The final decision is yours. There is no place for weakness and complacency in this Band! An organization is only as strong as its weakest link.

The Wills Point ISD Band program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap.



# **WILLS POINT HIGH SCHOOL BAND (Must be turned in to Director)**

**My child and I have read the Wills Point ISD Band Handbook and understand fully the content contained and the spirit of intent with which it is written. We also understand that if at any time, and/or for any reason, my child cannot follow the policies and guidelines set forth by the Director, classroom teachers or school administration, he/she will be subject to consequences as stated in this handbook, as well as the WPISD High School Handbook.**

**Furthermore, I acknowledge the accomplishments of the Tiger Band program and realize the responsibility my child assumes as a member of this outstanding school organization.**

**We also acknowledge our intent to contribute positively as parent and student to the Wills Point ISD Band program.**

Parent/guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

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

Date\_\_\_\_\_