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G R O V E
M I D D L E
S C H O O L
B A N D
H A N D B O O K

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Due to the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation, this handbook does not include information regarding COVID-19. Please refer to any communication sent by Mrs. Jaso or WGMS/MISD for guidelines on this.

Welcome!

Welcome to the Walnut Grove Middle School Band! Your child has chosen a wonderful performing group to be involved with at WGMS. Our band program has roughly 250 students, which makes up about 25% of the school population! In recent years, WGMS Bands have developed a tradition of excellence, and I am excited that your student will take part in continuing this momentum. In 2019, The WGMS Honors Band earned both 1st and 2nd place in the State OPS Competition, as well as being an Area Finalist in the TMEA Honor Band Competition. Our band program begins in 6th grade, and continues all the way through 12th grade. We like to advertise band as a “7 year experience”. The fundamentals learned in the student’s beginning band year will lay the foundation for them to continue until they graduate high school. Some students may choose to continue playing their instrument in college, or even a community band! Our primary goal is to promote a lifelong love of music in our students’ lives, no matter what field or career path they choose.

Contact Information

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Join the Remind for your student:

Honors Band: <https://www.remind.com/join/4af8ce2>
Symphonic Band: <https://www.remind.com/join/be7kcg>
Beginner Flute: <https://www.remind.com/join/b8ba84>
Beginner Oboe/Bassoon: <https://www.remind.com/join/937ced>
Beginner Clarinet: <https://www.remind.com/join/4a48dea>
Beginner Saxophone: <https://www.remind.com/join/ak923gg>
Beginner Trumpet: <https://www.remind.com/join/746287>
Beginner French Horn: <https://www.remind.com/join/7k6eb2>
Beginner Trombone/Euphonium/Tuba:
<https://www.remind.com/join/c83a3d>
Beginner Percussion: <https://www.remind.com/join/dk22he>

Follow us on Social Media for announcements and live streams:

 Facebook Page: [WGMS Band](#)

 Instagram: [@wgmsband](#)

If you or your student have a question or concern at any time, please feel free to send us an email, or schedule a time to have a conference. Our conference period is during 7th period, and we are happy to host virtual or phone conferences. We will make every effort to respond to you within 24 hours. Emails or phone calls sent after 4:00 PM will be returned the following business day.

Please visit and bookmark our website (www.wgmsband.weebly.com) for more information.

Band Objectives

Organizational skills
Practice techniques
Mental and physical discipline
Citizenship through group endeavors
Cultural growth
Value judgments
Music theory

Proper instrumental technique
Life lessons
Creative self-expression
Aural skills
Music appreciation
Teamwork/social skills
Performance skills

Student Behavioral Expectations

Discipline is a quality that must come from within the individual. As such, each student is responsible for his or her own actions as a member of the Walnut Grove Band. Any student who shows an inability to work effectively in class will be reassigned to another class at the discretion of the band director. As a school group, band members are governed by school and school board policies anytime they are together for any band function whether it involves all students or only one. The forms you sign at the end of this Handbook will be in effect throughout the year for trips related to the band. Any student who violates school rules while with the Walnut Grove Band will be subject to all usual school disciplinary procedures. In addition, those students may be subject to dismissal and not continue to perform or travel with the band. Also, students who receive assignment to the alternative school for disciplinary action outside of band activities are in danger of not performing with the band in any extracurricular functions for the remainder of the school year.

Order of disciplinary actions:

1. Conference with Student
2. Email to parent
3. After School Detention
4. Office Referral
5. Removal from program

Financial Obligations

There are two categories of financial obligations in band; **Band Fees** and **Band Supplies**.

- **Band Fees** are paid to the WGMS Band Program to cover various costs over the course of the year. You can view the detailed breakdown of the band fee sheet attached [here](#).
- **Band Supplies** are different for each instrument, and can be found [here](#). Most of these supplies are purchased in the beginning band year, but 7th and 8th grade students should also check to make sure they have everything.

If financial constraints prevent you from being able to pay your band fees or secure supplies, please contact me and allow me to help. We will not let instrument availability or financial constraints keep your child from participating.

"Step-Up Instruments" for Advanced Students:

Below is a list of recommended advanced instruments. In most cases, beginner instruments are adequate for middle school bands; however, better quality instruments enable students to learn more quickly and with greater ease. While there are several brands and models of advanced instruments, the following are recommended by the MISD staff as the best quality:

Flute: Yamaha models 500, 600, 700, Miyazawa 95SR

Clarinet: Buffet R-13 (the "Festival" model is not recommended)

Alto Saxophone: Selmer SA-80 or Yamaha Pro Model

Trumpet: Bach Stradivarius 180-S

Trombone: Bach 42-BO

These can be purchased at many retail stores and can also be purchased used. The so-called "pro-model" instruments are often discounted as much as 35%-40% for cash purchases. Parents are encouraged to seek the help of a private instructor or director before purchasing one of these instruments.

Fundraising

Fundraising is one of the most important ways that the WGMS Band raises funds to go on trips, purchase new equipment, uniforms, or even new school owned instruments. As our band program nears 250 students, fundraising becomes more and more important! We will do 2 fundraisers this year: 1 in October, and 1 in the Spring. While it is not a requirement to participate in fundraising, we strongly encourage it!

Honors Band

The Honors Band is the varsity band at WGMS, where preparation for high school band is the primary objective. Selection into this group is by audition, director recommendation, and demonstration of academic proficiency. Members in this ensemble will participate in the All-Region Band process, Solo and Ensemble Contest, preparations for special possible honor concerts, and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of this group will have one section rehearsal outside of the school day each week. Additional rehearsals will be scheduled as needed. The Honors Band will give numerous performances both on and off campus. Instrumentation in the honors band is limited to those who show advanced performance abilities, commitment, and superior attitudes. Members are selected by audition and must meet the minimum requirements for performance. **Private Lessons are a requirement for students in the Honors Band. These are \$20 per lesson, and financial scholarships are available on a limited basis. Please contact Mrs. Jaso if you would like a financial assistance form. See "Private Lesson Program" below for more information.**

WEEKLY SECTIONAL REHEARSALS:

Students in the Honors Band will be required to attend one sectional rehearsal a week. The schedule for this will depend on your child's instrument. **SCHEDULE TBD-** Sectionals will not begin for the first 2-3 weeks of school. Once this schedule is finalized, this document will be updated on the WGMS Website, and the schedule will be posted on the home page.

DAILY PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS:

The Honors Band at Walnut Grove Middle School has received consistent Superior ratings at UIL concert and sight-reading contests as well as Best in Class awards at other contests and festivals. In addition, the Honors Band is a State Award-Winning Ensemble. In order to reinforce these advanced skills and to keep up with such an amazing tradition of excellence, it is imperative that each student practice every night, arrive to class on time, and be prepared to work hard for the duration of the class period or sectional. Lack of preparation, missing rehearsals, or serving as a distraction during rehearsal will not be tolerated in any way. This is the advanced band, which is made up of students who have attained a high degree of proficiency on their instrument. Members of this organization perform at UIL Competition, pep rallies and other school functions, fall, winter and spring concerts, recruiting concerts, and invitational festivals. Students also participate in individual events including objective tests, chair tests, all-region competition, solo contest, and ensemble contest.

Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is an advanced performing group with preparation for the Honors Band as a primary objective for 7th graders, and high school band as the objective for 8th graders. At varying levels, the Symphonic band will participate in Solo and Ensemble Contest and UIL Concert and Sight-reading Contest. Members of Symphonic Band will have one section rehearsal outside of the school day. Members are selected by audition and must meet the minimum requirements for performance.

WEEKLY SECTIONAL REHEARSALS:

Students in the Symphonic Band will be required to attend one sectional rehearsal a week. The schedule for this will depend on your child's instrument. **SCHEDULE TBD-** Sectionals will not begin for the first 2-3 weeks of school. Once this schedule is finalized, this document will be updated on the WGMS Website, and the schedule will be posted on the home page.

DAILY PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS:

The Symphonic Band at Walnut Grove Middle School has received consistent Superior ratings at UIL concert and sight-reading contests over the past decade. In order to reinforce these advanced skills and to keep up with such an amazing tradition of excellence, it is imperative that each student practice every night, arrive to class on time, and be prepared to work hard for the duration of the class period or sectional. Lack of preparation, missing rehearsals, or serving as a distraction during rehearsal will not be tolerated in any way. Members of this organization perform at UIL Competition, pep rallies and other school functions, fall, winter and spring concerts, and invitational festivals. Students also participate in individual events including objective tests, chair tests, all-region competition (if interested), solo contest, and ensemble contest.

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band is an introductory course designed to teach your student the foundations of playing an instrument, performing in a group setting, and reading music. Beginning Band is the first year in a 7-year band experience, 6th-12th grade. The Beginning Band is separated into like-instrument classes: Flute, Oboe/Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone/Euphonium/Tuba and Percussion. Beginners will participate in Concert Performances, Solo and Ensemble Contest, and a Band Contest at the end of the year.

AFTER SCHOOL REHEARSALS:

Since Beginners will be separated into instrument classes for most of the year, it is extremely important that they occasionally meet all together as a full band when preparing for concerts or contests. There are not very many time commitments outside of the school day for beginning band students. We will have 2-3 required after-school rehearsals (4:15-5:15 PM) before each concert or contest performance. These dates will be communicated well in advance. Please check the calendar and the band website for more information as it becomes available.

Band Placement

Band placement for the next school year is determined by several factors:

1. A formal audition for a band director in May
2. Overall daily performance/participation in class
3. Grades

All band placements are subject to change at the discretion of the director during the school year.

Care of Facilities

Our band hall is home to many expensive instruments and other equipment. For this reason, we do not allow the following while inside the band facilities:

1. Roughhousing
2. Running
3. Food or Drink
4. Handling/playing another student's instrument
5. Using percussion equipment as a table
6. Storing non-band items in lockers
7. Opening another student's locker

Attendance

Attendance and punctuality at all rehearsals and performances is expected and required. Concerts are extensions of the classroom and are a highlight of the learning process. These dates are set in advance so that students can make arrangements for the benefit of themselves and the band (team). The band directors will work with other teachers, coaches, and directors of various activities to give each student every opportunity to be part of other groups. Written documentation, signed by the parent or guardian in case of illness or emergencies should accompany any absence. Multiple unexcused absences from a rehearsal, or performance with no communication may result in the removal from the band program. **Concert attendance is a major test grade, and should only be missed for unavoidable conflicts that have been documented and communicated well in advance.**

Band Supply Lists

Daily Band Supplies

- ___ 1. Instrument
- ___ 2. Books (See Below)
- ___ 3. Instrument Supplies (See Below)
- ___ 4. Case Name Tag (Luggage Tag) Check your instrument- it may already have one.
- ___ 5. Black Binder 1 or 1½ inch binder (**Not provided this year**)
- ___ 6. Pencil Pouch inside binder with plenty of pencils

Books

- ___ **All Band Students-** Foundations for Superior Performance Book
- ___ **Beginner Brass/Woodwinds-** Essential Elements Book 1
- ___ **Beginner Percussion-** Simple Steps to Successful Beginning Percussion

Flute:

- ___ Tuning/Cleaning Rod
- ___ Cleaning Swab
- ___ Silver Polish Cloth
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Mouthpiece
- Patches (**Beginners**)
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Oboe:

- ___ 3 Bocal Majority Reeds
(Soft for 6th, Medium for 7/8th)
- ___ Vandoren Cork Grease
- ___ Oboe Reed Case
- ___ Cleaning Swab
- ___ Reed Soaker Cup
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Bassoon:

- ___ 3 Bocal Majority Reeds
(Soft for 6th, Medium for 7/8th)
- ___ Vandoren Cork Grease
- ___ Bassoon Reed Case
- ___ Body and Bocal Swabs
- ___ Reed Soaker Cup
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Clarinet:

- ___ M13 Lyre Mouthpiece
- ___ Rovner Ligature
- ___ Vandoren 3.0 Reeds
- ___ Vandoren Cork Grease
- ___ Reed Guard
- ___ Cleaning Swab
- ___ Mouthpiece Patches
- ___ Claricord Neckstrap
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Bass Clarinet:

- ___ Yamaha 4C Bass Mouthpiece
- ___ Rovner Ligature for Bass Cl.
- ___ Cleaning Swab for Bass Cl.
- ___ Mouthpiece Patches
- ___ Vandoren 3.0 Reeds
- ___ Vandoren Cork Grease
- ___ Reed Guard for Bass Cl.
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Alto Saxophone:

- ___ Selmer C* Mouthpiece
- ___ Rovner Ligature
- ___ Vandoren 3.0 Reeds
- ___ Vandoren Cork Grease
- ___ Protec Neck Strap
- ___ Reed Guard
- ___ Cleaning Swab
- ___ Mouthpiece Patches
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Tenor Saxophone:

- ___ Selmer C* Tenor Mouthpiece
- ___ Rovner Ligature for Tenor
- ___ Cleaning Swab for Tenor
- ___ Vandoren 3.0 Reeds
- ___ Vandoren Cork Grease
- ___ Protec Neck Strap
- ___ Reed Guard
- ___ Mouthpiece Patches
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Trumpet:

- ___ Bach 5B or 5C Mouthpiece
- ___ Hetman Valve Oil
- ___ Schilke Slide Grease
- ___ Cleaning Brushes
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Horn:

- ___ Holton MDC Mouthpiece
- ___ Hetman Rotor Oil
- ___ Schilke Slide Grease
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Trombone:

- ___ Bach 6.5AL (LS) Mouthpiece
- ___ Slide-O-Mix Rapid Comfort
- ___ Hetman Rotary Oil
- ___ Schilke Slide Grease
- ___ Spray Bottle
- ___ Brushes
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Euphonium:

- ___ Bach 6.5AL (SS) Mouthpiece
- ___ Hetman Valve Oil
- ___ Schilke Slide Grease
- ___ Cleaning Brushes
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Tuba:

- ___ Conn Helleberg 120S Mouthpiece
- ___ Hetman Valve Oil
- ___ Schilke Slide Grease
- ___ Maintenance Brushes
- ___ Tuner and Wire Clip
- ___ Foldable Wire Music Stand

Beginning Percussion:

- ___ Mapex 2.3 Gateway Xylophone
- ___ IP CP-1R Black Corp Practice Pad
- ___ Dixon Extended Height Stand
- ___ IPLD Snare Sticks
- ___ IP902 James Ross Bell Mallets
- ___ IPBT4 Timpani Mallets
- ___ IP SB-3 Stick Bag

Grading Guidelines

Grades in band are divided into four categories:

Performance Grades: (Major Grades) Getting a 100% Major Test Grade has never been easier! Show up on time and perform at all concerts and performances. Points may be deducted for tardiness or poor conduct. **Note-** during a 6 week period where there are no scheduled concerts, a playing test will be designated as a Major Test Grade.

Attendance at Rehearsals: (Minor Grades) Again, getting a 100% for attendance at rehearsals has never been easier! Unexcused absences need to be made up within 7 days. Points may be deducted for tardiness or poor conduct.

Band Assignments: (Minor Grades) This includes all playing tests, class assignments, section rehearsal assignments, online recording assignments, six-week assignments and objectives, and playoffs of performance music.

Weekly Participation Grade: (Minor Grades) This includes daily participation in class, supply checks, correct marking of music, care and maintenance of instruments, and behavior in class.

Note- Points will be deducted for the following:

- **No instrument**
- **No band binder**
- **No pencil**
- **No reeds (if applicable)**
- **No mouthpiece (if applicable)**
- **Phone use during class**
- **Poor behavior**

If a student is absent, he/she is responsible for completing the make-up work.

School Comes First! Non-school sponsored activities, teams, organizations, and student jobs must not conflict in any way with the rehearsal/performance schedule of the band. Please keep track of all upcoming dates to ensure that conflicts will be avoided.

Weekly Video Assignments

Each week, students will submit a video recording of an assigned performance or skill on Canvas. Information about this will be sent out in advance. Students will be expected to:

- Show their face on camera as they play
- Introduce the name or subject of the assignment
- Listen to their recording before submitting
- Title the video with the name of the assignment
- Dress appropriately

Academic Eligibility

Most of the work that band students do is either considered “curricular” or “co-curricular” and not subject to eligibility. Curricular and co-curricular activities are described as free concerts, section rehearsals, concert rehearsals, and private lessons. Students who participate in **extracurricular** activities must meet TEA (Texas Education Association) and UIL (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements (see below).

Activities that are classified as extracurricular, for which TEA, UIL, and MISD eligibility requirements apply, include:

1. Any event for which admission is charged.
2. Any event that is inter-school competitive.
3. Any event where ratings are awarded.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities must meet T.E.A. (Texas Education Association) and U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) eligibility requirements. Students who fail any one class at the end of a six-week period will become ineligible seven days later. Ineligible students do not regain eligibility immediately. They must wait seven calendar days after the end of the grading period. Students may regain eligibility seven calendar days after the end of the three-week grade evaluation period provided the principal and teachers have determined the student is passing all courses. Semester grades are never used for eligibility.

Should a band student become ineligible for an extracurricular function, he or she will still be eligible for curricular or co-curricular functions. Ineligible students will be given alternate assignments during contest preparation time.

School Owned Instruments

Oboe
Bassoon
Bass Clarinet
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone
French Horn
Euphonium
Tuba
7th/8th Grade Percussion

Students who play school owned instruments will have 1 or 2 instruments (depending on size) checked out to them. The maintenance fee for a student to use a SOI is \$100 yearly. This covers end-of-year repairs and cleaning. Students and parents will sign an instrument usage agreement. Families will be financially responsible for any damage or major repairs needed due to student misuse.

Instrument Storage and Identification

Instrument Storage

Each student is assigned their own instrument locker within the band hall. Locks are recommended, but not required. If a student chooses to use a lock, they must provide the combination to the directors, in case the instrument needs to be taken for repairs, or the student goes home sick and needs someone to retrieve their instrument.

Identification

ALL instruments must have a luggage tag with the student's name and contact information. Many cases are identical, and we must be able to tell the instruments apart.

Sectional Rehearsals

Section rehearsals for Honors and Symphonic Band are built into the curriculum to be an extension of class to work on instrument-specific skills, difficult music, and give the band director an opportunity to work with your student in a smaller environment. Sectionals will be scheduled one day per week, either before school (7:15-8:15 am) or after school (4:15-5:15 pm). Attendance is required for participation in Honors and Symphonic Band. Rehearsal attendance and participation will be graded and included as a part of the student's average. It is the parent and student's responsibility to arrange transportation. We are happy to help arrange a ride if necessary. An unexcused sectional absence will need to be made up within 7 days, otherwise, it will be marked as a zero. If a sectional is missed for an excused absence (approved appointment or school sponsored event/practice), this absence should be communicated at least 24 hours in advance, but is not required to be made up.

WGMS SPORTS/ACTIVITIES:

Many successful band students are involved in many ways on campus. If your student's assigned sectional day/time conflicts with their regularly scheduled sports practice, they will be excused from practice for 1 day a week to attend their sectional. We will send a list of student conflicts to the coaches.

Private Lesson Program

The Walnut Grove Band Program offers in person and virtual private instruction from the finest graduate and professional musicians in the area. Lessons may be taken during band class or before/after school. The cost for each lesson is \$20 and is payable to the private teacher.

Private lessons are available to any student, but are a requirement for those students in the Honors Band, as well as students who play French Horn and Double Reed Instruments.

STUDENT/PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PRIVATE INSTRUCTOR

- Be fully prepared for each lesson.
- Bring a pencil, method books, and any other required materials to each lesson.
- Keep a written assignment for each lesson.
- Notify the private teacher 24 hours or more in advance in the event a lesson must be missed.
- Failure to do this will result in an unexcused absence and the lesson must still be paid for. Excused absences by the student or the teacher shall be rescheduled or the money credited or refunded.
- The cost for each lesson is \$20 and is payable to the private teacher.
- **Please turn in the payment by the requested date. A late private lesson payment means the private teacher will not get paid that month!**

Private Lesson Staff:

Flute

Masha Popova

mashaflute@gmail.com

Oboe

Anna Peterson

annacatherinepeterson@gmail.com

Bassoon

Noah Young

NoahYoung@my.unt.edu

Clarinet

Orion Miller

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Raphael Williams

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Saxophone

William Carpenter

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Trumpet

Minerva Davis

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Gary Sharp

gsharp1026@sbcglobal.net

French Horn

Ruben Perez

ruben.perez.alonso@gmail.com

Low Brass

Gary Oncken

goncken@sbcglobal.net

Percussion

TBD

Uniform Guidelines

HONORS AND SYMPHONIC BAND UNIFORMS:

Students in these groups will wear 2 uniforms this year:

Uniform #1: Concert Black Attire- Professional attire for Fall, Winter and Spring Concert. When musicians perform, they want the audience to focus on the music rather than colorful or distracting attire. We wear all black to draw attention to the music, and to look uniform. This will either be a black dress shirt and slacks, or a black dress with tights and close toed shoes. See below.

Uniform #2: Formal Attire: One formal concert uniform will be issued to your student for special performances at Pre-UIL and UIL Contests, and any additional Contests. This will include a partial tuxedo or a floor length dress. To better take care of our uniforms, we have added a small uniform maintenance fee to our band fee total. This will cover any necessary alterations, replacements, and summer dry cleaning of all uniforms. A uniform contract will be sent home at the beginning of the spring semester.

Honors/Symphonic UNIFORM SUPPLIES:

Boys- please provide: ____ Solid black button down dress shirt ____ Solid black slacks or trousers ____ Tall black socks ____ Black dress shoes ____ Plain white T-Shirt to be worn underneath the tuxedo shirt to avoid sweat stains <u>Optional-</u> a solid black necktie	Girls- please provide: ____ A solid black dress that goes <u>below</u> the knees when seated. Shoulders must be in dress code. Please wear a cardigan if the straps are not appropriate. When in doubt, think professional! ____ Solid black tights or panty-hose ____ Closed-toe black shoes
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Fall Concert- Students can choose to wear a school appropriate Halloween costume, or “Concert Black Attire”

Winter Concert- Students will all wear “Concert Black Attire”, with optional holiday flair added. (Holiday accessories, hats, headbands, ties, etc.)

Pre-UIL, UIL, and other Spring Contests- Formal Attire

Spring Concert- Students will wear “Concert Black Attire”.

BEGINNING BAND UNIFORMS:

Students in Beginning Band will wear 2 different “uniforms” this year.

Uniform #1: Concert Black Attire- Professional attire for Fall, Winter and Spring Concert. When musicians perform, they want the audience to focus on the music rather than colorful or distracting attire. We wear all black to draw attention to the music, and to look uniform. This will either be a black dress shirt and slacks, or a black dress with tights and close toed shoes. See below.

Uniform #2: Informal Attire: Band T-Shirt and Jeans. Band T-Shirt will be included as part of your band fees.

Beginner UNIFORM SUPPLIES:

BOYS-Please provide: ____ Solid black button down dress shirt ____ Solid black slacks or trousers ____ Tall black socks ____ Black dress shoes ____ Band T-Shirt (Included in Band Fee) <u>Optional-</u> a solid black necktie	GIRLS-Please provide: ____ A solid black dress that goes <u>below</u> the knees when seated. Shoulders must be in dress code. Please wear a cardigan if the straps are not appropriate. When in doubt, think professional! ____ Solid black tights or panty-hose ____ Closed-toe black shoes ____ Band T-Shirt (Included in Band Fee)
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Fall Concert- Students can choose to wear a school appropriate Halloween costume, or “Concert Black Attire”

Spring Contest- Informal Attire- Band T-Shirt and Jeans (Fee for band shirt included in Band Fees)

Winter Concert- Students will all wear “Concert Black Attire”, with optional holiday flair added. (Holiday accessories, hats, headbands, ties, etc.)

Spring Concert- Students will wear “Concert Black Attire”.

Concerts/Performances

Student attendance is required at all concerts and performances. Concerts are considered “Major Test Grades” in the gradebook. Excused absences must be communicated in writing 24 hours prior to the event. Unexcused absences will result in a grade of zero. Receiving a 100% for a major test grade has never been so easy! Students are expected to adhere to campus policies for behavior while attending or performing in a concert.

UIL and Competitions

UIL Concert and Sight Reading is a band contest that occurs in April each year. Both Symphonic and Honors Band attend UIL each year to receive ratings. This contest includes a concert portion where three prepared pieces are performed for a panel of judges, and a Sight Reading portion where the band performs a brand new piece of music, showcasing their reading ability. Students should attend all sectional rehearsals outside of school to adequately prepare for UIL Contest. Beginners will also attend a band competition in the Spring. Information about these competitions will be sent out in advance.

Travel Guidelines

Students will adhere to district guidelines for bus travel. When attending an off campus trip, all band students will be expected to behave in a manner that positively represents Walnut Grove Middle School. If a discipline issue occurs on a band trip, the student will not be permitted to attend future band trips.

All Region Band

All Region Band is a prestigious ensemble made up of the top student musicians in this region. The audition process for the All Region Band takes place in November. Honors Band students are required to prepare the audition, and symphonic band students are encouraged to.

Audition materials:

2 assigned etudes (technical and lyrical)
8 Major Scales (memorized)
Sight Reading

Solo and Ensemble Contest

All band students will participate in a solo and ensemble contest. As part of our Band TEKS, students should learn both solo and small group performance skills. These solos and ensembles will be prepared in private lessons, in class and in sectionals. Participation in this contest will be for a grade.

Band Hall Hours

WGMS Band Hall Hours:

Monday- 8:00 AM-5:50 PM

Tuesday-Thursday- 6:45 AM-5:50 PM

Friday- 6:45 AM-4:30 PM

The band hall will be locked and unavailable outside of these times.

Parent Drop off and Pick Up

Students that have an assigned morning sectional can be dropped off or picked up at the side band hall door. This can only happen before 7:30 AM and after 4:30 PM, as the buses will need access to that parking lot.

Band Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are an important part of any event, party or trip we take as a band program! If you are willing to volunteer this year, please fill out the following background check form to have on file with the district. Sign-Ups for Volunteers will be sent out prior to the event.

Off Campus Medication Procedures

When traveling off campus with the WGMS band, the nurse will provide any medications that will need to be taken while we are scheduled to be away. Students should leave their medication with a band director, and will be administered as designated by the campus nurse.