

Waluga Junior High School

2010 – 2011 Band Handbook



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Class Expectations

Each ensemble member is expected to come to class on time and be ready to participate in a positive manner! Items to be brought daily include:

- Instrument in good playing condition
- Supplies
 - Woodwinds: at least 4 good reeds, a swab
 - Brass: Valve oil, straight mute
 - Percussion: a pair of drum sticks and one pair of mallets
- All music, in designated folder (Folder storage will be provided. Folders should not be stuffed into instrument lockers)
- PENCIL!

Classroom Rules

Have a positive attitude! We all make mistakes; we're working together to fix them.

Contribute to a fun and productive band room environment.

No one shall prevent the teacher from teaching

No one shall prevent a fellow student from learning.

Be on time to all classes, rehearsals, events, and performances.

Have instrument and related materials at rehearsals and performances.

Leave the band room as you found it. Or cleaner!

Office areas, music library and storage rooms are off-limits without a teacher present.

NO food or drink in the band room (including GUM) except for water bottles.

Cell phone use is not permitted in any manner during rehearsal.

Respect, respect, respect. We are working together! Be a team player.

Storage

Student will be assigned a storage space for his or her instrument, and a lock if applicable. At no time should a lock ever leave its designated locker. If any locker storage problems persist, students may forfeit their right to use school storage space and any school-owned instrument.

Performances

Enclosed in this handbook is a list of dates for performances. **Unexcused absences from any performance will result in a considerable grade deduction. This is a performance-based class, and without all of our members, we can't perform to our fullest capacity. You have a responsibility to your fellow band mates. If a student must be absent from any performance, please let Mr. Alston know as soon as possible. Communication is essential. In addition, appropriate documentation will be needed to substantiate an excused absence. Excused absences are based on the Waluga Junior High School absence policy.**

Grading Policy

Grades will be weighted by the following categories:

Daily Preparation and Attitude:	60%
Performances:	25%
Playing assessments:	15%

Daily Preparation and Attitude: Students will bring to class all necessary materials (see Class Expectations). Students will also continue to be of good wit and humor, treating each other with respect and integrity. Each day will be worth a total of 20 possible points.

Performances: see Performances.

Playing assessments: Throughout the year, it's essential that Mr. Alston know how each member of the band is progressing and learning. We will have a variety of assessments, including checkups and group playing quizzes.

SmartMusic

This year we will be again be utilizing SmartMusic software, a program that allows students to practice with recordings, metronomes and tuners at home. There are band pieces, method book exercises, and so much more. Additionally, I can send assignments, and students can easily record them and send them back, so that no extra class time is wasted. There will be a computer in the band practice room on which SmartMusic will be installed, so students can use this to complete assignments, but know that time cannot be guaranteed on the computer (don't procrastinate like everybody else!) ~ a home subscription is still very much encouraged. Please visit www.smartmusic.com to get your subscription and microphone, and follow the directions to enroll in the appropriate class. All Waluga students will be enrolling in **Lakeridge High School**, because of the account I already have set up there.

School Instruments

Students who are assigned school-owned instruments or those who use school-owned percussion equipment will sign an LOSD Instrument Use Contract and be held accountable for damages beyond normal wear and tear. Any student misusing or not storing the instrument in its proper location risks losing the privilege to use Waluga equipment. Instruments will be checked out at the beginning of each school year and collected toward the end. Speak with Mr. Alston if you would need an instrument over the summer.

Concert Attire

What an ensemble looks like on stage is an important part of a concert experience. For all ensembles, the concert attire is as follows:

-Men

- Black shoes and socks
- Black pants
- Black belt
- White oxford-style long sleeve shirt

-Women

- Black shoes
- Black pants or ankle-length skirt
- White oxford-style, long sleeve shirt

Performance Dates

Here is a list of known dates of performances:

Winter Band Concert	12/6/10
Southside Band Festival	3/16/11
Spring Band Concert	6/8/11

Some more performances may be added, or some changed. Mr. Alston will notify you with any changes as soon as he knows.