

WHEATMORE BAND SYLLABUS 2017-2018



WHEATMORE

HIGH • SCHOOL

Band

JENNY BECK, BAND DIRECTOR

ERIC JOHNSON, PRINCIPAL

Introduction

Welcome to the Wheatmore Band Program! My name is Jenny Beck, and I am the newly appointed band director at Wheatmore High School. I am a graduate of Appalachian State University with a bachelor's degree in Music Education. I started teaching here at Wheatmore in February 2014 as the interim director. It is with great pleasure now that I start my first official year here and have the opportunity to meet and work with the students and parents within the band program. I look forward to teaching and learning along with the students in the concert band and marching band.

This handbook is meant to serve as a reference for the many procedures related to involvement in our active band program. If there are any items that you would like further clarification or explanation of, please feel free to contact Ms. Beck using the information below..

Band Director contact information: Ms. Jenny Beck- email: jbeck@randolph.k12.nc.us

Band Room telephone: (336) 476-1500 ext. 4170

Wheatmore Band website: wheatmorebands.weebly.com

Wheatmore Band Twitter Account: @wheatmorebands

Band Boosters Facebook account: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169770106428998/>

Band Booster President contact: chellebrick@gmail.com

Band Program Overview

The Wheatmore High School Band is open to wind instrumentalists and percussionists at Wheatmore High. It is a goal of the Wheatmore band program to enhance and encourage each student's understanding of instrumental musical concepts and terms with an emphasis on rehearsals and performances. The band will perform primarily grade II, III, and IV music literature. Students participating in band receive additional individual performance opportunities by auditioning for such honors as the All- County Band, All-District Band, All-State Band and Solo/ Ensemble Contest. Individual/at-home practice outside normal school hours is imperative and required. A minimal number of sectionals and full band rehearsals outside of the normal school hours are required. The Wheatmore Band enjoys varied performance opportunities for the local community and student body.

Class Curriculum

The curriculum taught in all band classes statewide is based on the NC Essential Standards for Music Education, implemented in 2012 viewable at:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/acre/standards/new-standards/arts/music/9-12.pdf>

Honors Credit

Starting at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, honors weighted curriculum has been revised by the Department of Instruction to include new target knowledge and proficiency standards. Four levels of proficiency now exist—Beginning, Intermediate, Proficient and Advanced. All students determined by their director (through content knowledge, performance ability, participation standards, literacy, etc.) to be in the Proficient and Advanced Levels automatically receive Honors Credit.

Grading Procedures

1. Classwork - 50% (Includes Homework and Participation)

Classwork may include worksheets, journal entries, essays, oral discussions, etc. Any class work not completed in class is automatically homework unless otherwise specified. Little homework will be assigned, but may occasionally arise from time to time and will be graded under this category. If an item has not been turned in on time, it will be recorded as a ZERO, though, in MOST circumstances, I am willing to accept late work for an appropriate grade penalty, not to exceed 20%. Participation Includes daily involvement in questioning/answering, oral contributions, apparent performance effort, usage of appropriate posture, being on task, work ethic, etc. A grading rubric is used for the objectification of participation grades. A copy of this rubric is available on the band website under the “concert tab” <http://wheatmorebands.weebly.com/concert-band.html>

Every 2 weeks, a participation grade will be entered. Note: good discipline does not necessarily mean good participation. Participation is an active process that should be obvious in daily rehearsals and out of class performances.

2. Performance Participation(Major assessments) - 20%

For performances, each student has a responsibility to other members of the band. The absence of a single performer will affect the total group’s performance. Students should arrive on time, dressed correctly, and ready to warm up at the scheduled time. Performance etiquette, timeliness, singing energy, and musical preparation will be the main areas of assessment for this grade.

3. Minor Assessments - 30%

Students will be expected to complete both written and music literacy examinations testing knowledge of musical and conceptual elements discussed in class. Because this is a high school course, students should be able to discern if they need to take notes whenever new concepts are presented, even if I don't specifically tell them to do so. Some of the concepts that might be present on such assessments include knowledge of musical vocabulary, rhythmic dictations, aural listenings, and quality information concerning the pieces of music that are being rehearsed.

A variety of testing methods will be used for the benefit of the students.

Final Examinations: As per Randolph County School System policy, a comprehensive semester final exam will be given comprising 25% of the student's overall grade. Thus, items 1-3 above comprise 75% (37.5% each quarter) with the exam weighing 25%. Students should WISELY PLAN for these examinations THROUGHOUT the semester. Final Exam exemptions will follow the school's policy.

Classroom expectations

The following rules and expectations are applicable to both daily rehearsals as well as to any field trip or music event held outside of campus, regardless of time or day.

1. Be respectful to self, others and property always.

Students are to behave in a way that they cause no disruption to teaching or to other student's learning while being considerate of others' needs, feelings and belonging. It is rude and hurtful to make fun of other's efforts.

2. Be on time!

This does not mean you are walking into class right before the tardy bell rings. Be EARLY and be PREPARED!

Plan trips to lockers, bathrooms, water fountains, and visits with friends before the tardy bell rings. Note tardy policy below. Excessive tardiness may waive trip and/or performance privileges.

3. No food or drinks in the band room at any time. Only water.

This also includes in the morning. If you have breakfast with you or need to get breakfast from the cafeteria you are expected to eat it there. There will also be no breakfast eating in Ms. Beck's office in the morning. Students are welcome to come and visit before school starts but bringing food into the office will not be tolerated

4. "Leave it better than you found it"

This statement is something I stole from my cooperating teacher when I did my student teaching semester in college. It reverts back to respect and integrity. Anywhere you go, whether it be from class to class or on a trip, take the time to clean up after yourself and leave it better for the person/group who will be there next.

5. Celebrate our achievements and learn from our failures.

We all learn from our failures. What makes us extraordinary and better musicians is when we take the time to learn from our mistakes and do better the next time. Whether it is on the marching field, the band room, or in a concert hall, the mistakes you and the mistakes we

make as an ensemble are the opportunities for us to strive to be better. Take those opportunities.

Student Behavior Expectations/consequences

As an educator, I expect my students to act maturely and behave with the utmost respect in and outside the classroom. I work to hold myself to higher standards everyday and want to reflect that to my students at all times. This includes being responsible and accountable of myself and my actions and maintaining a positive attitude. My personal philosophy is that my students learn how to be mature and responsible young adults through participating in the Cultural arts and that they go out into the world to lead by example and share the joys of music.

Through the efforts of myself and my students I want to run rehearsals efficiently and positively. Other expectations are that of the high standard of which I hold my students accountable.

Examples of inappropriate behaviors:

- Doing anything besides the task at hand (i.e. cosmetic make-up, homework for another class, talking, using/texting on a cell phone, reading books from home, music player, camera, or any type of device)
- Defiance or disrespect to student or teacher, including collegiate teaching interns
- Inappropriate language
- Obvious lack of or unwillingness to participate, including sleeping or eating in class

*Trips, performance opportunities and class incentives may be revoked depending on the quantity and severity of such discipline infractions agreed upon by the director and administration.

Consequences

- 1) Verbal warning (warning may not necessarily be phrased, "This is your warning!")
- 2) After-School detention (ASD)—assigned by Teacher
- 3) Office Referral completed by Teacher - consequence assigned by Administration

Wheatmore ASD: If a student is assigned ASD for any reason by Ms. Beck, the parent/guardian will be contacted the same day. The student will be assigned ASD for the following school day. Students assigned ASD are expected to report to the ISS room at 3:30. ASD lasts until 4:00. Students will complete an assignment in ASD that they must complete before they are allowed to leave ASD.

Band Room Procedures

Coming into the band room: Upon entering the band room, please place your cell phone into its designated spot in the cell phone holder located on the wall left of the double doors.

Next, go into the storage room and straight to your assigned locker to retrieve your instrument, music, and pencil. Leave your bookbag and other class materials in your assigned locker. Upon leaving the storage room, if able, grab a chair and stand. It may be necessary for you to bring out your music and instrument first before the chair and stand. Please place your chair and stand in the designated arches that Ms. Beck will create upon the first day of class. Once your chair and stand are in place, please sit in your seat and put your instrument together and arrange your music in order. The order of music that will be rehearsed that day will be on the smartboard. Please read the smart board carefully for any further instructions for the rehearsal that day.

Coming into the band room after the tardy bell: Wait outside the double doors to the band room and knock until Ms. Beck notices you and lets you in. If you have a note, please hand it to Ms. Beck. After that, place your cell phone in your designated place in the cell phone holder. Go to the storage room and retrieve your music, instrument, pencil, stand and chair. Come back into the band room and arrange yourself within the arches. Do not chat with others as you pass. Being tardy to class causes enough distraction as it is. Please do your best to not distract anyone else further.

Needing to leave the band room for bathroom/office: Starting fall 2017 students will be allotted six hall passes for the semester. These passes will be compiled on one single hall pass students are expected to keep with them while in the band room and class. The only way a student can leave the band room is with this pass after it has been signed by Ms. Beck. Students will need to carry this hall pass with them to their destination. Before leaving the band room, students are expected to also sign out on the door their destination and time. This process merits accountability and knowledge of where students travel in the building. If you lose the pass, Ms. Beck will not replace it with a new one until the next semester begins. Students should be accountable for their hall passes. Without a pass, a student will NOT leave the band room for any reason unless called from the office.

Retrieving pencils, tissues, and throwing trash away: It is imperative to have materials with you at your personal seat in your instrumental section. In the event where a pencil has not made it to your personal seat; raise your hand and ask Ms. Beck if you may retrieve your pencil. Concerning tissues and throwing trash away- students may get up and retrieve tissues on a needed basis. Any trash that is to be thrown away will go to the trash can located OUTSIDE the band room doors. In accordance with the rules concerning NO food in the band room there will now be NO trash cans in the band room for this particular reason.

Students needing to throw away any sort of trash will do so at the end of class or after using a tissue.

You are not feeling well upon coming into the band room: Notify Ms. Beck before the bell rings. You will be allowed to go to the Guidance Office to call your Parent/Guardian. After you make your call, if you are checking out, come back to the Band room to wait to be checked out or come back with a check out note from Guidance. If you are not being checked out, you are expected to fully participate in all class activities in order to receive full credit for your Class Participation grade for that day. If your feelings prevent you from fully participating in class, your grade will reflect your level of participation.

You begin not feeling well during class: Quietly get the attention of Ms. Beck, who will give you a pass to go to the Guidance Office to call your Parent/Guardian. All other procedures are the same as above.

WHS Attendance and Tardy Policies

Please take note of the revised WHS Attendance and Tardy policies:

When a student returns from an absence, they will bring documentation to the attendance window located outside Student Services (between 7:45 and 8:15 am) to get an admit slip to class. The absence will be excused/ unexcused according to state attendance laws (see below). Students must turn in their note for the absence within 2 days of the absence; otherwise the absence will be recorded as UNEXCUSED.

B. Students absent from class for more than five (5) classes will not receive credit for that class during the term in question. On the sixth (6th) class absence, the student becomes ineligible for credit for the course, unless a waiver is approved by the local school waiver committee.

C. A student who is absent from school more than five (5) days in a term, and does not make up course work as designated by the school will not receive credit for the course.

Wheatmore High School may deny credit when a student exceeds five (5) absences in a class.

The WHS Tardy Policy (found in the Student Handbook) states: "Students are expected to arrive and be seated in the class prior to the tardy bell with homework, books, and materials. Tardies 1-3: Free, Tardy 4: Teacher call home and ASD, Tardy 5: Teacher referral, admin call home and 2 ASDs, Tardy 6+: Immediately to ISS and lose hanger until parents meet with administration." As with all school rules, this policy will be upheld in Band.

Performances and events

It is highly suggested but not required that the members of this ensemble audition for All-County Band and All-District Band. While not a portion of your grade, auditioning for this event will enhance your musicianship and demonstrate to the director your extra effort when it comes time for evaluation/grading. If selected you are not required to attend the clinic but it would make logical sense that you will do that. If you wish to audition you must perform a mock audition for Ms. Beck prior to the audition date. There are small fees for the audition of All-District but you will not be banned from auditioning due to financial need. If you have a financial concern about the fee, please see Ms. Beck.

Cultural Arts Credit

Each student involved in a cultural arts program at Wheatmore High School is required to support the cultural arts programs at the school. Attending Art Shows, Concerts and Plays are wonderful ways to show our support for the Cultural Arts. Each student is required to attend one Cultural Arts event per semester outside of their required events. Events are limited to THS, WHS and professional Cultural Arts programs. Proof of attendance will be validated by returning a copy of the program from the event signed by the Cultural Arts teacher who presented the event.

This credit will count as a Major assessment grade at the end of the semester.

Performance Attire

Students who participate in the Wheatmore Band program have a concert black requirement. (This includes black shoes and black socks for male members of the band) Ladies must wear solid black dress picked by the director and gentlemen must wear a tuxedo. The cost of the solid black dress and the tuxedo is the sole responsibility of the band member. If you have concerns regarding your attire you should contact the director immediately. SPECIFICS IN DRESS CODE POLICY

1. No undergarments may be shown
2. Midriff, waist and hips shall be covered
3. The waistband of all pants and skirts must be worn above the hips
4. All tops, shirts, blouses and dresses must be fully covered on the sides, back and front. Shoulders must be covered, i.e. no thin strap or strapless dresses. If you own a dress such as this you must layer the dress with some sort of cardigan so that your shoulders are covered.
5. Private body parts will be covered and will not be visible when moving, bending standing or sitting. (Dresses must be below the knee}
6. You must be in compliance with school dress code policy Beginning Fall 2012
Students have ordered uniform concert black dresses and tuxes from the director.

Dresses: \$58.00 est.

Full Tuxedos: \$101.00 est.

Band Material

Required materials for students to bring to class EVERY DAY for Band are:

Pencil, 1 inch wide, 3ring binder, sheet protectors for the music to go in, a see-through bottle with plain water will be allowed and is encouraged. Always bring a positive attitude and a willingness to learn and grow in music. Remember that as an ensemble, we all must learn together to accomplish our goals.

Band Fee

Per Randolph County School System policy, all high school Band students are assessed a \$5.00 Band Fee for each class, **each semester**. This fee is used to buy instructional materials and assist in paying for the MPA (Music Performance Adjudication) in the Spring. This \$5.00 fee DOES NOT go into the money box located outside of Ms. Beck's office. Please pay this fee to Mrs. Davis, the school treasurer in the main office as soon as possible. Paid fees will be documented on Band Student Accounts. Students who fail to pay fees are not given their report card or their diploma until fees are paid. If school fees present a hardship for your family, you may apply for a school fee waiver in the main office.

Band Student fundraising accounts

All band students have student accounts through our Band Booster Organization. This account helps keep track of fundraising and instrumental needs of the students. All money that goes into student accounts will be deposited in the money box outside of Ms. Beck's office. Please DO NOT leave money on Ms. Beck's desk or on the table outside the money box. It is the student's responsibility to make sure their money goes into their personal envelope and into the box. Please follow instructions below.

1. Locate personal student envelope located in red containers on the table (Students are in alphabetical order by last name)
2. Fill in information on the front of the envelope
 - a. Date, Description, Amount, Student initials
 - b. Leave Trea. initials blank. That is for the Band booster treasurer to initial so that students know their money has been received.
3. Place Money/check in envelope
4. Take envelope and place it in the dropbox on the wall.

***Never put money in the envelope and leave it in the red containers on the table. Money left in the envelope in a red container is liable to be stolen.

Band room cell phone policy

Band students will not be allowed to use cell phones, unless directed to do so by Ms. Beck, in class at any time. To help students be focused on their work and the information being given in class, students will place their cell phone in the designated "Cell Phone Storage" holder on the left side wall of the Band room as they enter class, before the tardy bell rings. Cell phones should be on "silent" or "vibrate". Cell phones should also be placed in the holder with the screen facing the wall. Phones lighting up due to text is a distraction that will not be tolerated. This area of the classroom will be strictly off limits at all times, to all students, once the tardy bell rings. Students may not take their phone out of the holder during class for any reason unless otherwise advised by Ms. Beck.

If there is a parental concern involving the cell phone policy, please contact Ms. Beck about it as soon as possible. Ms. Beck will communicate arrangements and expectations for your student upon those requests. The goal here is to have no distraction so we as an ensemble can focus on the task at hand; improving our musicianship and progressing our music literacy. If you experience an untimely family emergency, contact the school directly at (336)476-1500. Contacting your student directly during school hours is a distraction to the learning process. By contacting the office, administration will communicate effectively to both Ms. Beck and your student if arrangements need to occur concerning the student leaving campus.

Band Booster Organization

The Band program here at Wheatmore High School is grateful to have the support and assistance of band parents who give of their time and effort to help fundraise, manage, and assist the program in any needs necessary. The boosters aim to meet once a month in the school library. You can stay up to date by following the Wheatmore Band Boosters facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/169770106428998/> Parents, please consider being a part of our booster organization and volunteer to help our program flourish and grow in a positive way.

Band Calendar

The band calendar hosts all of the band concerts, after school rehearsals, competitions, fundraisers, and much more. This is the location for all updated events the band program undergoes. Please subscribe to this calendar to stay updated. The calendar can be found on wheatmorebands.weebly.com.

Mission Statement for the Randolph County School System

The mission of the Randolph County School System is to maximize educational opportunities for every student by focusing on continuous improvement and having high expectations for students and staff, while preparing students for multiple options to be competitive in a diverse 21st Century global society.

Vision Statement for the Randolph County School System

The vision of the Randolph County School System is to maximize educational opportunities for every student, based on our beliefs that: All students can learn; All students will be taught in a safe and nurturing learning environment; All students deserve a teacher who is qualified and well-prepared; All students deserve access to instructional resources managed in a fiscally responsible manner; and All stakeholders share the responsibility and accountability for student learning.

Forms

Detach and return as applicable

Band Handbook Release Form

I have read the online Wheatmore Band Handbook and understand/agree to the policies and procedures listed in the document.

Student Name: _____ (print)

student email address: _____

X _____

Student Signature

Date

Parent Name(s): _____ (print)

Parent Email Address: _____

X _____

Parent Signature

Date

Video and Audio Recording Consent:

Because of the nature of performing arts courses, it is necessary to record audio and sometimes video clips of class rehearsals and performances. Such recordings are used exclusively for in-class assessment, critiques and learning assignments. Please sign below indicating that you are aware that your child will be recorded in a group setting for assessment purposes.

X _____

Parent Signature

Internet Posting Consent:

Band classes are both social and academic groups that represent the school as a vital part of its identity and culture. Many pictures of individual students and student groups may be taken throughout the year. Parental permission is necessary to post any picture of students online where their faces are clearly visible. The music department may post such pictures of individual students on our website or the school's site. Student names will NOT be displayed on web pages. Please sign below indicating permission to include your child in such infrequent postings

X _____

Parent Signature