



Whitthorne Middle School
Band
Columbia, TN

2024-2025

915 Lion Parkway · Columbia, TN 38401 · 931-388-2558 · Ext. 1275, 1276

Cord Martin and Tyler Stavely, Directors

WhitthorneBand.org
Twitter @ whitthorneband
Facebook @ wmstigerband

Cord Martin
cjmartin@mauryk12.org
931-388-2558 ext. 1276



WHITTHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
COLUMBIA, TN

Tyler Stavely
tstavely@mauryk12.org
931-388-2558 ext. 1275

August 5, 2024

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! We are looking forward to having a great year, one that presents us with many great opportunities. We will continue our tradition of excellence in all our performance ensembles. Here is a short list of highlights:

- Jai Gaines made the All Mid-State Honor Band!
- Dalton Seal received the WMS Band Director's Award
- Timarya Woodson received the WMS Band Quincy Jones Jazz Award
- The WMS Honor Band performed at MTSU for Concert Performance Assessment and received a rating of EXCELLENT in concert performance and a SUPERIOR (the highest rating) in sightreading!
- The WMS band placed 1st in the Middle School Concert Band I AA Classification at Dollywood's *Music in the Parks* competition in Pigeon Forge.

Mr. Stavely and Mr. Martin are both excited to get started and dedicated to continuing the tradition of musical excellence here at Whitthorne. We have been working diligently over the summer to prepare for a successful year for our band program.

The primary goal of the Whitthorne band program is to provide a well-rounded music education to every child. This means teaching the fundamentals of music, instrument technique, music theory, and music history with the end musical goal of providing great concerts and preparing our students for the Central High School Band. Since the ultimate goal of the Whitthorne Band program is to educate the "whole child", concepts such as responsibility, discipline, citizenship, and developing character are vitally important and addressed in the Whitthorne band program.

The 2024-2025 Band Handbook contains information concerning almost every aspect of the organization. It is crucial that all parents and students read and refer to this resource. As a member of the Whitthorne band program, you are expected to follow all rules and procedures in this handbook. Adhering to this handbook will help make the Whitthorne band program run smoothly and will aid in achieving our goals. Our calendar, online payment portal, and more can be found at our website: www.whitthorneband.org.

Please read this handbook, sign the handbook contract (on Page 10), and return it to us by **Friday, August 16th, 2024. This is your first grade in band!**

We are very excited you have chosen to be a part of this great organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cord J. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'C' at the beginning.

Cord Martin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tyler Stavely". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'T' at the beginning.

Tyler Stavely



Band Membership Requirements

To be a member of the Whitthorne band program, students must be enrolled in the band class for the entire year and participate in all classes and attend all required events. Students must also adhere to the rules and policies stated in the handbook.

Parent Square - The Parent Square app and messaging service will be our primary means of group and individual contact with parents. We REQUIRE that at least one parent is signed up for Parent Square.

Attendance

The success of the Whitthorne band relies on everyone's participation and hard work. Because of this, there are some attendance policies that must be followed.

Concert/Performance Policies

- Attendance at all concerts and after school rehearsals is required.
- Unexcused absences must be approved by a director prior to the performance.
- All excuses, other than emergencies, must be submitted in writing to the director as soon as possible.
- Performances are scheduled months in advance. The yearly calendar can be viewed at WhitthorneBand.org. There is a tentative calendar at the end of this handbook, and transportation/scheduling issues (work schedules, doctor's appointments, etc...) should be dealt with promptly. Please notify the directors as soon as issues arise.

Excused Absences

Absences at performances are discouraged and are only excused for emergencies and other extreme circumstances. All excuses are subject to review by the directors and may be rejected if deemed unsuitable. Excused absences include sickness, family emergency, other school sponsored events, medical appointments, and other credible excuses. *All non-emergency excuses must be submitted in writing to the director prior to the event.* For excused absences, students will be required to make up performance grades with an alternative assignment. Possible examples are performing/recording concert music individually or completing a written assignment.

Band Rules

1. Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Ready.
2. Do not talk when a director is talking.
3. Do not touch any instrument other than your own.
4. Only play your instrument when it is appropriate.
5. No gum, food, or drinks.



Consequences

Failure to follow band rules will result in the following consequences:

1. Verbal/Written warning
2. Student call home
3. Before/After school detention
4. Office Discipline Referral & sent to office
5. Meeting with parents & administration concerning removal from the band program.

Rehearsal Expectations

Be respectful – to everyone and everything

Always be prepared – both with materials (instrument, pencil, book, etc.) and by practicing

Never give up – don't get frustrated, success is worth the hard work

Do your best everyday!

Description of Ensembles

6th grade band – Our 6th grade band is for beginner students with no previous band experience. Students will focus on the fundamentals of music and basic technique of playing their instrument. 6th grade beginning band students will perform at the Winter (December) & May Concerts afterschool.

Concert band – Concert band is an intermediate ensemble consisting of 7th grade band students that have displayed a growing level of musicianship and leadership in their regular band classes. Students that are selected to be in the concert band may have extra opportunities to perform more advanced concert repertoire. This group's goal is to perform challenging concert band literature with a high standard. This group will perform at the Fall, Winter and May Band Concerts and possibly the Concert Performance Assessment in the Spring.

Honor Band – Honor band is an advanced ensemble consisting of 8th grade band students that have displayed an exceptional level of musicianship and leadership in their regular band classes. Students that are selected to be in the honor band will have many extra opportunities to perform more advanced concert repertoire. This group's goal is to perform an advanced concert band literature at a high standard. This group will perform at the Fall, Winter, and May concerts, as well as Concert Performance Assessment (CPA) and CPA Preview in the Spring. The Honor Band may also perform at Jazzfest.



***Pep Band** - The Whitthorne Middle School Pep Band is an afterschool ensemble open to all 7th and 8th grade band members. The main objective of this ensemble is to support WMS Athletics through music performance at games. The WMS Pep Band will play at four home football games. This group will also perform in the annual Mainstreet Christmas Parade in December. *Please see the WMS Pep Band Agreement (page 12) for more details regarding policies, schedule, attendance and attire.*

***Jazz Band** – The Jazz Band is an extracurricular ensemble that will primarily meet after school. This group focuses on developing the skills necessary to play big band and small ensemble styles of jazz. The size of the Jazz Band is limited and requires an audition to join.

***6th Jazz Band** – The 6th Grade Jazz Band is our introductory Jazz ensemble that begins rehearsing in the Spring Semester. Students in this ensemble learn the basic elements of Jazz including swing rhythms, style, and basic improvisation. This ensemble is a crowd favorite at our annual Jazzfest!

***Chamber Ensembles** – Chamber Ensembles are small groups of students that perform chamber music (duets, trios, quartets, etc...). These groups give students the opportunity to perform in a small setting which helps students develop individual skills.

***Percussion Ensemble** – Percussion Ensemble is a percussion only group that focuses on percussion technique and chamber music.

* These ensembles are extracurricular and are dependent on student interest, time, and ability.

Required Materials

Each band student is expected to have the following materials with their name/initials marked clearly:

6th Grade Band (See your “Beginning Band Instrument Materials Guide” for instrument specific details)

Instrument with Name Tag

Instrument Accessories (Dependent on instrument)

Uniform (See below)

Essential Elements Book 1 (for your instrument)

Pencil

1 inch 3-Ring Binder (to organize and keep up with music and assignments)

Transparent sheet protectors

Metronome (required for some playing quizzes)

Tuner (required for some playing quizzes)

Please note: free apps/websites for both Tuners and Metronomes are available. Please see the materials page on our website for more details. TE Tuner the app is a great choice for smartphone users.



Concert & Honor Bands (7th and 8th Graders)

All 6th grade materials AND

Essential Elements Book 2 (for your instrument)

Foundations for Superior Performance “the blue book” (for your instrument)

½ inch or 1 inch 3-Ring Binder (to organize and keep up with music and assignments)

Transparent sheet protectors

****Percussion Only:** Hard rubber mallets (Bells,) a pair of Vic Firth SD1 General sticks and a stick bag

Metronome (required for some performance assessments)

Tuner (required for some performance assessments)

*Please note: **TE Tuner app is 4.99 but has both tools and more** - free apps/websites for both Tuners and Metronomes are available. Please see the materials page on our website for details ..*

Recommended materials/resources for practice at home (Not required)

Music stands - Stands promote proper posture & technique. Affordable folding music stands are available.

Recorder/Recording App – An excellent tool to hear what everyone else is hearing!

Please see our materials and resources page on our website for more details

Performance Attire (Uniform)

The WMS Band not only strives to sound great, but to look great, too. Because of this goal we require students to wear a uniform during performances and other special events. This uniform consists of:

Band Polo Shirt (purchased through the school for \$20.00, see attached order form)

White Dress Shirt (Honor Band only: for CPA and May concerts)

Black Pants

Black Belt

Black Dress Shoes

Black Socks

Absolutely no jeans of any sort (Please see Pep Band Agreement for Pep Game Attire)

“Quitting” Band

It is the hope of the band directors that a respectful student will never want to quit the band. Often, students say they want to quit band out of frustration from a musical problem, peer pressure, or the feeling of being too busy. Parents should call or email the band directors (388-2558, ext. 1275, 1276) if their child is expressing interest in quitting.

Usually, problems can be resolved, and students continue for many years with great success and enjoyment. If it is determined, however, that a problem cannot be resolved, a parent must send a signed note to the band directors with the request for their child to be removed. This will be turned into the guidance department for a schedule change. Please understand the change may sometimes take several days or weeks.



Mid-State Honor Band

The regional band organization (MTSBOA) has a yearly honor band called the Mid-State Honor Band. This ensemble is audition only and is composed of the best musicians from Middle Tennessee. This ensemble plays high quality band music and is an amazing experience for young musicians. The WMS Band STRONGLY encourages participation in this event and hopes to have a strong turnout this year.

All-County Honor Band

The Maury All-County Honor Band is an annual honor band consisting of top players from Maury County. This prestigious group rehearses for 2 days and performs a concert at the conclusion of the event. To be eligible for this ensemble, 7th and 8th grade students must audition for Mid-State. The results of the Mid-State auditions will determine a student's chair and placement in All-County.

Solo and Ensemble

All 7th and 8th grade students are expected to learn solo or ensemble music throughout the course of the 2nd semester. It is our expectation that 7th and 8th grade students will perform their selections at the Solo and Ensemble Assessment held at E.A. Cox Middle School. Solo and ensemble will be held in the Spring Semester.

Private Lessons

Getting individual instruction is the key to success in music performance. At WMS we STRONGLY encourage students to take private lessons. We bring in professional players and teachers from around Middle Tennessee to give quality private lessons. These lessons mostly take place after school and have a small additional cost. It is an investment that pays off. Students enrolled in private lessons are more likely to make honor bands such as Mid-State and are generally more successful on their instrument.

To enroll in lessons visit WhitthorneBand.org and click the "enroll in private lessons" button and complete the form. You will then be contacted about scheduling your lessons.

Grading

30% Concert Attendance

20% Classwork (Written and google classroom assignments given to students in class; parent contract)

20% Daily Grade (Bringing instrument and materials; participation, preparation,)

30% Individual Performance Assessments (Regular video Recordings and/or SmartMusic assignments)

Band is a hands-on learning activity. We consider daily classroom work and performance as the vehicles through which learning takes place. It is for this reason that we absolutely insist upon each student's daily participation. In class formative assessments, **(Classwork,)** make up 20% of a student's grade. **Daily preparedness** (materials: reeds, music, instrument, pencil, books, etc.) combined with preparing at home makes up another 20% of a student's grade.

"Grading" continued on page. 8

"Grading" continued

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Musical performances cannot be duplicated and are considered major tests. Therefore, **concert attendance** accounts for 30% of a student's grade. **Attendance at ALL performances is mandatory.** The concert attendance grade is either pass for fail: a one-hundred (A) or a zero (F). For excused absences, students will be required to make up performances grades with an alternative assignment. Unexcused absences to concerts cannot be made up. Possible examples are performing/recording concert music individually or completing a written assignment.

Our last component to our grading system is our **individual performance assessments**, which are 30% of a student's grade. Depending on the assignment, each student will be required to a perform live for a Band Director OR submit video recordings of selected assignments online. Upon submitting these recordings, students may be asked to complete a short self-evaluation of their performance. The primary platforms for submitting these recordings will be SmartMusic and/or Google Classroom. Please look for an overview of these assessments for the entire year coming home soon.



2024-2025 WMS Band Schedule Overview

Google Calendar available at whitthorneband.org

Fri. August 16th	<u>Handbook Contracts Due</u>
Mon. August 19th	7 th & 8 th Grade Band Materials Checks Begin
Mon. August 19th	<u>Instrument Rental Meeting (Evening)</u>
Tue. August 20th	Open Jazz Rehearsal #1
Sat. August 24th	Beginning Band Jumpstart Day
Mon. August 26th	First Day with Instruments for Beginners
Tue. August 27th	<u>Football vs Spring Hill Middle (Pep Band)</u>
Tue. September 3rd	<u>Football vs E.A. Cox Middle</u>
Thurs. September 5th	<u>Band Fundraiser Kick Off</u>
Thurs. September 5th	Jazz Band Open Rehearsal #2
Thurs. September 10th	<u>Football vs. Battle Creek</u>
Thurs. September 12th	Jazz Band Auditions
Wed. September 18th	8 th grade picture day
Wed. September 25th	Final Fundraiser Turn in Date
Fri. September 27th	8 th Grade Night at CHS
*Tues. October 22nd	Fall Band Concert (7 th and 8 th only)
Sat. November 9th	Mid-State Audition Clinic @ WMS
Fri. Nov 22nd	Nashville Symphony Field Trip (Fundraiser Reward.)
*Sat. December 7th TBA	Midstate Honor Band Auditions (7 th & 8 th)
*Sat. December 7th TBA	Main Street Christmas Parade (Pep Band)
Tues. December 10th	<u>Winter Concert @ CHS</u>
*Fri. December 13th	Jazz Band Christmas Tour
Fri. December 20th	In School Concert
*January 9th- 11th	All Mid-State Jazz Band Clinic
*January 16th- 18th	All Mid-State Concert Band Clinic
January 30th & 31st	All County Honor Band
Tue. February 18th	<u>CPA Preview @ CHS</u> (Honor Band only)
*March 5th – 13th (TBD)	<u>CPA Performance</u> (Honor Band only)
*Sat. March 22nd	<u>Solo & Ensemble @ EA Cox</u>
Sat. April 26th	WMS Jazz Festival
Tues. May 6th	<u>May Concert @ CHS</u>

*Dates are subject to change

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Handbook Contract and Information Form

Due Friday, August 16th

- I have read, understand, and will comply with the rules and policies in the Whitthorne Middle School Band Handbook.
- I have reviewed the 2024-2025 Band Calendar
- [6th Grade Beginning Band only] I will have my instrument and necessary books and materials needed for use by **Monday, August 26th**. Students will receive a daily grade of zero for each day missing starting this date.
- [7th and 8th Grade Band Members] I will have all materials/books needed for use by **Monday August 19th**. Students will receive a daily grade of zero for each day missing starting on this date
- I have a WMS Purple Band Polo for concerts **OR**
 - I will order one by completing the form below and enclosing \$20.
- Media Release:** I hereby give my permission to Whitthorne Middle School (WMS) Band to photograph, film, videotape and/or make sound recordings of my child, to quote or publish statements of my child and to use such photographs, films, videotapes, sound recordings and/or other statements for educational and promotional/advertising materials. I understand that my child may be recognized in any photographs, news stories or publications that the WMS Band considers appropriate for release to social media, such as the WMS Band Facebook page, WMS Band website or newspapers. I release the WMS Band program from all liability with respect to the matters covered by this release.
- I am ready to start an exciting year in the WMS Band!

By signing this contract, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and will comply with the rules and policies in the Whitthorne Middle School Band Handbook.

Student Name _____

Student Signature _____

Date: _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

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Purple Band Polo Shirt Order Form

This order form is for the purchase of a Whitthorne Middle School Band shirt. These are athletic purple polos with the WMS Band Logo. The cost is \$20.00 per shirt. (2XL and 3XL are an additional \$2.00)

Each student in the 6th grade band is requested to purchase one for their uniform. Older students, parents, and friends may also buy a shirt but are not required.

Please fill out one order form PER shirt and return this form and payment to the band directors.

Student Name _____

Student Grade _____

Student Homeroom _____

Shirt Size (circle one)

Youth XS **Youth S** **Youth M** **Youth L** **Youth XL**

Adult XS **Adult S** **Adult M** **Adult L** **Adult XL**

Adult 2XL **Adult 3XL**
(Add \$2.00) (Add \$2.00)

Total \$ Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Whitthorne Middle School. Please put your child's name in the "For" section of the check.

** **Please** have your child try on a shirt before placing your order.*



WMS Pep Band Agreement 2024-2025

7th & 8th grade band students have the opportunity to join the WMS Pep Band. Pep Band is a voluntary and extracurricular ensemble that rehearsals after school, supports the football team in the stands, plays at pep rallies, & marches in the Main Street Christmas Parade.

Due to the limited amount of Pep Band rehearsals, members must make a commitment to attend ALL games AND rehearsals. Students with any *unexcused* absences at a Pep Band event will not be permitted to join us at games. Absences may be excused by a Band Director, if given advance notice.

All pep band members will need a **flip folder (with at least 10 pages)** and a **lyre (specific to your instrument)**. We recommend bringing your student’s instrument with you when purchasing a lyre, since the exact fit is dependent on your instrument’s brand or model.

For football games, students will meet at the Columbia Central High School football stadium with all materials, be dressed and ready to perform at the given call time. All instruments and materials must be taken home after school and brought to the stadium. The band room will close at 4pm on game days.

Attire is Purple Band Polo, shorts (khaki preferred) or blue jeans, & tennis shoes. No gym shorts.

Mon. August 12th

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Thurs. August 15th

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Mon. August 19th

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Thurs. August 22th

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Mon. August 26st

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Tues. August 27th

WMS Football vs Spring Hill

Thurs. August 29th

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Tues. September 3rd

WMS Football vs E.A Cox

Mon. September 9th

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Tues. September 10th

WMS Football vs. Battle Creek

Tues. September 24th

WMS Football Potential Playoff Game

Tues. October 1st

WMS Football Potential Championship Game

Mon. December 2nd

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Thurs. December 5th

Rehearsal (3-4:45pm)

Sat. December 7th

Main Street Christmas Parade

**Pep Band Bandapp
QR code:**



- I have read, understand, and will comply with the WMS Pep Band Agreement.
- I have reviewed the 2024-2025 Pep Band Calendar.
- I understand that unexcused absences to any rehearsals or games will prevent performance at any future games.
- I have requested to join the 2024-2025 WMS Pep Band on the Band app (QR Code Above)

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____