



Whitthorne Middle School Band  
Columbia, TN

**2015-16**

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

Cord Martin and Brian Webster, Directors

[WhitthorneBand.org](http://WhitthorneBand.org)

Follow us on Twitter @whitthorneband

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WHITTHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND  
COLUMBIA, TN

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Brian Webster  
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August 3, 2015,

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome to the Whitthorne Middle School Band! This year presents us with many great opportunities. We will continue the tradition of our great concert band and our other ensembles such as jazz band, pep band, and other small groups.

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 result of providing great concerts and to prepare our students for the Central High School Band. Another goal of the Whitthorne Band is to educate the "whole child." Concepts such as responsibility, discipline, citizenship, and developing character are important and addressed in the Whitthorne band program.

The 2015/2016 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.

Please read this handbook, sign the contract in the back, and return it to us by Thursday, August 13th, 2015. This is your first grade in band!

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

Welcome to the Whitthorne Middle School Band!

Sincerely,

Cord Martin

Brian Webster



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## 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, afterschool rehearsals, and events. Students must also adhere to the rules and policies stated in the handbook.

### 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.

### Policies

- Attendance at all concerts and after school rehearsals is required.
- There are no unexcused absences.
- 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](http://WhitthorneBand.org). Transportation/scheduling issues (work schedules, doctor's appointments, etc...) should be dealt with promptly. 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.* In the event of an absence from a performance a student may be asked to perform their concert music individually for a grade (live or recorded) or given an appropriate written assignment.

### Band Rules

1. Follow all school rules
2. Be respectful
3. No cell phones
4. Only play your instrument
5. No gum, food, or drinks



### **Consequences**

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

- Each offense results in a reduction in the respective part of the student's grade
- Upon the 3<sup>rd</sup> offense the student will have a meeting with the directors to discuss appropriate consequence.
- The 4<sup>th</sup> offense will result in contact with parents.
- \*The 5<sup>th</sup> offense will result in a meeting with the principal.
- \*The 6<sup>th</sup> offense may result in removal from the program.

*Failure to follow school rules will result in consequences set forth by the school.*

*\*These consequences are for repeated and/or serious infractions. This includes but is not limited to: repeated classroom disruptions, repeated defiance, consistent lack of participation, etc...*

### **Rehearsal Guidelines**

1. Be on time – early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable
2. Always have a pencil – to mark your music and for assignments
3. Be prepared – have music prepared and have materials daily
4. Never give up – don't get frustrated, success is worth the hard work

### **Description of Ensembles**

**6<sup>th</sup> grade band** – Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade band is for students with no previous band experience. In this group, we focus on the fundamentals of music and basic technique of playing an instrument.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade band** – This ensemble is generally for students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of band. In this group we continue to develop basic skills, technique, and musicianship but also start to learn more advanced musical concepts and theory.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade band** – This group is generally for students in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year who have developed the necessary techniques needed to perform more advanced literature. In this class, students continue their growth of basic musicianship and technique but also start to work on skills needed at the high school level.

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**Pep Band** – The pep band is a requirement for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are required to perform at Tiger Night. This ensemble’s goal is to support the WMS football team and performs stands tunes during selected games. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will also march in the Columbia Christmas Parade. The Pep Band will perform at the following events:

August 27 <sup>th</sup>	WMS	vs	West Wilson	5:30pm Call Time
<b>September 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>WMS</b>	<b>vs</b>	<b>EA Cox</b>	<b>5:00pm Call Time</b>
	<b>TIGER NIGHT 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Perform</b>			
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	CHS	vs	Stewarts Creek	Call Time TBA
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	WMS	vs	Dickson Co.	5:30pm Call Time
<b>December 7th</b>	<b>Columbia Christmas Parade</b>			<b>Call Time TBA</b>

For football games, students will meet at the Columbia Central High School football stadium with all materials, dressed, and ready to perform at the listed 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.

**\*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.

**\*Basketball Pep Band** – This ensemble’s goal is to support the WMS basketball team and performs “stands tunes” during selected games. Games to be announced at a later date.

**\*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.

**\*Honor Band** – Honor band is an extracurricular group that meets after school. Membership is by audition. This groups goal is to perform high quality concert band music. This group will perform at concerts and possible Concert Performance Assessment

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

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## **Materials**

Each band student is expected to have the following materials:

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band**

- Instrument
- Instrument Accessories (Dependent on instrument)
- Uniform (See below)
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (for your instrument)
- Pencil
- Folder (Provided by the band program)

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Band**

- All 6<sup>th</sup> grade materials and
- Foundations for Superior Performance by Richard Williams and Jeff King (for your instrument)
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 (for your instrument)

### **8th Grade Band**

- All 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade materials (Including Essential Elements 2000 Book 2)
- Flip Folder (with 10 pages)
- Lyre (Specific to your instrument! Take your instrument to the store when you purchase a lyre.)

## **Uniform**

The WMS Band not only strives to sound great, but to look great, too. Because of this goal we request 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 (8<sup>th</sup> grade only: for Concert Performance Assessment and formal concerts)
- Black Pants
- Black Belt
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Socks

## **Midstate Band**

The regional band organization (MTSBOA) has a yearly honor band called the Midstate 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.



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### 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 Midstate and are generally more successful on their instrument. The following are some of our private lesson instructors and their contact information:

Angela McCuiston	Flute	angela@musicstrong.com
Rick Mraz	Saxophone	rjmraz@yahoo.com
Bethany Smith	Clarinet	bethanyvsmith@gmail.com
Connie Cathey	Clarinet	catheyc2@mauryk12.org
Niccole Stimmel	Horn	nstimmel@mauryk12.org
Nick Haynes	Trumpet	nicanestpt@gmail.com
Josh Scalf	Low Brass	joshscalf@gmail.com
Holly Sanders	Double Reeds	hsanders@mauryk12.org

### Solo and Ensemble

All students are expected to learn solo or ensemble music throughout the course of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. It is our expectation that 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will perform their selections at the MTSBOA Solo and Ensemble Assessment held at Columbia Central High School. Solo and ensemble will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (date is tentative).

### Grading

*50% Daily Grade*  
*50% Performances and Written Assessments*

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 are absolutely insistent upon each student's daily participation. Satisfactory classroom participation, playing and written assignments, and preparedness (having all materials-reeds, music, instrument, pencil, books, accessories, etc...) make up 50% of a student's grade.

Band is unique in that it is assessed in multiple ways. 50% of a student's grade comes from traditional written assessments and musical performances (assessments). Musical performances cannot be duplicated and are considered major tests. **Attendance at ALL performances is mandatory.** Only in extreme circumstances will students be allowed to make up performances grades. This will be done through appropriate assignments such as performing/recording concert music individually or completing a written assignment.





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## School Owned Instrument Usage Agreement

*(Only to be completed by students using a school owned instrument and percussionists)*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_  
*(The section below is for wind players only)*

Instrument Brand \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument Condition \_\_\_\_\_

Case Condition \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am responsible for this school owned instrument. I also understand that I will be held financially accountable in the event that this instrument is lost or damaged (other than normal wear and maintenance) while it is in my or my child's possession. A fee of **\$80 for wind instruments** includes usage of the instrument for the school year and helps cover normal repair and maintenance. It does not include any instrument accessories, such as reeds, mouthpieces, books, etc...It also does not include any repairs that are required because of negligence or improper care. A fee of **\$50 for percussionists** includes usage of school owned percussion instruments and accessories. It also covers replacement of school owned drum heads and percussion hardware. The percussion fee does not include a student's personal bell kit, drum pad, or required accessories, such as drum sticks, plastic mallets, yarn mallets, timpani mallets, etc...(these required items can be seen on the percussion materials handout). Payment can be made with cash or check made payable to WMS. No instrument will be provided until this form and payment has been received.

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

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Any questions or concerns regarding instrument fees can be addressed by contacting Mr. Martin or Mr. Webster using the contact information at the top of this page.*

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## New 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Student Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size (circle one)*	Youth Large*	Adult XS	Adult S	Adult M
	Adult L	Adult XL	Adult 2XL (Add \$2.00)	Adult 3XL (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.*

*\* These shirts do not come in child or youth sizes. All sizes tend to run large and should not shrink. The youth large size will be a modified Adult XS that is cut to create a smaller shirt. **Please** have your child try on a shirt before placing your order.*