



Whitthorne Middle School
Band
Columbia, TN

2017-18

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

Cord Martin and Austin Vogt, Directors

WhitthorneBand.org

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WHITTHORNE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
COLUMBIA, TN

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August 1st, 2017

Dear Band Parents and Students,

Welcome back to school! This year already presents us with many great opportunities. We will continue the tradition of our great concert bands as well as jazz band, pep band, and Honor Band. Last year, we had many great accomplishments. Here is a short list of highlights from last year:

- Four WMS band members made All-Mid-State Honor Band.
- Three WMS band members made the All-Midstate Jazz Band.
- The 8th Grade Band received Superior ratings at Concert Performance Assessment.
- The WMS Band took our very first over night performance trip to Dollywood!
- We ended the year with over one hundred beginning band students joining the band for this year! This brings our projected enrollment for the entire band program is almost 290 strong for the 2017-18 school year!

We have been working diligently over the summer to prepare for a successful year for the Whitthorne band. 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 2017-2018 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 10, 2017**. This is your first grade in band! Also, all students are required to complete the online WMS Band Parent Contact Form which is on the band website, www.whitthorneband.org.

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

Welcome to the Whitthorne Middle School Band!

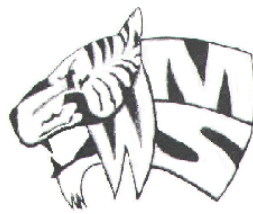
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cord Martin', written in a cursive style.

Cord Martin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Austin Vogt', written in a cursive style.

Austin Vogt



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.

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 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. 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. After school detention & contact with parents
3. Office Discipline Referral & sent to office
4. Meeting with parents & administration concerning removal from the band program.

Rehearsal Guidelines

Be on time – early is on time, on time is late, late is unacceptable

Always have a pencil – to mark your music and for assignments

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

Be prepared – have music prepared and have materials daily

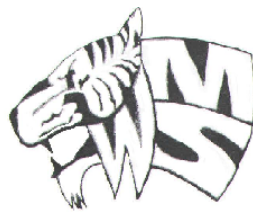
Description of Ensembles

6th grade band – Our 6th grade band is for students with no previous band experience. Students will focus on the fundamentals of music and basic technique of playing their instrument.

7th grade band – This ensemble is generally for students in their 2nd year of band. Students will continue to develop basic skills, technique, and musicianship but also start to learn more advanced musical concepts and theory.

8th grade band – This group is generally for students in their 3rd year who have developed the necessary techniques needed to perform more advanced literature. Students will continue to grow their musicianship and technique while preparing for the skills needed at the high school level.

Honor Band – Honor band is an advanced ensemble consisting of select 7th and 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 high quality concert band music. This group will perform at concerts and possibly the Concert Performance Assessment in the Spring.



Pep Band – The pep band is a requirement for all 8th grade band students. Both 7th and 8th grade are required to perform at Tiger Night. This ensemble’s goal is to support the WMS football team and performs stands tunes during home football games. 8th Grade students will also march in the Columbia Christmas Parade. All pep band performances are listed on the band calendar at WhitthorneBand.org

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.

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

Required Materials

Each band student is expected to have the following materials:

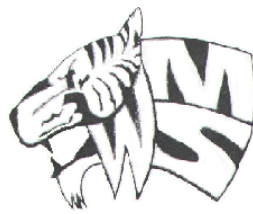
6th Grade Band

- Instrument
- Instrument Accessories (Dependent on instrument)
- Uniform (See below)
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 (for your instrument)
- Pencil
- 3-Ring Binder (to organize and keep up with music and assignments)
- Transparent sheet protectors

7th Grade Band

- All 6th grade materials and
- Habits for a Successful Middle School Musician (for your instrument)
- Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 (for your instrument)
- 3-Ring Binder (to organize and keep up with music and assignments)
- Transparent sheet protectors

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8th Grade Band

All 6th and 7th grade materials (Including Essential Elements 2000 Book 2 & Habits for)
Essential Elements 2000 Book 3 (for your instrument)
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 (8th grade and Honor Band only: for CPA and formal concerts)
- Black Pants
- Black Belt
- Black Dress Shoes
- Black Socks

Absolutely no jeans of any sort

Midstate Honor Band

The regional band organization (MTSBOA) has a yearly honor band called the Midstate 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 midstate. The results of the midstate auditions will determine a student's chair and placement in All-County.

Solo and Ensemble

All 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 MTSBOA Solo and Ensemble Assessment held at E.A. Cox Middle School. Solo and ensemble will be held on Saturday, March 17th, 2018 (date is tentative).



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.

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

10% Written Assessments

25% Concert Attendance

40% Daily Grades (Participation, bringing instrument, music and other materials)

25% Playing Quizzes (Recordings)

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. Satisfactory classroom participation, playing and written assignments, and preparedness (having all materials-reeds, music, instrument, pencil, books, accessories, etc...) make up 40% of a student's grade.

Band is unique in that it is assessed in multiple ways. Ten percent of a student's grade comes from traditional **written assessments**. Musical performances cannot be duplicated and are considered major tests. Therefore, **concert attendance** accounts for twenty-five percent 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). 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.

Our last component to our grading system is our regular playing quizzes. Each student will be required to submit video recordings of themselves playing specific excerpts from their method books or concert music. Upon submitting these recordings, students will complete a short self-evaluation of their performance. The primary platform for submitting these recordings will be online via the band website. For any student that does not have access to the technology (internet, smartphone, tablet or computer), there will be opportunities to complete these assignments before/afterschool in the band room.



2017-2018 WMS Band Schedule

Tues. August 1st	First Day of School
Mon. August 14th	First Day with Instruments for Beginners
Tues. August 15th	1 st Open Jazz Rehearsal
Tues. August 22nd	2 nd Open Jazz Rehearsal
Thurs. August 24th	West Wilson vs WMS (8 th Pep Band)
Tues. August 29th	<u>Jazz Auditions</u>
Tues. September 5th	<u>Fundraiser Kickoff</u> Jazz Band Rehearsals Begin Private Lessons Begin
Tues. September 12th	<u>Tiger Night vs Cox (7th & 8th)</u>
Thurs. September 21st	Dickson vs WMS Football (8 th Pep Band)
Tues. September 26th	<u>Fundraiser Final Turn In</u>
Fri. October 20th	8 th Grade Band Night @ CHS
Thurs. October 26th	<u>Fall Concert</u>
Thurs. November 9th	<u>Veterans Day Concert</u> (Honor Band only)
Sat. November 18th	Midstate Auditions
*Mon. December 4th	Mainstreet Christmas Parade
Fri. December 8th	Jazz Band Christmas Tour
Sat. December 9th	Jamz for Canz
Tues. December 12th	<u>Winter Concert</u>
Fri. December 15th	In School Concert
Wed. January 3rd	Spring Semester Begins
*January 11th-13th	Midstate Jazz Band
*January 18th-20th	Midstate Clinic Band
February 1st-2nd	All County Honor Band
Thurs. March. 1st	<u>CPA Preview</u> (8 th & Honor Band only)
*Mon. March 5th-16th (TBD)	<u>CPA Performance</u> (8 th & Honor Band only)
*Sat. March 17th	<u>Solo & Ensemble</u>
Thurs. March 22nd	<u>Spring Concert</u>
Sat. April 28th	WMS Jazz Festival
Thurs. May 3rd	<u>May Concert</u>
May 14th-18th	<u>Honor Band Auditions</u>

*Dates may be subject to change

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Handbook Contract and Information Form
Due Thursday, August 10th

- I have read, understand, and will comply with the rules and policies in the Whitthorne Middle School Band Handbook.
- I have completed the Parent Contact Form on the website (WhitthorneBand.org)
- I have reviewed the 2017-2018 Band Calendar
- [6th Grade Beginning Band only] I will have my instrument and necessary books and materials needed for use by **Monday August 14th**. Students will receive a daily grade of zero for each day missing after this date.
- I have a WMS Purple Band Polo for concerts **OR**
 - I will order one by completing the form below and enclosing \$20.
- 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: _____

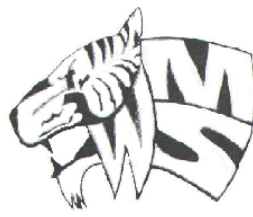
Parent Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Date: _____

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School Owned Instrument Contract

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

Student Name _____ Parent/Guardian Name _____

Grade _____ Instrument _____

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 **\$100 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. Payment can be made with cash or check made payable to WMS. Payment can also be made in full or in installments. 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. Vogt using the contact information at the top of this page.

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Percussion Equipment Fee

(Only to be completed by students playing percussion)

Student Name _____ Parent Name _____

Grade _____ Homeroom _____

All percussionist must provide their own set of basic instruments and equipment such as a drum pad, bell kit, sticks, and mallets (yarn, plastic, and timpani).

Percussionists will also learn to play many other school provided instruments. Many of these instruments are large and expensive and require regular maintenance. These instruments may also require specialized accessories such as mallets and beaters. In order to provide the best music education possible for our percussionists we have a percussion equipment fee to maintain and purchase this equipment.

A fee of \$100 for percussionists includes access to school owned percussion instruments and accessories (*not including any required materials such as yarn mallets, sticks, plastic mallets, timpani mallets, etc...*). It also covers replacement of school owned drum heads and percussion hardware (not including negligence). The percussion fee does not include a student's personal bell kit, drum pad, or required accessories. These required items can be seen on the percussion materials handout. Payment can be made with cash or check and can be paid in full or in installments. No instrument will be provided until this form and payment has been received.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian 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.*