



BAND

2021-22 MANUAL

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INTRODUCTION

The Waukee Community School District Bands are an organization of students and staff who pride themselves on excellence – excellence in our personal performance, our section’s performance, our band’s performance, and the way we represent ourselves and our school. Excellence is a choice that people make, just as mediocrity is a choice.

Excellence is not a gift that you are born with, but something that you strive for out of the conviction that reaching your maximum potential is what life’s all about. We know that the road to excellence is not always going to be an easy one, but if we work together, then excellence is an attainable goal. This handbook outlines our policies that are necessary to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves – to always perform at our best, and to work together to be truly excellent in everything that we do. Excellent bands differ not in what they do but in how they do it.

This manual is provided to give band students and their parents basic information and encouragement as you join the high school band.

BAND CAMP

Band Camp is held at the high school in August. (See schedule for dates) **Attendance at Band Camp is mandatory** and offers students the opportunity to work on the contest and home football games marching routines. Marching season could not possibly succeed if it started on the first day of school. Band Camp provides the atmosphere to get the marching season off to a great start and to integrate the sophomores into the program, both musically and socially. During this time you can see thea great transformation from blob to band! Parents are invited to a Parent’s Night performance at the end of band camp, to see some of the new drill and meet the directors.

Suggestions for a more comfortable Band Camp:

- Wear good comfortable, sturdy athletic shoes, with socks. No sandals, open-back or open-toe shoes.
- Wear a hat and use sunscreen
- Be prepared to cover up shoulders, neck

and arms if you become sunburned.

- Bring a large, labeled water bottle to stay hydrated

BAND UNIFORM GUIDELINES

Each High School band student is issued a band uniform, hat or beret, garment bag, and mesh shoe bag at no charge. Students will be responsible for purchasing black band shoes and black gloves. Both can be ordered through the band director. If a used pair of band shoes is available in your size, they may be purchased for \$5.00. Exchanges of used shoes are allowed if you need a different size. **Long black socks & black band shoes are always required when in uniform.**

Uniform parts are numbered, and numbers are recorded for each student, so we do know if each student is turning in the correct uniform. Uniforms will stay at the school, and must be checked out with the band director if it is needed for pictures or special performances. A checked-out uniform is expected to be turned back in within 1 week.

Any alterations to the uniform will be handled by uniform volunteers. If a student notices a needed repair or has trouble with the fit of his/her uniform, please contact the Uniform Manager. If a button falls off, please try to retrieve the button and turn it in for repairs.

CONCERT BAND

Northwest and Waukee High Schools each offer two concert bands that perform several times throughout the winter and spring. Placement auditions for the bands are held each year in October. Consult the current band schedule for performance dates.

The concert bands wear formal black and white for performance, which are provided by the students. Attire options include a black and white dress or black pants and a black or white dress shirt; a tie and black jacket are encouraged.

For performances, students are expected to report on time as directed by the band director and be dressed and ready to warm up at the designated time. Behavior expectations, rules and responsibilities of each band member will be covered by the Band Director. Our ‘sock police’ will

inspect for black socks & shoes before each performance.

EXTRA CURRICULAR INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS

Jazz Band

Northwest and Waukee High Schools both offer two auditioned jazz bands, which are open to all 10th-12th grade band students. . These ensembles perform at contests and festivals across Iowa from November through May. Rehearsals are held before and after school as scheduled by the band directors.

Pep Band

The Pep Band, which is open to all 10th-12th grade band students, performs at home basketball games, as scheduled by the band director. This group provides musical entertainment during half time and between games. There will be extra rehearsals before the season starts.

Contact the band director for additional information.

MARCHING BAND

The marching bands at Waukee and Northwest High Schools include all band members in grades 10 – 12. The bands perform at home football games and at marching band festivals throughout September and October.

Once school starts, rehearsals begin at 7 AM. (Students should be on the field and ready to go at 7:00 AM – NOT walking in the door!) If it rains on a scheduled morning, practices will be inside.

For performances, students are expected to report on time as directed by the director, and be dressed and ready to warm up at the designated time. Uniforms will be stored at the school and students are responsible for bringing or storing their own gloves, black shoes and black socks. Behavior expectations, rules and responsibilities of each band member will be covered by the Band Director. Students will be inspected before performances – and they **must** be wearing black socks & black band shoes. Black band gloves are required for most instruments – exceptions being the percussion.

Football performance takes place at half time and are the same show used at the fall competitions. Parents are encouraged to watch the show and chart the improvement as the band works hard to perfect the show for contests. Senior Parent Night will be at the last home football game.

After the band is released by the directors, all equipment is to be returned to the band room and uniforms hung in their numbered garment bag. Correct uniform storage will be verified by parent volunteers.

RULES & REGULATIONS

Students and parents will need to sign and return the Waukee Community School District Student Good Conduct Policy during Band Camp Week. Also during Band Camp, a Medical Information Form must be signed and returned. These forms **MUST** be signed and returned before a student is allowed to travel to away performances.

Trip Rules

All students will abide by the present Waukee Community School District Student Good Conduct Policy found in your student handbook and all other school rules while with the band.

The dress code for band events is prescribed to be the same as for a regular school day. Be on schedule! Be ready at times given by the Band Director. No alcohol, drugs or tobacco. No gambling.

Couples – remember you are on a band function, and not on a date! Keep track of your things! Be sure all equipment and instruments are placed on the trucks or buses.

School bus rules apply to band trips: stay seated, no yelling, nothing thrown out the windows, be polite to each other, the drivers, and the chaperones.

Students may not be on the bus without chaperones. Stay on the same bus – attendance is taken before we leave an event.

Keep the bus picked up! Don't throw your garbage on the floor. Close the windows when we get home. Many times we return home late, and nobody wants to stay to clean up a messy bus!

All students are expected to ride to all band functions with the band. Students not returning with the group may leave only with a parent or guardian. A parent or guardian must sign that they are taking their student with them. School policy states that a note, signed by the parent/guardian should be given to the band instructor by the last school day prior to an activity if a student wishes to ride home with their parent/guardian. A student not returning with the group must make arrangements for someone to be responsible for their equipment and instrument.

When we are performing at another location, students are not to leave the grounds without permission from their parents and notifying the band director prior to leaving.

Proper Uniform Hanging Instructions

Hang your pants first. Match the creases at the bottom before putting them on the hanger. Hang the bottom hem and top evenly so pants are balanced and won't slip off. Hang your jacket over the top of your pants. The curve in the hanger should be at the back of the jacket. The jacket should be zipped. The sash should be snapped at the side.

Put the uniform into the garment bag and zip it up. The mesh shoe bag strings go around the hanger and always hang outside the garment bag. Keep your band shoes, black socks, and black gloves in your mesh shoe bag and hang it on the rack in your assigned spot.

Shakos (uniform hats) are stored in plastic hat boxes, and are placed in the top rack on your cart.

Racks will be checked by parent volunteers. If it is found a student does not hang their uniform properly, their name will be noted, and next time that student will be required to wait until their uniform bag is personally checked. Since this will take longer, it is advised to do it right the first time!

Proper Uniform Attire

Black socks, black band shoes, and black band gloves are required!

There is no eating, drinking, or running while in uniform.

If a student has trouble with the fit of their uniform, please see the Uniform Manager!

Shako

The brim of the shako is level at the eyebrows. The chin strap goes under the chin.

Hat plumes are placed on the hats before each performance and removed afterwards by uniform volunteers. Plumes are only to be touched by gloved hands.

Long hair needs to be tied/pinned under the hat. Hair should not be touching collars. No hair ornaments should be worn.

Uniform Jacket

The jacket sleeves should touch the wrist area of the gloves when the instrument is up. Jacket should be large enough to move comfortably when doing marching routines and playing instruments.

A shirt **with sleeves** (T-shirt, sweatshirt, long-sleeved shirt) should always be worn under the jacket. Sleeveless tops, tank tops, or going shirtless is not permitted. This is to prevent underarm stains on the coat. Shirts need to have a rounded collar so they do not show above the jacket collar. A black shirt is preferable to prevent showing at the neck or sleeve.

Uniform Pant

Pants should just touch the top of your black band shoes. They should not drag on the ground. Pants need to be loose enough in the crotch to be able to sit comfortably. The length can be adjusted with the suspenders, however, once the pants are fitted by uniform volunteers, please do not readjust them. If they are not comfortable, please consult with the Uniform Manager.

Gym shorts, yoga pants, or leggings must be worn under the uniform pants. Jeans or other pants that are too baggy are not allowed under the uniforms. Pants worn under the uniform cannot show at the bottom.

Student Attire on Performance Days

No jewelry or hair ornaments should be worn. Visible, pierced jewelry is not acceptable. No gum chewing while in uniform.

A student should come to a performance prepared to change into uniform in a public place. A T-shirt and shorts should be worn under student's clothing, and also worn under the uniform. Many times at contests there is not a changing room!

Dress for the weather! During warm weather, wear T-shirts & shorts under uniforms. During cold weather, wear long underwear or knit pants, and long sleeved shirts underneath. Wind suits are lightweight, yet do an excellent job of blocking the wind. Double thickness of socks help keep toes warm. On the coldest of nights, bring warm outerwear & a blanket!

General Guidelines on Performance Days

Keep track of your possessions. Put your street clothes in your garment bags when you are in uniform.

Put your name on your instrument case.
After a performance, put your instrument away
before changing to prevent any damage to it.
Remember that horseplay can result in damage to
instrument, equipment, and uniform.

Remember to eat and drink plenty of water before
performances. Students who faint or get
light-headed usually have not eaten something that
day.