

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. In-school lessons are scheduled on a rotating system which will take the students out of three or four classes only twice a grading period. These lessons are mandatory. Tests, exams, labs, field trips, and guest speakers take precedence over the music lesson, however a makeup lesson is required within one week of the missed lesson. There will be make-up lessons each week for those occasions when a student cannot make the lesson.
2. Private lessons provide students with individualized instruction from teachers who specialize on the same instrument as your child. Many of our students who take private lessons are able to audition into All-County and All-State Bands! Every student can benefit from private lessons and we encourage private study very strongly. A partial list of private teachers is included in this handbook. Any additions to this list are welcomed.
3. A permission slip for the band activities this year is included. Please complete this form and return to Mr. Cool immediately.
4. All students who decide to perform an all-county or all-state solo will prepare for the audition with Mr. Cool in addition to his/her regular private teacher. Those who do not take private lessons can also take a solo to festival, but should plan on several lessons with Mr. Cool to prepare for the chosen festival. As the sponsor of each student performing a solo, I want to be sure each musician does their very best. Students should also plan on dressing nicely to perform a solo audition. (girls – suits or dresses, khakis and a nice blouse, guys – nice pants, nice shirt, tie.)
5. All students participating in band field trips will ride the specified bus for that trip.
6. We have receptions at the fall and spring concerts. In order to make our “after-concert receptions” a success and hassle-free, I would ask that each grade level be responsible for the same items throughout the year.
  - a. FRESHMEN , SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS – COOKIES, BROWNIES, ETC.
  - b. SENIORS – CLEAR POP FOR PUNCH MIX.I ask that you or your child deliver these items to the cafeteria as they arrive for each concert.
7. There will be one concert with an admission fee. The Spring Concert will be a donation concert. This money is used for flowers, awards, and other end of the year expenses. We will collect donations at the intermission.
8. All money collected by the band department will be in check form. ***Always make checks payable to Williamsville South Bands.***
9. Section leaders are required to have two sectionals during each grading period. Mr. Cool will also have sectionals as needed. Sectionals usually occur at 7am.
10. All students must buy a band polo shirt for the Memorial day parade. We will make one large order in January. Mr. Cool will give plenty of notice on the price. This shirt can also be worn on the April Band Tour.
11. Our band program will provide a black dress for the girls to wear at all concerts and a tuxedo for all of the gentlemen: A rental fee of \$25.00 is due by Friday, September 22nd from each member. Over the years, we have purchased over one hundred tuxedos and seventy dresses. This money is used yearly to re-plenish our supply for the future as well as purchase miscellaneous items such as reception items, awards, and flowers for our seniors.
12. Students are responsible for the care of their instruments, including any repair work. School band instruments requiring repairs should be reported to the teacher. Rental instruments should be handled through the company from which you are renting. Privately owned instruments should be handled through any reputable instrument dealer. Families that wish to purchase an instrument should consult with the teacher. This is a wonderful investment in your child’s education and we can help you navigate the many different choices that are out there. Purchasing an instrument from a large chain store should be avoided. These instruments have recently appeared and are very poor in quality and playability. They are often unrepairable. What looks like a bargain in X-Mart may in fact be a lemon.
13. Daily practice is necessary to insure that skills progress, are developed, and maintained. Set aside a time each night to practice and stick to it. Practice in a room where you will have privacy and can concentrate without any distractions. You will get out of shape just like an athlete if you don’t practice. A well-prepared lesson will be reflected in an excellent weekly lesson grade. Students who consistently don’t practice will not be eligible to participate in band activities.

# General Needs for all Woodwind, Brass & Percussion Players

The following are specific equipment needs by instrument. The teachers have very carefully developed the following list to help you provide the equipment for your child that will give them the best chance for success. For example, a student who has reached a level of proficiency will find it difficult or impossible to play in tune with basic reeds or a basic mouthpiece. Intonation and tone are more significant issues in bands as students get older and they should have the equipment to allow them to meet these expectations. Some of the equipment may be very inexpensive while some may carry a higher price. Please let Mr. Liebmann know if obtaining any of the equipment presents a problem or if you have any questions about the specific requirements. It is very important to us that every student has the best chance possible to achieve all that they are capable of achieving.

## Clarinets

- Vandoren B-45 or M-13 mouthpiece
- Rovner Ligature (comes with mouthpiece cap)
- Vandoren or Mitchel Lurie reeds.
- Some students are with private teachers and have a more advanced setup than listed above. Naturally this does not apply to those students.
- Reed Guards enough to hold 4 reeds

## Saxophones Alto and Tenor and Bari

- Selmer C\* (STAR) Mouthpiece
- Rovner Dark Ligature (model 1RL) Comes with a mouthpiece cap
- Hemke Premium or LaVoz Reeds
- Reed Guards enough to hold 4 reeds.

## Trumpets

- Bach or CKB 5b or 5c or larger Mouthpiece (3b or 3c)
- Straight mute, Joral aluminum

## French Horns

- Holton Farkus Medium Cup

## Trombones

- All trombonists will use large bore trombones with F-attachments. The school can supply these to rent but students are encouraged to own their own instruments at this point if it is possible.
- They however need to supply the following materials regardless.
- Bach or CKB 5G mouthpiece with Bass shank.
- Slide-O-Mix (for the slide)
- Spray bottle (for the slide)

### **Baritones**

- All Baritone players will be provided with a home baritone as well as one in school. They however need to supply the following materials.
  - Bach or CKB 5G mouthpiece with Tenor Shank
  - Carrying case for the mouthpiece
  - Valve oil (Al Cass Fast) for home baritone

### **Tubas**

- All Tuba players will be provided with a home tuba as well as one in school. They however need to supply the following materials.
  - Conn Helleberg tuba mouthpiece
  - Carrying case for the mouthpiece
  - Valve oil for home tuba

### **Percussionists only:**

- Practice Bells and Practice Drum for Home. (This can be rented as a kit from McClellans Music or another music store)
- Stick Bag
- 2B and 5A drumsticks (1 pair each)
- 1 pair medium timpani mallets
- 1 pair hard rubber xylophone mallets
- 1 pair medium yarn mallets
- 1 pitch pipe for timpani tuning
- 1 pair brass bell mallets (opt)
- 1 pair staccato or hard timpani mallets (opt.)

# Dress Code

Technique on one's instrument and a positive attitude about the band program make up about 75% of the excellence we strive for at Williamsville South. The other 25% is appearance. The following is a dress code for the Marching Band, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, and Jazz Ensemble.

## Marching Band:

1. Guys – Tuxedo Pants
2. Band Polo Shirt
3. Black Socks
4. Black Shoes (no white lines)
5. Girls – Black Pants – (not stretch pants)
6. Band Polo Shirt
7. Black Socks
8. Black Shoes (no white lines)
9. (for marching, all long hair must be pinned back.)

Wind Symphony

Jazz Ensemble

Wind Ensemble

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**Guys** – Black Tuxedo (rented from South)  
White Dress or Tux shirt  
Black bow tie (purchased by student)  
Black socks  
Black shoes

**Girls** - Black Dress supplied by the school.

\*Black Hose

Black **DRESS** shoes (No slippers or flip-flops)

## EXPECTATIONS

*A general music check and progress evaluation will be given to students after the first five weeks of each grading period. The results of these "checks" will be sent to parents in the form of a progress report.*

*Items to be included:*

- **Scale knowledge**
- **Pitch control**
- **Tone control**
- **Progress on the current music**

### **Band Participation and Preparation = 50%**

This grade is based on your daily preparation of music and overall attitude and contribution to the band class. Band is a participation-oriented subject. 100% participation at every band event is required. You have been given a calendar of events in this handbook. Sit down with your parents to discuss the commitment you have made and review every event. We can only reach the highest level of performance when every member contributes their part. Only under extreme circumstances will a request for absence from a performance be granted. In the extreme event of an emergency where you cannot make it to a performance, a phone call is necessary. Try Mr. Cool at his home (838-2862) first. If you get a machine, try the school number (626-8226). If you get a machine there, leave a message. Remember that you are a student first and have obligations to your school, and to your fellow band members. High school and its' associated activities are once-in-a-lifetime opportunities. You will be working the rest of your life. Make certain that arrangements are made with your employers far enough in advance to avoid conflicts with scheduled school activities.

Be on time. To be early is to be on time.

Those who play sports should make your coaches aware of your involvement in the band program. Your coaches and I have always been able to "split" our time when conflicts arise. It is your job to communicate any conflicts. Do not just go to one event or the other without making your coach and myself aware of each situation. As long as student athletes can continue to share their time between sports and band, I will do my best to be understanding of your desire to do both.

You are expected to be focused and give each rehearsal your best effort. Lack of intensity, a serious attitude, and preparation will result in point deductions.

Perfect attendance at rehearsals is necessary. Unexcused rehearsal absences and chronic tardiness will result in point deductions.

Students are expected to have a pencil at every rehearsal. Interpretive suggestions are to be written in the music. (articulations, nuances, dynamics, counting, phrasing, etc.)

Woodwind players should have several reeds to choose from at each rehearsal and performance. Your reed supply should be replenished often. An old reed results in bad tone and intonation.

Brass players should have their own mouthpieces and protective cases for mouthpieces. These can be purchased very inexpensively at various local music stores.

Percussionists should have a stick bag containing several choices of mallets: Snare stick, keyboard, and Timpani.

All instruments and music *should* be taken home nightly for practice. I realize there are occasional times when this is not possible. For full band participation and preparation credit, all instruments and music *must* be taken home each weekend. Most students who play larger instruments have been issued a second instrument for home practice.

**LESSON ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION = 40%(breakdown explained below)**

As stated earlier in the handbook, each student is expected to be at all lessons. Students will only miss each class twice in a grading period. At the end of the grading period, one lesson will be dropped. If the student couldn't schedule a make-up, or they had a bad lesson, they can choose which one they would like to drop.

- **Attendance & Lesson Material = 20%** This means you will be graded on material unique to your lesson class.
- **Scale Requirement = 10%**  
There will be a scale requirement for all members each grading period. The scale requirement will be posted by Mr. Cool at the beginning of each marking period.
- **Intonation Study = 5%**  
Students will be given a document listing the known problematic areas for intonation for their instrument. Throughout the four grading periods, students will be tested on their knowledge of their instrument's pitch tendencies and ability to correct those tendencies.
- **EAR TUNE = 5%**  
There will be one ear tune required for all members each grading period. Mr. Cool will post that tune at the beginning of each grading period.

**OUTSIDE PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE = 10%**

In order to develop a well-rounded appreciation for the arts, students will attend one non-South band performance each grading period. A list of acceptable concerts and events is included in this handbook. Students can also have Mr. Cool's approval for other events they may be attending, as long as they get approval before the event they plan on attending.

After attending the "outside" event, each student will provide a brief account of their chosen performance on a prepared form given to them by Mr. Cool.

**EXTRA CREDIT** – Credit above 100 points will not be transferred to the next grading period.)

- a) Compose a piece for either South Concert Band and have it performed (40 pts.)
- b) Compose a piece for the Jazz Ensemble and have it performed (20 pts.)
- c) Compose a piece for Chamber Ensemble and have it performed (20 pts.)
- d) Perform in Area All-State, All-County, or All-State (5 pts.)
- e) Perform in the Spring Chamber Music Recital (4 pts.)
- f) Have another project approved by Mr. Cool (TBA)
- g) Attend a concert in addition to the Outside Performance attendance requirement (2 pts.)

# WILLIAMSVILLE SOUTH BAND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

## Please read with your son/daughter and sign.

I have read the band handbook and agree to follow the rules and regulations of the band as outlined in the handbook. I also will make all necessary arrangements to participate in all required band performances and dress rehearsals. I realize that I am an important contributing member of The Williamsville South Band and that my actions effect all group members, not only myself. I will strive to reach my full potential as a musician and person.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

I have read the band handbook an am aware of the performance dates and the rules and regulations governing the band. I grant my permission for rules and regulations governing the band. I grant my permission for \_\_\_\_\_

Son/daughter's name

to participate in all band activities for 2006/2007 and will encourage and support them in their development as musicians.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

Please check any boxes below that apply. The Brenner's have the receptions down to a science and will guide you if you agree to help. They set the helpers up for each reception.

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- I will help with the receptions for this year's concert series:*
- I would like to be considered to chaperone this year's Senior Trip.*
- I can help fit boys and girls for tuxedos and dresses in October.*
- I have included a check for \$25.00 to cover dress/tuxedo rental and other miscellaneous items for the year explained in item #11 of important information*

\_\_\_\_\_ Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone