**Thomas E Weightman Middle School Band Handbook**

**2018-2019**

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The purpose of this handbook is to give band members and parents a clear and concise understanding of our band program. Also this handbook will cover all aspects of participation. All members must be familiar with the contents herein, for they will have a direct bearing on the success of the Weightman Middle School band. Student should keep this manual in their band folder. It is our sincere hope that you enjoy the many benefits and rewards of a music education.

**Membership Requirements**

The band program is open to all interested students at Thomas E. Weightman who demonstrate responsibility, desire, ability, and proper attitude to be a member of the group. Students desiring membership may be required to audition and will be placed in an ensemble based on their ability level. Band is a yearlong commitment. No student can participate in band that is not enrolled in the class. Students receive academic credit for each quarter enrolled for participation.

***Performance Ensembles***

**Intermediate Band:** Membership for this group requires at least 1 year of instrumental music. Intermediate band members are encouraged to participate FBA District 5 solo and ensemble festival. This ensemble will also perform at both the Winter and Spring concert as well as the FBA concert band festival. Members are encouraged to audition and participate in All-State, and District honor bands.

**Jazz Ensemble:** **The jazz ensemble is the elite chamber ensemble of the concert band.** Membership to this group is by invitation only or via audition. The jazz band will perform at the FBA District 5 Solo and Ensemble Festival. In addition to, the jazz band will perform on the winter and spring concerts as well as special civic and extracurricular functions. Jazz band will rehearse on select days after school. Band members will be made aware of this shortly after the beginning of the school year.

**Rules and Procedures**

“Rehearse the same way you plan to perform, that way when you perform its just like rehearse” author unknown. That being said, it is necessary we adopt a certain protocol of behavior during rehearsal time.

**TEWMS Band Rules**

1. **Respect Teacher and Classmates.** (Always raise your hand to speak, complete every assignment, no cell phones unless you have permission from the teacher, cooperate with your classmates and use kind words)
2. **No Talking During Business Time** (Business time is conducted from the tardy bell until the last five minutes of class)
3. **Always keep the band room clean.** (No eating, drinking, or chewing gum in the band room. If there’s trash on the floor pick it up and throw it away).

**CELLPHONE CONFISCATION PROCEDURES**

**In the classroom**

Step 1: Teacher gives a verbal warning of the “Off & Away” Policy.

Step 2: Teacher locks student phone in a designated locked area within the classroom and logs it. Student gets the electronic device back at the end of the class period. **\*The incident is logged into PascoStar or parent contact made.**

Step 3: Teacher sends the student whose phone is being confiscated to the Principal’s Secretary’s office. Teacher should not take possession of the cellphone, nor have another student take it to the office. (If student refuses, it’s now a defiance issue and another intervention can be applied).

**Class Room Procedures**

1. Place book bag on counter
2. Get instrument out of locker
3. Grab music folder
4. Go to your seat.
5. Quietly wait for instructions
6. Warm up sequence
7. Mini lesson
8. Rehearse music with class
9. Clean your area
10. Put instrument back inside your locker
11. Put music folder away
12. Grab your book bag and line up at the exit door.
13. Wait for Mr. Scott to dismiss you.

**Concert Etiquette**

1. Walk into the auditorium quietly.
2. Sit up tall for the duration of the performance.
3. Respect performers by not talking, blurting out, or playing on cell phone.
4. Do not get up and walk around during the performance.
5. Leave auditorium quietly

**Traveling With The Band**

Band members will be given standard transportation form (MIS Form #166) for each event, which must be complete and signed to travel with the band on a school bus. Excellent behavior will be expected on the bus at all times. Always be polite to the chaperones and drivers. When roll is being taken it is imperative that there be complete silence and cooperation so that we may account for everyone.

If you ride the bus to a band event, plan to ride it back to school. If it is absolutely necessary, a child will be released to his/her parent only (for safety reasons) by going to Mr. Scott and signing out. If your parents want someone else to sign you out, Mr. Scott must receive a note at least 24 hours in advance. Include a number where Mr. Scott can reach parents to confirm the desired arrangement. Again, this is for your safety.

Parents, please make every effort to pick up your child at the appointed time after band events, as all involved will be tired and ready to go home. Please read the paragraph concerning the school system’s responsibility for your child before and after school and events. (Fl Statue 100.32(d)(2) which can be found in your child’s planner in the section containing the district’s Code of Student Conduct. **Your child should always be picked up in front of the gym lobby.**

**Band Equipment**

All band equipment will be checked out through Mr. Scott. All equipment must be checked out with a signed contract. There is a maintenance fee of **$85.00** for students who check out school owned instruments. Keep in mind that school owned equipment is the responsibility of the student and the parent. Student and parents will be held accountable for damaged, or stolen equipment..

**Uniformity**

How we look is important and adds to the quality of our presentation. It is mandatory that all intermediate band students purchase a band polo and band t-shirt.

**Fund Raising**

Please support our fund raising activities. The money raised goes to purchase new music, equipment and reduce the out of pocket cost for trips, etc. Let’s all pull together to make the **Disney Performing Arts Workshop** field trip happen.

**Grading**

Grades are given according to points earned. Performances are worth 35% of quarterly grades. Pass-offs and practice cards are worth 25% of quarterly grades; Playing test are worth 25% of quarterly grades; Daily assignments is worth 10% of quarterly grades. Knowledge of classroom rules and procedures are worth 5% of quarterly grades

**Missing Assignments**

All missing assignments will go in to the grade book as a zero until student makes up assignment. All missing assignments must be made up with in 5 days. If a student misses a playing test and doesn’t make it up before the performance or concert student will not perform.

**Attendance**

**Attendance for performances and rehearsals are mandatory. If you are absent, the band can not get better. If a student misses a band function, a note explaining your absences must be presented to Mr. Scott prior to the anticipated absence, in extreme emergencies explanation should be provided so we can prepare adequately for our performance.**

**Excused Absences:**

* **Sick from school**
* **Death in the family**
* **Serious injury**
* **Wedding/family event**
* **Religious holiday**
* **Other emergencies on a case-by-case basis**

Unexcused Absences

* Doctor Appointment (of non emergency nature)
* Homework/Studying
* “Can’t find a ride”
* Club meetings
* Detention
* Sports events or practices
* Baby sitting for family

If a student misses a performance with an unexcused absence, that student receives a -0- for that grade. A student who misses a performance with an excused absence must do the make-up assignment to earn points for that grade (just the same as if work was missed in academic classes). The make-up assignment is a report on one of the following: 1) styles of music, 2)history of concert or jazz band instrument, 3) history of the concert, marching , or jazz band (no rock bands or pop performers without prior approval from the director), or 4) a composer. This report must meet the following criteria:

1. 2 pages typed or 4 pages neatly handwritten of text
2. If typed, font size of 12 (like a typewriter—no large fonts acceptable) and double spaced with 1 inch margins all-round
3. 3 different sources
4. 1 title page with title, name, date, and class
5. Works cited page.
6. Due 5 school days after missed performance-deductions of one point per day will be taken from the grade for late reports
7. Must be student’s work-plagiarism is illegal-you are not to just write down word-for-word from your source. Mr. Scott will check the sources you list in your works cited page- Plagiarized reports will not be accepted!

**Code of Conduct, Infractions, and Due Process**

STUDENTS WILL GOVERN THEMSELVES AS MUSICIANS AND MODEL THOMAS E. WEIGHTMAN STUDENTS. HOWEVER, FROM TIME-TO-TIME MINOR INFRACTIONS MAY OCCUR. BELOW IS A LIST OF STEP OF HOW CONSEQUENCES WILL BE LEVIED AGAINST STUDENTS WHO VIOLATE ANY OF THE RULES AND PROCEDURES MENTIONED IN THIS HANDBOOK.

**Consequences** (At the Band Director Discretion)

* **Verbal Warning**
* **1 day of lunch detention + phone call home**
* **2-3 days of lunch detention + phone call home**
* **After School Detention + phone call home**
* **Meeting with principal and possible dismissal from the band program**

**Bottom Line**

All band members are expected to follow the rules and procedures expressed in this handbook. Students not meeting these expectations will be subjected to the consequences, exclusion from performances, or from the band program at TEWMS at the discretion of the director and administration. Please live up to everyone’s high expectations. With your help I know we will be successful in reaching these goals. Please remember that the band will only be superior with YOUR effort. I am very excited to be working with you and dedicated to our success!

**Policies and Guidelines Agreement**

I have read and understand the policies and guidelines of the Thomas E. Weightman Middle School Wildcat Band and agree to comply with all.

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Student’s Signature Date

I have read and understood the policies and guidelines of the Thomas E. Weightman Middle School Wildcat Band and support my child’s decision to be a participant in this organization and agree to his/her compliance with all policies and guidelines.

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Parents/Guardian’s Signature Date

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Please Print Parent’s/Guardian’s e-mail address

Detach this page and the transportation form from the Wildcat Band Handbook. Return this page, signed, and dated and the transportation form, complete and signed. The Handbook book goes into your child’s folder and must be accessible at all times. **Your child should have their band handbook and their copy of the schedule everyday in class.**

**If possible, try to send all your band fees with this form.** Checks should be made payable to TEWMS.

We are always in need of volunteers to help the band. Some ways to help include handing out uniforms, preparing and passing out water and snacks at the football games and parades, hauling equipment, chaperones on trips, fundraiser orders, etc. If you are interested, please go to the school’s website (tewms.pasco.k12.fl.us) and click where it says [Volunteer Sign Up Here!](https://webdb.pasco.k12.fl.us/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=vol_db&-loadframes)  Thank you in advance to all those who give their time to the students of TEWMS!