

# Williamsburg High School Bands

Adam Hoffmann, Director



2009-2010

# A System For Success

Williamsburg Community High School Raider Bands

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Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the Williamsburg High School Band Department. We are looking forward to another educational, successful, and fun year with the Raider Band. This handbook is for your reference in order to communicate the various guidelines, procedures, and tools needed to make your experience in and with the Williamsburg High School Band Department a success. Following these guidelines will help you become the best musician possible, which in turn will help us become the best band possible.

**The goal of the Williamsburg Band Department is to achieve a well balanced education in music through the study of different types of literature, genres, performance, and practice techniques. The development of a clearly defined sense of music fundamentals and close attention to individual technique will aid in the process of studying various types of literature including: solo, small ensemble, concert/wind ensemble, jazz ensemble, and marching band, as well as the historical and theoretical implications of different styles and genres.**

Throughout this process of reaching the above stated goal, it is important to remember why we take music classes. Hopefully first and foremost, it is **FUN**, along with knowledge that reaches across subject areas to teach skills that can be applied in any situation and in any class. We aim to create a caring community of student musicians enhanced with positive attitudes, leadership abilities, and act as positive youth ambassadors for Williamsburg High School, and the entire community as a whole. I look forward to meeting and working with all of you!

Sincerely,

Adam Hoffmann

Director of Bands

## 2009-2010 Band Dates

DATE	EVENT	FACILITIES
<b>August</b>		
8-3-09 to 8-7-09	Band Camp 9-11:30 and 1:00-4:00	Band Room
8-11	Band Camp 6:30-9:00 P.M.	Band Room
8-13	Band Camp 6:30-9:00 P.M.	Band Room
8-22	Band Drill Day 9-11:30 and 1:00-4:00	Band Room
8-28	Football – Home Vs Mid Prairie (6:00)	Room/Field
<b>September</b>		
9-18	Football – Home vs Washington (6:00)	Room/Field
9-24	Homecoming Pre Activities (5:00)	WHS
9-25	Football – Homecoming vs. Oskaloosa (6:00)	Room/Field
<b>October</b>		
10-3	Pre Competition Rehearsal (time TBA)	WHS
10-3	Iowa City Little Hawkeye Invitational	IC High School
10-3	Five Seasons Marching Invitational (CR)	Kingston Stadium
10-16	Football – Home vs (6:00)	Room/Field
10-17	Pre Competition Rehearsal (time TBA)	WHS
10-17	State Marching Band	TBA
10-17	Mid-Iowa Band Championships	Ankeny
10-23	Football – Home vs (6:00)	Room/Field
10-24	All State Auditions	Fairfield
<b>November</b>		
11-17	WAMAC Band Festival – TBA	CPU
11-19 to 11-21	All-State Festival	Ames
<b>December</b>		
12-14	Band Concert 7:30	Messer
<b>January</b>		
1-9	SEIBA Honor Band Auditions	Fairfield
1-16	IHSMA State Jazz Band Festival	TBA
1-23	SEIBA Honor Band Festival	IC West High
<b>February</b>		
2-23	Band Concert 7:30	Messer
2-26	Coe College Jazz Summit	Coe College
<b>March</b>		
3-6	SEIBA District Jazz Festival	IC West High
3-27	IHSMA Solo and Ensemble Festival	Grinnell
<b>April</b>		
4-13	Jazz Championships	Des Moines
<b>May</b>		
5-4	Music Awards Concert	Messer
5-7	IHSMA Large Group (Band and Choir)	TBA
5-23	WHS Graduation – time TBA	Rec Center
5-31	Memorial Day Concert in the Park (Band)	Town Square

## GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESS

1. HAVE FUN!!!
2. SHOW UP EARLY!
3. PUT THE GROUP BEFORE YOURSELF, WE ARE A TEAM!
4. ALWAYS BE RESPECTFUL AND COURTEOUS TO OTHERS
5. TREAT THE BAND HALL/BUS/FIELD/SCHOOL WITH PRIDE AND RESPECT, IT IS YOUR 2<sup>ND</sup> HOME, AND YOUR MOTHER IS NOT HERE!
6. NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT WOULD DIMINISH THE REPUTATION OF WILLIAMSBURG MUSIC THAT SO MANY HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO ACHIEVE.

--What you do when you think no one else is looking reveals the type of person you truly are—

### Ensembles

**Concert Band:** The **Concert Band** is the heart of the Williamsburg Band Department. It is within this group that the musical fundamentals, individual technique, and musicality are truly defined in the most traditional sense. The Concert Band will begin its' season at the close of marching band. We will meet every morning during first block. Auditions will be held at the beginning of each semester for chair placement. Every member must participate in the audition. The audition will consist of: Selection of two major scales by director and one by student, short prepared piece chosen by director, and sight reading chosen by director. Performance opportunities include three concerts, SEIBA Festival, state large group festival, state solo and ensemble festival, and senior awards night/graduation. **ALL PERFORMANCES ARE REQUIRED AND ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!** Rehearsals will begin promptly at the beginning of first block, anyone not in their seat ready to play at the beginning of rehearsal will be considered tardy.

**Jazz Ensembles:** The Williamsburg Band Department has two Jazz Ensembles. **Jazz Outlet** is an auditioned group that rehearses at 7:00 Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the end of marching band. The auditions for this ensemble will take place in the fall of each school year and consist of the following: 1 prepared piece selected by director, 2 major scales selected by director from all 12 as well as one selected by student, improvisation over F Blues, a short sight reading piece selected by the director. **Jazz TOO** is open to any member of concert band in

grades 7-12 interested in developing his or her jazz skills. Rehearsals will be at 7:15 on selected mornings beginning in the fall.

**Raider Marching Band:** The Raider Marching Band is comprised of all members of the Williamsburg High School Band Department. The Raider Marching Band will perform at all home football games, Saturday marching competitions, and various other public functions. **THESE PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY AND ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!** This ensemble meets during first block during the first part of the fall semester as well as Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings at 7:15. Rehearsals will begin promptly at the specified time, signaled by the call to attention and the warm-up process. Those students who are late for the morning rehearsals will have points deducted from the participation portion of their grade.

**Raider Pep Band:** The Raider Pep Band has a very rich tradition at Williamsburg High School. The pep band performs at winter athletic events in support of our student athletes. All members of the band program will perform in the pep band. Varsity athletes will perform with the band when not involved in the game. **Band members are expected to attend required performances.** Students must inform the band director in advance if they will not be attending a performance. Failure to inform the director will result in an **UNEXCUSED ABSENCE**. **Pep band attendance is factored into the "Performance" portion of the grade.**

## **PERFORMANCES**

Public performances while in any group are the culmination of the work we do in the rehearsal room or on the practice field. They are the equivalent of tests with the exception that they cannot be made up. If a performance is going to be missed, it must be discussed with the director at least two weeks in advance of the concert and proper arrangements will be made and agreed upon.

**ROAD PERFORMANCES** - if, after an "away performance" you choose not to ride the bus back to school, you have two options, per school policy

- 1) Ride home with your parents - you/your parents can sign you out with Mr. Hoffmann
- 2) Ride home with someone else's parents - sign out with Mr Hoffmann. In order to ride with anyone other than YOUR parents you must have school administrative approval 2 days prior. You and whoever you are riding with still need to sign out with Mr. Hoffmann

Any other arrangements need to be approved at least 1 week prior to event.

## UNEXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A PERFORMANCE WILL RESULT IN A LETTER GRADE DROP.

AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE FROM A SECOND PERFORMANCE MAY RESULT IN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE AND EXPULSION FROM THE COURSE.

## LESSONS

Individual band lessons are critical to the success of our program. Each band student will receive one on one instruction on their instrument throughout the year. This enables our students to grow and achieve things impossible without the private lesson. Each student is expected to attend one lesson a week with Mr. Place or Mr. Landeros. They are expected to attend 7 band lessons per 9 week term. In the event that a lesson is missed, it may be rescheduled with Mr. Place or Mr. Landeros, time allowing. However, NO STUDENT CAN HAVE MORE THAN 2 LESSONS IN ONE WEEK. Grading will follow the rubric on the following page, and make up 60% of the overall band grade.

## **WHS INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC LESSON GRADING RUBRIC**

Band students have one lesson each week and are graded on a ten-point scale according to their preparation, performance, and progress. The students receive a grade for each of their lessons.

**GRADE: 6 POINTS**

### **INDICATORS**

- The student attends his/her lesson with all the proper materials (lesson book, instrument, mouthpiece, reed, etc.)
- The student shows little or no evidence of practice
- The student is able to perform less than half of the required material
- The student's performance involves frequent stopping and restarting
- Discussion centers on basic tone production, fingerings, and rhythmic ideas

**GRADE: 8 POINTS**

**INDICATORS**

- The student attends his/her lesson with all the proper materials (lesson book, instrument, mouthpiece, reed, etc.)
- The student shows evidence of practice
- The student is able to perform most of the required material
- The student performs the material with very few stops or restarts
- The student can produce a characteristic tone on his/her instrument and has learned all fingerings and basic rhythms necessary for the assignment
- Discussion centers on articulation, dynamics, and other expressive elements

**GRADE: 10 POINTS**

**INDICATORS**

- The student attends his/her lesson with all the proper materials (lesson book, instrument, mouthpiece, reed, etc.)
- The student shows evidence of thoughtful practice
- The student is able to perform all of the required material
- The student performs the material with no stops or restarts
- The student has learned all fingerings, basic rhythms, articulations, and dynamics necessary for the assignment
- Discussion centers on advanced expressive elements, style, and intonation

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROJECTS**

Each member of the band will complete several instrumental music projects during the course of the year. These projects will be weighted in the grade and the students will have to accomplish them by due dates set forth below. The majority of these "tasks" will be completed or tested in the student's lesson.

Term 1— AUGUST 27 - Marching band music memorized

Term 1—Tasks completed October 24

Term 2—Tasks completed January 9

Term 3—Tasks completed March 18

Term 4—Tasks completed May 29

The tasks will be decided upon by Mr. Landeros and Mr. Place and will consist of three or four assignments that the students will be responsible for working on during the course of the term.



1. **RMB:** Everyone must wear all parts of the uniform while "in uniform": Coat, trousers, black gloves, black socks, black shoes, and plume. The shako/hat will be worn after warm ups and en route to performance. All zippers/buttons must be fastened at all times while "in uniform." When you are "in uniform" you are always "in performance" and representing our band, school, and community. There shall be no food or drink while in uniform. There shall be no contact with the ground while in uniform. The penalty for inappropriate behavior will be more severe if the behavior occurs while in the **RMB** uniform. **The uniform must be returned in the same condition it was checked out in, or you will fix/replace it.**

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP

There are several opportunities for you to become a leader in the Williamsburg High School Band Program. The most important thing to remember about being a leader is to always, always, always, lead by example. Also, keep in mind the common goal that we all have in the WHS Band Program and always strive for that goal individually and as a group. Lastly, always maintain a good attitude and respect for yourself, peers, and teachers. The following are leadership opportunities that you have:

**Section Leader for Concert Band**—This person will be decided during the chair placement audition. Their responsibilities include tuning the section before rehearsal, distributing music, and helping relay messages.

**Lead Player in Jazz Outlet/TOO**—These people are needed to guide their section to a more unified sound. They must do their research on the lead playing for each chart and be able to demonstrate the style of each piece we play. Also, they are responsible for music distribution, tuning before rehearsal, and helping relay messages.

**Band Manger**—The Band Manager is responsible for keeping track of the logistical needs of the group and double checking to make sure that all equipment is stored properly and that nothing is left behind. There will also be a "work crew" for the RMB that this person will help guide.

**Librarian**—The librarians are vital to the Williamsburg High School Band. They help the director in sorting returned music and in passing out new music. Also, they help in organizing and cleaning the library. Librarians will be volunteers who are voted on by the band and ultimately chosen by the director.

**Drum Major of the RMB**—There will be two drum major of the **RMB**. They will be responsible for conducting the band on field, as well as leading the band in parades

and various other concerts. The drum major is the highest ranking student member in the band and therefore must demonstrate a very high level of maturity, discipline, and have a strong knowledge of all fundamentals. Other responsibilities of the drum major include, but are not limited to the following:

- Helping to facilitate rehearsals
- Help with the teaching of marching fundamentals
- Help maintain group focus
- Help maintain group attitude
- Always be positive, lead by example, and never get discouraged in front of the band

**Section Leader in the RMB**— Section leaders will be appointed prior to each season. They will be responsible for running some music sectionals, as well as some marching sectionals. Section leaders are responsible for maintaining the pursuit of our common goal. They must always lead by example, stress fundamentals, and be positive. **If the section leader wishes to hold an extra rehearsal, it must be cleared with the director in advance. If this is done the rehearsal is MANDATORY!**

## AWARDS

### **Myrtle O'Donnell Memorial Instrumental Excellence Award**

This award is presented to an outstanding senior at Senior Awards Night. Applications are available from the band director. The winner is determined by a committee based on his or her application and accomplishments in instrumental music.

### **\*John Phillip Sousa Band Award**

This award recognizes one senior student each year who shows outstanding dedication and superior musicianship. The award has become a nationwide symbol of excellence in musical achievement.

### **\*Louis Armstrong Jazz Award**

This award recognizes one senior member of Jazz Outlet each year who shows outstanding ability in playing jazz and enthusiasm for the art form.

**\*Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, Junior**

This award recognizes one freshman, sophomore, and junior student each year that shows outstanding dedication and superior musicianship

\*These awards are determined through the objective vote of the ensemble membership. The director reserves the right to accept or reject any outcome.

**Remember**

Music is FUN! Not all aspects are going to be WAY FUN all the time, but after a while, you should be able to look back and say, wow that was fun. Music is something that you have to experience to appreciate, and your hard work and dedication will lead to great experiences throughout the year. A lot of what we do will be hard work, however, you will also reap the benefits of that hard work for some time to come. Like anything worth while, you will get out of your experience with music and band what you put into it. Even with the minimal amount of effort you will be part of a great music program, have 70 band friends, be part of a caring supportive organization, and promote school spirit and pride. With the maximum amount of effort your benefits are boundless. If, throughout the year, you feel like you aren't having fun, or getting anything from your experiences, please feel free to come and talk to me, and we can discuss how to make your time with the band fun and productive. I look forward to our experiences together this year! GO RAIDERS!!!

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Please Complete and Return By \_\_\_\_\_.

I have read and understood the Raider Band guidelines contained in this book. I agree to abide by all policies to help contribute to the band's success this year. I understand that I must communicate with the directors regarding any problems with these guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature

Print Name

I also have read these guidelines and I agree to support my child's participation in the instrumental music program at Williamsburg High School.

I have reviewed the dates of all the required public performances and my student will attend all required events.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature

Print Name