

Warren Consolidated Schools

Warren Mott High School

Band Handbook



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Director of Bands

Warren Mott High School MARAUDER MUSIC MACHINE

INTRODUCTION

The Warren Mott High School Bands are dedicated to providing various learning experiences and activities that will enable the high school instrumental musician to reach his or her full musical potential. Our ultimate goal is musical excellence resulting in a life-long participation in and appreciation for *the arts*.

High School Band has the potential to provide some of the most enjoyable memories of your four years at Warren Mott High School. This handbook is written as a guide to help you be successful in the Warren Mott Bands and to explain the opportunities and responsibilities of band membership.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Warren Mott High School Bands are devoted to:

- providing students with opportunities to experience the very best in band literature.
- mastering the skills necessary for success in many types of instrumental music.
- encouraging an appreciation of fine musical performance.

WE BELIEVE:

Music is best learned in a supportive environment.

Every band member is accountable.

Music is an exciting expression of our humanity.

Self-discipline is a key to musical success.

Every member is needed and important.

WE VALUE:

Respect

Dedication

Enthusiasm

Quality

Leadership

I. Admission to Ensembles

Membership is based on audition and Band Director recommendation, including the Warren Mott Director, directors from other high schools, and directors from middle schools.

CONCERT BANDS

- A. **Cadet Band** is available for all high school instrumentalists, especially those incoming freshmen who have successfully completed three years of band at the middle school level. The Cadet Band is intended as a training band to prepare younger students for the technical and musical demands of the advanced high-school level bands. Students in this band will focus on fundamentals of playing such as characteristic tone production, intonation, rhythm and counting, reading ability, interpretation, and musicality. This is an excellent time for students to switch to a secondary instrument. (See the Band Directors for details.)
- B. **Concert Band** is available for high school instrumentalists who have developed an intermediate skill level and are sufficiently prepared for membership in a higher-level performing ensemble.
- C. **Symphonic Band** is available to students with advancing instrumental music skills. Usually students in Symphonic Band are exceptionally mature for their age and often are taking private lessons on their instrument.
- D. **Wind Ensemble** is available to only the most advanced instrumentalists. This group is the most musically demanding performance-based ensemble at Warren Mott High School and is intended to be among the very finest bands in Macomb and Oakland Counties. Traditional Wind Ensemble instrumentation dictates that there are very few players on each part, making each individual player's contributions that much more important to the entire group – like an entire band of soloists. Along with a strong work ethic and musical aptitude, *private lessons are very strongly suggested for students who are accepted in Wind Ensemble.*

JAZZ BANDS

- A. **Marauder Big Band (Jazz I)** is a full year/credit performing group with regular daily rehearsals and periodic scheduled concerts. It is intended for more advanced players who are already involved with the band program. Membership is open to any and all active band members. See the Band Directors for details.
- B. The **Jazz II** or **Jazz III** bands rehearse after school three days a week and are open to all interested band members, on directors' approval or audition. These groups give students an opportunity to get an introduction to the jazz idiom.

CHAMBER ENSEMBLES:

Flute Choir, Clarinet Choir, Woodwind Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Brass Choir, Percussion Ensemble

- A. These ensembles will be put together in the fall, after marching season is concluded. Student involvement is voluntary, but strongly encouraged. Rehearsals are generally held after school. As with any other performing ensemble, attendance at and preparation for rehearsal is of utmost importance. Performances will take place at WMHS as well as at District Solo and Ensemble Festival and may qualify to perform at State Festival

MARCHING BANDS

- A. **Marching Band** is the primary performing group during the fall semester. *All members* of the Cadet Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble are **required** to participate in the marching program. **Marching Band** (all band members) performs at parades (such as the, Homecoming Parade, Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade, etc.) and **Marching Band** (all band members) performs in the stands at all home Varsity football games. **These are required performances.** Additionally, all band students are required to attend **BAND CAMP I** each July to learn fundamentals of parade formation marching, learn new music, review old music, and to take care of their marching uniform needs for the season. **Band Camp I** concludes with a “tailgate” revue for the parents followed by a cookout.
- B. **Varsity Band** is an extension of Marching Band. **Varsity Band** members attend **Band Camp II** (in addition to **Band Camp I**) to learn the field show for performance during Varsity football home games. Additionally, the **Varsity Band** will perform in competitive marching band venues, such as MSBOA *Marching Band Festival* and other invitational marching band competitions. While this is a volunteer organization, it requires a high-level of commitment to be successful. **Varsity Band** rehearses on Wednesday and sometimes Thursday from usually **5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** throughout the fall season. Attendance at rehearsals is mandatory for all **Varsity Band** members. Conflicts will be dealt with on a one-by-one basis with the Band Directors.
- C. **Pep Band** is organized on a volunteer basis as an extension of Marching Band. It provides music and helps raise school spirit for *away* football games and *home* basketball games. Though student-run, the pep band is facilitated and governed by the Band Director. Students will need to provide their own transportation.

II. Band Camp

The Band Directors and Band Parents organize two summer Band Camps for the purpose of preparing music and movement for the fall football and parade season. **Attendance is required of all members.**

- A. **Band Camp I** (usually the last week of July or the first week of August) is required for all band students. During **Band Camp I** students learn fundamentals of parade formation marching, learn new music, review old music, and to take care of their marching uniform needs for the season. Additionally, this is an excellent time for new, young band members to get to know the older band students in a fun and exciting way before school starts. **Band Camp I** is usually held at Warren Mott High School and concludes with a “tailgate” revue for the parents followed by a cookout. It is a lot of fun.
- B. **Band Camp II** (usually the first or second week of August) is required for members of **Varsity Band**. During **Band Camp II**, students learn a *Field Show* which consists of new, specially selected music and corresponding field drill work. The *Field Show* is performed during halftime at home varsity football games as well as at marching band competitions. Participation in **Varsity Band** absolutely requires attendance at **Band Camp II**. **Band Camp II** is usually held away from Warren Mott High School, to allow the students to bond as a group and come together more as a complete unit. Moving away from the distractions of home allows us to get a tremendous amount of work done in a very short time.

NOTE: Both weeks of **Band Camp** are required to participate in **Varsity Band**. Members who do not participate in the entire week of each camp will not be involved in any competitive marching activity (half-time shows, festivals, etc.)

III. Performances

Performances are the natural outcome of study for a band or any musical organization. *All performances are required.* It is the intent of the Warren Mott Band program to provide a variety of performing opportunities for the band members. Occasionally, conflicts may occur with other school-related or family activities. Any conflicts need to be brought to the Band Directors in writing **well before** the time of the conflict in order for a compromise to be worked out. A written excusal *after* a performance has been missed unacceptable.

- A. Typical Annual Group Performances include:
 - 1. All Warren Mott home football games
 - 2. Marching Band Pre-Festival Performances (such as WCS Band-O-Rama)
 - 3. MSBOA Marching Band Festival
 - 4. Away Football Games, Home Basketball Games
 - 5. Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade
 - 6. Winter Band Concert (Pasta Fest)
 - 7.. Pre-Festival Concerts
 - 8.. MSBOA District and State Band Festivals
 - 9. Area Concerts for Beer and Grissom Middle Schools
 - 10. Band Trip (when taken)
 - 11. Spring Band Concert (May)
 - 12. Jazz Night (June)
 - 13. Additional events may be added at the discretion of the Directors.

- B. Other Individual Performance Opportunities:
 - 1. Pre Solo & Ensemble Recital
 - 2. MSBOA District Solo & Ensemble Festival
 - 3. MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble Festival (when qualified)
 - 4. MSBOA District XVI Honors Band
 - 5. WSU Honors Band (through Wayne State University)
 - 6. Michigan Youth Band/Orchestra (through University of Michigan)
 - 7. Oakland Youth Orchestras (through Oakland University)

IV. Solo & Ensemble Festival

Solo and Ensemble Festival is an optional festival in the winter. Participation is *highly recommended*. Enrollment occurs in early November. (See the band calendar for the due date.)

A. Solos: In order for students to prepare and perform a solo for S&E festival, the student is required to be taking private lessons with a private teacher for their instrument. (See the Band Directors to discuss any exceptions to this rule.)

B. Ensembles: Students form their own ensembles and select their own music (to be approved by the Band Directors). Students should set up their rehearsal schedules in such a manner that the ensemble is ready for adjudication *two weeks* before the event. The Band Directors should be used to give students information about style, balance, intonation and phrasing. Other technical matters such as correct notes and rhythms should be the sole responsibility of the students.

V. Band Trips

A band trip to perform in a national music festival may be organized by the Band Director if sufficient numbers in each instrumental section indicate, with a non-refundable deposit, that they wish to participate.

VI. After-School Commitments

- FALL: **Varsity Band Rehearsals** – During the Marching season it is necessary to run after school rehearsals where the combined bands can work as single group on the field. Rehearsals are from **5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings** through the middle of October. **ALL REHEARSALS ARE MANDATORY**. If additional rehearsals are scheduled, ample advanced notice will be given and students are expected to reasonably accommodate as best they can. One or more absences from a rehearsal prior to a performance may result in the member being prohibited from participating in that event.
- SPRING: **After School Sectionals** – In preparation for the MSBOA Band Festival in March, periodic sectionals will take place immediately after school beginning in January. This will allow greater individual instruction and better attention to detail prior to adjudication. Students will be required to attend each of these sectionals; however, if they cannot attend *their* sectional on a particular day, they may attend another section's rehearsal *that week* to make up the absence. (See the Band Directors *in advance* to discuss this and get approval.)

VII. Grading

- A. Student participation in band performances **and** band playing tests determine the vast majority of the band grade. These tests are performed periodically in class or recorded. They consist of basic instrumental skills and/or passages from music being prepared in class for performance. Students absent from school are expected to take the test on their immediate return to school.
- B. Performances are included in the grading process, and are considered “group” tests with no opportunity for “make up”. A perfect score for all members attending will be given (assuming student is on time and in uniform, etc). *An unexcused absence from a performance **will** result in the student’s grade being lowered one full mark.* Similarly, an unexcused absence from a scheduled rehearsal will result in the *student’s grade being lowered one full mark per absence*, and probable exclusion from the next performance. Two unexcused absences from scheduled performances may result in a student being dropped from Band with a final grade of “E” and loss of credit.
- C. An approved absence must be requested in writing from a student’s parent **well before** the performance activity and, if approved, the student will be expected to complete an alternate assignment at the discretion of the Band Director.
- D. Extra credit points can be earned at MSBOA District and State *Solo & Ensemble* Festivals as well as various other announced activities.
- E. Negligence or failure to follow directions can negatively affect a student’s grade. Examples of this include tardiness and truancy, but also not properly securing instruments or music, not taking care of band uniforms properly, not having a cooperative and collaborative attitude, etc.

VIII. Seating (Chairs)

After the initial seating, chairs will be determined by audition or challenge. All seating changes that result in a change of band part will be frozen from **two weeks** prior to a performance until after that performance.

IX. Instruments and Uniforms

- A. Students using instruments provided by the school will complete the “instrument loan form” provided by the school district. Also, their names will be included on the school musical instrument inventory. Students may use a school instrument at no cost during the school year,
- B. All band instruments should be kept at home or in band lockers whenever not being used. Band lockers are provided for all band instruments, and are located in the band room or band instrument storage room. No music or band instruments should be left out in the band room or practice rooms.
- C. All band music should be kept in the assigned music folder. Folders are to be stored each day after class in their designated folder cabinet. Folders are *not* to be put in the band lockers with your instrument.
- D. Marching and Concert uniforms are provided by the school district, and issued to band members during the summer Band Camp on the basis of seniority. Each band member is responsible for the appearance of his/her uniform. (It should always be clean and wrinkle free.) Students will turn in their marching uniforms at the end of each performance.

X. Varsity Letters and Chevrons

- A. The following are the available requirements needed to obtain a Varsity Letter in Instrumental Music. Students are encouraged to commit to and participate in as many aspects of the band program as they can and feel comfortable doing. The extra time and work will be extremely rewarding – musical and social experiences you will remember fondly for the rest of your life!

- Band Council
- I or II rating at MSBOA District Solo & Ensemble
- Drum Major/Section Leader
- Varsity Band: I or II rating at MSBOA Marching Band Festival
- I or II rating for MSBOA *State* Solo & Ensemble
- I or II rating at MSBOA Band Festival
- I or II rating for MSBOA *State* Band Festival
- After-school JAZZ BAND (consistent attendance is required)
- Summer Band Program (Interlochen, Blue Lake, Wayne State, etc.)
- PEP BAND (consistent attendance is required)
- Private Lessons (1 year or more)
- Colorguard
- Spring or Winter Ensembles (performance at Spring Concerts or Pasta Fest)

*Others as approved by Band Directors

- B. The following are the requirements needed to obtain a Varsity Chevron in instrumental music each year:
 - Participate in Varsity Band and receive a I or II rating at MSBOA Marching Festival
- C. Above all, anyone hoping to earn a Varsity Letter or Chevron should demonstrate proper etiquette, good citizenship, and outstanding musicianship.

XI. Band Officers

Members of all bands (Cadet, Concert, Symphonic, WE) may elect President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as Band Officers. These students will be nominated from the Wind Ensemble and should be individuals who are involved in band activities outside of Wind Ensemble as well.

Each remaining band (Cadet, Concert, Symphonic) will elect two Band Officers from their own group to serve as Student Representatives.

- A. The **Band President** will attend meetings of the Band Parents Club and report about band activities. The Band President is in charge of any social activity or fund raising activity undertaken by the band.
- B. The **Band Vice President** will assist the Band President in all duties, and assume Band President duties if the President is unable to fulfill them.
- C. The **Band Secretary** will assist the Band President in all activities. The Band Secretary will also communicate to the school news and local community news organizations information about performing events by the Warren Mott Bands or results from festivals.
- D. The **Band Treasurer** will assist the Band President in all activities, and coordinate with the Band Directors and Treasurer of the Band Club in financial dealings with fund raising activities and individual student accounts.
- E. The **Student Representatives** will help with communication to the bands in the various classes and help the other Band Officers with their duties.

XII. Warren Mott Band Club

The **Warren Mott Band Club** is represented by a caring and resourceful group of parents whose goal is to make band a better experience for the students than what the district could provide without parental help. The Band Club is often involved in raising funds that are directly returned to the band members in ways that enrich the high school band experience. All students are expected to participate in fund raising activities initiated by the Band Club.

Band students should interact with the Band Club as if they were members of the Warren Mott school staff, as the Warren Consolidated Student Code of Conduct applies to all band activities.

The Band Parents meet on the first Monday of each month (except June) in the Annex at 7:30 p.m. It is hoped that parents who cannot become involved as officers or committee chairpersons can help out when needed.

The Warren Mott Band Club has a website at www.warrenmottbandclub.com which is intended to be used as a convenient and valuable resource for students and parents to get access to important information at any time. Additionally, the Band Club uses an email distribution list (through Yahoo!) to help parents communicate easily. Please visit the website for instructions to subscribe to the email list and become part of the Warren Mott Band Club.

XIII. Communication

- A. The Band Directors will make performance dates and times known to the students as soon as they become aware of them. The students then have the responsibility of informing their families and reserving those dates on the personal calendars. Students will need to sign up on **REMIND** to get updates for any band related event.

Dear Parents,

The purpose of this **Band Handbook** is to inform you and your child of the many responsibilities and happenings involved with band membership. Being in band can be one of the most rewarding experiences in a student's secondary schooling, but it involves a deep sense of commitment from parents and students alike. Please take the time to review the handbook with your child.

All students in the WMHS Band are expected to follow the guidelines of the Band Handbook. If, for any reason, the guidelines cannot be met, the student should choose another course of academic study other than band.

We look forward to an excellent year of music making, growth, and improvement.

Erik R. Miller, Director of Bands

Please sign and return this page to the Band Director **Friday, September 21st 2012**
I have read the WMHS Band Handbook, and understand that my child is expected to follow its guidelines.

Parent or guardian printed name

Parent or guardian signature

Student printed name

Student signature

Date

Circle Grade: 9th 10th 11th 12th