

Winter Haven High School Band and Devilettes



2014-2015 Handbook

Winter Haven High School Band and Devilette Handbook

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Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Winter Haven High School Band and Devilette Visual Ensemble. As a member of the Pride of Winter Haven, students are expected to set high goals for themselves and the program. The rewards of reaching those goals are immeasurable in the development of our band members as well-rounded human beings. In addition, the PRIDE believes that “the process is just as important as the product.” This places the emphasis on the individual development and growth of each student, not just on specific performances. Members of the WHHS Band develop musically, emotionally, mentally and socially during their time in the program.

Objectives of the Winter Haven High School Band program include commitment, discipline, leadership, perseverance, respect, responsibility, self-control, team work and most of all... **PRIDE !**

Musically yours,

Tony Mayato
Band Director
Winter Haven High School

P

- *Precision* exists in every movement and musical note.

R

- *Respect* everyone because everyone is a piece of the puzzle!

I

- *Integrity* drives you to always put forth your best effort!

D

- *Dedication* to achieving the highest goals.

E

- *Excellence* is the result of hard work, discipline and a positive attitude.

What is Respect?

Respect is showing regard and appreciation for the worth of someone or something. It means honor and esteem. It includes respect for self, respect for the rights and dignity of all persons, and respect for the environment that sustains life. Respect keeps us from hurting what we ought to value.

The PRIDE of Winter Haven

HOW TO DEMONSTRATE PRIDE

- Be the **first**, never the last, to rehearsals.
- Always have **essential** (required) rehearsal items.
- Wear appropriate rehearsal attire – proper shoes, shorts, etc.
- Demonstrate **pride**, spirit and enthusiasm for learning, working, and contributing.
- Prepare and master your part in advance - only your **best** is good enough.
- Be a **positive** example.
- Maintain **silence** and eye contact with the Instructor or Officer in charge.
- Stop and listen **immediately** when cut-off is given or move is completed.
- **Enjoy** rehearsing – hot, cold, or rainy.
- Do your best to make those around you look and **sound** better.
- Be humble in your success. Demonstrate **PRIDE** in all situations.

WHHS Band Policies

- Students must abide by the Polk County Schools Code of Student Conduct, WHHS Student Rules, and the WHHS Band Handbook.
Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in suspension of membership in the WHHS Band program.
- **Do not** touch any instrument or piece of equipment that is not yours or has not been specifically assigned to you.
- If you use something, PUT IT BACK! (i.e. stands, music, chairs, etc.)
- **Be prepared** with your instrument, music, extra reeds, mutes, pencils, etc.
- Keep your instrument and equipment in **performance perfect** condition so it *cannot* be used as an excuse to avoid participating.
- Keep the band facility neat, orderly and free of litter. Store instrument and music in assigned places, not on the floor.
- The locker room is to be used for storage of instruments and supplies ONLY. All lockers must have a lock! Lockers with no lock are not protected and are not the schools/band directors responsibility! *It is not a locker for personal effects and it is also not a place to socialize.*
- **No gum, food or drink** of any kind is allowed in the band area, performance or rehearsal. *Violation of this policy will result in loss of bonus points.*
- For security reasons, the music building is off limits to non-music students.
- Cell phones are not permitted at any rehearsal, football game or festival. When you walk out the door to a band activity, *leave your cell phone behind.* **Phones will be confiscated**, loss of bonus points and/or WHHS Disciplinary Referrals may result from violations of this rule.
- It is **not appropriate** for students to exhibit public displays of affection while representing the WHHS band. Hand holding may be acceptable in some situations, but only with permission from Mr. Mayato.

- **Meeting these expectations is a reflection of the PRIDE you have for this organization.**
If you have PRIDE in the hard work you and your fellow band members put forth, these expectations will easily be met and exceeded.

Rehearsal Expectations

Band Room

1. Required equipment: instrument in “performance perfect” working order, *no less than* TWO playable reeds, all necessary mutes, spit rags, valve oil, ALL music (your own copy) and, most importantly, **A PENCIL**.

Note: Your band director will not sell reeds, slide grease, valve oil, or other supplies.

Be professional and make it your business to be prepared for rehearsal or you will lose bonus points.

2. ALL percussionists will be required to have their own stick bag at all rehearsals. You may purchase a starter bag, complete with mallets, from Steve Weiss Music for \$49.95.

3. Before class begins, you will have 5 minutes after the tardy bell to get set up. You are expected to come into the band room quietly and focused on rehearsal.

4. You are expected to take care of all personal needs (restroom, etc.) before you enter the band room for rehearsals, students will be allowed 2 bathroom passes per 9 weeks, use them wisely!

5. Once rehearsal starts, talking WILL NOT be tolerated. Talking in rehearsal is not conducive to focused music making. Raise your hand to ask a question.

6. Rehearsal order will always be posted on the board. Organize your music in that order before we begin.

7. Failure to comply with any of the aforementioned items will result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, loss of participation/points, phone call home, loss of 3rd quarter, WHHS dean referral, etc.

Marching Field

- Rehearsal schedule: Tuesday and Thursday (outside): 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM.

The Call to Attention is at 6pm. Parent pick up time is 8:45pm.

Please check the calendar daily, as there are often special rehearsals or location changes.

- Go directly to the practice field. The band room will be locked 5 minutes before the start of rehearsal.
- A two-quart cooler filled with ice water is ALWAYS required.
- PROPER ATTIRE REQUIRED! Sneakers must be worn to practice with laces properly tied. Sandals, flip-flops, boots and/or bare feet are not allowed. Shorts must be worn to all outside rehearsals. Students will be asked to leave without the proper attire, will be marked absent and will not receive credit for that rehearsal!
- No playing to and from the practice field and DO NOT walk through the softball dirt when returning to the band room.

- Most importantly, **NO ONE SHOULD BE TALKING**, during rehearsals -- not even officers.
- **The staff is responsible for correcting drill or music issues.**
- Take PRIDE in every minute of rehearsal so that we can take PRIDE in our final product... the performance. **There is no room for negative attitudes during rehearsal. Allow me to repeat this,**

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR NEGATIVE ATTITUDES DURING REHEARSAL!

Football Games

- Report to the band room for attendance wearing your official band T-shirt, solid black shorts, black shoes, and black socks.
 - The band seating area is off limits to everyone except parents and band alumni.
 - There will be no shouting of derogatory phrases at the other team or band. Remain seated in the stands and display the integrity of the PRIDE.
 - Uniforms must remain on and completely buttoned at all times.
 - Chaperones have the director's full support at all times. They are volunteering their time to help make your performance more successful. Students must show them respect and follow their directions.
 - After half time, students will return to their seats to carefully secure their instruments. Then, the band will be dismissed to get drinks from the band boosters and to visit the restrooms during the third quarter. **You must be in your seats before the end of the 3rd quarter.** This is a privilege and will only continue if it can be handled with maturity;
Late students will be denied 3rd quarter the next week.
 - Remember that you are being observed by parents, administrators, fans and other bands at all times. You are expected to conduct yourself properly at all times while in uniform.
- Cursing is never allowed, but ESPECIALLY while in uniform.**
-Remember who you are and the PRIDE you are representing.

Inspection Details

Failure to adhere to these guidelines may cost bonus points and a strike will be given for each unsatisfactory item. Getting 3 strikes, forfeits 3rd quarter privileges for that football game.

- ✓ Clean, black marching band shoes.
- ✓ Clean, *and I do mean clean*, white gloves.
- ✓ Complete under uniform, including band t-shirt, black socks and black shorts.
- ✓ Clean WHHS Band towel.
- ✓ **Marching Band pants are to be the specified length.**
- ✓ No jewelry or excessive make up. Nail polish should be removed.
- ✓ Lyre and flip folder with stands and show music.
- ✓ Backpack and cooler (with ice water).
- ✓ No talking is allowed during inspection! There are no exceptions!

Attendance Policy

- Attendance is **MANDATORY** at all rehearsals and performances both during and after school. An extra effort is made by the director to give students and parents advance notice of all events.
Therefore, we ask that appointments be scheduled so that they do not conflict with the band calendar.
- All performances and rehearsals will be counted as class assignments for each nine-week grading period. The student's grade is based upon attendance, promptness, and preparedness.
- In the case of an *excused* absence, (death in the family, severe, documented illness, *not*, "I didn't feeeeeeel goooooood") the student will be permitted to make up the 2 hour rehearsal with 2 hours of monitored practice during lunch or after school.
- Unexcused absences cannot be made up. This is non-negotiable.
- Any known scheduling conflicts (i.e. other **school** events) must be brought to the director's attention at least two weeks in advance. These conflicts will be addressed on an individual basis.
- Any absence or tardy will also result in a loss of bonus points. An excessive number of tardies or absences can result in a student's removal from the band program.

 **We simply cannot make music if you are not here!** 

Marching Band Uniforms

- The WHHS Band provides marching uniforms to each student in the band. There is a mandatory uniform rental fee of \$110, which **includes** normal uniform cleaning. This amount must be paid before the student may take the uniform.
- Students will be held responsible for the uniform issued to him or her.
Replacement cost of a lost or damaged uniform could cost as much as \$300.
- No patches or medals will be worn on the uniforms at any time.
- Pants are to be hemmed to the prescribed length, or the student will lose points in inspection. It is the student's responsibility to have any needed alterations done professionally.
Do not cut the uniform material!
- Marching hats must be worn at the correct angle. Hair must be up under the hat. Never wear your band hat backwards.
- Only official WHHS Band/Drum Line baseball hats or visors may be worn in the stands.
No other baseball hats may be worn.
- No jewelry or hair ornaments are allowed. **Clear fingernail polish ONLY.**
- The uniform is to be worn correctly and in its entirety at all times.

Concert Uniforms

Males

We provide: Black tuxedo jacket and black pants
Black cummerbund and bow tie (assigned by number)

Students provide: White tuxedo shirt (may be purchased from any formal wear or mens Shop)
Black dress shoes (no boots, sneakers, etc.) – lace up shoes preferred
Black dress socks

Females

Students provide: Long, formal black dress that will be ordered through the band boosters. Students will keep their dress for the duration of their service at Winter Haven High School. If a student grows out of her dress, she may donate it to the band for a 50% credit on the purchase of the next years dress

Shoes must be black dress, closed toe, with a back but NO heels higher than 1 ½ inches

Black stockings MUST be worn.

No necklaces or bracelets.

ONE earring may be worn in each ear, studs only, no dangles or hoops.

Hair and makeup should be minimal, clear nail polish ONLY.

NO LIPSTICK! It ruins reeds anyway.

Course Offerings - Performing Ensembles

“The Pride” of Winter Haven

- ❖ This marching ensemble is comprised of all band members currently enrolled at Winter Haven High School. The PRIDE is the face of the Winter Haven Band, and Winter Haven High School.
- ❖ Members of this ensemble are expected to attend weekly after school rehearsals as well as football games and marching festivals. This ensemble also serves the community of Winter Haven, playing in various parades and local events.

WHHS Wind Ensemble

- ❖ This concert band is comprised of Winter Haven High School’s most elite musicians. The Wind Ensemble is dedicated to playing varied styles of band repertoire with the finest standards and the members of this ensemble *must* also be a member of “The Pride” of Winter Haven Marching Band.
- ❖ Students must audition for the band director in order to be accepted into this ensemble.

The audition requirements for Wind Ensemble are as follows:

- All 12 Major scales according to the Florida All State Requirements (2 octaves where possible)
- Chromatic Scale according to the Florida All State Requirements.
- A prepared lyrical etude. This etude will be provided to the students by the band director.

- ❖ Auditions will be held each Spring as posted by the band calendar found on, www.whhsband.org.

WHHS Concert Band

- ❖ The Concert Band is dedicated to improving fundamental music practices to prepare WHHS students to later join the Wind Ensemble. Members of this ensemble are not required to be a member of the marching band, but they are **HIGHLY** encouraged to do so! There is no audition requirement for entry into this ensemble. The only requirement is the student **MUST** have at least one year of prior band experience either at another institution or at the middle school level.

“Messengers” Jazz Orchestra

- ❖ This jazz ensemble is comprised of the best musicians at Winter Haven Senior High School. This ensemble is dedicated to learning and performing various styles of music such as Swing, Bebop, Funk, Fusion and Rock. In order for the student to be in the “Messengers” they **MUST** be enrolled in either Wind Ensemble or Concert Band where they will work on the fundamentals of playing their instrument.

AP Music Theory

- ❖ AP Music Theory is a strenuous course that equates to one semester of Music Theory at the Collegiate level. This course can **ONLY** be taken by a senior music student who has either taken 2 years of band or piano. *There are no exceptions to this rule.*

WHHS Band General Information

THE “PRIDE DOLLARS” PROGRAM

- The “Pride Dollars” will cover the band’s planned operating expenses for the entire year. Budgeted items include instruments, music, repairs, travel, festivals and performances, Devilette equipment, charter bus transportation, hotels, All-State, awards, etc.
- Through this program, all band students will be responsible for **earning or raising \$275** during the course of the year. Students are **not expected to pay** the “Pride Dollar” amount, but to simply participate in all fundraisers until they have earned their fair share.
- Students will not be individually assessed for band trip expenses, with the exception of “special event” trips like out of state performances and the Survivor Trip. The student’s “Pride Dollars” requirement will cover all regular expenses.
- Ample fundraising opportunities are provided for students and their families to earn their “Pride Dollars”. Virtually all fundraising profits will be applied to the student’s individual “Pride Dollars” account. Those who prefer to pay the “Pride Dollars” instead or in addition to fundraising it may, of course, do so by the scheduled deadlines.
- Once a student has raised or paid his/her required “Pride Dollars”, he/she may choose to work for another student. In addition, students will receive **HALF** of their extra “Pride Dollars” to be used for band related expenses.

“Pride Dollars” amount for all Band and Devilette members: \$275

“Pride Dollars” Fundraising Opportunities:

Program Ad Sales (Summer)
Rehearse-A-Thon (August)
FBA District Marching Band Festival (October)
Krispy Kreme Donut Sales (September)
Carrabbas Lunch Sales (March)

“Pride Dollars” Deadlines:

1st deadline: August 23 \$100 in account
2nd deadline: January 24 \$200 in account
3rd deadline: May 9 \$275 in account

FULL PARTICIPATION IN “PRIDE DOLLARS” IS REQUIRED FOR MEMBERS OF THE WINTER HAVEN HIGH SCHOOL BAND.

Music

Replacement of lost music is expensive and time consuming. Each band member is responsible for the music issued to him or her. The following guidelines will be observed:

- No sharing. Each student will have his or her own folder.
- Be sure to put your name on your folder and on your flip folder.
- Bonus points will be deducted for any folder or flip folder found in the band room or practice field.
- Replacement of music will cost .25 cents per page.
- **Concert and Jazz folders are to be stored in the music folder cabinet.**
- See a librarian for copies of music.

School Instruments

- ❖ The WHHS Band has a limited number of school owned instruments that may be rented for \$50 a year or \$25 a semester. **The rental fee must be paid by anyone using a school owned instrument, including marching band instruments and percussion.**
- ❖ Students must fill out a Rental Agreement and *pay the fee before an instrument will be released to them.*
- ❖ It is the student’s responsibility to maintain and keep the instrument in performance-perfect working order. Instruments must be returned in such an order or students will be fined for repairs.
- ❖ **Please treat these instruments with care, as they are the only ones we have!**

Awards

The band program presents an awards banquet at the conclusion of each school year. This serves as a way to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year as well as recognize the outstanding musical achievements of our students. The awards include most improved and most outstanding in each class and a selection from the following:

- **Medals**- Given for superior rated performances at any Florida Bandmasters Association evaluation, including Marching, Jazz, Concert, and Solo and Ensemble.
- **Letters**- Each student will receive a chenille letter upon completion of their first full year of participation in the band program, as determined by the director.
- **Service Bars**- Each student will receive a bar for each year of participation after the Letter has been awarded.
- **John Philip Sousa Award**- This is a national award presented to the outstanding senior band student in the program.
- **Arion Award** - This is another national award presented to the outstanding senior band student in the program.
- **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award**- This award is presented to the outstanding jazz student.
- Most improved and most outstanding in each class.
- Service awards given out as seen fit by the Band Director.
- Peoples Choice Awards, selected by the group.

Survivor Reward Trip

A special reward trip is planned in the late Spring for those band and Devilette members who meet the expectations listed below. This trip is optional and paid for by the student.

Specific requirements for participation include:

- Meet or exceed all "Pride Dollars" deadlines.
- Must be a member of marching band.
- Bonus points must be at or above 100 by the last Fair Share deadline
- Avoid any major disciplinary action.
- Maintain academic eligibility.
- Parent, Family, or Student MUST log 15 hours of volunteer experience
- The Appendix to the Handbook contains the details regarding bonus points.

Academic Eligibility

- In order to participate in band activities, a band student must maintain a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.0 or higher. Eligibility will be determined each semester by the cumulative grade point average.
- **Any student whose bonus points drop below 70 may be suspended from band activities.**
- A student must be in attendance at school for at least two periods on the day of or, the last day before, a performance.
- A student must also attend the last rehearsal before a performance in order to be eligible to perform.

**PLEASE WORK HARD TO AVOID PUTTING YOURSELF OR THE BAND IN A POSITION
OF JEOPARDY!**

KEEP YOUR GRADES UP!

Physical Education Waiver

- ❖ Completion of one semester with a grade of "C" or better in a marching band class shall provide
½ credit, of the 1 credit requirement, in Physical Education. Students must still take the remaining one-half credit Personal Fitness course.
- ❖ Students eligible for this option:
 - Are enrolled in an official Band course (I-VI) and regularly practice and perform marching activities during a full marching band season as part of the class,
OR
 - Are enrolled in a physical activity class that addresses such activities as eurhythmics, flag/dance corps, and regularly practice and perform marching as part of the class.
- ❖ Marching band students are not required to pass the Personal Fitness Competency Test to exempt the ½ credit requirement. The marching band option may not be used in combination with participation in an interscholastic sport for only one season in order to exempt the full credit PE requirement.
- ❖ Marching band students must still complete a minimum of 24 credits to meet graduation requirements. Students graduating in 2003 and thereafter may use this option.
- ❖ The Department of Education has established the non-credit Course Number 1500440, Marching Band Physical Education Waiver, to be used to indicate on the student's transcript that one-half of the physical education requirement has been met through marching band.

Band for Honors Credit

- ♪ It is possible to receive honors credit for band at the junior and senior band levels.
- ♪ Certain special requirements apply; See the band director before school starts if you want more information.

Individual Instrumental and Dance Activities

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE ASSESSMENT

- ♪ Students prepare a solo music literature, or dance, selection for district level evaluation in February.
Music should be selected and preparation should begin in the early fall for success at this festival.
- ♪ Many students will be placed in ensembles at the discretion of the band director.
- ♪ Those who earn a superior rating on a dance or grade V (or higher) solo or ensemble will qualify for the State Solo and Ensemble Assessment in April. Students who participate with a solo will have to pay an accompanist fee. This fee differs year to year and will be announced as Solo and Ensemble arrives.

- ♪ Participation in Solo and Ensemble is HIGHLY recommended, and required if you are doing band as an honors credit.

ALL STATE BANDS

Auditions are held in early September. Selected students travel to the Florida All-State Clinic in Tampa in early January. They will rehearse with elite student musicians from across the state and present a concert at the end of the weekend.

ALL COUNTY BAND

Auditions are held in November. The group is selected by audition and members will be divided into 9th/10th grade, and 11th/12th grade. They will rehearse in early April with top students from around Polk County and present a concert.

PRIVATE LESSONS

- ♪ All band members, including Devilettes, are HIGHLY encouraged to take private lessons. The better you are on your instrument, the better our organization will be. A list of private instructors is available in the band office.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

- ♪ Tri-M is a Music Honor society that is devoted to community service. This is by invitation only.
- ♪ Students in Tri-M exhibit the qualities of a superior musician as well as a superior human being.

Band Boosters

The Band Booster Board is the group that keeps the Band running. They organize fundraisers, provide support, and chaperone events, among other important duties. The Booster organization is comprised entirely of volunteer parents. Parent meetings occur on one Monday a month, it is at these meetings where you can attain more information about the booster board. If your child is to have success, we need you!

Student Officers

Every year, students apply for and are selected to be officers in “The Pride”. Officers must maintain above a 2.5 GPA, be an outstanding student and band student, and must display leadership qualities. Applications are given out at the end of the year. Students must fill out an application and complete an interview process. Officers are selected and announced at the end of the year Awards Night.

Bonus Point System

Each student will start the year off with 100 Bonus Points.
Points on or off will carry over from one nine week term to the next.

Points will be deducted as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Failure to appear for a performance | -30 |
| 2. Missed performance with prior notice given | -20 |
| 3. Officer without points pad | -20 |
| 4. Being caught with a cell phone | -20 |
| 5. Missing a rehearsal | -15 |
| 6. Not having equipment for rehearsal | -10 |
| 7. Gum, food, or drink in the band area | -10 |
| 8. Improper uniform for concert performance | -10 |
| 9. Marching band pants not at proper length | -10 |
| 10. Improper attire for marching band rehearsal | -10 |
| 11. Use of Profanity | -10 |
| 12. Improper under uniform | -10 |
| 13. No flip folder at specified times | -10 |
| 14. Poor attitude or lack of effort | -10 |
| 15. Leaving folder/instrument/equipment out of place | -10 |
| 16. Not having music, pencil, or spit rag for rehearsal | -10 |
| 17. Dirty or missing gloves | -10 |
| 18. Missing cooler | -10 |
| 19. Dirty or missing towel | -10 |
| 20. Tardy to rehearsal or performance | -10 |
| 21. Wrong socks or stockings | -10 |
| 22. Fingernail polish | -10 |
| 23. Dirty or Incorrect shoes | -10 |
| 24. Canceling out of Solo and Ensemble less than 2 weeks out | -10 |

Points may be added as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Making All-State Band | +30 |
| 2. Attending a summer band camp | +20 |
| 3. Making All-County band | +20 |
| 4. Audition for All-State | +20 |
| 5. Taking private lessons (per semester) | +20 |
| 6. Superior rating at district Solo and Ensemble | +15 |
| 7. Attending Tri-State or Festival of Winds | +15 |
| 8. Performance at church or other public event | +10 |
| 9. Participating in district Solo and ensemble | +10 |
| 10. Audition for All-County | +10 |

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 11. Parent at booster meeting | +10 |
| 12. Attending a musical performance or concert (Pre-Approved) | +10 |
| 13. Outstanding effort as noted by officer or director | Varies |
| 14. Miscellaneous, based on director discretion | Varies |

Please Detach and Sign the following form:

I _____ and parent/guardian of _____ have read and understand the ENTIRE handbook and agree to be held responsible for ALL of its contents.

Student Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

This form is due by August 22, 2014, this will be the first homework grade. THIS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED LATE!
There WILL be a quiz on the handbook!