



WHITE PINE BANDS



2024 - 2025

**White Pine Bands - Middle School
Student & Parent Handbook**

www.whitepinebands.com



Welcome To White Pine Bands

We Believe:

- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate in school music.
- Music is an integral part of a student's intellectual and emotional development.
- Band develops self-discipline, positive work habits, and group skills necessary for success in life.
- By achieving high quality standards in Band, high quality standards will transfer into all other areas of the students' lives.
- Band offers creative and aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- Students' social skills, self-esteem, and positive attitudes are developed through Band and Instrumental Music.
- Band affords an emotional and expressive release during the day.
- Band teaches students to strive for excellence in all areas.
- In order to achieve greatness, you have to WANT it. **YAGOTTAWANNA**

————— **Remember** —————

Everything you do in White Pine Bands is important, which in turn makes YOU important.
Excellence is attained through this attitude, and it is this attitude that is the basis of

————— **The White Pine Band Program** —————



Mission Statement

The White Pine Band Program

“Academic excellence, artistic achievement and professionalism in performance are our goals. We strive to promote citizenship, scholarship and musicianship while helping students to realize their full potential as musicians and individuals, in all facets of their lives. “



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Meet The Directors

Zebulon M. Bellon, M.M., A.B.D.

Director of Bands, White Pine County School District

B.M. Music Education & Oboe, University of Nevada

M. M. Music Education & Wind Conducting, Northwestern State University

D.M.A. Candidate, Wind Conducting, Texas Tech University

CONTACT: zebulon.bellon@wpcnvadmin.com



Zebulon M. Bellon is a native of Nevada, and graduate of White Pine High School! Mr. Bellon is extremely excited to be back in his hometown and is looking forward to giving back to the school district and community that helped shape his love for music and education.

After leaving Ely, Mr. Bellon attended the University of Nevada for his undergraduate education, where he served as Drum Major for the Nevada Wolf Pack Marching Band and performed as an oboist in the Nevada Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra, Undergraduate Scholarship Wind Quintet, and various other ensembles. Mr. Bellon began his graduate education at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, where he also served as a graduate teaching and research assistant. As part of his duties, he assisted in all facets of the university band program including the Northwestern Wind Symphony and the 300+ member "Spirit of Northwestern" Marching Band. He also assisted in teaching undergraduate coursework in wind literature, instrumental methods, music education, and conducting. At Northwestern, Mr. Bellon was part of performances at the Music for All Southern Regional Concert Festival, NCAA Tournament, and a performance with the internationally known Boston Brass. While completing his DMA coursework at Texas Tech University, Mr. Bellon conducted research related to wind band, assisted with undergraduate wind conducting and music education courses, and assisted with all facets and ensembles of the TTU band program. These included the nationally-renown Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the 450+ member "Goin' Band from Raiderland," the largest collegiate marching band in the United States. While at Tech, Mr. Bellon participated in performances at the NCAA Tournament, the Big 12 Tournament, the College Band Directors National Association, and the Midwest International Band & Orchestra Clinic in Chicago Illinois, as well as the production of studio recordings of Urban Requiem by Michael Colgrass and Avner Dorman's Ellef Symphony.

Mr. Bellon has taught in band programs of all levels across the United States, both as a director and as a visiting instructor. High school bands under Mr. Bellon's direction have received consistent superior ratings and accolades that include numerous sweepstakes awards, numerous students selected to honor, all state, and all-northwest ensembles, the US Marine Corps Semper Fidelis Award. His ensembles have been selected to perform in FBS bowl game appearances, appearances at the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade, appearances at the Disney Magic Music Days Festival, USBands Grand Champion Awards, and both division placements and finals appearances at Bands of America Regional Championships. As a high school director, Mr. Bellon also worked with Drum Corps International to revive and host "DCI Drums Along the Rockies" in Boise, ID. Mr. Bellon frequently serves as a clinician, adjudicator, and consultant with band programs across the Western, Midwest, and Southern US.

Mr. Bellon's research interests include French music of the late Romantic and Early 20th Century, religious symbology in music, contemporary wind band music, the commissioning and performance of new works adding to the expansion of the wind band repertoire, the promotion and inclusion of works by minority composers, social justice in classical music, and cultural appropriation in wind music. His primary teachers include Dr. Sarah McKoin, Dr. Jeffrey Mathews, Dr. A.G. McGrannahan III, Dr. Lauryn Salazar, R.Alan Sullivan, and Andrea Lenz. Mr. Bellon holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from the University of Nevada and a Master of Music degree in Wind Conducting & Music Education from Northwestern State University. He is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting at Texas Tech University. He holds membership in the College Band Directors National Association, Nevada Music Educators Association, New Mexico Music Educators Association, Texas Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education, California Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity, and Phi Kappa Phi Academic Honor Society. As an oboist, some of his experiences include performances with the Lake Tahoe Symphony Orchestra, Toccata Chamber Orchestra, the Ruby Mountain Symphony Orchestra, the Reno Wind Symphony, the Nevada Winds, and "Concordia Santa Fe" Wind Symphony.

Mr. Bellon's responsibilities include teaching Beginning Band Flutes, Beginning Band Clarinets, Middle School Woodwind Sectionals, High School Brass & Woodwind Sectionals, Directing the High School Wind Ensemble, Directing the High School Athletic Bands, and administering the entire 6-12 Band Program.



Welcome Letter

August, 2024

Dear WPHS Band Students, Parents & Families,

Welcome to the White Pine Band Program! White Pine has a long, amazing history of highly successful bands spanning over 100 years. It is my sincerest hope that I will be able to use my experience and education to help restore the luster of our historic band program. The public face of our band program is right here at WPHS - The opportunities for leadership, college, teamwork, scholarship, and life-skills that a successful band program can offer our students are endless.

The best band programs in the United States all share an important quality: Direct, heavy, family and community involvement. I hope that, over the course of the year, you will find ways to become involved in our Parent Booster Organization, performances, fundraisers, plans, and travel. The best way to stay involved with our program is to check our website www.whitepinebands.com regularly and attend band monthly booster meetings (our boosters can be reached directly at wpbandboosters23@gmail.com).

The exciting events on our calendar take time, energy and a small army to accomplish - but what they do for our students make it worth it! There are many areas in which family and community members can be involved. I hope that you will consider volunteering for our program and sharing your individual strengths, and talents.

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about the band program, or questions about how to get involved! I look forward to getting to know and working alongside all of you to help ensure the success and growth of White Pine Bands and our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zebulon M. Bellon'.

Zebulon M. Bellon, M.M.
Director of Bands, White Pine County School District
D.M.A. Candidate in Wind Conducting, Texas Tech University
zebulon.bellon@wpcnadmin.org



Handbook Overview

This handbook addresses the procedures, policies, and expectations for students in our two, year-long bands: Beginning Band (6th grade and any beginning 7th/8th graders – split into 4 instrument-specific classes), and Varsity Band (7th/8th graders with prior experience). Please read through this entire handbook and take note of the policies which affect each band, as there are some differences between the two ensembles.

Music is a performing art. Performance and the preparation for performance are essential to the art. Membership in a performing organization is both commitment and a privilege. Each member of a performing organization has a responsibility to attend ALL rehearsals and ALL performances – the entire ensemble depends on this commitment for their shared success. ALL students are vital to the success of the whole ensemble, and their presence is necessary to prepare for and execute a quality performance. Unexcused absences from rehearsals and/or performances demonstrate a lack of dependability, and are not tolerated.

The directors will communicate with students and parents in a variety of ways, which include handouts, emails, normal school applications (google classroom, infinite campus, etc.), and verbally at monthly booster meetings. However, the most important and easiest form of communication is our website – www.whitepinebands.com All important information, dates, and contact pathways are available on the site. Please check it regularly. Any additions or changes to the calendar will be made far in advance to avoid or resolve any conflicts. The calendar has been carefully constructed so that major band events, such as performances, avoid athletic, district, and major community events wherever possible. The full calendar for the 2024-2025 school year is available on the website as a PDF and a Google Calendar.

Band is a year-long course. Both the Beginning Band and the Varsity Band will have occasional after-school dress rehearsals prior to major performances. The Varsity Band students will have one mandatory after-school sectional per week that is a requirement for participation. Beginning Band does not have weekly sectionals. The band directors and school staff will work closely together to ensure that shared students may fully participate in the various school activities they are involved in. We are very used to sharing students!

What follows is a comprehensive guide of our expectations for classroom interactions, performances, and membership in White Pine Bands.



Attendance Expectations

- Students are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and ALL performances of the group in which they are a member. Failure to attend required rehearsals and/or performances is unacceptable unless it is an extreme emergency. Extreme emergency is defined as severe illness/hospitalization or a death in the immediate family.
- Unlike assignments for core classes such as English and Math, it is not possible to “make up” a rehearsal or performance. This is because each individual’s musical contribution is crucial to the success of the entire group – being in band is a team commitment. The band directors must approve all absences **IN ADVANCE** if they are to be considered “excused.” The full calendar for the 2024-2025 school year is on www.whitepinebands.com – please look it over carefully. Additional required events will not be added to the calendar after the school year has begun, and any necessary changes (for example an event rescheduled due to inclement weather) will be communicated as early as possible.
- In order for an absence to be considered for excuse, notice must be given according to the following timeline:
 - **Weekly After-School Sectional** – One Full Week Prior (Varsity Band Only)
 - **After-School Dress Rehearsal** – Two Full Weeks Prior
 - **Concert or Festival Performance** – Beginning of The 24-25 School Year – This is very serious and must be fully planned. It must be communicated **no later than Friday 9/6** for consideration for excusal/continued participation to be made.
- **An EXCUSED absence** is one that the directors have prior knowledge of and/or is based upon an acceptable reason (ex. illness, death in the immediate family, long-planned event communicated at beginning of school year). **An UNEXCUSED absence** is one that the director has no prior knowledge of and/or is based upon a reason that is unacceptable to the director. No-call, no-show is not okay – this is a life skill that band students know well.
- In the case of ANY absence (excused OR unexcused), the student will have the opportunity to complete an alternate assignment that will be given by the director. The alternate assignment for each situation is as follows:
 - For an excused rehearsal/sectional absence, the student will have to show competency of missed work within one week of the missed sectional/rehearsal. A student will be asked to check this off with a director at lunch, before school, or after school.
 - For an excused performance absence, the student will have to complete an assignment roughly seven pages in length, and will be asked to prepare a solo performance to be part of the next concert or an in-school event.
 - For an unexcused rehearsal/sectional absence, the student will have to complete an assignment no less than three pages in length, and they will also still be required to show competency of missed work within one week of the missed sectional/rehearsal. A student will be asked to check this off with a director at lunch, before school, or after school.
 - For an unexcused performance absence, a student will be given a choice: To leave the program, or complete an assignment one page in length for every rehearsal leading up to that performance (for example, 30 school days and 10 sectionals = 40 page written assignment), in addition to preparing a solo performance. An unexcused absence from a performance represents a **very serious violation of commitment and trust to the entire ensemble** – the alternate assignment is representative of the severity of this circumstance.
- Consequences of Absences:
 - If a student has an unexcused absence from a rehearsal and does not complete their alternate assignment, it will result in a grade of ZERO for that week.
 - If a student has an unexcused absence from a performance and does not complete their alternate assignment, it will result in removal from the band program for the remainder of the school year.
 - Additionally, habitual absences, tardiness, or a lack of effort that impact the learning experience of the entire ensemble through a student being unprepared may result in a student not being allowed to perform, or removal from the program – every student’s part is important and, therefore, we need every student present and prepared to contribute.
- We do understand that very occasional extreme emergency instances can come up. In such a case, it is essential to communicate with the band directors via email immediately so that a resolution can be made. Whenever possible, the directors will always work with you! Communication is key!



Behavior Expectations

To provide and protect an enjoyable and productive learning environment for all students, the following expectations must be adhered to, by all students, always:

1. Enter the band hall quietly and get ready for class as quickly as possible.
2. We only warm up and play as a group, during rehearsal – individual practice happens outside of class time, not during group rehearsal. Individual playing is not allowed in the band hall unless it is asked for by the director.
3. There is no talking, without permission, while the director or visiting teachers are working with the class.
 - If you ever have a question – raise your hand silently and wait to be called upon.
4. Be seated, with all required materials ready to go, by the time the metronome starts. The metronome and warm-up will begin exactly two minutes after the tardy bell. Any students not seated, with their equipment, participating in warm-ups at this time will be marked tardy.
5. Any student who does not have their required class materials will be given one warning. A second or subsequent violation will result in the student being marked absent from class – if they are not prepared, they cannot participate in rehearsal and are, therefore, absent.
6. All musical sounds stop when the conductor or teacher stops.
 - Any sound, musical or non-musical, which disrupts learning for others in the classroom will not be tolerated.
7. Respect all people and property.
 - Any form of rudeness or disrespect towards staff or fellow students will be dealt with quickly and without prejudice.
 - Your instrument belongs to you and no one else – do not let others handle your instrument. Likewise, do not touch equipment or items that belong to other people. Percussionists are the only students allowed to handle percussion equipment. Musical equipment is extremely expensive and delicate, and must be treated with respect – to put it simply “you break it, you bought it.”
8. No food, drink, or gum allowed in the band room.
 - These can not only damage band instruments, but also pose a choking hazard and affect their ability to play correctly.
 - Chewing gum, eating, and drinking non-water beverages can also lead to mold, rust and bacteria in instruments that can pose a serious health hazard to students using them.
 - If students eat lunch or a snack PRIOR to band rehearsal, it is important that they thoroughly rinse their mouths and wash their hands before playing their instrument.
 - Water in a closed container is permitted, and is the only form of beverage allowable in rehearsal. If a student wants to drink water, they need to be prepared with a water bottle. They will not be allowed to get up and leave class for water – it is too disruptive to rehearsal.

Consequences for not following behavior and procedure expectations will be:

1. Immediate Teacher Warning
2. Pack-Up, Parent Phone Call or Email
3. Teacher/Student conference, Parent Phone Call or Email
4. Detention, Parent/student/teacher conference
5. Class suspension with office referral, possible removal from program

Any student-specific, alternative, or intermediate corrective action needed will be discussed with students, parents, and/or campus administration. It is understood that students are individual human beings, not every student is the same, and many students have outside-of-school factors that can come into play during the school day. With this said, a base-line of behavior and decorum is necessary for our bands to be successful, which is what provides positive experiences and opportunities for our students. Communication from home to the school is key in finding solutions that allow struggling students to be both healthy and successful in our program.

Per White Pine Middle School policy, cell phones are not permitted in class unless specifically expressed by the band directors.



Substance Policy

The White Pine Middle School Band Program strives to promote class and excellence in all members and, therefore, upholds a zero-tolerance drug, tobacco, vape, and alcohol policy. Any student caught using, trafficking or possessing tobacco, marijuana, illegal substances, vape, or alcohol will be immediately reported to school administration and/or law enforcement, and will be removed from the band program for the remainder of the year. This policy applies to students both on and off campus, as well as at all band and WPCSD events. Students are expected to be excellent representatives of this program at all times. This includes remaining substance-free their time at WPMS. All students must complete a consent to drug test with WPCSD in order to participate in band. Testing will occur at the beginning of each semester and randomly throughout the school year, with the school nurse.



Grading Procedures

Members of the White Pine Middle School Band Program will be graded on attendance, participation, attitude, preparedness, homework, and achievement (also known as performances & playing tests). These are the necessary components of an excellent music education. As a **Co-Curricular Class** (as opposed to an extra-curricular or core curricular), band requires commitments (rehearsals, events, performances) that fall both during and outside of the normal school day. By choosing to participate in band, this is something that each student and their family agrees to.

WPMS Bands Percentage Grading/Standards Based Grading Conversion Scale: 0 - 59% = 0.5, 60 - 69.9% = 1, 70 - 79.9% = 2, 80 - 89.9% = 3, 90 - 100% = 3.5 - 4.

Student course grades will be built on the following components:

- **Participation/Homework Grades (50% of course grade):** Includes bringing required materials to class, and weekly class/sectional attendance. Also includes playing tests, practice records, and other written assignments.
- **Performance Grades (50%):** Includes performances. This component is pass/fail - this means that a single missed performance will result in a ZERO for 50% of the course grade. Please note this will result in automatic failure of the course and removal from the program.

Instruments should go home with students every evening and be brought back each day for rehearsal. Instruments **SHOULD NOT** be left at the school without prior-knowledge and permission from the directors. Instruments must be taken home in order for students to complete their homework practice assignments. Students will be expected to practice a minimum of 20 minutes per night, 5 nights (of their choice) per week, for a total of 100 minutes. 1 minute = 1 point. Students may practice more, if desired, to get ahead.

Students are expected to turn in a signed Practice Record every Monday. The grading procedures and "To-Do" for our Practice Records will be listed on the page itself.

Playing tests and/or chair tests will occur for all band students - these provide a physical demonstration and evidence of homework practice. Chair placements will be "blind" (this means the director will not know which student is playing until after the chair tests are concluded). If a chair test is missed for an unexcused absence, the opportunity for chair placement will be lost. Below is a brief rubric of how points are determined in playing and chair tests:

Playing Test Grades	
Tone Quality	40
Articulation	15
Technique	15
Rhythm & Pulse	15
Musicianship	15

Students are welcome to re-attempt a playing test once to earn a higher grade. A re-attempt must occur within 1 week, and must be scheduled with the director before school, after school, at lunch, or during intervention/advisory **WITH** approval from their teacher.

Students are able to challenge-up for a higher chair if they are not satisfied with their chair placement. In this case, they must notify the student they are challenging and the director. To ensure fairness for each student, the director will assign a challenge-assignment from class material, and a class time when the challenge will take place. Chair-Challenges may not take place within 30 days of a performance.



Medical & Dental Appointments

Please look at the calendar and schedule dentist, doctor, and orthodontist visits for times other than band class and sectionals. The isolated nature of our community can make scheduling appointments challenging, which means looking at the calendar carefully, in advance, is extremely important. If this is absolutely unavoidable (with the exception of a medical emergency), it must be communicated to the director in advance in for excusal consideration. Because of the group dynamic involved with band, all students must attend all rehearsals and performances. When someone is missing, the group is incomplete, and the entire ensemble suffers as a result.

Absences from performances due to Medical or Dental Appointments will **NOT** be excused. It is the responsibility of the student and family to check the calendar and plan accordingly. This is an important life skill that is affirmed through participation in band. Again, please look over the calendar carefully to avoid conflicts.

Regarding braces and orthodontia - Woodwind and brass players, if there are plans (even if only a consideration) for braces, please be mindful of the timing involved in getting them. Braces are a fact of life for many students, and should you get braces, you will continue to be successful after the first week or so of getting them. It takes time to get used to them. For this reason, we ask that you avoid having braces put on OR removed within two weeks of performances. We also ask that you avoid having braces tightened or adjusted within one week of performances. Finally, please inform the director of your early intention to get braces (or remove them) so that they can plan accordingly (this changes some of the materials and teaching approach that will be used).



Required Materials

All students in White Pine Bands will need to be prepared for class every day. This is done in several ways. First and foremost, come to class having practiced your part or assignment adequately so that you will make a positive contribution to the ensemble and make individual improvement. Staying on top of your own assignments in band will help you improve on your instrument and will help the ensemble be successful!

In addition to the above, here are materials that you will need EVERY DAY:

1. A positive, "I want to learn" attitude.
2. Pencil with an eraser.
3. Band Binder with all required materials (binder, handouts, & sheet music will be provided).
4. Essential Elements 2000 "Book 1" for their instrument (the Yellow book). This can be kept in their band binder. This can be purchased on Amazon or locally from "Jay's Music Exchange" on Aultman St., right next door to WPMS.
5. Instrument in good playing condition and any needed accessories (valve oil, slide grease, slide spray bottle, reeds, etc.).
6. Reed players (clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon) are expected to have three good reeds at all times, which should be rotated each time they play. A cracked reed is the same as not having an instrument and will be treated as such.
7. Clarinet and Saxophone players will ONLY be allowed to use Vandoren "Blue Box" Reeds (the dark blue/indigo box). This is the only consistent, quality student reed and no other reed brand will be allowed. These can be purchased in boxes of 10 on at Jay's Music Exchange on Aultman St. in Ely, or on Amazon.
8. Percussionists will always have (and use) their own assigned sticks/mallets that they will keep in their personal stick bag (students should have a name tag on their stick bag and their name on all sticks/mallets).
9. Students will need appropriate performance attire for concerts. This is explained in detail in the "Performance Attire" section below.

***If families have difficulty in obtaining any of these items, they should notify the directors immediately.**



Performance Attire

For all performances, students of White Pine Bands will need to wear Solid Black "Concert Black" unless specifically told otherwise from their director. "Solid Black" means no patterns, stripes, etc. – SOLID BLACK. The point of concert black is to blend in and perform as a group, much the same as a uniform. Students should all look the same in a performance setting. This is achieved through "Concert Black."

Concert Black Includes the following:

- Visibly Clean/Good Hygiene.
- TOP: Solid Black, button-up dress shirt, with black buttons. T-shirts are not acceptable. Sweatshirts are not acceptable. It must be a formal dress shirt. Shirts must be tucked-in. Any undershirt or undergarments must be black if visible. No ties are to be worn.
- BOTTOM: Solid Black slacks or dress pants with a solid black belt. Jeans or sweatpants are not acceptable – they must be formal dress pants or slacks. Dresses are acceptable, but must be well below the knee when seated. Students will not be allowed to perform if the skirt/dress rides above the knee when seated, it is inappropriate and inconsistent with school dress code. Black stockings, nylons, or leggings are encouraged to be worn underneath dresses.
- SHOES: Solid Black, closed-toe dress shoes WITH long black socks. Short socks or exposed ankles in pants are not acceptable. Tennis shoes are not acceptable. Open-toe shoes are not acceptable. Brown or white accents are not acceptable – SOLID BLACK. Black flats are a good, cheap option for females.
- Jewelry and makeup should be minimal. Lipstick is not allowed. Small studs and permanent piercings are acceptable. No necklaces should be visible. Bracelets should be removed. Non-religious rings should be removed.
- Nails should be either solid-black or natural. French tips are allowed. Nails must be a length that allows for proper playing.
- Long hair should be up in a bun or ponytail with a BLACK hairband. All hair accessories should be solid black.

Students should let the director know immediately if they need assistance acquiring these items!

Students in inappropriate attire will NOT be allowed to perform with the band and will receive a grade of ZERO.



2024-2025 Fees & Donations

Band is an expensive activity, and having a basic budget allows us to repair equipment, purchase new equipment, buy music, bring in professional clinicians to work with our bands, and provide fun, educational experiences for our students. We are *extremely* fortunate to have a highly supportive School District, Board, Superintendent, and Principals who are committed to growing and supporting our program. Their support helps to offset the largest costs of running our growing program as it grows back into the Award-Winning program it once was.

To support this effort, we ask that each band student pay a "Fair-Share Fee" of \$60 for their student's participation in band. Payments can be made to the WPMS front office via cash or check. Checks should be made payable to "White Pine Middle School Band."

These fees will be the student's "Fair Share" of what is needed to support and improve the entire band program and all students involved. The monies will go to offset the cost of festival buses and entrance fees, our program's "Smart Music" subscription (a software our students will use throughout the year), band binders, sheet music, copies, visiting clinicians/instructors, the St. George BOA (Bands of America) Regional performance, and the maintenance of some of our large percussion instruments that benefit the performance goals of the entire band.

Band Fees are decided by the White Pine Band Boosters each spring. The Band Boosters are comprised of primarily parents and community members, and they discuss and decide fee amounts based on the needs of the program and what they decide to be a reasonable contribution from families. If you would like to be part of this process, you are encouraged to attend monthly meetings – dates can be found on our calendar at www.whitepinebands.com.

A student will never be denied membership in band due to financial hardship. Families in need should contact the directors and/or administration directly for assistance. Likewise, generous families are welcome to make donations to the program that will help offset costs for struggling families. Families are also encouraged to contact the Band Boosters at wpbandboosters23@gmail.com to make donations toward student accounts and projects.



Spring 2025 Band Trip & Fundraising

This spring, the Middle School Varsity Band will be travelling with the HS Band to Los Angeles, Santa Monica Pier, Disneyland, and Universal Studios from 3/12-3/16 of 2025. In addition to performing inside Disneyland Park, the students will have the opportunity to participate in a recording session and educational clinic inside the Disney Recording Studio where movie soundtracks are created. They will also sight-see at Santa Monica Pier & Beach, spend two days with hopper-passes between Disneyland and California Adventure Park, go to a dinner at Medieval Times, and spend a day at Universal Studios Hollywood/Harry Potter World. This trip DOES NOT include our beginning band.

The cost of this trip will be \$1,400.00 per student, and the finances are being handled by the White Pine Band Boosters. The cost includes transportation, hotels, 5 meals, Disney/California Adventure tickets, and Universal Studio tickets. Our travel agent is Cavalcade USA, which specializes in school band travel. The cost of the trip can be paid to the boosters in full, or broken into 5 payments. Payment due dates for the trip are as follows:

September 26 th	- \$280
October 24 th	- \$280
November 21 st	- \$280
January 30 th	- \$280
February 27 th	- \$280 – Final Payment/Total Due

Payments should be made to the White Pine Band Boosters. Payments can be given in-person via cash or check at booster meetings, or online via PayPal. Please make checks payable to "White Pine Band Boosters." Invoices will be sent out electronically each month by the band boosters. Other arrangements can be made by contacting the boosters directly at a booster meeting (these dates are available on our calendar at www.whitepinebands.com) or by emailing them at wpbandboosters23@gmail.com.

Fundraising opportunities for this trip have been provided since May of 2024, and many students have already begun to save in their booster accounts. As the 2024-2025 school year goes on, we will be fundraising for this trip and the program needs as a whole. The band boosters will do their best to provide as many opportunities for students to raise money, as possible. They will work to provide a fundraiser for each payment, and additional fundraisers as available. These opportunities will be emailed out to parents from the directors and boosters themselves, and shared with students in class. The best way to stay informed about upcoming fundraising opportunities is to check your email regularly, check the band website regularly, and attend monthly band booster meetings. Ultimately, how much a student is able to raise through fundraising will depend on their personal drive, effort, and initiative. If students raise funds in excess of the trip cost, they may use it as spending money.

The spring tour to Los Angeles is a required performance event for our Middle School Varsity Band Students and our High School Band Students. Please understand that by choosing to participate in band, you are agreeing to attend the trip in Los Angeles and are responsible for its associated costs. If a student or family is concerned about this cost, it is their responsibility to communicate their concerns with the band directors and band boosters as early as possible and participate in fundraisers offered throughout the year. Financial assistance cannot be offered to students who do not participate in fundraising events.

Students must be in good academic standing to travel on this and all band trips. Students who are removed from the program due to eligibility, substance use, or behavior issues are not entitled to a refund of payments towards the trip. The band directors will communicate any concerns regarding behavior or eligibility early on so that we have an opportunity to address it long before eligibility becomes an issue.

Parents wishing to travel on this trip with the band (in a chaperone or guest capacity) should reach out to the directors by September 26th in order to reserve seats for themselves and/or their family members. We are able to offer a limited number of additional "Packages" to our families through this group travel.



2024-2025 Band Hours

Band Hours are volunteer for activities that either raise funds for the band program or help serve it/promote it directly in some way (IE a service project like filing in the library or a performance, etc). What constitutes a band hour is decided by the Band Directors and the Booster Organization.

Band Hours were a long-standing part of the success of the White Pine Band Program for many decades, until recent years. This year, we are bringing them back as a program requirement in order to better serve and grow our program. Various examples of band hour opportunities are the annual Mine Cleanup, filing music in the library, running concessions, helping at large fundraisers, playing in basketball band, etc. Often opportunities for hours also include opportunities for fundraising.

For the 2024-2025 School Year, middle school Varsity Band students will be required to complete a total of 10 band hours. Beginning band students DO NOT need to complete band hours. Band hours must be completed by February 27th, 2024. Students must complete their hours by this time in order to be eligible for the Los Angeles Tour and Spring Contest.

Band Hour opportunities have been provided since May of 2024, and many students have already begun to earn their hours. As the 2024-2025 school year goes on, the directors band boosters will continue to provide opportunities for students to earn their hours. Information will be emailed out to parents from the directors and boosters themselves, and shared with students in class. The best way to stay informed about upcoming Band Hour opportunities is to check your email regularly, check the band website regularly, and attend monthly band booster meetings.



Instruments Choices In Band

Our band instrumentation is based off of a methodology used by the top band programs in the nation, which is a sequential approach that begins with 4 "Primary" instruments in like-instrument classes before later expanding to include full instrumentation. This has shown to be the most effect method for young band students, which is why the best programs in the United States use it.

Beginning Band is taught on four "Primary" Instruments in four separate classes: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, & Trombone.

- Students are placed on one of these instruments based on a combination of their personal preference, as well as what they will find the most success on (as determined by the director). This is determined by their physical characteristics (bite, mouth, lips, hand size, etc.) and their ability to hear pitch when they enter the band program. A desire or aptitude for a future switch is also taken into consideration.
- Toward the end of beginning band, after a base-level of success has been achieved on a primary instrument, some students will switch to other instruments (I.E., saxophone, horn, tuba, percussion). Some students will remain on the original, primary instruments. This will be determined by the instrumentation needs of the program (in order to make good music, the group must be balanced) and the individual strengths/preferences of the students. This is done to prepare the students and the program for Varsity Band at WPMS and High School Band at WPHS.

Varsity Band is taught using full instrumentation (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto/Tenor/Bari Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Percussion). The group must have balanced instrumentation to successfully perform quality music, and instrumentation will be controlled and set by the director. In this case, some students may have an opportunity to switch from their beginning instrument.



Instrument Rentals & Purchases

Once a student has an approved instrument selection, there are a few ways you can get a great instrument and mouthpiece for them to learn on!

1. Music & Arts Partnership With WPCSD:

We are proud to be partnered with Music & Arts, a highly trusted nationwide music wholesaler to provide high-quality, low-cost purchase & rental options to our students. The directors have a long-standing professional relationship with this company and have used it for students of all levels, in many states. Monthly payments for instruments begin as low as \$27, and include repairs, the proper mouthpiece, accessories, and method book as part of the rental. Music & Arts offers rentals, rent-to-own payments, and outright purchases of both new, and used instruments. Additionally, payments and/or instruments can be traded towards a switch instrument or towards the cost of a more advanced "step-up instrument" later on.

All instrument brands/models offered to our students by Music & Arts are Yamahas approved by the directors for use in our classrooms. Instruments can be rented or purchased online or over the phone and shipped directly to the school. The directors will then confirm receipt with Music & Arts and check the instrument over fully before giving it to the student.

To rent or purchase online: Visit www.musicarts.com, click "Rentals", click "Public, Private, or Traditional School", and enter our school. You can also find a direct link on our website, www.whitepinebands.com under the "Documents" tab.

2. Purchasing Or Renting On Your Own – PLEASE REFER TO OUR "PARENT GUIDE" AND "RECOMMENDED LIST" ON THE WEBSITE!!!:

There are many places to buy quality new and used instruments. These include in-person sales such as music stores and local purchases, as well as online options like eBay, Mercari, and Reverb. What is most important is that the instrument is a quality brand, in good working condition, and is a good price for the brand/model/condition. It is **EXTREMELY IMPORTANT** that instruments are of good quality, from a reputable brand, and function properly. Low quality instruments cannot be used correctly and will not be allowed in band rehearsals because of musical problems and the loss of instructional time they cause for the entire group.

In order to assist with this, we use a "Recommended Equipment List" and provide a "Parent's Guide to Buying an Instrument." These are available on the band website, www.whitepinebands.com, under the "Documents" Tab. It is highly important that you refer to this list when making a purchase or rental to ensure that the instrument is usable in class, and to make sure that you are getting the best value for your money. If you aren't sure, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE contact the directors via email before making a decision. Mr. Bellon will be happy to assist you in finding a great deal on a good instrument.

3. School-Owned Instruments:

We STRONGLY encourage families to rent or purchase their own instruments, with the exception of tuba players and percussionists (who are expected to furnish their own respective mouthpiece and sticks/mallets). WPMS maintains a very limited inventory of instruments. These primarily include large instruments that are too expensive for average families to afford to purchase and maintain (Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Bari Sax, Tuba, Large Percussion). The yearly fee for these instruments is \$50, which goes towards the maintenance & cleaning of the instrument. These instruments are available on a first-come, first-serve basis for students in need. Our primary concern is that every student has the opportunity to experience band and we will do whatever it takes to ensure that this happens.

If using a school instrument, it is the responsibility of the student (and the financial responsibility of the parent) to return the instrument in the same condition that it was issued. **A Rental Agreement Form must be on-file and the rental fee must be paid to WPMS in order for the instrument to be issued. Fees should be paid at the WPMS front office in the form of cash or a check made out to "White Pine Middle School Band."** Any loss or damages to instruments, accidental or intentional, will be the responsibility of the student and their parents. In the event of damage or loss of instrument, fees assessed will be the actual replacement cost or costs of repair of the damaged equipment or instrument.

4. "Granny's Ol' Clarinet!" – Hand-Me-Down & Vintage Instruments:

Over time, instruments have come a long way. Much like computers, power tools, and other devices, they have been improved and modernized greatly over the years. While a hand-me-down or family instrument may have special sentimental value, that does not always mean it is right for the classroom. Sometimes these instruments will work, but sometimes they won't. Older instruments may not play in-tune with modern instruments, or may require significant repairs (far more expensive the value of the instrument itself) in order to play correctly. Some use different fingerings than modern instrument and some play in the wrong key entirely.

Please allow the directors to make a determination on the useability of an instrument on a case-by-case basis. Likewise, please understand that if the instrument is determined to be unusable in the classroom, it's "nothing personal," and the decision was made to ensure the student's success. Granny's Ol' Clarinet can still be enjoyed as a family heirloom at home. ©

5. Necessary Policy On Extremely Low-Quality Instruments (For the Safety & Success of ALL of Our Students)

To ensure the success and safety of the entire band, extremely low-quality and off-brand instruments **WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BE USED IN OUR BAND PROGRAM**. This is primarily because they cause rehearsals to slow, stop, and become unproductive when they frequently break or fail to play. When an instrument becomes non-functional, we must take class time to stop and assess the issue while the rest of the class sits and waits. In a short, 47-minute period, this can quickly derail an entire lesson. Although many of the "instrument-shaped-objects" look good, most do not play correctly brand new, out of the box, even for professional musicians. Some also contain hazardous materials that are not part of normal import checks because they are labeled as "musical instruments" and not categorized as materials of concern. They are a true scam for the purchaser, and a source of extreme frustration and embarrassment for both the

student and the directors. The issues with these instruments ultimately affect instructional and rehearsal time, as well as enjoyment for ALL students in the class. This time could be better used teaching and making music!

To avoid any issues, please refer to the "Parent's Guide to Buying an Instrument" and the "Recommended Equipment List" available on www.whitepinebands.com under the "Documents" tab. If you are still unsure, email the directors! They will help guide you towards a quality, inexpensive instrument. ©



Special Needs & Circumstances

We often have students in our program that require special education, have individual needs requiring resources beyond usual classroom offerings, or have disabilities requiring accommodation. Sometimes these challenges look a little different in band than they do in other classrooms. We believe that every student should have the opportunity to participate in music and are proud to offer a place in our band program to **ALL** students who are willing to give their complete efforts.

If a student has special needs or circumstances, the directors need to know about it in order for it to be correctly accommodated in a music classroom setting (as opposed to a general or core classroom setting). If the directors are aware of and have a full understanding of a student's individual needs, then they are able to better address the situation. As a result, the student will receive a better musical education and a more positive experience in our program.



Our Social Contract

"All Human Beings are born free and equal, in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience, and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

- Article 1 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The White Pine Middle School Band is a unified ensemble that **WILL** function as one, singular entity, with shared interests, goals, failures, and successes. The White Pine Middle School Program is a safe space designed for our students to thrive and achieve together, as an ensemble. By being a part of this program, it is understood that students, staff, instructors, parents, and volunteers will treat one another with respect and dignity regardless of individual opinions, backgrounds, beliefs, age, education, socioeconomic status, talent, or ability. We are all part of **ONE BAND** and will function only as **ONE BAND**.

Derogatory, racist, homophobic, or hate speech of any kind will not be tolerated. These behaviors and/or bullying of any kind do not have a place in this program. Period. Everyone has a place in this program that is willing to work hard, as a team, with respect for one another. It is expected that all students, parents, and staff of the program adhere to this social contract.



2024-2025 WPMS Band Performance & Event

Calendar

***Rehearsals, Sectionals, and Performances are mandatory for all students. These events are a requirement for participation in band. Attendance at Band Booster Meetings is not required for parents, but is strongly encouraged. Students & Families should look at the calendar carefully to avoid conflicts and plan accordingly. Any necessary changes to the schedule will be communicated ASAP. Fundraising and hour opportunities will be communicated via email and added to the google calendar on the band website as they become available. No additional required events will be added to the calendar.

Weekly Varsity Band Sectionals:

Woodwinds: Tuesdays, 3:45PM - 4:45PM w/Mr. Bellon
Brass: Tuesdays, 3:45PM - 4:45PM w/Mr. Bellon
Percussion: Thursdays, 3:45PM - 4:45PM w/Mr. Bellon

Sectionals Begin The Week of September 3rd-5th (No Sectionals Prior To This Week)

Late Buses or rides to Ruth, McGill, and other areas will be provided, as-needed, by-request.

Fall 2024 Semester

Spring 2025 Semester

8/28 First Day of School
9/10 September Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
9/26 Disney Payment #1 Due (Varsity Only)
10/8 October Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
10/24 Home Football vs. Lincoln (MS Night - All MS Bands)
10/24 Disney Payment #2 Due (Varsity Only)
11/9-11/10 Bands of America, @ UT (Varsity Only)
11/12 November Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
11/21 Disney Payment #3 Due (Varsity Only)
11/27-12/1 Thanksgiving Break
12/10 December Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
12/17 MS Winter Band Concert, 6:00PM @ WPMS (All MS Bands)
12/20-1/5 Winter Break

1/16-1/17 Tentative Band Retreat/Contest Boot Camp (Varsity Only)
1/14 January Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
1/30 Disney Payment #4 Due (Varsity Only)
2/4 February Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
2/11-2/12 NMEA Honor Band @ Elko (Optional - Student Who Audition Only)
2/27 Disney Payment #5, Final Payment, Due (Varsity Only)
3/4 After School Board Performance @ WPMS (Varsity Only)
3/4 March Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
3/11 WPCSD Band Concert & Art Show, 6:00PM @ WPHS (All MS Bands)
3/12-3/16 Spring Disney/Los Angeles Tour (Varsity Only)
3/25 NMEA NE Contest Dates @ Elko (TBD-NMEA Chooses - All MS Bands)
3/28-4/6 Spring Break
4/8 April Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS
5/13 May Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS (Fees & Hours Decided)
5/13 Returning Member Info Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS (All MS Bands)
5/20 Spring Concert & Awards, 6:00PM @ WPMS (All MS Bands)
6/4 8th Grade Promotion (Varsity Only)
6/10 June Band Booster Meeting, 6:30PM @ WPHS (Board Elections)



2024-2025 WPMS Band Handbook Contract

This Document Must Be Signed In Order To Participate In The White Pine Middle School Band Program.
Due by 9/5/2024 - Students without a completed contract will be dropped after this date

Student Initials	Parent Initials	
		I have access to and/or received a copy of the 2024-2025 White Pine Middle School Band Handbook.
		I understand that my attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. I also understand that major grades will be taken for all band events as outlined in the White Pine Bands Middle School Handbook.
		I understand that I am responsible for informing the directors when conflicts arise that might prevent me from being in attendance at a rehearsal. I also understand that an <u>unexcused</u> absence from a performance will result in failure of the course and removal from the band program.
		I understand what the difference is between an excused and unexcused absence from required band events.
		I understand the grading policies that will be used for band class.
		I understand the materials that I will need in class every day as outlined in the White Pine Bands Middle School Handbook.
		I understand that all important band information and documents can be found at www.whitepinebands.com and that I should check the website frequently.
		I recognize the necessity of quality, daily practice in order to be successful as a musician and to fulfill my obligation to my peers within my ensemble.
		Varsity Band members only - I understand that I must attend my assigned sectional rehearsal each week. Transportation will be provided as-needed.
		Varsity Band members only - I understand that I the Spring 2025 Los Angeles Tour is a required performance.

We have read and understand the White Pine Middle School Band Handbook, and we agree to abide by its expectations and policies.

	Adult: XS S M L XL XXL
Printed Student's Name	Student T-Shirt Size (please circle)

Student's Signature	Date
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Parent's Signature	Date
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Parent's (Best) Email	Parent's (Best) Phone Number
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