



WHITE PINE BANDS



2023 - 2024

**White Pine Middle School Band
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 and Instrumental Music develop self-discipline, positive work habits, and group skills necessary for success in life.
- By achieving high quality standards in Band and Instrumental Music, high quality standards will transfer into all other areas of the students' lives.
- Band and Instrumental Music offer creative and aesthetic opportunities that provide for emotional development.
- Students' social skills, self-esteem, and positive attitudes are developed through Band and Instrumental Music.
- Music Classes afford an emotional and expressive release during the day.
- Band and Instrumental Music teach 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 New Director



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.



Welcome Letter

August, 2023

Dear WPMS Band Students, Parents & Families,

Welcome to the White Pine Band Program! My name is Zeb Bellon and I am a Class of 2005 graduate of White Pine High School. I extremely excited to be back in my hometown teaching. White Pine has a long, amazing history of highly successful bands spanning over 100 years, and I feel very honored to be part of that tradition. 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 future of our band program begins right here at WPMS. 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 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.

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 our 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, reading 'Zebulon M. Bellon'.

Zebulon M. Bellon, M.M.
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 – **Cadet Band** (“Beginning Band” - 6th grade and any beginning 7th and 8th graders), and **Symphonic Band** (“Advanced Band” - 7th & 8th grade students 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 in accepting the responsibility of group membership, and are not tolerated.

The director 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. And additions or changes to the calendar will be made far in advance to avoid or resolve any conflicts, and the calendar has been carefully constructed so that major band events, such as performances, avoid athletic, district, and major community events wherever possible.

Band is a year-long course. Both the Cadet/Beginning Band and the Symphonic/Advanced band will have occasional after-school dress rehearsals prior to major performances. The Advanced Symphonic Band students will have one after-school section rehearsal per week that is an expectation for participation. Beginning Cadet Band Does not have sectional sectionals. The band director and the school staff will work closely together to ensure that share students where conflicts arise so that our students may fully participate in the various school activities that they want to be a part of. We are very used to sharing students!

What follows is a comprehensive of our expectations in terms of classroom interactions, performances, and membership in White Pine Middle School 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 **not** acceptable 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 director must approve all absences **IN ADVANCE** if they are to be considered “excused.” The full calendar for the 2023-2024 school year is on www.whitepinebands.com and at the end of this handbook – 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 (Symphonic Band Only)
 - **After-School Dress Rehearsal** – Two Full Weeks Prior
 - **Concert or Festival Performance** – Beginning of The 23-24 School Year – This is very serious and must be fully planned. It must be communicated **no later than Friday 9/8** for consideration for excusal/continued participation to be made.
- **An EXCUSED absence** is one that the director has 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 complete an assignment roughly three pages in length.
 - 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 five pages in length.
 - 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 rehearsal.
 - 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 director via email immediately so that a resolution can be made. Whenever possible, the director 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 needed materials set by the tardy bell. The metronome and warm-up will begin exactly one minute 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 – 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 affects 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.

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

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.

Cell phones are not permitted in class unless specifically expressed by the band director.



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.



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 Traditional Percentage Grading Scale: 0 - 59% = F, 60 - 69.9% = D, 70 - 79.9% = C, 80 - 89.9% = B, 90 - 100% = A.

Student course grades will be built on the following:

- **Participation (40%):** Includes bringing required materials to class, and weekly class/sectional attendance.
- **Homework Grades (10%):** 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 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 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 on a Thursday, 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 have 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 the WPMS Band Program 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.
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 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.

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



Performance Attire

For all performances, students of the WPMS School 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. Student should 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. It must be a formal dress shirt. Shirts must be tucked-in. Any undershirt must be black if it is 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 pants. Dresses are acceptable, but must be well below the knee when seated. Black stockings, nylons, or leggings should be worn underneath dresses.
- SHOES: Solid Black, closed-toe dress shoes WITH long black socks. Short socks or exposed ankles are not acceptable. Tennis shoes are not acceptable. Open-toe shoes are not acceptable. Brown or white accents are not acceptable – SOLID BLACK.
- 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.



2023-2024 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 Principal 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 \$40 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, and the maintenance of some of our large percussion instruments that benefit the performance goals of the entire band.

A student will never be denied membership in band due to financial hardship. Families in need should contact the director and/or Mrs. Jensen directly for assistance. Likewise, generous families are welcome to make donations to the program that will help offset costs for struggling families.



Spring 2024 Band Trip & Fundraising

In the past, the Band of White Pine County travelled regularly to give our students incredible experiences, and to represent our community across the region and country. This is not only an important part of successful band programs, but is a valuable experience for our students that provides incredible learning opportunities and memories that last a lifetime. We are proud to be re-establishing this tradition immediately. ☺ From this point onward, our Advanced Symphonic Band will travel annually for a Spring Band Tour.

This spring, the Advanced Symphonic Band will be travelling to Salt Lake City and Park City Utah for 3 days. In addition to performing and receiving an educational clinic, the students will have the opportunity to watch performances, sight-see in Downtown Park City, Salt Lake City/Temple Square, experience some awesome group activities, and represent White Pine County outside of Nevada. The trip is still in the planning stages, but will likely include a visit to Hogle Zoo, a Broadway Show, and time at either Lagoon or Main Event. Because this tour includes a competitive performance by our band, it is a required part of participation in this program. By choosing to participate in band, students are agreeing to travel with the WPMS Band to Utah in Spring of 2024.

As they year goes on, we will be fundraising for this trip, and for the program needs as a whole. There will be an Informational Parent Meeting at WPMS on 9/7 at 6:00PM. We will re-establish the defunct band booster organization and begin planning our year. This will be followed by monthly band booster meetings. We invite all parents and community members interested in supporting the program to attend. Likewise, all parents interested in chaperoning the trip should attend.



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 (Woodwind or Brass), 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 "Cadet Band" is taught on 4 "Primary" Instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, & Trombone.

- Students are placed on one of these instruments based on a combination of their personal preference and also 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 Advanced Band at WPMS and High School Band at WPHS.

Advanced "Symphonic 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 selected an instrument and the Director has approved the 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 nation-wide music wholesaler to provide high-quality, low-cost purchase & rental options to our students. Mr. Bellon has a long-standing professional relationship with this company and has 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 approved by the Director for use in our classrooms. Instruments can be rented or purchased online or over the phone and shipped directly to the school. The director 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

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's extremely 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 director 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 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 director to make a determination on the usability 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 "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 director. 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 Director! He 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 director needs 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 director is aware of, and has 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.



2023-2024 WPMS Band Performance & Event Calendar

***Rehearsals, Sectionals, and Performances are mandatory for all students. These events are a requirement for participation in band, and are **HIGHLIGHTED**. Students & Families should look at the calendar carefully to avoid conflicts and plan accordingly. Any necessary changes to the schedule will be communicated ASAP. No additional **required** events will be added to the calendar.

Weekly Advanced Symphonic Band Sectionals:

Woodwinds: Mondays, 3:45PM - 4:45PM
Brass: Tuesdays, 3:45PM - 4:45PM
Percussion: Wednesdays, 3:45PM - 4:45PM

Sectionals Begin The Week of September 18-21 (No Sectionals Prior To This Week)

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

Fall 2023 Semester

*All Fall "TBD" Dates/Times To Be Finalized & Communicated ASAP.

9/7	-	Band Parent Information Night @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
9/TBD	-	Music & Arts Rental/Purchase Night @ WPMS	-	TBD
10/3	-	October Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
10/13	-	MS Band Football Game @ WPHS (Dinner Provided)	-	3:30PM-9:00PM
10/26	-	Tentative Halloween/Harvest Fundraiser	-	Evening/PM TBD
11/7	-	November Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
12/2	-	Craft Fair & Tree Lighting Performance @ Downtown	-	Times TBD
12/5	-	December Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
12/7	-	Advanced Band After School Dress Rehearsal	-	3:35PM-5:00PM
12/11	-	Winter Family Concert & Dessert Auction @ WPMS	-	6:00PM (5PM Call)

Spring 2024 Semester

*All Fall "TBD" Dates/Times To Be Finalized & Communicated By 12/1/2023

1/9	-	January Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
2/6	-	February Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
3/5	-	March Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
3/19	-	WPCSD School Board Performance @ WPMS	-	6:00PM (5PM Call)
3/21-3/24	-	Advanced Band Spring Trip/Tour @ Salt Lake City, UT	-	Details TBD
3/26	-	WPMS/WPHS Combined Band Concert @ WPHS	-	Times TBD
4/2	-	April Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
4/TBD	-	After School NEN Festival Dress Rehearsal	-	3:35PM-5:00PM
4/TBD	-	Northeastern Nevada Band Festival @ Elko HS	-	Times TBD (All Day)
5/7	-	May Band Booster Meeting @ WPMS	-	6:00PM
5/23	-	Recruiting Concerts @ McGill & DEN	-	Times TBD (Daytime)
5/28	-	HS Band Information Night @ WPHS	-	6:00PM
5/30	-	Spring Family Concert & Awards Dinner @ WPMS	-	6:00PM (5PM Call)
6/5	-	8 th Grade Promotion @ WPMS (6 th & 7 th Graders)	-	Time TBD
6/6	-	June Band Booster Meeting/Elections @ WPMS	-	6:00PM



2023-2024 WPMS Band Handbook Contract

This Document Must Be Signed In Order To Participate In The White Pine Middle School Band Program.
Due by 9/7/2023

Student Initials	Parent Initials	
		I have access to and/or received a copy of the 2023-2024 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 Middle School Band Handbook.
		I understand that I am responsible for informing the director 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.
		Advanced Symphonic Band members only - I understand that I must attend my assigned sectional rehearsal each week. Late Buses will be provided as-needed.
		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 Middle School Band 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.

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

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

 Student's Signature Date

 Parent's Signature Date

 Parent's (Best) Email Parent's (Best) Phone Number