



Dear Music Parents/Guardians,

The Washington Junior High School music performance faculty welcomes you and your student to an exciting year. The following will explain the policies of the Music Department and we ask for your assistance in implementing them.

The main objectives of the music program are to encourage musical growth and provide a lifelong creative outlet for our students. Students and teachers must work together toward the common artistic goal of continually striving to achieve high standards. These can only be met with the utmost cooperation among students, teachers, and parents. Therefore, please read the following information very carefully.

### **REHEARSALS AND TECHNIQUE CLASSES**

Music performance classes rehearse during the week as follows:

#### **BAND**

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	Concert Band: Monday and Wednesday, 1st period
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	Symphonic Band: Monday, Wednesday, Friday ( <i>minus choir students</i> ), 7th period
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Band	Symphonic Band: Monday, Wednesday, Friday ( <i>minus choir students</i> ), 6th period

#### **CHOIR**

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir	Wednesday and Thursday ( <i>small group TBA</i> ), Tuesday and Friday ( <i>full</i> ), 1st period
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir	Wednesday and Thursday ( <i>small group TBA</i> ) Tuesday and Friday ( <i>full</i> ), 7th period
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Choir	Wednesday and Thursday ( <i>small group TBA</i> ) Tuesday and Friday ( <i>full</i> ), 6th period

#### **ORCHESTRA**

6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra	Concert Strings: Monday and Thursday, 1st period
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra	Symphonic Orchestra: Monday and Thursday, 7th period
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Orchestra	Symphonic Orchestra: Monday and Thursday, 6th period

In addition to the large group rehearsals, every band and orchestra student is to attend a small group technique class that meets once a week, on a rotating basis during the regularly scheduled class periods. Students are responsible for all assignments incurred in academic classes during their technique class time. Work must be turned into those teachers concurrent with their policies. If a student must miss a technique class due to a major test in another class, the student can be excused from the technique class. The music performance course grade will be affected when the student has an unexcused absence from a technique class.

**PARTICIPATION IN PERFORMING ORGANIZATIONS** – Enrollment in Band, Orchestra, and Choir is a voluntary parent-student commitment to a performing organization that signifies special musical interest and motivation. It also means acceptance of the responsibility to support the performance team by recognizing and fulfilling these conditions:

1. Band, orchestra, and choir are **full year** classes.
2. Once enrolled, students will be expected to remain in their performance classes throughout the school year, unless excused by the director.
3. Students and/or parents should address all questions regarding participation in or attendance to specific performance classes to the **director**.
4. Qualified students who wish to join performance classes during the school year may do so with the approval of the director.
5. Students are responsible for the folder and music issued to them. Students must pay replacement costs of all lost/damaged music.

**PERFORMANCES** –Performance is an important part of the student’s musical education. It is a chance for them to show what they have learned in class, and provides an opportunity for the students to demonstrate musical growth and talent. **Participation in all performances is required of every student enrolled in a music performance class. If, due to extenuating circumstances, a student is to be absent from a performance, the director must be notified by the parents at the earliest possible time, but always before the performance.** Absences are excused at the discretion of the director. Absence from a concert, parade, festival or solo/ensemble contest without a prior excuse approved by the director will result in the lowering of the student’s grade by as much as two letters. If an emergency occurs on the day of performance, parents must call the school that day and leave a message, or call the director personally.

**CONCERT DRESS** – All students are expected to wear **BLACK** pants (no sweats or leggings) or **BLACK** skirt/dress (knee length or longer), the WJHS music polo shirt, and **BLACK** shoes and socks. It is important that we look unified and professional. Therefore, everyone is expected to wear the proper concert attire and grades may be affected if students do not wear the proper attire. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please ask your director. Please make sure that shirts are pressed and **tucked in**, regardless of style/type of pants/skirt. More info about ordering performance shirts will be available ASAP.

The Washington music faculty is very pleased that your child is participating in one or more of the WJHS music performance classes. We know that the policies we have outlined will enable the music program to run smoothly.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

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