

Wilson Ram Band Handbook 2021-22



Kristin May, Head Band Director

Gillian Quiggle, Assistant Band Director

Mark Letterer, Principal, Wilson Middle School

Keith Evetts, Assistant Principal, Wilson Middle School

Tagwunda Martin, Assistant Principal, Wilson Middle School

Jonathan Cao and Chris Martin, Vines H.S. Band Directors

Kathy Kuddes, Director of Fine Arts

Jeremy Kondrat, Instrumental Music Coordinator

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The goal of the band staff at Wilson Middle School is to inspire students to become lifelong music creators.

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Wilson Middle School Band Program! It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we introduce our band program to you in a more detailed manner. The WMS band program has established a wonderful tradition of excellence, and we are glad you have chosen to be a part of it.

Your child's participation in our band program is beneficial in many ways. Band students are engaged daily in a highly creative performing art that stimulates growth in areas of the human brain that no other discipline can. This growth effortlessly transfers into your student's academic life. In addition, our band students will develop traits such as teamwork, responsibility, dedication, self-discipline, social skills, confidence, leadership and dependability. Membership in our band program will give all a sense of accomplishment, pride, and respect as the students develop musical and personal skills that will enrich their lives.

The purpose of this handbook is to outline the guidelines and expectations for making this year a success for all involved, and to serve as a guide and resource for students and parents. Both students and their parents should take the time to thoroughly read this handbook. Upon completion, the contract that was distributed to your student during class (or filled out via google form) should be signed and returned to school, indicating your understanding of these guidelines and expectations.

Kristin May, Head Band Director - kristin.may@pisd.edu

Gillian Quiggle, Assistant Band Director - gillian.quiggle@pisd.edu

Band Website: wilsonramband.com

Band Twitter: @WilsonRamBand

Band Instagram: WilsonRamBand

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WMSRamBand/>

Band Office: (469) 752-6835

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TOPIC	PAGE
Cut Time.....	4
Remind.....	4
Ram Band Goals, Objectives, Classroom Expectations.....	4-6
Sectionals.....	6
Private Lesson Program.....	6
Dental Work, Grading Policy.....	6
Attendance.....	7
Eligibility.....	7
PISD Guidelines, Off Campus Travel	7
Concert Attire.....	8
Fundraising.....	8
Band Lockers.....	8
School Owned Instruments.....	8
Insurance.....	8
Chaperones.....	8
Statement of Intent.....	9
Other Expenses.....	10
Supplies.....	11
Step Up Instruments.....	11
Music Stores.....	11
Signature Page.....	13-14

CUT TIME

Cut Time is the Plano ISD purchased database service that we all music programs use. Our main function for this program is to communicate with our parents. You will be imputed into the database and be sent an invitation email once your student is initially enrolled.

From there you can log in and change or edit information as you need.

REMIND

We use the “REMIND” text messaging app to send reminders to parents and students on their mobile devices. You may subscribe to your student’s class by texting the code/class you would like to join to **810-10**. To learn more about the REMIND service, please visit their website at www.remind.com.

Class	Code
Beginner Band	@wmsrbBB
Concert Band	@wmsrbCB
Symphonic Band	@wmsrbSB
Wind Ensemble	@wmsrbWE
Practice Record <i>(text will be sent every Sunday at 6pm)</i>	@wmsrbPR

RAM BAND GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Organizational skills
Practice techniques
Mental and physical discipline
Citizenship through group endeavors
Cultural growth
Value judgments
Music theory
Proper instrumental technique
Proper instrument maintenance
Life lessons
Creative self-expression
Aural skills
Teamwork/social skills
Performance skills
Music appreciation
Responsibility

RAM BAND CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Follow the directions the first time they are given.
- Respect your property as well as others and their property.
- Bring your instrument and all necessary materials to class everyday.
- Try your best every day in class.
- Non-band students are not allowed to be in the band hall.
- Food, drinks, and gum are not allowed in the band hall, ensemble room, or practice rooms.

Consequences for violation of the above policies can include:

*Verbal warning/reminder, phone call to parent, student/teacher conference,
Demerits, lunch or after school detentions, office referrals, denial of special events and loss of privilege.*

MATERIALS NEEDED IN CLASS DAILY

1. Sharpened pencil with eraser
2. Organized Band binder
3. Working Instrument and all needed supplies

BAND OBJECTIVES AND GRADING POLICY

BEGINNING BAND OBJECTIVES

- Learn assembly and maintenance of an instrument
- Learn and use good posture while playing
- Learn and use the correct embouchure while playing a wind instrument
- Learn the correct method of breathing for playing a wind instrument
- Learn and use the correct hand position
- Learn the proper concept of tone production and tone quality
- Know various articulation markings such as slur, staccato, etc.
- Learn to count whole-, half-, quarter-, dotted-quarter, and eighth-note rhythms
- Demonstrate correct knowledge of age-level musical terms
- Develop discriminatory listening skills
- Develop good home practice routines
- Promote social development through large group interaction
- Develop personal and social self-discipline

WIND ENSEMBLE, SYMPHONIC, AND CONCERT BAND OBJECTIVES

- Develop self-discipline as well as group discipline through preparation and practice of individual parts
- Develop leadership skills, responsibility, diligence, and an ability to cooperate with others as a team member
- Develop strength, stamina, endurance and coordination
- Develop an ability to make musical value judgments through critical listening. The student shall be provided opportunities to recognize quality of sound, pitch, style, tempo, rhythm, blend, balance, phrasing, dynamics, and articulation.
- Further develop skills in using and understanding note values, rests, key signatures, scales, musical terms, signs, and symbols

WIND ENSEMBLE, SYMPHONIC, AND CONCERT BAND OBJECTIVES, Cont.

- Further develop proper instrumental technique, care for instrument, correct posture and playing position, embouchure, good tone, correct breathing, technical proficiency, and rhythmic skill
- Further develop instrumental technique in finger/tongue coordination. The student shall be provided opportunities to interpret through a musical instrument musical symbols and terms from the printed page.
- Develop musical sensitivity through performance of music and listening to music. The student shall be provided opportunities to internalize generally accepted, authentic performance styles and techniques in music played and heard.
- Evaluate the quality of musical performance. The student shall be provided opportunities to evaluate progress toward self-established musical goals and evaluate solo and group rehearsals and performances.
- Develop creative self-expression in every performance experience and explore careers.

SECTIONAL ATTENDANCE

All Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band students will have at least one weekly section rehearsal with their band's section. Students are expected to be punctual and prepared. Absence from section rehearsals must be in accordance with the attendance policy. Students must make every effort to attend. Section rehearsals are an extension of the classroom and are graded accordingly. Section rehearsal schedules will be sent home to parents and announced in class daily.

It is imperative that each sectional begin on time with everyone in attendance. Students who miss a sectional will not receive credit for performance since it is a co-curricular event. Please be aware of your child's sectional day/time and make every effort to assure that he/she is on time and ready to learn! Please do not schedule a dentist, doctor, or any other appointments during your child's sectional because it will cause him/her to fall behind the rest of the group.

An excused absence can be made up by individual practice for one hour or attending a similar instrument sectional (with director approval).

An unexcused absence can be made up by individual practice in the band hall for one hour. In some cases, students may be required to attend a like-instrument sectional before their next scheduled sectional, or the zero stays. Unexcused absences will result in immediate student and parent notification. Three unexcused absences (regardless of whether the time is made up) will result in a parent/teacher conference discussing the possible removal from the competition group until all competitions are finished.

Students will be on task and focused during section rehearsals. Students are expected to come prepared. A pattern of unprepared sectionals could also result in a parent/teacher conference discussing the possible removal of the current band and placement into a lower band.

PRIVATE LESSON PROGRAM

This is a district wide program that provides a high quality enhancement to classroom instruction. Most of our teachers are professional musicians in the Dallas area and have advanced degrees in the performance of their instruments. Lessons are extremely valuable to the individual student. Lessons are scheduled by our private teachers during band class time or before/after school hours. Most lessons will take place on the Wilson campus.

- ALL students are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED** to take individualized private instruction.
- Teachers are screened, interviewed and hired by the district.
- Lessons will be given weekly during/before/after school.
- If there is a need for before/after school lessons, every effort will be made to schedule private lessons at times that do not conflict with sectionals or other activities.
- Lesson cost is \$20.00 weekly for one 25 minute private lesson.

BRACES AND DENTAL WORK

Due to the nature of performance, your child's participation (or lack of) can have a significant impact on the overall success of the other students in their band or ensemble. When it comes to braces and dental work, we ask that you please contact a director in advance and take into account the band calendar and performance obligations, especially those in the spring (i.e. UIL Contest, Solo and Ensemble Contest and Festival performances). The band calendar can be found on the band website. Optimal times for braces and dental work would be the beginning of summer. There is a major adjustment period with getting braces on and off and we want the best chance of success for our Ram Band students.

GRADING POLICY

Grades will consist of weekly practice records, sectional performance grades, daily performances and playing tests. Students are always welcome to redo any playing tests (within the grading window) and can schedule those redo assignments with their band director.

ATTENDANCE

In order to have and maintain a high quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. While the WMS band follows all school and district policies and procedures, the following additional guidelines outline the attendance procedures and policies for the WMS band. These attendance guidelines also apply to activities held outside of the school day.

Excused Absence

Absences during the school day will be excused according to district guidelines. Absences from activities held outside the school day and are co-curricular will be excused at the discretion of the directors. Appointments, tutorials etc. are not excuses for absence. Absences due to personal illness requiring medical attention, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances (approved by the director) may be considered for excused status. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused. Some excused absences may still result in a parent/teacher conference discussing the possible removal from a concert performance, contest or trip.

Unexcused Absence

Students with an unexcused absence to a sectional rehearsal may be required to schedule a make-up time with their band director within one week. Absences should be discussed with a director to determine whether or not they will be excused or unexcused.

Concerts/Performances

Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum and therefore required. Students should consult their band calendars/band website for dates and times. Each of the concert ensembles will perform at various times throughout the school year. Periodically, the schedule may change and updates will be communicated. Concerts are considered to have three parts: warm-up, performance, and listening. For the student, the concert begins at the warm-up. Punctuality is essential. A concert concludes after the last group has performed and directors give permission for students to be dismissed. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work. Students absent from school for any reason or students who are in alternative placement on the day of a concert, contest, or competition may not participate.

ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Band students will follow the UIL Eligibility calendar set forth by the district. All off-campus events are considered extra-curricular. Band rehearsals, sectionals, and on-campus concerts are co-curricular and are required attendance by a band student.

PISD GUIDELINES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students involved in extracurricular activities are held to a higher standard of conduct than the general student body. Plano ISD views participation in extracurricular activities as a privilege, not a right. Any student who violates the Student Code of Conduct shall be subject to extracurricular discipline and/or regular school district disciplinary action. This includes any misconduct, regardless of time or location, that would reflect negatively upon Plano ISD in an extracurricular activity. Students clearly involved in major disciplinary infractions (i.e. including, but not limited to, drugs, alcohol, and violent behavior) will be placed on probation, removed temporarily, or removed permanently from extracurricular activities. Seasons of extracurricular activities may vary and could extend into the next school year. Disciplinary measures taken by the sponsor/ principal may be in one or more of three forms, defined as special assignments, probation, or dismissal. Special assignments may consist of extra duties and may be assigned for minor disciplinary infractions. Probation and/or dismissal from extracurricular activities will be for infractions involving alcohol, drugs, use of profanity, violence, and other serious offenses when the sponsor/ principal believes the integrity and credibility of the organization has been jeopardized by the student's action. Probation may also be assigned when the student fails to comply with rules and regulations of the extracurricular activity. (Probation is defined as: a trial period in which a student is permitted to redeem bad conduct). The student may be dismissed from the extracurricular activity upon any major infraction, or during a probationary period. Prior to being dismissed from extracurricular activities, the student and parents will be notified of the reasons for the action. The student or his/ her parents will be afforded the opportunity of a hearing with the sponsor and principal. The appeals process will be outlined at that time. The student will not be eligible for any individual or team recognition or awards that occur after the date of dismissal.

OFF-CAMPUS TRAVEL

All school rules apply to any off-campus event sponsored by a school organization. Off-campus, students are representing the Wilson Band, Wilson Middle School, and Plano ISD as well as themselves and their parents. Therefore, infractions are taken very seriously. Students who fail to comply with a director or chaperone's instructions will receive appropriate consequences. In the interest of your child's safety, once a student leaves the school with the band, that student must remain with the band until the group returns to the school. If parents desire that their child travel by alternate means to or from an event where school travel is provided, an Alternate Transportation Form must be on file with the director before the group departs from Wilson. Student with a form on file must check in with a director before leaving the group, and a director must see the student leave with a parent. A handwritten note or verbal authorization cannot be used in place of the Alternate Transportation Form.

ATTIRE FOR CONCERTS

Formal Uniform for Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Band:

Boys: Black dress pants with a black belt, black button down shirt, black dress shoes (no athletic shoes) with long/tall black socks

Girls: Black dress slacks or ankle length skirt, black shirt with $\frac{3}{4}$ or long sleeves (sleeveless is not acceptable), and black closed toed dress shoes.

Ram Band Informal Uniform & Beginner Band Uniform:

Wilson Middle School Band T-shirt or polo, dress code jeans and closed toed/athletic shoes.

FUNDRAISING

The band is both a curricular course and a campus organization. In order to function as an organization throughout the year, the band participates in two fundraising activities. All money raised is used for the benefit of the students in the Wilson Band program. We do hope that, since every student benefits from the use of these funds, every student will participate in generating necessary revenue. More information regarding fundraising procedures will be presented at the start of our fundraising drive.

BAND LOCKERS

Band lockers are assigned to students as a place to keep their instrument, music, and instrument care supplies. We encourage you to use a lock for the safety and security of your instrument and other belongings. We are not responsible for items in your locker at any time. Please keep only band supplies in your band locker (no backpacks, books, lunches, etc... other than during your band class).

SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Each band student who uses a school-owned instrument will pay a \$85.00 instrument maintenance fee each school year. This covers normal wear and maintenance only. Students will receive a form to be signed and returned. Please make checks payable to Plano ISD.

District-owned instruments are not to be treated as "free" instruments. Basic supplies must still be purchased and repairs must still be made. Please treat these instruments as if they were your own. Most district-owned instruments exceed \$2,000 in value. Insurance on school owned instruments is strongly encouraged. Please see a director for insurance information if needed.

INSTRUMENT INSURANCE

Musical Instrument insurance should be purchased by each student to cover damage and/or loss of instruments. Both school-owned and individually owned instruments should be covered in this way. Parents are encouraged to look for coverage through a homeowner's policy or through an outside company.

CHAPERONES/PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We are always in need of parents to help us with band events and in other areas of the band program. Your support allows us to attend events such as football games, band contests, and social activities, and we welcome your involvement in your child's music education. If you are willing and able to help, please check the appropriate place on the attached form. In compliance with PISD policy, parents wishing to chaperone events will need to complete a criminal history check. This can be done online at <https://www.pisd.edu/volunteer>. Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Band is a full-year course, and every student's participation has an impact on his or her performing group. Students should be prepared to commit to band for the full school year. Schedule changes are considered by the Wilson Administration team and should be communicated to a band director immediately. Unpaid supplies given to students must be returned in the event that the student exits the program within the first two weeks of school.

OTHER EXPENSES

There is a one time supply fee for all band students that covers necessary items to be in the band program. Throughout the year, there are a few events which do require a fee to cover costs. This information is intended for planning purposes, and exact amounts are subject to change. If you write a check, please make it payable to Plano ISD; also, please put student's name and ID number on the check. You can also pay with a credit card through TEAMS/Parent Portal, but be sure to use the Band FEES site.

Fee:	Cost:	Items covered:	Required for:
Supply fee*	~\$25	Band binder, band t-shirt, band polo	All members
Region Entry	\$12	All-Region Band entry fee	Wind Ensemble
Solo & Ensemble Entry Fee	\$8	Contest Entry fee	All participating members
Solo Contest Piano Player Fee (Accompanist fee)	\$40	Solo Contest requires students to perform with a piano player. The fee includes 2 rehearsals and the contest.	All participating members
Ongoing social activities	varies	Social activities and events	All participating members

**This fee might change based on t-shirt design and pricing.*

SUPPLIES

7th & 8th Grade Students (Non-beginners)

1. A quality, functioning and well-maintained instrument from the approved list
2. A plastic flip folder and lyre (for football games), available at music stores (8th graders will need this for football games)
3. Korg TM60 Tuner/Metronome combo, available at music stores OR Tonal Energy on a smartphone.
4. Folding wire music stands for home practice and football games.
5. A Wilson Ram Band T-Shirt and polo
6. A black 1 inch 3-ring binder (provided by staff at the beginning of school year)
7. Pencil

Instrument Specific Supplies

- [Wind Instrument Supply Lists Link](#)
- [Percussion Supply List Link](#)
- [Music Store List Link](#)

STEP-UP INSTRUMENTS

As students advance in their abilities, they often outgrow their beginning level instruments and/or mouthpieces. When this happens, a student's continued musical growth will be hindered by an inferior instrument. Upgrading to a professional quality instrument can be a very good investment for continued success. Please contact Mrs. May or Mr. Mayborn before making any instrument purchase!

The following step-up instruments are approved for use in the Wilson Band as well as all of the high school programs in PISD:

- Flute- Yamaha 481H, Yamaha 684H, or Miyazawa 95SR
- Clarinet- Buffet R-13
- Alto Sax- Yamaha YAS- 62, Yamaha YAS- 875EX or Z, or Selmer "Super Action 80" (Vandoren Optimum AL3 mouthpiece with any of these)
- Trumpet- Bach Stradivarius 180-37 or Yamaha Xeno 8335
- Trombone- Bach Stradivarius 42BO or Conn 88HO



WILSON RAM BAND PARENT SIGNATURE PAGES

Parents, please follow the link below to sign and complete the band forms.

<https://forms.gle/GV5uNGz7PdkPHcRu8>