

Vicksburg-Warren School District

Band Handbook
Warren Central High School Edition
2016-2017

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Acknowledgment

We would like to thank the Administration of Warren Central High School and the Vicksburg-Warren School District for their continued support and cooperation.

We would also like to thank the parents and community. Without your efforts, the program would not succeed.

This document was approved by the VWSD Board of Trustees.

Purpose

To provide a convenient reference for students, parents, administrators, and directors who have questions concerning any aspect of the band program at Warren Central High School.

Preface

Any questions not answered in this booklet should be addressed to the band directors. Students and parents need to read this handbook carefully, sign, and return the back page to the band office.

School rules and policies are in force at all times a student is directly or indirectly involved in any activity sponsored by or in the name of Warren Central High School. School policy shall have priority over band policy in the event of any policy conflict. When a student becomes a member of Big Blue, he/she agrees to abide by all rules and regulations stated in the handbook. If he/she does not abide by these rules and causes themselves to be dismissed from the band, or if he/she drops band of their own accord, he/she immediately loses all rights and privileges thereof. Moreover, he/she cannot be readmitted into the band program at a later date without the director's consent.

The band directors shall have authority to suspend or amend any band policy at any time deemed necessary in the best interest of the overall band program.

Vicksburg-Warren School District High School Band Objectives:

The Warren Central Band Program forms an integral part of school life. It is one of the largest and most active voluntary student organizations and its members form an active, cosmopolitan group. The primary objectives of the band program are:

1. Cultural- To foster the continued development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of quality music.
2. Educational- To develop interested and discriminating listeners, provide a well-rounded musical education and prepare students for musical activities beyond high school.
3. Service- To lend color and atmosphere to certain school and community affairs while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Warren Central High School at all appearances.
4. Citizenship- To develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the

group, to enhance the student's ability to interact with others in a positive manner, and to develop the ability to function as a responsible member of the community.

5. Recreational- To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

Membership

The Band Program is open to all interested students who demonstrate the desire, ability, and proper attitude. Students desiring membership must audition for membership and have permission from the director (s).

Membership is granted at discretion of the director. It should be understood that everyone will have an equal and fair opportunity for band participation. However, sometimes it may become necessary to exclude or dismiss those students who fail to meet the band's standards.

All students are expected to participate in both marching and concert bands unless extraordinary circumstances exist. These circumstances will be dealt with one-on-one with student/parent and director as they arise.

Performance Ensembles:

Marching and Concert Bands:

The high school band consists of all band students in grades 9-12 who have reached a certain level of performance, determined by playing and marching auditions. The High School Band includes both marching and concert bands. Marching performances include all football games, marching band contests, and parades. Concert performances include Concerts for the community, as well as the State Band Marching and Concert Evaluations. When the band goes on a large trip every 2 years, they also do either a marching or concert performance.

**Students who work extra hard and earn a position in the Wind Ensemble (the first concert band) understand that they are in an elite group. This is the premier performing ensemble of the instrumental music program. Students in this group will adhere to certain guidelines appropriate to a group of this caliber:

1. Members will obtain an appropriate "concert-black" uniform using their own funding. A convenient method for obtaining this specific uniform will be offered at the Director's discretion. Students must have the correct formal attire in order to participate. Students who do not obtain the correct apparel by the published deadline will be replaced in the ensemble by the next willing student the next chair down.
2. Students must use a mid or upper-line instrument to play in this ensemble. The level of musical performance dictates this need. Beginner-level instruments are not allowed.

Students not adhering to this instrument policy will be placed in the Symphonic Band at the beginning of Concert season.

3. Students in the Wind Ensemble will earn Honors Credit, or 5 quality points toward graduation, for second semester, upon passing the class.

Jazz Band

The High School Jazz Band is open to all qualified band students in grades 9-12 by audition. Traditional jazz band instrumentation is used. The Jazz Band can be offered as a Carnegie Unit course meeting during the school day if there is a demand. Band membership is pre-requisite unless special arrangements are made. Jazz band performs for school and civic functions and may participate in Jazz Festivals when appropriate.

Individual Ensemble fees

**All bands are subject to their own set of fees, which must be paid at the time instructed by director. These fees are collected and managed by the band booster club. Students who do not pay the fees are subject to removal from the ensemble and will be placed on the school fine list.

Rehearsals

Every student will have one period per day for band in their regular class schedule. Students who have study halls may seek private instruction during that period provided the Director's schedule allows it. High School Band rehearsals begin with summer band camp/s; attendance of which is required. In addition to the regular school period, High School Band students need to plan for after school rehearsals. Specific times for the rehearsals will be announced in plenty of time for the student and parent to make necessary arrangements.

Instrument requirements

By the time a student completes Junior High Band, it is to their benefit to own a recommended top or mid-line instrument.

Certain brands of instruments are inferior and thus would be detrimental to the student and the band. Different brands make pitch and tone compromises in different ways. Since this is an area in which we are judged at contests and competitions, matched brands are necessary.

Before purchasing a top or mid-line instrument, the parent and student should consult the director in order to purchase the best possible instrument for the best price. Please see Appendix B for a list of recommended mid and top-line instruments.

Students that play the following instruments will be assigned a school-owned instrument at the high school level:

Oboe	French horn
Bassoon	Baritone
Bass clarinet	Tuba
Contra bass clarinet	Sousaphone
Tenor sax	Percussion instruments
Baritone sax	

If these instruments are lost or purposefully broken, you may be held responsible for repair/replacement.

**See “instrument repair policies on school-owned instruments.”

Attendance

P.R.I.D.E.

Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort

1. Each band member is expected to attend: (a) all rehearsals during the school day. (In order to do this, you must come to school). (b) All after school rehearsals. (c) The annual summer band camp (e) all performances.
3. Absences from rehearsals or performances are either excused or un-excused. Absence due to (a) personal illness, (b) death in family, (c) direct involvement in a wedding party or religious holiday (d) personal involvement in another school function with **prior** permission from the director, or (e) special permission of the Band Director obtained in advance by the parent or guardian, shall be excused. Absence due to any other cause shall be un-excused. The student must show consistent responsibility in these areas.
4. If an absence from a rehearsal is un-excused: (a) it will be reflected in the student’s rehearsal attendance grade. (b) Only two un-excused absences will be accepted per semester. Upon being absent a third un-excused time from rehearsal during a semester, the student will be dismissed from the band.
5. Only ONE un-excused absence from a performance can result in the immediate dismissal of the student from the band and “performances” grade deducted to a “30.”
6. It is the responsibility of the individual student to contact and make arrangements with their director well in advance of a performance or a rehearsal if they are going to be late or cannot attend. If something comes up at the last minute, (car trouble or sudden illness, for example) students are expected to call the band hall immediately to let the director know. If there is no answer, leave a message explaining the situation.

7. Each student is responsible for hearing and seeing all announcements. Do not rely on someone else. Failure to look and listen is not a reliable excuse. A time for meeting will be specified for all rehearsals and performance. This is a starting time, not an arrival time.

8. Students should arrange personal jobs, extra functions, and all appointments so as not to conflict with rehearsals and performances. Appointments scheduled during a rehearsal or performance MUST be cleared with the director IN ADVANCE. Excuses brought “after the fact” WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. It is the student’s responsibility to keep parents, bosses, etc.... informed so as to avoid unnecessary conflicts.

9. Students who are un-excused from a rehearsal are subject to being removed from the next performance. Their role at the next performance will be as “band crew” personnel.

****See Appendix B for additional attendance policy for concert band****

General rules and regulations

1. Smoking, the consumption of alcoholic beverages, the use of illegal substances, fighting, vulgar language, sexual activity, theft, and back-talking/blatant disrespect of directors or staff will not be tolerated in the band. Students who engage in these behaviors will be removed from the organization with no guarantee of refunded fees.

2. Students are expected to follow all instructions given them by their directors promptly and with a good attitude.

3. The phone and photocopier is for band business only. Always ask permission before using it.

4. Take pride in your band hall. If you use something, put it back when you are finished. Put garbage in the garbage cans. PLEASE DO NOT TOUCH OTHER PEOPLE’S PROPERTY WITHOUT PERMISSION-- please respect one another and the band hall.

5. Food and drink are not permitted in the band hall. The only exception is water, with a cap, kept in your instrument slot for outside rehearsals or under your chair. Chewing gum is prohibited during any rehearsal. Consequences will be given upon infraction of the above rules.

6. For your security, only band students are allowed in the band hall.

8. The director’s offices, upstairs, and storage rooms are off-limits to students unless they have been asked to enter by one of the directors. Please respect the working space of the directors and the privacy of the office. Knock before entering. Thanks!

Equipment and Music

1. Each student is responsible for the welfare of any and all equipment, music, uniforms, etc. issued to them. Any music or equipment lost or damaged must be replaced or paid for by the student.

2. Each student is assigned a special shelf or area for their instrument or equipment. Always leave them only in the area assigned for them. Lockers may be used only for instrument, marching practice shoes and socks, and music. Items left in inappropriate areas will be collected and consequences will be given.

3. Keep up with your music. If you were absent and didn't receive a piece of music, let the Librarian know when you have he/she sign your excuse slip. If you lose music, fill out the music needs list posted in band hall 1. Lost music will be replaced at a cost of \$.25 per page. Consequences will be given for being without required music.

4. All equipment and uniforms must be returned when by the date specified by the director or the student will be put on the school fine list. The director will not provide clearance to the principal's office until instrument, uniform, and/or equipment is returned or payment is made to the finance office.

Fund-Raising

All Fund-raising will be done by the booster organization. All fees are collected by the booster club officers through a drop-box in the band hall. A \$10 band supply fee may be charged by the school district as needed.

Running the band program is very expensive, even with the financial support of the school district. We MUST have EVERY STUDENT doing their "fair share" in order for our organization to offer the greatest opportunity for its members. Students who fall behind on their financial obligation without making special arrangements or showing effort in the fund-raisers are subject to REMOVAL FROM PERFORMANCES until the payments are made current. That said, NO willing student should be prevented from band participation based on financial status; however, communication and effort on the student and parent must be evident.

Grading System

Music Grade: This is derived from the student's performance and progress on their instrument for each 9-week period. It includes music "pass-off" tests and other graded work that deals with music. A due date will be issued for each music assignment pass-off. Points will be deducted each week that the music is late in being passed-off.

Rehearsal/Performance Grades: Each required band event carries an attendance grade. Students must be consistently present, punctual, have proper music, equipment, and be correctly dressed at each rehearsal or performance to receive full credit.

Participation Grade: Students are rewarded with a high participation grade for arriving on time to each rehearsal with necessary equipment and clothing, and try their best in rehearsal.

Bus Riding

School District policy requires all students travel *to* football games, contests, and outings *on the band bus*. If the student wishes to ride home with their parents or another adult, they must check out in-person at the designated time in the designated location. We will release students only to their parents or the person their parents have specified. The student and adult taking the student must **physically meet with the designated director** and sign out before being released.

Instrument repair information (school-owned instruments)

1. Instruments owned by the Vicksburg-Warren School District include those that are not normally purchased by individuals (i.e., marching instruments, tubas, bass clarinets, and other expensive “specialty” type instruments). These instruments are purchased through the booster club or district funds.
2. These instruments are signed out to individual students (or may be shared depending on the number of students vs. instruments owned) for use during the year.
3. School instruments require regular maintenance and upkeep. Funds for the maintenance of the instruments are currently provided through the school district.
4. “Accidental” damage is the responsibility of the student/parent.
5. PLEASE DO NOT take any school-owned instrument to the shop yourself. Tell a director if there is a problem and we will take it from there. If the instrument is taken for repair without the knowledge of the directors, then the family whose name appears on the sign-out form will be responsible for paying the full cost of the work.

Local music stores are aware of these policies and will contact us to verify repairs that are not accompanied with a request form from the directors.

Instrument repair information (personal instruments)

If your instrument becomes damaged and/or will not play, notify a director immediately. If he/she can't repair it quickly, you may take home an instrument repair request that must be filled-out and signed by you and your parent. Return this and the instrument the next day and we will send it to the shop for you on the day the music store representative comes. The instruments are usually returned from the shop in about a week. When the instrument returns from the shop, you will be contacted by a director and given the repair ticket. You may pay for it at that point or the next day. You will not receive your instrument until you pay the repair bill. Please see a director *in advance* of this if you need to work out a special arrangement.

You may take the instrument to the repair shop yourself if you choose. We only recommend Mississippi Music Company. These are the only reputable shops in Central Mississippi. Upon getting your instrument back from the shop, you must show the director your receipt that reflects the dates you didn't have your instrument in class. Otherwise, you will be given Zeros for those rehearsals. Be prepared to have graded, written work if your instrument is in the shop on an inside rehearsal day, unless a loaner instrument is issued.

Student Valuables

Students are not to bring large amounts of money, music-players, phones, cameras, etc., to band. If you wear glasses, watches, or other jewelry, you are to keep track of it at all times. We will lock the band hall while outside practicing and away on trips, however, students alone are responsible for their personal property. Use your locker in the hall for all your belongings except your instrument.

Color Guard

The Color Guard is a performing unit of the band. It accentuates the visual element of the marching show through the use of various types of equipment and dance. Tryouts take place each spring and are open to band students entering grades 9-12. A panel of independent judges selects color guard members based on a formal audition.

Requirements: Attend the rehearsals held after school prior to the formal audition date. Be responsible upon selection for the cost of color-guard shoes, even if they are in addition to the regular band shoe, which must be worn with the concert uniform. Be prepared to attend extra color-guard rehearsals as needed.

Once selected to this position they are expected to adhere to all rules and regulations of Big Blue.

Guard Captains will be 10th-12th-graders, selected based on prior leadership ability, dependability, and attitude, combined with audition score. This is decided upon through an audition process. Once selected, captains will be responsible for preparation of equipment, warming-up the guard, teaching routines, and other duties deemed necessary by the director.

Drum Major

The Drum Major/s is in command of the band while on the field. This person gets the band on and off the field and conducts the music in performance. The drum major also conducts tunes in the stands and at pep rallies. The main job of the Drum Major is to be a role model and leader for the band at all times. The position of Drum Major is open to any high school band student entering grades 10-12 who is good standing with Big Blue. Previous conduct, leadership abilities, etc. will be considered in approval to audition. A panel of independent judges will select the Drum Major based on a formal audition, in addition to a personal interview by the band director. The drum major/s will be determined by the averaged interview score and formal audition score. Those interested must have marched in Big Blue at least one year. Upon selection, the Drum Major will be responsible for attending a "director approved" Drum Major Camp. The Drum Major's uniform style and design must be director-approved. If, at any time the Drum Major/s fails in any of the above requirements, he/she may be removed from the responsibilities and position. The drum major must be available to work at the band hall one week after school is out and one week before band camp.

Student Leadership

Student leadership is vital to our success.

Director appointed leaders include Drum Major, Color Guard Captain, Drum Captain, and Squad Leaders. Director-appointed leaders are to ensure that the performing unit they are in charge of

works diligently and achieve its goals. They are to be positive examples for others in the band. The final director-appointed leader is the Librarian, who assists the directors in distributing all music and keeping the library organized. Students may request or audition for these positions at specific times during the year as scheduled by the directors. If, at any time the student-leader fails in any of the above requirements, he/she may be removed from the responsibilities and position. The student-leader must be available to work at the band hall one week after school is out and one week before band camp if asked.

Participation in Concerts

When participating in Warren Central Band concerts, the attire for performers will be announced well in-advance of the event. This is so students have ample time to plan what to wear. It is important for all performing groups to represent the school in a unified, professional way. One of two attires will be announced.

“Full uniform” on a concert means students will wear the uniform coat, pants, black band shoes and black socks. Uniform parts must be clean, wrinkle-free and looking professional.

“Dress Clothes” on a concert means young ladies wear a “school-appropriate” length skirt or dress. Young men will wear a button-down shirt, tie and dress pants. A suit is also appropriate. Jeans, T-shirts, or tennis-shoes are never appropriate for anyone.

Students dressed correctly will be rewarded by being allowed to participate in the performance. Those not dressed according to instructions will not be allowed to perform.

Students in the Wind Ensemble wear Formal Concert Black at all performances unless otherwise instructed. This includes the required accessories listed below.

Ladies: full-length black dress, black, heeled shoes, “pearl” necklace and ear-rings

Gentlemen: black tuxedo...black shoes (marching shoes are satisfactory), black socks, formal pants, cummerbund, shirt, black tie, and regular length black coat.

Department:

*Students in the Warren Central Band Program must understand their role as leaders at Warren Central High School. Band students are expected to set a good example for other students in the student body. Additionally, you cannot contribute to rehearsals if you miss due ANY ABSENCE, including office referrals or suspensions, which hurt the entire band. Students who accumulate 5 referrals (any combination of I.S.S., O.S.S., and A.S.D’s) are subject for removal from band.

Academics:

*Students who fail band for the year or must repeat their grade in school are subject for removal from the band program. Additionally, band membership is subject to the rules of eligibility established by the MHSAA (Mississippi High School Activities Association) and the Vicksburg-Warren School District. This is determined each semester.

Warren Central High School Addendum

Appendix A

The Band Uniform

1. The band provides the uniform for all high school band members. All students must purchase their own black socks, correct black marching shoe, and gloves (the first pair of gloves each season is free). Drum Majors and members of the Color-Guard will be issued two uniforms—one for marching, one for concert.
2. A uniform will be issued to each band student around the beginning of school. The uniforms will remain in the band hall and will be checked out to each student prior to a performance. Students are to arrive at the time instructed to get their uniform from the uniform room. Students are permitted to get *their* uniform only, not anyone else's. An adult or member of the uniform crew will be present to assist you. Students will check the uniform back in after each performance.
3. Students wearing a standard band uniform will wear their “band T-shirt” and “gym-shorts” under their uniform. During cold weather “long-johns” may be worn. Jeans sweat pants, shirts with collars, or “bulky” clothes are NOT appropriate under the uniform. Students not following these guidelines are subject to removal from the performance and performance grade deduction.
4. When you are in uniform, you are no longer an individual, but a representative of your band, school, and community. Only a solid BLUE or BLACK “do rag” or head wrap may be worn appropriately under the band hat. Colorful head gear of any kind (barrettes, scarves, ribbons,

etc.) may NOT be worn. No ear-rings are permitted. Watches must not be visible while in full uniform. NO OTHER JEWELRY IS PERMITTED, PLEASE.

5. UNLESS SPECIFIED BY THE DIRECTOR, YOUR UNIFORM IS TO BE COMPLETE AT ALL TIMES. Pulling up sleeves or wearing jacket “open” are unacceptable and will result in receiving a consequence.

6. As part of the band fees, a uniform cleaning fee may be paid by the student at the beginning of the school year. The band will use this fee to have the uniforms cleaned as needed.

7. Remember that before, during, and after a public performance you are in the public spotlight because of the uniform you wear. The public makes their impression based on how you behave and conduct yourselves. Make that impression POSITIVE AND ONE OF PRAISE.

THANK-YOU for taking the time to study this band handbook. You’ll be glad you did!!

The directors are glad you’re in the band this year. It is extremely hard work, but the rewards will be great with effort on your part. Thank you for all you will do! We are already proud of you!!!

Classroom procedures

1. Rehearsal time is valuable and every moment must be used efficiently. The following rules are used by all fine groups:

a. Upon entering the rehearsal hall, acquire your instrument, music, and equipment and go directly to your seat. During marching season, students are expected to arrive early enough to be dressed and in the roll block, with proper equipment, by the time the tardy bell rings.

b. Warm-up will be done as a group. Do not play out of turn. This applies at all times.

c. Students are expected to make noticeable improvements daily. *This cannot be accomplished without outside practice and effort.*

D. At the end of rehearsal, each student is to put away his/her own instrument/equipment and music. No items will be left out of place.

e. Procedures for any disruption, inside or outside:

First time: Student warned and exercise is assigned

Second time: Student assigned a detention activity—parent contacted.

Third time: Parent conference at school

Fourth time: Office Referral

**In marching rehearsals, students are expected to give themselves physical exercise if they make a mistake. Our success depends on each student disciplining themselves to be their very best, not by “police-action” of Directors.*

NOTE: Students who mis-behave daily may skip first or second-time consequences and be immediately referred to third or fourth-time consequences at the director’s discretion. They may also be considered for removal from the band. Any punish-work assigned is due the next school day rehearsal, must be handwritten, and signed by parent or guardian. It will be kept on file in

the band office. ALSO: Students who progress to the 2nd offense consistently are subject to removal from their spot in the show and becoming an alternate until further notice.

f. WHITE tennis shoes and socks must be worn at every outside rehearsal. NO EXCEPTIONS, please! No other footwear is acceptable, including lace-up boots. This is for your health and to insure each student is demonstrating the proper marching step. Points will be deducted from that day's participation or physical consequence given if proper footwear is not worn.

At the beginning of each rehearsal, roll will be taken in the following manner:

Each first-chair player will check the attendance of his/her section and go to the director in charge of attendance. After telling the director of any absences or tardies, the leader returns to his/her spot. In the event that a section—leader is absent, the person holding the next highest chair position in the section reports the attendance.

All students are expected to participate daily. Alliterative assignments will be given to those who forget to bring their instrument or music from home. Points will also be deducted from that rehearsal's grade if student has left their instrument at home.

Class time needs to be productive. Due to the number of students in each rehearsal, coupled with the fact that you have instruments in-hand, it is easy for the noise level to get out of control. When the conductor stops during rehearsal, students should remain quiet in order to hear the instructions. **Productive rehearsals mean higher performance levels! P.R.I.D.E.!**

Students should take care of music needs, instrument care and preparations, etc., before class. Do not lose valuable time going to get valve oil or searching for another reed. Have all needed supplies, including extra reeds and oil at your seat when rehearsal begins. Percussionists should set up everything for the day's rehearsal at the beginning of class. They should not waste time searching for equipment or music during rehearsal. Each student is expected to have all proper equipment at all rehearsals and performances. This includes instrument, sticks, coordinate sheets, flags, music, folder, pencils, etc..... If students are without proper supplies, points will be deducted from their grade.

*Bags and books, etc. should be kept out of the band seating area. Cases should be left on the shelves, not brought into the band set.

*Reeds are sold by the box only. Do not ask to purchase a single reed. An updated price list will be posted by the band office each year and appear in at least one of the monthly newsletters.

Football Game Procedures

1. Assembly times and dress will vary with the football schedule. Students should be in place, prepared for action at the time designated each week (see calendar/e-mail updates).
2. All instruments and uniform parts should be kept clean and in good condition. Instruments should be cleaned regularly to remove the excess dirt that accumulates when playing outdoors (*feel free to use the band hall wash-room on your own time*).
3. No band member is permitted to leave the organization in advance of group dismissal at any time, unless excused by the director prior to the game.
4. Only current Warren Central High School band students are allowed in the stands.

5. Students always sit with their sections. Movement from place-to-place in the stands is prohibited.
6. Attention should be given to the Band Director/s and Drum Major/s when they are standing in front of the band.
7. We only play as a group. Rehearsed, director-approved songs played by individual sections are allowed only when permission is granted.
8. No inappropriate cheers. Organized, director-approved cheers, planned ahead of time, are permitted. Cheers and arm movements are allowed from a seated position only.
9. Students will remain seated at all times unless otherwise instructed by a band director. There will be no standing, changing seats, or dancing at any time.
10. Students are expected to listen, respond quickly to instructions, and make your best effort to play every note to support the team. Brass and percussionists will stand to play music, woodwinds and guard will remain seated.
11. Tardiness, discipline problems at any time during the evening can result in losing 3rd-quarter reward, other consequence, or office referral.
12. If you do not earn your 3rd-quarter reward, you are report to the band director immediately after the half-time show near the band seating area. You will stand at parade rest at the direction of the director during 3rd-quarter. A drink will be brought to you. Free-time food, etc., is part of the 3rd-quarter reward that must be earned. *It is your responsibility to know if you've earned your 3rd-quarter reward.* You will lose additional rewards or be assigned a consequence if you are not in the right place during 3rd-quarter reward.

Awards

*3rd-quarter break is a weekly reward during Marching Season (see p. 8, “football game procedures”).

*Each May, Big Blue holds its awards banquet. The purpose of the banquet is to reflect upon the year’s accomplishments, to honor those who have realized special achievements, and to recognize graduating seniors for their years of service to the band.

The band parents and directors spend many hours planning the banquet and the costs of the banquet are covered by part of your band fee, so all students are required (for a test grade) to attend this special event.

Listed below are awards given at the banquet. These may vary year-to-year as needed.

- 500 Point Award: May be earned by receiving at least 500 points during the school year.
- 750 Point Award May be earned by receiving at least 750 points during the school year. This is the number of points required as part of the Band Letter Jacket requirement (see “Award Letter Jackets”).

1000 Point Award May be earned by receiving at least 1000 points during the school year.

Points Plus Award May be earned by receiving at least 1500 points during the school year.

Third Class Musician: Presented to 9th-graders who have completed all the requirements for Third Class Musician

Second Class Musician: Presented to 10th-graders who have completed all of the requirements for Second Class Musician.

First Class Musician: Presented to 11th-graders who have completed all the requirements for First Class Musician.

“Super-class Musician: Presented to 12th-graders who have completed all the requirements or this level of musicianship.

The awards below are given to students in Varsity Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. They are decided by the Directors:

Most Improved Presented to the most improved woodwind, brass, and percussionists.

Spirit Award students who most often exemplify a positive attitude and work ethic.

Citizenship Musicianship students who are the most responsible and well-behaved students who exhibit the greatest ability on their instruments.

Sections The outstanding and most improved sections of each concert band will be recognized for their group efforts.

Students earning a position in the Mississippi Lion’s All-State Band, Honor Bands, and other opportunities are recognized.

Service Awards: Presented to students who have served the band by being on a work crew.

John Phillip Sousa Award

This is the highest award that may be given to a Warren Central Band Student. This Award is presented to the Senior (two in rare cases) band member who has maintained at least a “B” average for their four years in high school, and who, through their extra effort has exemplified the “ideal” band student. The recipient’s name will be placed on the John Phillip Sousa plaque

located in the Big Blue Band Hall. The Recipient will also receive a pin, trophy, and a certificate.

Band Students are also recognized for achievement at the annual Academic Awards Night, presented by Warren Central High School. 2 outstanding students from each grade are awarded. Students being recognized at this event are: Freshman, sophomore, Junior, and Senior of the Year.

Merit Points are accounted for in the following manner and points are added as the year progresses in the Charms Information Management System.
(you can use the following form to keep up with points yourself)

Last Name _____

First Name _____

Marching Season Points

Please check which marching band crew(s) you regularly participated in.

- _____ Water Boy crew (300)
- _____ Loading Crew (400)
- _____ Uniform Crew (300)
- _____ Cooler Crew (300)
- _____ Set up Crew (300)
- _____ Librarian (300 per semester. Have 2nd semester verified by concert director)

Please check which events you participated in.

- _____ Outlet Mall pep rally (20)
 - _____ Mall Showcase (20)
 - _____ Haunted House construction and involvement (5 pts/hr.)
 - _____ Auditioned for color guard or drum major (50)
 - _____ Made color guard or drum major (50)
 - _____ Taken at least 3 private lessons (200. Add 50 more points for each additional lesson)
 - _____ Captain (200)
 - _____ A college marching band day (100 each): List which ones here
- _____

Concert Season Points

Please check which clinics/bands you have auditioned for or made this year.

- _____ Auditioned for Lions Band (100) _____ Made Call Backs (200) _____ Made Lions Band (500)
- _____ Asked to participate in State Band Clinic (Natchez)(100)

Auditioned: Participated:
(50 each) (100 each)

- | | | |
|-------|-------|--------------------|
| _____ | _____ | Delta State Clinic |
| _____ | _____ | USM Clinic |
| _____ | _____ | Ole Miss Clinic |
| _____ | _____ | MSU Band Clinic |

- _____ Jazz ensemble (100)
- _____ Alcorn Jazz Festival (50)
- _____ Indoor Guard or Percussion (100)
- _____ Musical Orchestra (200)

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- _____ Caroling contest (50)
- _____ Participated in a college day (Horn Day at USM, Trombone Day at DSU, etc) (50)
- _____ Marched with band in Martin Luther King Jr. Parade (30)
- _____ Marched with band in Christmas parade (30)
- _____ Marched with band in Veterans Day Parade (30)
- _____ Volunteered to help at Jr. High Christmas or spring concert (30 each)

Marching band prop construction (5pts. per hour.)

Other/miscellaneous (please specify, including number of hours):

Band Clinics

Band Clinics are not only educational, but also great fun. They give opportunity to demonstrate and improve your musical skills while learning from other directors and students. Attending band clinics is also one of the requirements for earning a band Letter Jacket.

The chair-placement auditions at the end of the year are used to decide who attends band clinics. Other factors include students making a specific request to attend a clinic or a student wishing to attend for college recruitment purposes. *Any student demonstrating desire and ability may attend a band clinic.*

At the time of the clinic, the student must speak with all their teachers to get any assignments they may miss while at the clinic. Missing school for band clinics are an “excused absence” according to the Warren Central H.S. student handbook, but students should be responsible about their other classes.

Band Clinics Warren Central H.S. Attends:

- All-South Honor Band at The University of Southern Mississippi
- Local/Regional Band Clinics
- Delta State University Honor Band
- Mid-South Honor Band at The University of Mississippi
- Mississippi State University Honor Band
- “State Clinic” in Biloxi (Mississippi Bandmaster’s Association)

Award Letter Jackets

We encourage all band students to earn their Letter Jackets. The following requirements will be used to determine eligibility for your letter jacket. Students meeting these requirements will have the cost of the basic letter jacket covered by the band boosters (last year, this was \$50.00). Extra items, such as embroidery, patches, etc., will be paid by the student.

a. Students must commit to being in Big Blue all four years of High School. Students who transfer to Warren Central will have previous high school band experience added to time with Big Blue.

This means you must commit to participation in all four years in the following events:

- State Marching Evaluation
- Homecoming Parade
- Christmas Parade
- State Concert and Sight-Reading Evaluation

Members of the band are exempt from the Homecoming Parade when selected as a member of the Homecoming Court or Sponsor. Members are not exempt from marching to drive a vehicle or ride on a float.

b. Members must remain “in good standing” for their four years in band. This means that students will consistently follow all guidelines stated in this handbook. In other words, students must exhibit consistent responsibility in the areas of rehearsal and performance behavior, attendance, and effort. Students must also exhibit financial responsibility (no outstanding debts).

c. Students meeting requirements and ordering letter jackets must pay in-advance all costs of extra items (extra embroidery, etc...) before receiving their jacket.

d. Students may become eligible to order their jackets beginning their Sophomore year, as long as they earned at least 750 merit points and meet all the above applicable requirements during their Freshman year.

e. Each year after receiving their letter jacket, students may earn extra bars to add to their jackets. Students must earn an additional 750 merit points each year to add a bar.

f. Students who have earned a jacket, but fall out of good standing with the band must pay back the cost of the letter jacket to the Band Boosters (see “a” and “b” above).

g. Students must achieve “Third-Class Musician” status.

NOTE: All of the requirements may be met during the Freshman year, making students eligible to order the jackets their Sophomore year. Once a student approaches a director and begins working on 3rd-class Musician, a checklist will be kept in their file as a record of each achievement.

_____ Earn 750 merit points the year prior to your first year of letter jacket eligibility.

_____ Be in “good-standing” as stated above.

_____ Pass 3rd-class musician the year prior to jacket eligibility

NOTE: Students may earn additional bars after receiving their letter jackets. Each year you earn 750 merit points, you will be rewarded by an additional bar to add to your letter.

Recommended Mid and Upper-line Instruments

One of the best way's to find out about obtaining these is to attend "Instrument Step-Up."
Usually these are held twice a year—see your band calendar.

flute

Yamaha 361H
Yamaha 461 H

clarinet

Noblet 45
Buffett E-12
*All “step-up” clarinets need to be equipped with at Vandoren 5RV “Profile 88” Mouthpiece.

alto saxophone

Yamaha 575AL
Yanagasawa
Yamaha YAS-62II

*All alto sax “step-up” instruments should be equipped with a Rascher mouthpiece.

trumpet

Bach Stradivarius
Accent
Yamaha “Xeno”

*All “step-up” trumpets should be equipped with a Bach or Blessing “3C” mouthpiece.

trombone

Bach 42 B, or BO
Yamaha 448G

This may not be a complete list, as manufacturers and models change almost yearly. Instrument types not listed here are ones that are usually school-owned. Students who play school-owned instruments and are interested in purchasing their own should see a director to discuss appropriate brands and costs.

*Beginner Band instruments are not allowed in the Wind Ensemble. While all high school students should step up from their beginner band instruments, it is especially important in the Wind Ensemble. Please make plans to do this and feel to call a director if you have any questions. There are ways we can assist in obtaining an instrument if an outright purchase is not possible.

Appendix B

Warren Central Concert Band Addendum

Rehearsal attendance:

The bulk of our rehearsal time is during last block and it is the only time we meet as a full group. We also have 6-8 after school rehearsals one day a week 2nd semester that last one hour. These 6-8 small group rehearsal is the only after school planned rehearsal the students have. With that being said, attendance is critical to our success and it is extremely important that we strive for 100% attendance in daily class as well as the one after school rehearsal per week.

To maintain the high level of all our performing ensembles, we will continue the attendance policy. Sometimes missing a rehearsal is unavoidable due to illness, doctor's appointments, or a death in the family. Absences are excused because of communication or doctor's excuses. Missing rehearsals for these reasons are, of course, graded as excused absences. However, missing without any form of communication or a doctor's excuse will be considered an unexcused absence. As always, school sponsored trips will count as an excused absence.

Every student plays an important role in our group. When a student is absent, excused or unexcused, it hinders not only that person, but other members as well. When a student has missed an excessive amount of sectionals or band class during school, they will be removed from the state evaluation performing ensemble. Upon removal, the student will be given alternative material to pass off in lieu of contest music.

Below are the requirements for participation in state concert evaluation.

***No more than 2 of any absence each 9 weeks, including checking out early and missing last block. This does not include missing for a school related function, but your name has to appear on a roster submitted by coach/sponsor. Missing last block for an illness and being listed "checked-out unexcused" before 3:30pm will count as one of the 2 absences. If a doctors excuse is presented the following day then that will not count as one of the 2 absences.**

*Have no more than one unexcused absence from sectional (after school). Two will result in immediate dismissal from the State Evaluation ensemble.

*Have no more than three excused absences from sectional. Upon receiving the third absence, if any of the three are unexcused, this will result in dismissal. If there is an extenuating circumstance with another school-sponsored event, alternate rehearsal plans can be worked-out in advance. Students must present a doctors excuse or be listed on a field-trip roster in order to be excused from a sectional.

***Some sectionals will begin at 3:40 and last until 4:25. These students WILL NOT be able to ride the bus. Some sectionals will begin at 4:30 and last until 5:15. Students and parents will be notified of your sectional time 2 weeks before the first sectional.**

Anytime a student is removed from the performance ensemble, they will be assigned alternative activities so that they may complete their graded requirements in order to complete their class credit.

*Students will be assigned a tuner, music, method book/s, and folder. All materials will have a number assigned to each student; therefore, each student is financially responsible for these items.

Students in all bands will "pass-off" certain materials and take written tests where necessary as part of your music education. Consistent, personal practice is not only expected but, necessary for success. Each member must believe that his/her musical and behavioral contribution is important.

(concert band addendum continued)

Lost/Misplaced Equipment Fees

Below is a list of the items that each student is responsible for throughout the concert band season. If one or any of these items are lost/misplaced, it is the responsibility of the student to pay for each item lost.

Method Book: \$7.00

Tuner: \$20.00

Tuner Pickup: \$20.00

All of these materials are very important for the success of our ensembles. They are required at every rehearsal.

If you have any questions, please ask your director. We look forward to continuing the wonderful journey we have already begun this school year. Each and every student is important to the band's success!

Alternate Program

Students who do not pass the marching audition will be alternates during the marching band season. Alternates are full members of Big Blue. The only difference is that they will not perform the half-time marching show.

Alternates will be treated the same as all other students in regards to rehearsal expectations. Alternates will always participate in marching rehearsals either as a “shadow” to another student or to fill the position of an absent student.

Alternates will have the opportunity to earn a position in the marching group at the conclusion of summer rehearsals and, if needed, during the football season.

Alternates will participate in all music, movement and visual rehearsals.

Alternates are required to attend band camp in order to continue to improve their musical and marching skills.

Alternates will march in and out of the performance venues and play their instruments in the stands during football games.

Alternates will stand on the side-line in full uniform facing the playing field during the half-time competition show.

Alternates will have the opportunity to help move props or other equipment for performances if they desire.

Band Handbook signature page. READ HANDBOOK first, which is available under “forms” at www.bigbluebands.com. If you do not have access to a computer, please let a director know.

Please sign and return this page to the band office by the end of the first full week of school. This signifies student and parent has read and understands the band handbook. Failure to return this agreement does not excuse any student from adhering to the rules and procedures of the Warren Central Band Program. **THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE NOTARIZED UNLESS A PARENT TURNS IT IN DIRECTLY TO A BAND DIRECTOR or adult working on registration day.**

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Notary Name: _____

Notary Signature: _____ Date: _____