

WHEATLAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL

**PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE  
DRUMLINE  
2009-10**

**SYLLABUS AND HANDBOOK**



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The Percussion Ensemble is divided into three squads:

1: The Competition Drumline

This group marches in parades and supports the Symphonic band in competitions. Members must be committed to attending all parades without exception.

2: The Pep Squad

This group supports the Symphonic band at school events playing pep music, cadences, and the National Anthem. Athletes may not be able to participate in this squad for obvious reasons.

3. The Percussion Ensemble

This group is the entry level percussion performance group. Music and performances will include concert and show pieces designed to both teach and entertain.

Furthermore, the percussion players are divided into five levels. One of the class goals is to move players up the chart and into higher levels of knowledge and ability.

Level 1: Newbie. Learning to read music and play rudiments. Perform: Cymbals

Level 2: Novice. Reading skills improving. Perform: Bass Drums

Level 3: Intermediate. Mastering the Rudiments. Perform: Snare Drums

Level 4: Postmediate. Above average skills. Perform: Quads

Level 5: Advanced. Great reading and rudiment skills. Perform: Mallets

## Mission Statement

Music has a way of enriching the lives of all who learn it, perform it, and hear it. It broadens the mind and touches the heart. It can become a source of enjoyment and excitement and passion that lasts an entire lifetime. A good music program will grasp the weight of these truths and expect to make a significant, life-long impact on both its students and the surrounding community.

The **vision** of the Music Department at Wheatland Union High School is simple: **Music for life!** We want our students to learn at a level that inspires and prepares them for a life of musical enjoyments. Our goals:

- To reinforce through the preparation and performance of music the skills and behaviors which lead to success in all areas of students' lives.
- To facilitate the discovery and growth of students' musical abilities through standards-based instruction.
- To encourage students' social growth through musical activities.
- To build student confidence and poise through competition and performance opportunities.
- To promote the appreciation and enjoyment of all music in the culture of the school and community.

Music is not the most important thing in life. But it *celebrates* the most important things, and *accompanies* the most important things, and *expresses* the most important things; therefore, it is one of THE most important things in life.

## Grades

Grades will be calculated based on the following criteria.

Daily Participation, Attendance, Preparation	50%
Performances	20%
Extra Rehearsals	10%
Assignments	10%
Quizzes	10%

It is possible to score poorly in band class. Students who accumulate numerous unexcused absences or fail to prepare for classes and performances will face low grades and possible failure.

### **Daily Participation**

Students begin each week with twenty-five “participation” points. Students will be able to retain their points by complying with the ***Class Expectations*** listed in this syllabus.

Students who do not comply with the ***Class Expectations*** will lose five points a day—and more if no corrections are made. Causes for losing participation points include:

- Coming to class without an instrument and/or music.
- Excessive talking or causing distractions.
- Unexcused absences.
- Unapproved use of cell phone in class for any reason.
- Performing poorly on a test or quiz—specifically one that was based on material rehearsed in class.

### **Performances**

Performing is an important part of music education. Performances serve as authentic assessments of musical growth and skill. They provide a forum in which to apply the knowledge gained in class.

Students must participate in performances in order to pass the class. They must be prompt and properly attired.

Please see the included 2009 performance calendar for tentative dates of this Fall’s performances. Please carefully read the policy for excused absences included in this syllabus.

### **Extra Rehearsals**

In order to properly prepare for coming performances, the director may call for an added rehearsal—usually, but not solely, on Wednesday afternoons. The policy for excused absences applies to these rehearsals, and grades will be issued for students’ attendance and participation.

### **Written Assignments**

From time to time work will be assigned to be completed in class or as homework. These assignments may include research papers, music theory worksheets, video or audio reviews, concert reviews, etc.

### **Quizzes**

Students may be required to take written quizzes or playing tests. The rubric for “Graded Solo Performances”:

### Playing Tests and Quizzes

#### Rubric:

- 5 Points: Student plays the exercise flawlessly. Tone is full. Articulation is well-defined. Students who earn the "Scale Exemption Card" automatically receive a "5" on all scale/key tests and quizzes.
- 4 Points: Student completes the exercise with only a few mistakes. Tone is well-supported. Student shows he/she has practiced the material and is well-prepared to play in front of the other students.
- 3 Points: Student completes the exercise with several mistakes. Tone is weak and uncertain. Student shows he/she has practiced little if at all and is unprepared to play in front of other students.
- 2 Points: Student completes the exercise with many mistakes and a re-start or two. Student shows he/she has made no serious attempt to master the material.
- 1 Points: Student fails to complete the exercise.
- 0 Points: Student refuses to make an attempt to play the material.

### Extra Credit

Students wishing to earn extra credit must first get approval from Mr. Achilles. Extra credit will be awarded based on the amount of effort the student puts forth. Some options for earning extra credit include:

- Completing a concert review (See Mr. Achilles for appropriate performances)
- Participating in Solo/Ensemble Festival
- Participating in an extra-curricular musical organization (i.e. Youth Orchestra)
- Participating in an honor group (MUSD/CMEA/CBDA)

### Band Expectations, Rules, Discipline

General rules to follow by in addition to the proper student behavior guidelines of Wheatland High School: **Be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. S.A.D problems (Sex, Alcohol, Drugs) or violence will not be tolerated.** Students who continually break the rules will be removed from the program.

Any violations of these rules will be subject to the disciplinary actions stated in the WHS Student Behavior Guidelines as well as dismissal from the band program.

All rules, expectations, and dress codes will be enforced at outside events, competitions, or concerts.

**Be on time.** You must be in the room before the tardy bell rings. At the bell, you must cease all talking and activity for the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the Bulletin. Within five minutes, you must be in your seat and ready to play. For outside rehearsals you must be ready to play or prepared for the activity at the designated time.

**Be prepared.** At each class you are expected to have: your instrument, your music (already practiced), a pencil, valve or slide oil (if applicable), extra working reeds (if applicable), all necessary sticks and mallets (if applicable), and tennis shoes for marching rehearsals. This applies also applies to anything needed at outside rehearsals, competitions, or concerts.

**Warm up correctly.** No loud playing or blasting. Slow, long tones give your muscles the chance they need to get ready and proper dexterity exercises for your fingers.

**Eat, drink and chew gum elsewhere.** Water is the only drink allowed in class or anytime instruments will be in use.

**Use appropriate language.** Disrespectful, profane, or threatening language will not be tolerated.

**Groom before class.** Doing hair and applying makeup during class is distracting to all and will not be allowed. Please take care of these issues prior to class. Out of respect for those with allergies, please keep your use of perfume and cologne to a minimum.

**Be musical!** Everyday, strive to make music to the best of your ability. Remember, if it is worth doing, then it is worth doing well.

Not complying with any of these rules will result in a lowered grade in daily participation.

## **Attendance Policies**

Band members are expected to attend ALL rehearsals and performances. Students should be on time for ALL band functions.

### **A. Excused Absence from Rehearsal/ Performance**

Band members will only be excused from extra rehearsals and performances in the following cases:

- Extreme emergency
- Illness
- Excused absence due to an unavoidable conflict. For an absence to be excused, the student must submit to the director a completed **Excused Absence Request** form signed by a parent or guardian. A copy is included with this handbook.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The request must be submitted two weeks prior to the actual date. This is only fair to the other students. Plans for rehearsal may change depending on who may or may not be attending. Students who are late in returning their **Excused Absence Request** forms will still be considered “Excused” for the rehearsal but their grade for that rehearsal will be marked down.

Additional **Excused Absence Request** forms are available in the Band Room, or may be downloaded from the Music Department’s web site.

## **B. Unexcused Absence from Rehearsal**

Any student absent without approved excuse from an extra rehearsal will receive a “Zero” for that rehearsal in the gradebook. Multiple unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the band.

## **C. Tardy to Rehearsal/ Performances**

Attendance will always be taken at the beginning of all rehearsals and performances. If a student is tardy more than once, their grade for that rehearsal or performance will be lowered. If a student is late more than 3 times to rehearsals/ performances, the overall grade will be lowered one letter. Excessive tardies may result in dismissal from the band.

## **D. Unexcused Absence from a Performance**

An unexcused absence from a performance will result in a failing grade for that grading period. Only in cases of emergency, personal illness or an approved request for an excused absence will a person be excused from a performance. No exceptions!

## **E. Unexcused Absence from a Dress Rehearsal**

An unexcused absence from a dress rehearsal will result in the overall grade being lowered one letter for that grading period. Only in cases of emergency, personal illness, or an approved request for an excused absence will a person be excused from a performance. No exceptions!

### **Caring For Printed Music**

Students are responsible for taking care of the printed music they use throughout the year. They will be charged (a minimum of \$3.00) for each piece of sheet music they lose, mangle, tear, or render useless. Students will be issued folders at the beginning of the semester in which to keep their music clean and safe. Each student must label the folder with his/her name.

### **Uniforms**

Class 1      Each student will receive a marching uniform to use during the marching season. It is each student's responsibility to keep it clean and competition ready. Instructions will be distributed at rehearsal and posted on the web page.

Class 2      Students will purchase a class 2 uniform to use for pep band and community concerts. The uniform consists of a polo shirt with warm up pants and jacket. The cost will be around \$65.00. Students who cannot afford the uniform will be given the opportunity to raise funds for this purchase. Again, each student is responsible to keep the uniform performance ready.

### **School Instruments**

School instruments are available for student use. A contract which outlines parent and student responsibilities must be filled out prior to instrument check-out for class and home use. Please see Mr. Achilles to pick up an instrument check-out form.

## Marching/ Pep Band

The Concert Band will assist the Symphonic Band and the Percussion Ensemble during Marching season. There will be times when the bands will be expected to perform in parades, sporting events, competitions, or out in the community. The concert band will serve as the auxiliary unit and thus gain experience marching. In order to be the best representatives of our school that we can be, we will be holding some marching rehearsals outdoors. So that we can be efficient and effective, please read over the next several points so that we can be ready to “hit the road” when marching practice comes!

- Do not play outside until instructed to do so.
- Listen for and follow directions.
- Wear comfortable shoes (tennis shoes).
- Wear sun screen and a fully brimmed hat (if applicable)
- Memorize your music *before* we go outside!
- Roll your feet heel to toe, don't drag or stomp.
- **ALWAYS** start and stop on your left foot!
- Guide to your right out of the corner of your eye (don't look around)
- Look forward; chin up, not at the ground.
- Practice marking time and playing at the same time.

## “Band Aids” Parent Volunteer Organization

This group is made up of dedicated parents who will assist the director and the music department in many aspects. This organization will be headed up by an executive board along with the director. These duties may include, but are not limited to, chaperoning, general help at football games and competitions, organization of uniforms, hemming and sizing of uniforms, fundraising, driving to competitions/ performances, and recording/filming performances.

All parents are invited to become members. The “Band Aids” Parent Volunteers Organization will hold monthly meetings with the director to discuss and vote on various issues as well discussing the organization of various events. All meetings are open to the public.

There are positions open on the executive board, if you are interested please let us know.

Our next meeting will be Monday, August 31, at 5:00 pm in the band room. We hope to see many old and new faces then and throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Achilles (530) 633-3100 X. 163.

### 2009 TENTATIVE Calendar

August	31	Band Aids Meeting	5:00 pm
September	14 <sup>th</sup>	Band Aids Meeting	5:00 PM
	18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Football Game</b>	<b>Pep Squad--Call time 6:00 pm</b>
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Live Oak Festival Parade	Comp Squad (All Day)
	26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Football Game</b>	<b>Pep Squad--Call time 6:00 pm</b>
October	2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Football Game</b>	<b>Pep Squad--Call time 6:00 pm</b>
	9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Football Game</b>	<b>Pep Squad--Call time 6:00 pm</b>
	17 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dell Oro Band Review (MB)</b>	Comp Squad <b>All Day</b>
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Football Game – Homecoming!</b>	<b>Pep Squad--Call time 6:00 pm</b>
November	6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Football Game</b>	<b>Pep Squad--Call time 6:00 pm</b>
	7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Lodi Grape Bowl Classic</b>	Comp Squad <b>All Day</b>
	21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Fairfield TOC</b>	Comp Squad <b>All Day</b>
December	5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Marysville Christmas Parade</b>	Comp Squad <b>Evening</b>
	10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Winter Concert</b>	<b>All</b>
	11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Winter Concert Night 2!</b>	<b>All</b>

Please check the music department website at <http://staff.wheatlandhigh.org/music> for calendar updates.

### **California Music Standards, Grades 9-12, Advanced**

The state of California has set forth these standards for the instruction of music at the high school level. Our classes are designed to include these standards throughout the regular course of study.

**Artistic Perception** - Processing, Analyzing, and Responding to Sensory Information Through the Language and Skills Unique to Music

- Read and Notate Music
- Listen to, Analyze, and Describe Music

***Creative Expression*** - Creating, Performing, and Participating in Music

- Apply Vocal or Instrumental Skills
- Compose, Arrange, and Improvise

***Historical and Cultural Context*** - Understanding the Historical Contributions and Cultural Dimensions of music

- Role of Music
- Diversity of Music

***Aesthetic Valuing*** - Responding to, Analyzing, and Making Judgments about Works of Music

- Analyze and Critically Assess
- Derive Meaning

***Connections, Relationships, Applications*** – Connecting and Applying What Is Learned in Music to Learning in Other Art Forms and Subject Areas and to Careers

- Connections and Applications
- Careers and Career-Related Skills

The California State Standards for Music, Grades 9-12, Advanced, can be found in more detail at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/muproficient.asp>



## Request for an Excused Absence

This form must be completed and returned in advance of an anticipated absence by a participating student (excluding emergencies).

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Anticipated Absence: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Absence: (Please be specific! Provide enough information to justify the absence.)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

# PARENT CONSENT AND INFORMATION FORM

**This form is due in class on Friday, August 28.**

*Parents: It is very important for you and your son/daughter to be informed about the requirements for members of the Percussion Ensemble. Please read this form and initial each section to indicate you understand these requirements.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I have read and understand the information contained in this Syllabus/Handbook. I agree to abide by its rules and regulations and assist my son/daughter to do the same.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I have read and understand the **Excused Absence** policy.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I have read and understand the way the class will be graded.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I have read and understand the policy on class expectations.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I understand the student's responsibility for taking care of school instruments, equipment, music, and uniforms.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I understand each student must purchase a Class 2 uniform (cost: around \$60.00), and students who cannot afford that amount will be given opportunity to raise the funds.*

\_\_\_\_\_ *I understand that students who do not cooperate with the director or continually disregard the rules will be removed from the program.*

Parent's signature	Date
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Student's name	Parent's Printed Name
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Parent's Email
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