

WHEATLAND UNION HIGH SCHOOL

**ADVANCED/JAZZ BAND
2009-10**

SYLLABUS AND HANDBOOK



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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.

Content

The Advanced/Jazz Band class will focus on:

Performance Skills

→ The band will perform as often as possible for the Student body and the surrounding community. Not all class members will participate in all performances. Only those who are properly equipped and prepared will actually perform.

Music Theory Advancement

→ Basic music theory is indispensable for the jazz player. It is the foundation for solos, voicing, pitch and blend. Short theory lessons will be a regular part of the class.

Improvisation Techniques

Knowledge of Jazz History

→ Students will be required to write a research paper on an aspect of Jazz/American music history in order to pass the class.

Gaining Experience with a Variety of Styles

Representing WUHS to the surrounding community

Competing and Participating in Jazz Festivals

Grades

Grades will be calculated based on the following criteria.

Daily Participation, Attendance, Preparation	50%
Performances	40%
Assignments	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.

Extra Rehearsals

In order to properly prepare for coming performances, the director may call for added rehearsals. The policy for excused absences applies to these rehearsals, and grades will be issued for students' attendance and participation.

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.

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. 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

The Advanced/Jazz Band will continue to use uniforms from the 08-09 school year. New members will have the opportunity to order their shirts and ties through the school. The cost is around \$30.00. Members are responsible for keeping their uniforms clean and performance-ready.

The jazz shirts are to be worn with nice black pants and black shoes. For some concerts, a variety of hats and/or coats will be optional.

Switching Instruments/ Doubling

Certain band members may be asked to voluntarily change to a different instrument (trumpet to horn, flute to oboe, etc.) for the good of the group sound. In all possible cases the school will provide the student with the instrument he/she needs. Students are not required to switch. *Student* requests to switch instruments will be considered by the director. The school may or may not be able to provide an instrument to a student requesting to switch.

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.

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.)

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 Advanced/Jazz Band. 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 new students will be required to purchase a Jazz Band uniform shirt and tie (cost: around \$30.00); 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
