

# WATERLOO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



## BAND HANDBOOK

### GRADE 6

DIRECTOR OF BANDS  
JENNIFER SHAHEEN-HOKE

jshaheen@wcusd5.net  
<http://waterloojuniorhighbands.weebly.com>  
Remind Code: @hoorayband

MMXIX-MMXX

Please remember to bring page 9 back (filled out, of course) to Mrs. Shaheen-Hoke by **Thursday, August 22, 2019**. The rest goes in your binder. Thanks!

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-JSH

♪ HELLO ALL!

It's great to know that you will be continuing in the Waterloo Junior High School Band! We have a busy but fulfilling year ahead of us! 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band presents many challenging opportunities such as participating in Solo & Ensemble. I will be handing out more information as it arises.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Jennifer Shaheen-Hoke and I am a fourteenth-year teacher here at Waterloo Junior High. I graduated top of my class from Southern Illinois University - Carbondale with a degree in Music Education (Go Salukis!) and have earned my Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction. My primary instrument is flute, but I also enjoy playing the oboe, clarinet (although I squeak), kazoo, sax, bassoon, French horn, ukulele, trumpet, trombone, melodica, euphonium, tuba, piano, and am learning the bagpipes. In addition to the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band, I also instruct the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band and Jazz Band.

I live in Columbia with my husband, the Columbia Middle School band director; daughters, Emma, Violet, and Cora; and two dogs, Prestissimo (Mo for short) and Tarantella (Telly - they're both Italian Greyhounds). In my spare time, I read, play with the girls and the Mister, cross-stitch, cook, run, and ride my bike. My favourite bands include BNL, Cake, Cat Empire, Muse, Reel Big Fish, and "Weird Al" Yankovic.

Some random facts about me: I have worn glasses since Grade Four, I am slightly obsessed with rainbows, and I've always enjoyed climbing on things. Also, I can possibly be bribed with the Canadian candy bar: Coffee Crisp.

All in all, I am looking forward to getting to know you and having a "BANDtastic" year! Whoo hoo, band!

Sincerely,  
Ms. Jennifer Shaheen-Hoke  
Director of Bands

♪ BAND PRIDE ♪

Positive group pride, as well as spirit, may be defined as a combination of attitude and enthusiasm when working for and with the band. Some factors that build this type of spirit and pride are cooperation, individual and group performances, proficiency on one's instrument, and personal enthusiasm. Self-motivation and goodwill are contagious and are a vital part of good spirit. It must be remembered that at **all times** the band is representative of WJHS and the Waterloo Community School District.

♪ GENERAL RULES ♪

Improper behaviour is a matter of choice. No one makes someone else do something. Junior High School students are expected to accept the responsibility for their actions, regardless of the consequences. There will be only two rules in the band room for my 6<sup>th</sup> graders and they are:

**RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY**

Since you are in Junior High, by now you know what you need to do and what not to do. Proper classroom behaviour should have already been learned by each and every one of you. Here's a helpful hint: Think before you act. If you are afraid of being caught, chances are, you shouldn't be doing it.

♪ CONSEQUENCES ♪

As all situations are as unique as the students involved, all behaviour issues will be dealt with on an individual basis. I have an *immense* amount of patience, so if I have reached the point to speak with you in private or contact your parents, you should know it is a **big deal**!!

♪ REWARDS ♪

- 1) Student-run rehearsals (students will pick the pieces to play for that day or what they want to learn about).
- 2) Random question session.
- 3) Music-related treat.

♪ ATTENDANCE ♪

Attendance is expected at **all** band performances. You (the students) were given a schedule of the upcoming events at the beginning of the school year. I suggest that you write them down in your planner. The schedule should be kept in your binder. Any student absent from any performance for any reason will need to do a Make Up Assignment.

I understand that accidents and emergencies happen. I must receive a written note from your parent/guardian *explaining your absence*. The decision of whether your absence is excused or unexcused will be carefully considered by me and all decisions will be final. **Examples of excused absences** include but are not limited to illness, family emergency, and school-related conflict (must discuss with Mrs. Shaheen-Hoke *first*). Also please note that if you miss a performance due to illness, you must have been absent on a surrounding school day for it to be excused. **Examples of unexcused absences** include but are not limited to birthdays or other parties, homework, non-school related conflicts, and guinea pig just had guinea piglets. Any unexcused absences will prevent you from being eligible for any band incentives.

*Keep in mind that being a member of a band is **not** the same as being the member of an English class. Your band mates are depending on **you** to play **your** part. Please don't let them down!*

♪ INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE ♪

Individual practice is required for success in this band. This can include working in the band book, on band music, solos, ensembles, tryouts, and assignments of private teachers (provided the Band assignment is done). *While the length of time the student practices is important, the efficiency with which the student practices is even more important.* If students are not working toward a particular objective while practicing, they may be wasting their time. Parents/guardians will need to be patient and understanding as their student practices toward certain goals. *If a student sounds great the entire time he/she is practicing, they are working on the wrong material!* Please see Mrs. Shaheen-Hoke for more challenging material if needed. I've got it.

♪ GRADING POLICY ♪

<b>Lessons</b> .....	<b>25%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Everyone will have one 20-minute lesson/week.</li> <li>- Graded on: Improvement, Effort, and Preparation (see Lesson Rubric).</li> <li>- Lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the quarter.</li> </ul>	
<b>Practice Sheets</b> .....	<b>20%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appropriate sheet must have signature of parent/guardian to be valid.</li> <li>- Everyone will turn in minutes on <u>Thursday</u>. If forgotten, the student will receive Oops #1 and the minutes are due the next day for full credit. Oops#2 will receive ½ credit for minutes turned in a day late. Oops #3 will receive ⅓ credit, etc. <i>If the student is absent on Thursday, minutes be turned in the day the student returns to school.</i></li> <li>- Lowest grade will be dropped at the end of the quarter.</li> <li>- Excessive failure to turn in minutes may affect eligibility for any band incentives.</li> <li>- It is expected that you take your instrument home (AND PRACTICE) as often as possible. You will be expected to take them home to practice every weekend and/or when there are two or more consecutive days off.</li> </ul>	
<b>Tests/Assignments</b> .....	<b>10%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Yes we do written assignments and tests in band. Don't worry: you can do it!</li> </ul>	
<b>Performances</b> .....	<b>25%</b>
<b>Rehearsal</b> .....	<b>20%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Graded on Respect (participation, behaviour, etc.) and Responsibility (attendance, preparedness, etc.)</li> </ul>	
<b>Total per Quarter</b> .....	<b>100%</b>

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♪ BASIC PROCEDURES ♪

### What Should I Bring to EVERY Class?

You should bring your instrument, pencil, organized binder, book, agenda, ticket, smile, and a willingness to learn and grow as a musician.

*We are aiming to be ready to move on to Essential Elements Book 2 around February. It is expected that students buy their own book. The price will be about \$10. More information will come home during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.*

### Lesson Procedure

Most of you will be pulled out of 20 minutes of your PE (Health, etc.) class for your weekly lesson. Here's how we do that:

- 1) Get everything you need for your band lesson and take it with you to your class (you won't be allowed to go to your locker).
- 2) Go to your regularly scheduled class first and check in.
- 3) Either head straight to band after that (if your lesson is in the first part of class) or WATCH THE CLOCK and leave about five minutes before your lesson starts.
- 4) Go to band. Woot.
- 5) After your lesson (especially if your lesson is first in the hour), go DIRECTLY back to class. Do not stop by your locker, do not go to the restroom, do not pass GO, etc.

You are expected to participate in your class before/after your band lesson. This means being sure to have tennis shoes on your feet for PE, etc.

### Resale Items (or When Should I Change My Reed?)

For a nominal fee, I provide reeds, oil, grease, and other handy items that almost everyone is expected to have in their cases.

- Reeds should be changed at least every month and you should have at least three in your case at all times.
- All brass and reed players should have appropriate oils and greases in their cases. Brass: All slides should be able to move. Period. If they don't move, it's your responsibility to take the instrument to be repaired by a professional.

### Leaving the Classroom

Permission to leave the room will only be granted for TRUE emergencies. This is because *you* are a vital part of the class and we need your awesomeness in the room! If a true emergency arises, just let me know and grab a pass!

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### **As Per the Student Handbook**

Due to limited space in various Fine Arts classes as well as performance commitments throughout the year, students will only be allowed to change their Fine Arts option (Band/Chorus) to the Encore Wheel during the first five (5) academic days of the school year. A Class Drop Request Form must be completed and signed by student, parent, instructor, and administrator. Please note that completion of the Class Drop Request Form is not a guarantee that the student will be removed from class. However, if the student is unable to meet class behaviour requirements, this policy will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Essential Communication**

Please make use of the Quarter Note Quarterlies (newsletters handed out at the beginning of each quarter)! They are great sources of pertinent information and upcoming events.

The website is an excellent way to print off extra handouts, check upcoming dates, and explore some other band-related websites! Check it out: [waterloojuniorhighbands.weebly.com](http://waterloojuniorhighbands.weebly.com)

Sign up for our Remind app! It's free and will send friendly band class reminders straight to your email or phone via text! Directions are on the band website and will be passed out at the beginning of the year. Our code is @hoorayband - did I mention it's free?

Of course, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [jshaheen@wcusd5.net](mailto:jshaheen@wcusd5.net).

♪ INFORMATION SHEET / GET TO KNOW YOU FORM ♪

**This part's for you... (Fill this out completely, or I will give it back... muah ha haa!)**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Study Hall: \_\_\_\_\_

What you really go by: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Favourite meal: \_\_\_\_\_ Snack: \_\_\_\_\_

If you could be any animal what would it be? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Favourite time of year: \_\_\_\_\_

What are you most looking forward to this school year? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Pets/Siblings: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Wacky/Interesting fact about yourself: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

School Activities/Other Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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**This part's for your parent/guardian...**

Parents'/Guardians' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number and best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred way to be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Any other information: \_\_\_\_\_

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**I have read the student handbook and have a clear understanding of the rules, procedures, and consequences. By signing this contract, I am agreeing that my behaviour is my own choice and my grade will reflect my amount of cooperation. I understand that I will have to work and earn my grade in this program and will act accordingly. I also understand that band is a year-long course.**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class Code

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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