

August 27, 2014

Dear Band Parents and Students:

There is a new service that the Wapakoneta Instrumental Music Department is providing to parents and students in order to keep everyone better informed. The service is called Celly. This is a cell phone notification system that the directors use to update students and parents of important information, reminders or last minute changes that might take place. Both parents and students are encouraged to join the groups that pertain to you. This is an “alert” system only. No two-way communication can take place with this system. There is a Celly group for each grade level. Please take time right now to sign-up for this service. When this service is no longer relevant you may stop receiving notifications by replying “stop” to any Celly message. To sign up do the following;

1. Send a text to: 23559 (CELLY) with the appropriate cell group in the body of the text. For example; if your band student is an 8th grader they will graduate in 2019. In the place where you would normally place a phone number put in 23559. Then in the section where you would place the text insert @wpkbnd18 and press send. The following are the available cells.

@wpkbnd22
@wpkbnd21
@wpkbnd20
@wpkbnd19
@wapakhsband
@wapakpepband

2. You will then receive a text asking you for a password. The password for all cells is **hillwim**

3. Finally, you will be asked for a user name. When that option presents itself, text your **first and last name with no spaces** (i.e. joespunkmeyer) as requested in the text. This way we know who is getting the information and who is not.

If you wish to be in more than one cell do this process after each group you desire to be in.

If questions arise, feel free to e me at hillkl@wapak.org and I'll get back to you ASAP.

Musically:

Mr. Hilleary

P.S. To leave a cell text leave@cellname to 23559. If this process is not working for you and you have a “signature” at the end of your texts, try removing the signature until the process is complete.

Dear Band Parents/Students:

In an effort to conserve our natural resources, and district resources, and to make things more convenient for our parents and students we have opted to place the middle school band handbook on our band website rather than sending home hard copies. Our band web site is www.wapakband.org. Once you are on our site click on the middle school band link and then click on the handbook link. Please familiarize yourselves with its content, and then fill out, sign and return the attached form to the directors no later than Wednesday, September 3, 2014. If you do not have internet access your student may request a hard copy from one of the directors.

While you are at the site, investigate the different information available to you and take advantage of this resource throughout the year. Any mailing that goes home with students will be posted on the site under the "handouts" link at the top of the page. If there is something you would like to see on the site that is not present please e-mail Mr. Hilleary at hillkl@wapak.org and I will look in to implementing your suggestion. The directors are looking forward to another great year in the instrumental music department. Go Skins!!

Musically:

Mr. Hilleary
Director of Bands
Wapakoneta City Schools

Students Name (Printed) _____

I have read the Wapakoneta Middle School Band Handbook and understand the policies and guidelines. I agree to support the directors and keep my students conduct within the guidelines as listed in the handbook.

Students Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

I have signed up for the Celly text notification system. Circle one Yes/No

Please return to the directors no later than Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Wapakoneta
Middle School
Band
Student/Parent
HANDBOOK
2014-15

Dear Band Parents:

Welcome to another year of being a band parent. Whether this is your first or tenth year of being a band parent we encourage you to be active in your child's musical education. Students, whose parents regularly attend band booster meetings, chaperone trips, or simply pick-up their child from band practice rarely quit. We realize that band can be a busy activity at times so we urge you to become involved with your child so as to add to the time you spend together.

Perhaps the most helpful thing that you could do as a band parent is to **encourage** your band member to practice. Make it fun for your child to bring his/her instrument home and play for you. We know it may not always be the most pleasing sound you have ever heard, but we promise you with the right combination of instruction and support you will see a lot of rapid improvement. Children whose parents tell them to "take that noisy thing out to the _____" are often those who get discouraged and drop out of the band program. We ask that you consider how you would feel before making such comments. **A little encouragement goes a long way!!** It is our goal to give every student who walks through the band room doors an opportunity to become a good musician. With your help, we think that is possible.

Carefully read this **entire** handbook so that you will be aware of what is expected of you and your child in the coming school year. There have been some changes. Nearly every policy of the Wapakoneta band department is outlined in detail to avoid possible confusion. If, however, a point is unclear please feel free to call us at the high school (739-5220) or middle school (739-5111). We will be happy to clarify any ambiguities.

After reading this handbook, please fill out the acknowledgement page, detach, and return it to school with your child. We are looking forward to a great year and hope to get everyone involved.

Musically,

Mr. Klayton Hilleary
Mr. Steve Wimmers

Band Department Philosophy

Band is a musical organization that provides students with an opportunity to explore the world of instrumental music. Foremost among the objectives of band is to provide a fun atmosphere in which to explore the world of instrumental music, and to foster a love for and understanding of music. Participation in band should lead students toward the level of understanding that will allow them to make music independently, provide a self-satisfying level of proficiency and achievement as well as a strong basis for further enrichment, either with continued study or as an avocation.

Band places emphasis on the refinement of the basic fundamentals of performance, both individually and as a group, and development of discriminative listening. Since the majority of its members will not be professional musicians, the program strives to produce an appreciation of the arts as a form of communication, self-expression and an essential part of life and the human experience. In addition to these basic objectives, participation in band develops leadership and responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline and self-motivation. Participation in band should lead the student to recognize the unique contributions of music as an art form.

Class Guidelines

Like any organization we need rules in order to maintain order and allow the instructors to teach and students to learn. Our rules are as follows:

1. Don't participate in any behavior that keeps students from learning (including yourself) or the teacher from teaching.
2. Treat everyone and everything with respect and consideration.

Further expectations are as follows:

1. Students should be in their seats with their instruments put together, ready to play with music ready for the day's assignment **two minutes** after the bell rings.

2. Always bring a pencil to band. The easiest way is to just keep several in your instrument case

3. Chairs are designed for sitting not walking. Individuals who insist on using the chairs rather than the floor to walk on will have the privilege of cleaning them with paper towels and a spray cleaner at the director's convenience.

As you can see, these rules consist of nothing more than acting in a considerate and respectful manner and should not be difficult to follow for most students. If we follow these guidelines, we will have the opportunity to become the best band we can. We will also adhere to all school policies as set forth by the school's handbook.

Consequences for choosing not to follow class guidelines will be as follows:

1. Warning
2. Discipline referral (This is written out on a regular detention slip, is documented in the office, and is sent home to the parents as a notice of student misbehavior). This is not a detention!
3. Discipline referral, and a lunch detention
4. After School detention and call home to parents
5. All of the above and sent to principal's office

Severe behavior: Student will be sent to the office immediately (no warnings)

Band Probation: If a student is **regularly** causing disruptions in class he/she will be placed on band probation. This step has been created to give students a final chance at improving attitude or behavior. If the directors do not observe a marked improvement in the area of concern, the student will be removed from the band program at the end of the probationary period. Parents will be notified and a conference will be held before a band probation period begins. In addition, the parent will be updated regarding the progress of their child during that period.

Travel Guidelines

At times the band takes out of town trips. When on these excursions the students are expected to follow all guidelines covered thus far in the handbook. In addition there are rules that must be followed while traveling. Failure to follow these rules during a trip could result in a call home that may include a request from the director for an immediate escort home from the planned event (by the parent).

Bus Guidelines:

1. Under no circumstances may a student stand while the bus is in motion.
2. The bus driver is the ultimate authority on the bus.
3. At the end of the trip the bus must be in better condition than we found it. Pick up after yourself so that it will not take long to clean at the end of the day.

If a student chooses to break one of these travel rules he/she will be dealt with in accordance to the severity of the infraction and/or the regularity of the occurrence. The director in accordance with band and Wapakoneta City Schools policies will determine the consequences of an action.

Grades

Grades for the course will be calculated as follows:

1. 30% performance attendance: Performances in band are equivalent to tests in other classes. Everything we do in class is to move toward public performance. When individuals rehearse with the group but don't perform it hurts everyone.
2. 20% playing tests: These are like the quizzes and homework in other classes. If you don't do your math homework your test grade will most likely be poor. In our case, if you don't practice and learn your music the performance will suffer.
3. 20% written work in and out of class
4. 30% class participation: This includes following class rules and coming to class with instrument, music, pencil and turning in practice records.

Practice Records: *Practice* is a requirement of the class but *practice records* do not have to be. Practice records will only have to be turned in by those individuals who earn a grade of B+ or lower on scheduled playing tests. Practice records will have to be turned in until the next playing test is performed with an appropriate grade. So basically, if you do NOT want to be responsible for turning in the forms then be prepared for the tests. All students who receive an A- or higher are exempt from the practice record requirement.

Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event

Each spring the Ohio Music Education Association, District III holds a Middle School/Junior High Solo and Ensemble Adjudicated Event (commonly known as competition). This is one of the most beneficial tools in a student's musical development (next to private lessons). **7th and 8th grade students** who desire to participate in an ensemble (as assembled by the director) will be rehearsed by the director's before, during and (in some extreme instances) after school. If you wish to participate in this event please notify the directors when signups take place.

Facilities, Equipment, and Supplies

Facilities: Middle School band room hours are from 7:50 until 3:20 except for those times when special events or private lessons are taking place. The band room will open one hour before a scheduled event is to begin unless otherwise announced.

Instrument lockers: Instrument lockers are provided for instrument storage in the band room. Each band student that wishes for his/her instrument to be secure will need to purchase a lock from the band. **YOUR OWN LOCK CANNOT BE USED!!!** We must have access to all lockers at all times. Using our locks allows this to happen. Any lock that is not ours will be cut off of the locker by the custodial staff. Wapakoneta Middle School has made a very strong effort to keep instruments safe and secure by purchasing our present locker system. It is up to each

student to ensure that his/her instrument is secured. Wapakoneta City Schools **is not liable for damage or loss due to theft of the instrument left in the storage areas.** *I strongly suggest that all instruments are insured on a homeowner's policy.* This is a very inexpensive safeguard of a costly investment.

Music storage: A folder will be supplied for music because band music is often too large for a standard folder. Music is very expensive and should never be stored in an instrument case or in other areas that damage can occur. **Often time's instrument damage will occur if the music folder is stored in the instrument case so as a result this is strongly discouraged.**

Office: The directors' office is a place for their study, conferences, class planning and organization, and business that concerns the band program. Students should not enter the office without the permission of one of the directors. In addition, students should not enter the office, even with permission, **if the director's instrument is not in its case.** If one of the directors is in the office, knock and be acknowledged before entering.

Band room: The appearance of our band room reflects on the Wapakoneta Bands. Please help keep it neat and clean. Food, drinks, candy, and gum are not allowed in the band room. Please pick up any trash and music stands that have fallen over. Chairs are not to be moved without the permission of the band director. If you must move a chair, return it to where you found it at the end of rehearsal. There is a lot of expensive equipment in the room that could be easily damaged **so the band room is off-limits to students who are not members of the band.** When entering the band room to store or pick-up instruments, please ask your friends to wait for you outside the room. A custodian will unlock the band room in the morning so that you can put your instrument on the shelf (no sooner than 7:50 AM). You are not allowed to stay in the room for any longer than it takes you to put your instrument away.

Instruments: Your instrument is extremely valuable and it is important that you learn to take proper care of it. For the safety of your instrument, never let anyone handle or play it (except the teacher), and never leave your instrument unattended. **All instruments must have a permanent nametag.** You are responsible for your instrument.

School owned instruments: Because some instruments are so expensive, the school purchases them rather than asking you to do so. It is a *privilege* to be able to play a school owned instrument. *Those students that are playing a school owned instrument are required to pay a \$50 rental fee to cover normal wear. You will be held responsible for damage that occurs to these instruments that is not related to normal wear. If a student abuses a school owned instrument he/she will be asked to repair it and could be removed from that instrument.*

Special note on percussion: Any non-percussionist who is caught playing a percussion instrument will receive a lunch detention (on first offence). Additional instances will be dealt with in accordance to the discipline plan laid out earlier in this handbook. In addition, percussionists who are abusively playing instruments may be removed from the band program.

Other band room equipment – Do not touch anything that is not assigned to you.

Uniforms: There is no formal uniform for 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band members however students are strongly encouraged to dress as follows for all indoor concerts over the course of the school year: Boys- Black dress pants (**not jeans**), **black** socks, **black** dress shoes (**not** tennis shoes), white dress shirt and nice tie. Girls: Black dress slacks/black skirt (an all-black dress is OK), black socks (or hose if you wear them), and a white blouse. These are all items that most individuals have in their closets or if purchased can be used for other events. We are a class act and part of the classiness comes from our appearance.

Supplies: Any band supplies that you need are available through the band office. All supplies sold through the band office are sold below the cost you will pay at any music store. The band does not profit from the sale of any item. Many items are stocked in the office. If we run out of something, it will be ordered for you. Please check a current price list so that you know how much something costs.

Repairs and instruments: From time to time you may find it necessary to send an instrument to be repaired. The serviceman from Rettig Music will take instruments to a shop to be repaired once a week (Thursday morning **before school**). If your instrument needs repair, ask the directors for a repair tag, fill it out, and place the instrument next to the office door (on Wednesday after your class). Make sure your parents know about the repair so they will be prepared to pay for it. Prompt payment of repair bills is expected. If you are going to take your instrument to the repair shop on your own you are required to bring a note from your parent or guardian stating that your instrument is being repaired and when you expect to have it back. As you progress through various levels in band, you may discover that you would like to buy a step-up instrument. Please contact the band director if this is something you are considering so that he can help you find the best deal on a quality instrument.

Performance Schedule

2014-2015 Wapakoneta Middle School Band
Performance Dates

Friday, October 24, 2014	Wapakoneta home football game	Meet @ 5:45 @ Middle School	7 th and 8 th grade bands
Monday, October 27, 2014	Cridersville Halloween Parade	Meet @ 5:00 @ Cridersville/ More info to come	7 th and 8 th grade bands
Monday, December 15, 2014	Christmas Concert	Performance @ 6:30 (8 th grade @ 7:45)	5 th , 6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade bands
Saturday, March 28, 2015	OMEA Junior High Solo and Ensemble	TBD	7 th and 8 th grade bands
Monday, May 11, 2015	Spring Concert	Performance @ 6:30	5 th , 6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade bands
Thursday, May 14, 2015	Cedar Point	ALL DAY	6 th , 7 th and 8 th grade bands

It is strongly suggest that all instruments are insured on your homeowner's policy. This is a very inexpensive safeguard of a costly investment. Also, Make sure that you keep a record of the brand and serial number of your student's band instrument. This will aid in locating it in case of loss or theft