

WHS

PURE GOLD BAND HANDBOOK



Table of Contents

- Rehearsal and Performance Schedule 2
- Auditions and Band Expectations 3
 - Official Policy of the Directors Concerning Education 3
- Grading Policy 4
- Band Student Code of Conduct 5
 - Discipline Management Techniques 5
- Attendance Policy 6
 - Notice to student athletes 6
 - Attendance Expectations 8
- Uniform Policy 9
 - Uniform Expectations 10
- How Parents Can Help 11
 - At Home 11
 - At School 11
- Football Game Procedures 12
- Band Traveling Rules 13
 - Bus Expectations 13
 - Hotel and Conduct Expectations 13
- Pure Gold Band Booster Association 15
 - 2018-2019 15
- Band Director Profiles 16
- Student Procedure Agreement 17

Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

| Day | Event | Location, Time |
|--------------------|---|--|
| July 23-27 | Color Guard Camp | WHS Cafeteria, 8am – 2pm |
| July 23-27 | Drum Camp | WHS Choir Room, 8am – 1pm |
| July 23-25 | Leadership Camp | WHS Band Hall, 9am – 4pm |
| July 26-27 | Rookie Camp | WHS Band Hall, 9am – 4pm |
| July 30 – Aug 24 | Summer Band Camp | WHS Band Hall, 8am – 1pm *please check online calendar |
| Aug 27 – Oct 22 | Marching Rehearsals | WHS Parking Lot, weekdays, 7am – 8am |
| Aug 27 – Oct 22 | Night Rehearsals | WHS Stadium, Mondays only, 6pm – 8pm |
| Aug 31 | WHS vs. Georgetown | WHS Stadium, 7:30pm |
| Sept 7 | WHS vs. Lubbock Monterey | WHS Stadium, 7:30pm |
| Sept 14 | WHS vs. Stephenville | WHS Stadium, 7:30pm |
| Sept 20 | WHS @Abilene Cooper | Shotwell Stadium, 7:00pm |
| Sept 28 | WHS @Brownwood | Brownwood, 7:30pm |
| Oct 12 | WHS @Wichita Falls Rider | Wichita Falls, 7:00pm |
| Oct 13 | TMEA Area Jazz Auditions | |
| Oct 15 | Big Country Marching Festival | WHS Stadium, all day |
| Oct 19 | WHS vs. Wichita Falls High | WHS Stadium, 7:00pm (Homecoming) |
| Oct 22 | UIL Marching Contest | WHS Stadium, all day |
| Oct 26 | WHS @Canyon Randall | Randall HS, 7:00pm |
| Nov 2 | WHS @Lubbock Cooper | Lubbock-Cooper HS, 7:00pm |
| Nov 9 | WHS vs. Plainview | WHS Stadium, 7:00pm |
| Nov 10 | Veterans Day Parade | Downtown Abilene, morning |
| Nov 27 | Christmas Lights Parade | Downtown Abilene, evening |
| Dec 3 | TMEA Phase 1 Region Band Auditions | Abilene HS, all day |
| Dec 8 | TMEA Phase 2 Region Band Auditions | Abilene HS, all day |
| Jan 12 | TMEA Area Band Auditions | Permian HS, all day |
| Jan 18-19 | Region Band Clinic & Concert | Midland, overnight and all day |
| Feb 9 | TMEA Region Jazz Auditions | WHS Performing Arts Center, all day |
| Feb 23 | Region Solo & Ensemble | WHS, all day |
| Mar 1-2 | TMEA Region Jazz Clinic & Concert | WHS Performing Arts Center, all day |
| April 2 | UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest | Cooper HS, all day |
| May 25-26 or 26-27 | Texas State Solo & Ensemble Competition | Austin, all day |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

*Please keep in mind that dates and times are subject to change!

For the most updated information, please visit www.puregoldband.org and sync the WHS Band Calendar to your device.

Auditions and Band Expectations

- Every band member will audition at the end of each semester for band placement in the following semester. Students not returning to band the following semester are still required play the audition music for a grade.
- Audition materials will be distributed/announced at least three weeks prior to the audition.
- Students placed in the “Honor Band” participate in all scheduled Honor Band activities, including scheduled sectionals. Placement in the Honor Band requires students to maintain passing grades at all times, be on time and present at all rehearsals, clinics, concerts and special events, and maintain a superior performance standard.
- Students placed in “Symphonic Band” participate in all scheduled activities, including scheduled sectionals. Placement in Symphonic Band also requires students to maintain passing grades at all times, be on time and present at all rehearsals, clinics, concerts and special events, and maintain an excellent performance standard.
- Students place in “Concert Band” participate in all scheduled Concert Band activities. Placement in Concert Band also requires students to maintain passing grades at all times, be on time and present at all rehearsals, clinics, concerts and special events, and maintain a high performance standard.

Official Policy of the Directors Concerning Education

Band students should be grouped according to ability, thus providing a challenging education at an appropriate level. For instance, students ready for Trigonometry should not be placed in an Algebra class just because they are a certain age. The opposite is also true. We strive to determine ability and readiness through auditions. Also, motivation for excellence must come from the student with encouragement and guidelines from the teachers. Students are expected, but not forced, to experience the All-Region and Solo & Ensemble contests. We believe band students will want to achieve if we encourage them by providing a challenging, positive atmosphere with excellent teaching. We encourage private lessons, after-school practicing with the directors, and focused, regular practice at home.

Grading Policy

- Performances/Written or Playing Tests - 40%
- Daily Grades - 60%
- Attendance at events is required from the beginning of the event to the end.

Students begin each six weeks grading period with a grade of 100. You will receive a weekly participation grade and multiple test grades throughout each six weeks period.

Participation grades consist of:

Attendance at rehearsals and performances
Punctuality
Materials and equipment
Work ethic

Test grades consist of:

Music memorization when required
Attendance at performances
 -pep rallies, football games, parades, UIL events, marching contests, concerts
Google Classroom assignments
Monday night marching rehearsals

Grade deductions may occur for the following reasons:

Lack of equipment - 10 points from weekly participation grade
Tardiness - 10 points per 5-minute interval
Unexcused absence - receive a 0 for event missed
Leaving the event early without advance permission - 20 points

*Students failing band for the six weeks will have a parent-teacher conference scheduled to review band program membership.

Band Student Code of Conduct

Each student is expected to:

- Demonstrate courtesy, even when others do not.
- Behave in a responsible manner, always exercising self-discipline.
- Attend all classes, regularly and on time.
- Prepare for each class; take appropriate materials and assignments to class.
- Meet district and campus standards of grooming and dress.
- Obey all campus and classroom rules.
- Respect the rights and privileges of students, teachers, and other district staff and volunteers.
- Respect the property of others, including district property and facilities.
- Cooperate with and assist the school staff in maintaining safety, order, and discipline.
- Adhere to the requirements of the Student Code of Conduct.

Discipline Management Techniques

The following discipline management techniques may be used alone, in combination, or as part of progressive interventions by the band staff and/or campus administration for behavior prohibited by the Student Code of Conduct or by campus or classroom rules. These apply to tardies and absences as well as behavioral concerns and shall include but are not limited to:

- Counseling by teachers, special services, or administrative personnel.
- Parent-teacher conferences.
- Cooling-off or time-out.
- Behavioral contracts.
- Assigned school duties other than class tasks.
- Verbal correction.
- Withdrawal of privileges, including participation in extracurricular activities and honorary positions.
- Sending the student to the office or other assigned areas.
- Detention.
- Probation.
- Rewards or demerits.
- Referral to outside agency or authority.
- Temporary confiscation of items that disrupt the educational process.
- Grade penalties for unexcused absences.
- Removal to alternative education program.
- Saturday School
- Work Detail
- In – School Suspension
- Tuesday School

Attendance Policy

Marching band is like an athletic team. Every position is critical to the success of the group; therefore students are required to be at every rehearsal and every performance.

To encourage productive rehearsals and assure everyone has the equipment needed to rehearse effectively, the Pure Gold Band utilizes the following policy:

Band directors may assign extra rehearsal time depending on the infraction. These are announced to the students at the conclusion of the normal rehearsal period. Announced students will continue to rehearse under the guidance of a director for up to 15 minutes. This may include improving a student's stamina, playing ability, and marching ability. All activities will benefit the student and the band as a whole and will be monitored by a band director.

Students may receive extra rehearsal time for being tardy, not having required equipment or supplies, failing inspection, disrupting a rehearsal, inappropriate language or behavior, missing a rehearsal/performance, or leaving a rehearsal/performance early.

Students who are required to attend two or more extended rehearsals between Friday at 5pm and the following Friday at 8:00 am, must attend an after school detention one day the following week for 30 minutes. Students who are required to attend three or more extended rehearsals will sacrifice their spot for a minimum of 7 calendar days. In order to return to their spot after the 7 day period, a student must win a challenge from the current spot holder. Repeat or extreme offenders will receive alternate assignments or referrals at the director's discretion.

Students who miss a rehearsal or performance will sacrifice their marching spot. In order to return to their spot after a minimum 7 day period, a student must win a challenge from the current spot holder.

Students should read the attendance policy carefully to familiarize themselves with Pure Gold Band expectations.

Excused Absences (no deduction from grade)

- Conflicting school UIL activity (excused from rehearsal only)
- Excused absence from school
- Death in the family
- Immediate family wedding

Unexcused Absences (deduction from grade)

- Work/babysitting
- Too much homework, school project, studying
- Transportation problems
- Other appointments, meetings, etc.

ALL absence notifications must be given to a director 24 hours BEFORE the rehearsal or they will be unexcused. Unexcused absences will result in a grade deduction, and are grounds for removal from the program. Parents and students may use the "NinjaText" text service to communicate with the directors in writing.

Any absence from a performance is grounds for removal from future activities.

Notice to student athletes - The intent is for you to split your time appropriately between the two activities, so that when scheduling conflicts arise, you generally miss the same amount of time for each activity. All coaches have been informed not to penalize athletes who miss practices or games due to band activities. If a problem develops with your coach, please notify Ms. Lessing as soon as possible so that a discussion can take place to resolve the conflict.

Attendance Expectations

- Students are required to attend ALL rehearsals and performances.
- If students are unable to attend a rehearsal or performance, written notification from a parent or guardian to the directors is required 24 hours or more in advance. Extreme personal illness, death in the family, approved UIL activities, immediate-family weddings and school-sanctioned religious holidays are the only legitimate excuses for missing rehearsals and/or performances. All other absences will be treated as unexcused. This includes doctor's appointments, drivers ed., and work schedules.
- Students with an unexcused absence will surrender their marching spot for 7 calendar days minimum.
- All members are expected to be ready when a rehearsal or performance begins. This may mean arriving early to set up your instrument and equipment and to be in position when the event begins.
- No band member is permitted to leave a rehearsal or performance in advance of group dismissal at any time without permission from a director.
- Marching Band Tardy Policy:
 - 1-5 minutes late = 5 minutes extended rehearsal and grading policy enforced
 - 5 - 10 minutes late = 10 minutes extended rehearsal and grading policy enforced
 - 10 - 15 minutes late = 15 minutes extended rehearsal and automatic 50 in the gradebook

The calendar will be updated as soon as information is available. Please check the band website at www.puregoldband.org regularly for upcoming events and possible schedule changes.

Attendance at events is
required from the beginning of
the event to the end.

Uniform Policy

- Uniform numbers are kept for each part of a student's uniform in the school computer. This record will be used to verify correct pieces at check in. Please keep up with your correct numbers.
- Any cost for lost or damaged uniform pieces is the responsibility of the student and their parents.
- Borrowed uniform parts are to be turned in at the end of the activity. If item(s) need cleaning, the student is responsible for the charges.
- Prompt return of the assigned uniform at the end of the year, transfer or termination with the band or any given time requested is expected. Grades will be withheld until these conditions are met.

The official marching uniform of the Pure Gold Marching Band consists of the following, approximate replacement costs are listed:

Marching Band Uniform

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Marching Jacket | \$250.00 |
| Jacket Collar Lining | \$10.00 |
| Bibbers | \$100.00 |
| Gloves | \$3.00 pair |
| Shako Hat | \$75.00 |
| Hat Box | \$25.00 |
| Plume | \$20.00 |
| Two Gauntlets | \$45.00 ea |
| Black Marching Shoes | \$40.00 |
| Black Socks | - |
| Auxiliary | Refer to Guard Instructor |

Uniform Expectations

- When wearing the band uniform, students will be in FULL uniform at all times. All buttons and zippers are closed.
- Trouser creases should hang with little to no break.
- Uniforms will be dry cleaned as necessary by the school.
- Your initials or name must be permanently marked inside your marching shoes. Shoes should be cleaned and polished before each performance. Make sure that socks are solid BLACK and cover half of the calves.
- The uniforms are the property of the WHS Band and must be returned at the conclusion of each performance, unless otherwise stated by the band directors/guard instructor.
- The travel shirt and travel shorts are a part of the WHS uniform. Students will not be allowed onto or off of a bus inappropriately attired. Tennis shoes are appropriate with travel uniforms.

Earrings may not be worn while in uniform. If a student has a small stud, even in the TOP of the ear, a skin colored stud cover must be worn to conceal it, or the stud must be removed. Tongue studs are never allowed in band. Ultimately, the director's decision is final, and students should be prepared to remove all jewelry regardless of location or size.

How Parents Can Help

At Home

- Show an interest in your child's music education.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Help him/her with practice as much as possible by counting, studying music texts, etc.
- Help your child keep a daily record of practicing.
- Establish a safe place to store the instrument.
- Keep the instrument in good repair with reeds, swabs, mouthpieces, etc. in the case. Each student needs his/her own metronome.
- Be very careful with school-owned instruments. The cost of repairs is very high, and you are responsible for any damage.
- Teach your child to be prepared and on time for each rehearsal and lesson.
- Even though private study is not required, it is strongly recommended as an extension of the classroom.
- Make faithful attendance at all activities.
- Encourage your child to play for others when the opportunity arises in the home, at school, church and in the community.
- READ and UNDERSTAND your parent handbook.
- Check the website before calling the office: www.puregoldband.org

At School

- Keep a record of your child's various musical activities.
- Send written notification for excused absences 10 days in advance or sooner if possible.
- Make sure your child brings the instrument and music to school.
- Teach punctuality at lessons and rehearsals.
- See that your child keeps up with classroom studies and makes up all missed work.
- Visit rehearsals and lessons occasionally.
- Discuss with your music teachers anything that will help them to understand your child.
- Attend concerts and other performances whenever possible.
- Attend Band Booster meetings whenever possible.
- Volunteer for parent committees.

Football Game Procedures

- All home games begin at 7:30 pm with band assembly at 6:00pm in the band hall.
- Students will arrive in travel uniform and tennis shoes with black socks ready to wear with the marching uniform.
- All band equipment should be ready to go at assembly. Remember that marching band is an outside activity and instruments must be cleaned regularly.
- Extraneous noise makers and/or signs or decorations are not allowed in the band ranks.
- Rules are in effect for rehearsals and performances.
- Only band members are allowed in the ranks.
- Students will always sit/stand in assigned seats/spots.
- We will play only as a group while in the stands. Solo performance is strictly prohibited.
- There will be no inappropriate cheers. Organized, well-planned cheers will certainly enhance “Bulldog Spirit” and are definitely encouraged. Cheers must be approved by the band staff prior to the start of the game.
- Band members must be accompanied to the restroom by a chaperone. No one leaves the band ranks alone.
- The concession stand is strictly off limits to band members in uniform. Water will be provided. Never eat or drink anything other than water in your uniform!!

**BAND MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE
AT THE RIGHT PLACE, AT THE RIGHT
TIME, WITH THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT--
READY TO GO!**

Band Traveling Rules

Bus Expectations

- Students will remain seated and facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- Band members will use their speaking voice when on the bus.
- No food, gum or drink other than water, is allowed on the bus at any time.
- After the directors, adult sponsors have total authority on the bus and will be respected at all times.

Hotel and Conduct Expectations

- Drinking alcoholic beverages and taking non-prescription drugs is illegal, against school policy, and is cause for immediate dismissal.
- Smoking, chewing, or dipping will not be tolerated.
- Band members will not be permitted in any room with members of the opposite sex. No unauthorized persons will be permitted to visit.
- Students are expected to behave at all times in the hotel--you are representing Wylie High School.
- All students will participate in all planned activities.
- Parents and students will be held responsible for paying for any property damage and lost room keys.
- Students will be fully clothed at all times.
- Swimsuits are only to be worn at appropriate times, such as going to the pool.
- There will be no wearing of hats, hair rollers, or sunglasses indoors.
- Rooms are to be locked at all times.
- Courtesy is expected in the dining hall.
- Please refrain from playing instruments in the room.
- All school rules will be strictly enforced.
- For the duration of the trip, any personal desires must be considered secondary to the necessities that facilitate large group management.
- Under no circumstances will you be permitted to leave the hotel except when with the entire group.
- Profanity is not a part of the Pure Gold Band program. Make sure that your language is never offensive while with the band.
- Curfew requires students to remain in their own rooms.

REMEMBER: Responsible young adults do not roughhouse or damage property. As WHS band members, you reflect not only the values you learn at WHS, but those of your community as well.

The band directors reserve the right to dismiss and send home, at the student's expense, any student who disobeys the rules.

Pure Gold Band Booster Association

2018-2019

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--|
| President | Jennifer VanCamp | puregoldpresident@gmail.com |
| Vice-President | Linda Piel | puregoldvp@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Valerie Giles | puregoldtreasurer@gmail.com |
| Co-Treasurer | Ryan Zwernemann | puregoldcotreas@gmail.com |
| Secretary | Ira Soriano | puregoldsecretary@gmail.com |
| JH Representative | Jennifer Heidema | puregoldjhrep@gmail.com |
| Parliamentarian | Brack Jones | puregoldparliamentarian@gmail.com |
| At-Large | Angie Hervey | puregoldconcessionschair@gmail.com |
| At-Large | Betsy Colwell | puregoldatlg2@gmail.com |
| At-Large | Jay Miller | puregoldatlg3@gmail.com |
| At-Large | Angel Buck | puregoldatlg1@gmail.com |
| At-Large | Scott Carpenter | puregoldatlg4@gmail.com |

Band Director Profiles

Ms. Michelle Lessing, Director of Bands

Ms. Michelle Lessing graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Music Education. She studied clarinet privately with Dr. David Shea and performed with the TTU Symphonic Band, the Goin' Band from Raiderland, and the TTU Clarinet Choir. Ms. Lessing enjoys playing in small theatre productions and church orchestras and actively teaches private lessons and at various band camps throughout the summer. She loves spending time with her two dogs and pursuing her love for paddle boarding, archery, and yoga.

Mr. David McKnight, Assistant Director of Bands / Percussion Director

Mr. David McKnight is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University where he studied with Dr. Allen Teel. While Attending HSU, Mr. McKnight performed with the HSU concert Band, Cowboy Band, Hardin-Simmons University New Song, and the Abilene Christian University Percussion Ensemble and Steel Drum Band. He has been teaching privately and in schools since 2000. Mr. McKnight is an active percussion and steel drum clinician and performer, while also arranging marching percussion scores for high school and college percussion sections. He is married to Angela McKnight and they have two sons. Levi and Asher.

Ms. Ashlyn Ray, Assistant Director of Bands

Ms. Ashlyn Ray graduated from China Spring High School in 2013 and Stephen F. Austin State University in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. She studied private trumpet with Dr. Gary Wurtz and Mr. Stephen Campbell, as well as Mr. Steve Hart, Director of Bands at Hill College. She also studied conducting with Dr. David Campo and Dr. Tamey Anglley during her undergraduate career. Ms. Ray was a member of the Lumberjack Marching Band, SFASU Trumpet Ensemble, Roarin' Buzzsaws Pep Band, and Macy's Great American Marching Band. She enjoys working the SFA band camps each summer, and plans to get her Master's Degree in Educational Psychology in the future. Ms. Ray loves spending time with her cat Oreo and can't wait to have many more.

Mrs. Lesa Ross, Color Guard Instructor

Mrs. Lesa Ross is a Utah native who, thanks to her husband's job, got to Texas as fast as she could! Lesa graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's Degree in Youth Leadership and a minor in Flute performance. She found passion for Color Guard while in high school, loving the aspects of dance and performance. Lesa began coaching and choreographing for Timpview High School (Provo, Utah) while in college and loved every minute of it for 10 years. She is very happy to continue sharing her excitement for Color Guard here at Wylie. Lesa is married to Mike Ross and they have five beautiful children (Alexis, Ryan, Whitney, Olivia, and Derek).

Student Procedure Agreement

Please read and discuss this handbook thoroughly, sign, and return to the band directors by Friday, August 4, 2018.

Students will not travel or perform with the band until this form has been returned.

We, _____
Print Student Name

and

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Have read and understand the contents of this handbook and agree to abide by the rules and regulations contained herein. We further understand that disregarding these policies could result in the student's removal from the band program. This handbook is available in its entirety online at www.puregoldband.org

Signed,

Student Signature

and

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date