

WHS

PURE GOLD BAND HANDBOOK



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Rehearsal and Performance Schedule

*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 for Spring placement will be taken from the All-State etudes. Auditions materials for Fall placement will be taken from the next year's marching show if available.
- 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 AND performing at rehearsals and performances
Punctuality
Materials and equipment
Work ethic

Test grades consist of:

Music memorization when required
Attendance AND performing at performances
- pep rallies, football games, parades, UIL events, marching contests, concerts
Google Classroom assignments
Music First assignments
Monday night marching rehearsals
Auditions
Participation in one process: Region Band OR Solo & Ensemble

Grade deductions may occur for the following reasons:

Lack of equipment - 10 points from weekly participation grade
Tardiness - *please see marching band tardy policy (p.7)
Unexcused absence - receive a 0 for event missed
Leaving the event early without advance permission - 50 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.

Unexcused Tardiness

Students who have more than one unexcused tardy shall make up missed time at a time to be arranged by the director and may be subject to one of the following consequences at the discretion of the band directors:

- Loss of marching privilege (for one game) at a football game
- Requirement to stay after rehearsal or report early to next rehearsal to make up lost time
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of fundamental marching with his/her section leader
- Requirement to make up 15 minutes of playing fundamentals with his/her section leader. This pertains to concert band as well as marching band.

Unexcused Absence

Students who have an unexcused absence may be subject to one or more of the following consequences at the discretion of the directors:

- Make up missed time.
- Loss of spot as primary marcher
- Loss of marching privilege for one game.
- Loss of concert band assignment. Assigned to another band class.
- Removal from the marching band and loss of physical education credit.

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

Excused Absences (no deduction from grade; requires advance communication with Directors)

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 Remind 101 text service, email, or written notes 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.

Digital Citizenship

Any action that would reflect poorly upon The Wylie Pure Gold Band will not be tolerated and discipline will be dealt with accordingly, including but not limited to Instagram, Facebook, GroupMe, email, messaging, etc. The internet is a worldwide, publicly accessible form of communication. Any communication such as snapchat, or photo sharing, etc. appearing on the internet is public domain even if it is marked private. Athletes are responsible for their personal websites and postings as well as for postings on other students' websites. The areas of appropriateness will include, but are not limited to, language (abbreviated or alluding to), pictures, suggestive poses, clothing, or lack of, reference to alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. Any question of appropriateness will be decided by the administration and coaches.

Alternate Spots

Marching alternates are a necessary aspect of the program. Students that have some difficulty learning the drill, difficulty learning the music, have attendance issues, or are ineligible by UIL standards may be placed as an alternate as determined by the directors and instructors. All aspects of marching will be taken into consideration when determining whom the alternates will be. The alternate's job is to learn all aspects of the performance and be ready to be given a permanent spot at any time. Alternates receive a modified drill spot. They still perform in the show at the discretion of the directors. Not all alternates will necessarily be given permanent spots, but they are still required to attend all performances, sectionals, and rehearsals.

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.
- 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:

7:01 am – 7:05 am / 6:00 pm – 6:12pm arrival = 2-pt deduction each time late (10% class time missed)

7:05 am – 7:12:30 am / 6:12 pm – 6:30 pm arrival = 5-pt deduction each time late (25% class time missed)

7:12:30 am – 7:25 am / 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm arrival = 10-pt deduction each time late (50% class time missed)

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.

Letter Jackets

A student must earn a total of 50 points in one school year to qualify for a letter jacket from the Wylie High School Band. Once a student receives a jacket, subsequent awards will be given in the form of bars or letters.

*You must be currently enrolled in band to receive your award. Color guard members must complete the full semester of fitting to receive your award. Awards are distributed in the Spring semester. Points may be earned in the following manner:

Wylie High School Band Letter Jacket Point Sheet

	9 th Grade	10 th Grade	11 th Grade	12 th Grade
Band Participation (cumulative)				
One Completed Year of Participation (9 th grade year = 10) (10 th grade year = 15) (11 th grade year = 25)				
Color Guard Participation (cumulative)				
One Completed Year of Participation (9 th grade year = 10) (10 th grade year = 15) (11 th grade year = 25)				
TMEA Honors (max of 2 areas awarded)				
Top TMEA Region Band (20)				
TMEA Region Orchestra (20)				
TMEA Area Jazz (20)				
Area Band (25)				
All State (50)				
Solo & Ensemble Honors				
Class 1 Region Solo – Advance to TSSEC (10)				
Other Activities				
Student Leadership Team (5)				
Jazz Band Class (5)				
Steel Band Class (5)				
Yearly Totals				
<i>Date & Item Awarded</i>				

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
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, travel shorts, travel jacket, and travel pants are a part of the WHS uniform. Students will not be allowed to enter or exit 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

- Please refer to the band calendar “notes” section for band call times.
- Students will arrive in travel uniform 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.
- For safety and security, students will always sit/stand in assigned seats/spots within their section.
- 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 without prior permission from a director.
- 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

2020-2021

President	Angie Hervey	puregoldpresident@gmail.com
Vice-President	Jon Ammons	puregoldwylieVP@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Galinak	
Co-Treasurer	Kristi Ammons	
Secretary	Dean McClain	puregoldsecretary@gmail.com
JH Representative	Jennifer VanCamp	pgjhrep@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	Robin Sturtevant	
At-Large	Jeannette Vincent	
At-Large	Abby Sauley	
At-Large	Tiffany Corbett	
At-Large	Brack Jones	
At-Large/Concession Chair	Rebecca Perkins	puregoldconcessionschair@gmail.com

Band Director Profiles

Michelle Lessing, Director of Bands

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, bouldering, and yoga.

David McKnight, Assistant Director of Bands / Percussion Director

David McKnight graduated from Hardin-Simmons University with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education and a Master's degree in Theory and Composition. 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.

Ashlyn Ray, Assistant Director of Bands

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 really hopes you attend because you get to call her by her first name. She plans to get her master's degree sometime in the future and absolutely loves spending time with her cat, Willow. And don't worry, she will have many more.

Lesa Ross, Color Guard Instructor

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 six beautiful children (Alexis, Ryan, Whitney, Olivia, Derek, and Joel).

Student Procedure Agreement

Please read and discuss this handbook thoroughly, sign, and return to the band directors by Saturday, July 31, 2021.

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