



2023-24 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

- Auditions for the three Concert Bands are conducted in person during the previous spring semester. These are for the entire year.
- 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 fully present at all rehearsals, clinics, concerts and special events, and maintain a superior performance standard. The Honor Band competes as a 5A Varsity ensemble. The goal of the band is to perform literature of the highest level with musical and artistic integrity. Mr. McDonald conducts the Honor Band.
 - Performance requirements include the Winter Concert, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation, Pre-UIL Festival, Spring concert, Solo & Ensemble, and All-Region Band.
 - Other performances/rehearsals may be scheduled at the director’s discretion.
- Students placed in “Symphonic Band” participate in all scheduled Symphonic Band activities, including scheduled sectionals. Placement in Symphonic Band also requires students to maintain passing grades at all times, be on time and fully present at all rehearsals, clinics, concerts and special events, and maintain an excellent performance standard. The Symphonic band competes as a 5A Non-Varsity ensemble and will perform literature that is of the highest quality for young bands. Ms. Ray conducts the Symphonic Band.
 - Performance requirements include the Winter Concert, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation, Pre-UIL Festival, Spring concert,
 - Other performances/rehearsals may be scheduled at the director’s discretion.
- Students placed in “Concert Band” participate in all scheduled activities, including scheduled sectionals. Placement in Concert Band also requires students to maintain passing grades at all times, be on time and fully present at all rehearsals, clinics, concerts and special events, and maintain an excellent performance standard. This group will focus on the fundamentals of making music and is designed to help students who are still developing their musicality. The Concert Band is a competing group (5A sub non-varsity).
 - Performance requirements include the Winter Concert, Pre-UIL Festival, UIL Concert and Sight-reading Evaluation, and the Spring concert. The Concert Band will be led by Ms. Leighton Meyer and assisted by Mr. McDonald.
- The Jazz Band is a small-medium ensemble that studies and performs jazz literature as well as other contemporary styles. The purpose of this group is to educate on the first true American art form and create independent and innovative musicians. Students will have the opportunity to read through a numerous amount of music and will practice intensive sight-reading skills. The band meets during 3rd period for the entire school year and membership is auditioned based in the previous spring semester. Ms. Ray teaches the jazz band.
 - Performance requirements include the Winter Jazz Concert, a spring festival (or two), Winter Lightfest, Spring Jazz Concert, and potentially various banquets.
 - All musicians will be required to solo at least once a semester at a gig/performance
- The Steel Band is a small-medium ensemble that is designed to provide an exciting/intense musical setting for any student musician to develop Latin, world and popular musical styles of performance. This group meets everyday during 3rd period and is directed by Mr. Fehl.

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 beginning to 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 Participation 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;
Monday night marching rehearsals;
Auditions ;
Specific Band Participation Requirements

Grade deductions may occur for the following reasons:

Lack of equipment - 10 points from daily 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 = half credit

*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

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

- Each unexcused tardy will result in a deduction of 10 points from your daily grade. Multiple unexcused tardies may result in losing your spot in the marching show.

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 BAND App, email, or written notes to communicate with the directors in writing through the Absence Form on the website. Please communicate with Mr. McDonald before filling out the Absence Form

Any absence from a performance is grounds for removal from the program or 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 Mr. McDonald 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:
 - Each unexcused tardy will result in a deduction of 10 points from your daily grade. Multiple unexcused tardies may result in losing your spot in the marching show.

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				
Audition for the All Region Band (5)				
Perform at Solo & Ensemble Contest (5)				
Perform with the All Region Band (10)				
Perform with the Top TMEA Region Band (20)				
Perform with the TMEA Region Orchestra (20)				
TMEA Area Jazz (20)				
Advance to State Solo and Ensemble (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)				
Attend a University Band Camp (5)				
Yearly Totals				
Date & Item Awarded				

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

All-Region Band Process

- All students are encouraged to participate in the All-Region Band process. Honor Band members are required. Auditions for this event take place in the fall semester each year. At the beginning of the year, each student will be given the audition music for the contest. Our students will compete against other band students from all of the programs in our Region, vying for a limited number of seats in the prestigious All-Region Band.

UIL Solo & Ensemble

- The Solo & Ensemble contest is held each spring semester, and all students are encouraged to participate in this activity. Honor Band members are required. For this event, students may choose to perform a musical selection by themselves (solo) or perform with a group (ensemble). There are many different levels of music for the different capabilities of each student. In this competition, you are not competing against any other students. Instead, you are competing against a “standard of excellence,” and judged according to your level of performance. Students receiving First Division ratings on a class 1 solo (memorized) or ensemble will have the opportunity to advance to the Texas State Solo & Ensemble Contest held at the end of the year. There are many different requirements for this contest, so if you are interested, please talk to your band director.

Band Camps

- Band/Music camps are available every summer from numerous colleges and universities across the state. Band camps typically last one full week, and they are incredible educational opportunities for band students to gain more musical knowledge. Students attending band camps have the opportunity to meet faculty from different universities as well as meeting many new friends. Students chosen to be drum major are required to attend a summer band camp.

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 Jacket	\$317.00
Bibbers (pants)	\$122.00
Gauntlets	\$50.00
Gloves	\$3.00 a pair
Shako (hat)	\$76.00
Shako (hat) Wrap	\$25.00
Shako (hat) Box	\$25.00
Plume	\$52.00
Garment Bag	\$22.00
Black Marching Shoes	\$45.00
Black Socks	-
Percussion	Refer to Percussion Director
Color Guard	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.
- Bibber 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, show shirt, travel shorts and travel jacket 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 or check the BAND App.
- 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 sections.
- Rules are in effect for ALL rehearsals and performances.
- Only band members are allowed in the band section.
- 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. Only positive cheers toward our team are permitted.
- Band members must be accompanied to the restroom by a chaperone. No one leaves the band section alone.
- The concession stand is strictly off limits to band members in uniform, or band members period. Water will be provided. Never eat or drink anything other than water in your uniform!! This includes having others bring you items. ONLY WATER IS ALLOWED IN THE BAND SECTION.

**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. (at the director's discretion)
- 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 2023-24

President	Angel DeBardleben	puregoldpresident@gmail.com
Vice-President	Angie Hervey	puregoldbandwhs@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jeannie Karl	puregoldtreasurer@gmail.com
Co-Treasurer	Jennifer Ewing	
Secretary	Jack Wylie	
Parliamentarian	Brack Jones	
Concessions Chair	Rebecca Perkins	
At-Large	Kristie Ammons	
At-Large	Steven Ammons	
At-Large	Allison South	
At-Large	Jana Ammons	
At-Large	Cindy Wilson	
At-Large	Chelsea Holt	
At-Large	Jon Ammons	
At-Large	Daphne Cunningham	
At-Large	Amy Piercy	
At-Large	Karla McCall	

Band Director Profiles

Kyle McDonald, Director of Bands

Kyle McDonald graduated from the University of Northern Colorado in 2009. While at UNC he performed with the Jazz Bands, Combos, Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and Percussion Ensemble. After graduating he moved to Childress TX as the Assistant Band Director. He became the Head Director in 2010 and led them to their 2nd sweepstakes in school history in 2011. Kyle accepted the Head Director Position at Panhandle in 2012. While at Panhandle his bands advanced to the State Honor Band Contest as well as the State Marching Band Contest. He moved to Caprock High School in 2017 where he led the marching band to their highest placement in school history at the Area Marching Contest. Kyle now resides in Abilene with his wife Heather and their 4 kids Jaxon, Ryder, Miles and Brynn.

Ashlyn Ray, Assistant Director of Bands/Jazz Band Director

Ashlyn Ray is the Assistant Band Director and Jazz Director for Wylie ISD. She received her Bachelor's of Music Education from Stephen F. Austin State University in 2017 and studied private trumpet with Dr. Gary Wurtz, Dr. Stephen Campbell, and 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. While at SFA, Ms. Ray was a member of the Lumberjack Marching Band, SFASU Trumpet Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, Wind Ensemble, and the Roarin' Buzzsaws Pep Band. She was also a member of the Macy's Great American Marching Band in high school. Since beginning her career at Wylie, Ms. Ray has achieved consistent sweepstakes ratings with the Symphonic Band and assisted with the Concert Band last year. Ms. Ray is currently the Head Girls Counselor for SFA Band Camps and also works part-time at Crunch Fitness as a Group Fitness Instructor. You can find Ms. Ray at the gym in her free time. But she also likes to travel, read, and doing anything outdoors. She plans to get her master's degree sometime in the future and absolutely loves spending time with her cat, Willow.

Louie Fehl, Director of Percussion

Louie Fehl is an Assistant Band Director and Percussion Director for Wylie ISD. Prior to his position at Wylie, he taught as the Percussion Director for Pine Tree ISD from 2022 - 2023, and for Paris ISD from 2019-2022. Mr. Fehl earned his Bachelor of Music Education from McMurry University and holds his Master of Music in Percussion from the University of Oklahoma. He has performed in a wide variety of ensembles including the McMurry Warhawk Marching Band, the OU Steel Band and Percussion Ensemble, and the OU Wind Symphony. Mr. Fehl has also recorded multiple albums with the Excelcia Wind Band. In his free time he enjoys golfing, working out, and hiking. He aspires to one day visit all 63 of the major national parks in the United States.

Student Procedure Agreement

Please read and discuss this handbook thoroughly, sign, and return to the band directors by
Monday July 31, 2023.

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