

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAXTON CENTER SCHOOL

GRADE 8 BAND EXPECTATIONS

CONDUCT

Students are expected to present themselves in a positive way during each rehearsal. Class participation is important and expected from every student. This involves not only the volunteering of responses and trying to contribute to the improvement of the ensemble, but also behaving in a manner that will insure the success and growth of others. Rehearsals should be relaxed and fun, but students need to be highly concentrated and focused for the full class duration. Normal classroom courtesy is expected and talking during rehearsal is discouraged. This is consistent with the schoolwide message: "Respectful, Responsible, Reliable." Continued disruptive behavior will be dealt with swiftly by personal conference with me, written warnings, after school detention, parental conference, lowering of effort grade, etc.

INSTRUMENT, MUSIC, AND FOLDER POLICY

IT IS REQUIRED FOR EACH STUDENT TO BRING HIS/HER INSTRUMENT AND MUSIC TO EACH AND EVERY REHEARSAL!!

Playing in band is a team effort - everyone must contribute 100% to the rehearsals. It is unfair to others who bring their instrument all of the time and who give his/her best effort for any one person not to do the same. During the first two weeks of school, students who do not bring their instruments to school will be excused and no penalty will be incurred. However, after this period of time it will count against the term grade. Instruments should be stored outside the music room or in grade level areas during the day and not in the music room, hallways, etc. **Instruments must go home each and every night.**

Instruments will also be inspected randomly for cleanliness. This insures that the instrument is free of contamination and that the best potential tone quality may be produced. Investment in an instrument is generally not an inexpensive one so be sure to take good care of it!

Each student will receive a folder, individual copies of music, and other musical materials over the course of the year. Each student is therefore responsible for his/her own materials, bringing them to each rehearsal, and keeping them maintained in good condition. Additional copies of music may involve the student purchasing music. If a rehearsal is missed, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain all materials that may have been handed out.

Each student is required to bring a pencil to every rehearsal in order to make amendments to the music. Keeping one in the music folder is best.

PREPARATION AND PRACTICE EXPECTATIONS

Students will be held responsible for learning all of the musical materials given to them as well as progressing with skills. In order for this to be accomplished, every student is expected to practice a minimum of 3-4 days per week for a total time of at

least 90 minutes. Weekly performance evaluations will be completed by every student indicating what has been practiced and for how long. It is suggested that students may wish to divide a day of practice into a warm up period of about 5 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of skill building materials, and then 10 minutes of band music. This builds stamina and develops oral muscles for wind players and wrist and arm muscles for percussionists as well as the ability to continue developing rhythmic skills, reading skills, and tone. Students should be much more confident in their playing ability and be working toward higher level skills.

Students will also be required to be working from a book of their choice during the duration of the school year. This could either be a lesson book to continue with skills or something more enjoyable (there are many pop, movie, and TV show themed books available online). Books can be obtained from a number of sources including music stores, online, and private lesson teachers. Please see me if you need help.

Although not required, students are strongly encouraged to make arrangements for private lessons. Playing in band is not enough to fully learn the skills of how to play an instrument. One source of lessons is through Wachusett High School (<http://wrhsmusic.weebly.com/air.html>) at \$20 per half hour. You might also contact Anna Maria College at (508) 849-3397 to see if they might pair you with a music student for lessons.

It is expected that some students will have difficulty with the music and it is strongly encouraged that help be sought through me or through the private lesson teacher.

GRADES

Students will be graded based upon class participation and effort, accomplishment of monthly practice expectations, class conduct, musical improvement, and performance attendance. In addition, student self-evaluations based on his/her own appraisal of performance will be handed in on a weekly basis. This allows for each student to critically appraise his/her musical progress throughout the school year.

CONCERT DRESS

Unless otherwise specified, concert dress is as follows:

BOYS: Black pants, white dress shirt, tie, dark dress socks, dark dress shoes.

GIRLS: Black pants/skirt, white/light blouse or dress, dark tights/socks, dark shoes.

**NOTE: JEANS, T-SHIRTS, AND SNEAKERS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE
CONCERT ATTIRE.**

CONCERT DATES

There are several performances at PCS scheduled during the 2016-2017 school year:

January 18 – Grade 5 band and chorus concert (in school) – 11 AM

January 18 – Grade 6 band and chorus concert (in school) – 10 AM

January 19 – Grade 7/8 band and chorus dress rehearsal – 2 PM

January 19 – Grade 7/8 band and chorus concert – 7 PM

May 31 – Grade 5 band and chorus concert (in school) – 11 AM

May 31 – Grade 6 band and chorus concert (in school) – 10 AM

June 1 – Grade 7/8 band and chorus dress rehearsal – 2 PM

June 1 – Grade 7/8 band and chorus concert – 7 PM

ALL PERFORMANCES THAT INVOLVE YOUR GRADE LEVEL ARE MANDATORY!!

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Be specific -- do not try to practice everything each day. Isolate problems in the music and set goals to correct them at each practice session. Take the time to go over notes, count rhythms, and make playing musical.
2. Start at a different place each practice session. Do not start with the same scale or band piece each day. By the end of the week, you will have learned your beginning music very well, but other things may suffer.
3. If you have difficulty with a particular line of music, melody, or rhythm – say it or **SING IT!!** The old adage is: "If you can't sing it you can't play it."
4. If you don't understand something during band either in the music or what has been said about the music -- **ASK!!** I'm here to help **YOU**.
5. Remember, this is your band and whether it is successful or not depends on the work put into it by every member. Every student is equally accountable for this.

If you have any further questions regarding these expectations, please call Mr. Galligan at 508-798-8576 or email kasey_galligan@wrsd.net. Please read this form carefully and then **sign, detach, and return the portion below** to Mr. Galligan on or before Tuesday, November 22nd.

(detach the portion below and return)

GRADE 8 BAND EXPECTATIONS

I have read, understood, and acknowledged all of the expectations for the 2016-2017 school year.

Student (Print Name) _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Best parent/guardian email to contact _____

Best parent/guardian phone to contact _____