

# Westerly High School Marching Band Handbook

## 2016-2017 School Year

Sarah Ferry, Director [sferry@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:sferry@westerly.k12.ri.us)

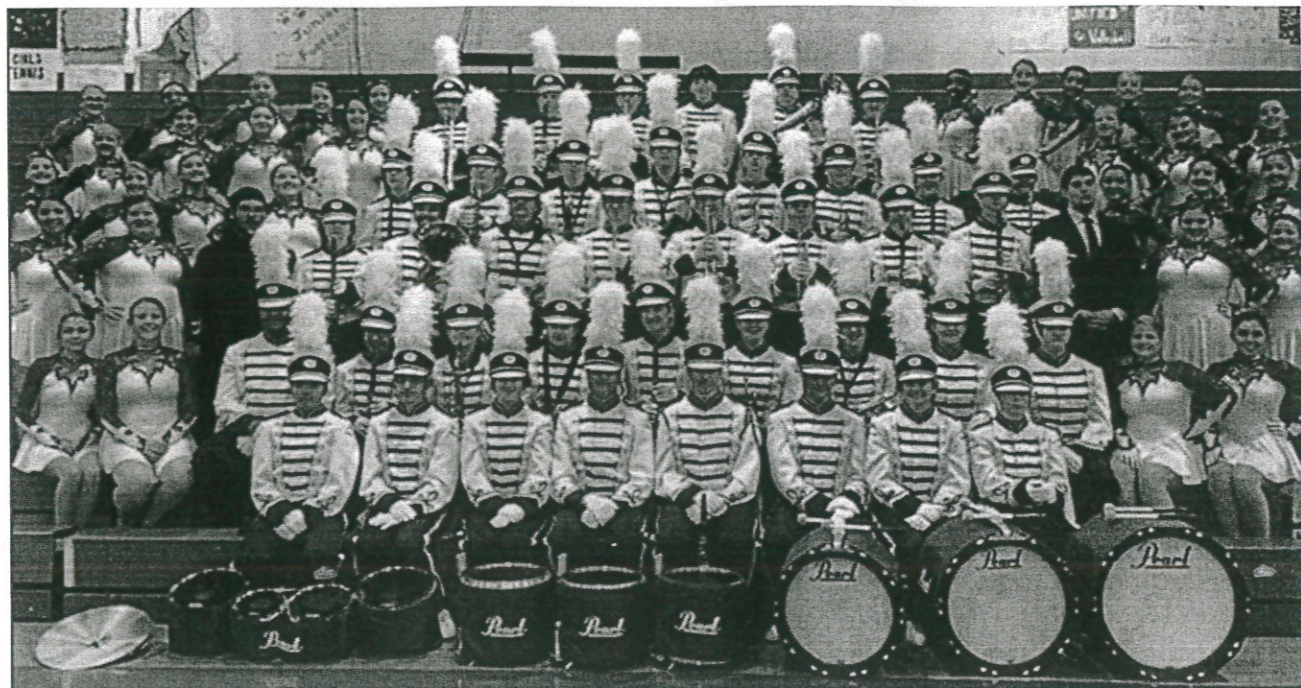
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## Guidelines & Contract:

As a member of the marching band, I will attend all rehearsals set forth by the calendar/schedule.

If I miss a practice I must submit a note from doctor/parent etc. to my direct coach within 2 days.

I understand that marching band is a year-long commitment.

While I am in uniform or other logo marching band apparel I understand that I represent WHS, the Westerly Public Schools, and the Town of Westerly:

My Hair will be pulled back from my face,

No jewelry or piercings will be worn,

No food or drinks other than water while in uniform,

No gum will be chewed

NO PROFANITY!

\*If any staff member reminds you of these uniform/self-conduct guidelines and you refuse to oblige, you will be asked to leave performance or practice. A meeting will be set up with your instructor and guardian to discuss your actions and potential dismissal from the organization.

I understand that the hour and a half after school before practice is designated to see any teachers for academic purposes. (If you absolutely must stay with a teacher at a different time, or during practice a note must be provided by teacher).

I understand that as a dance line member or color guard member this is an extracurricular activity that I have asked to be a part of. Membership in the marching band is a privilege and not a right.

I understand that I must be passing all classes and have no more than 1 failing grade to continue participation in the organization.



I understand that 2 unexcused absences will result in the removal from a performance.

I understand that 3 unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the marching band.

I understand that 5 EXCUSED absences result in dismissal from the marching band. This does not include long-term illness while under physician care.

Please note that the following reasons are NOT excused absences:

WORK

Visiting siblings in college

Vacations

Having too much homework or a project due (Teachers assign large projects/essays/tests/papers etc. with enough notice that you should budget your time appropriately).

Your dog has puppies

Hair appointment

I forgot/fell asleep

I didn't have a ride (There are plenty of generous members and parents that would happily help you commute if necessary)

\*It is important to know that although parents and guardians may provide a note excusing you from a commitment; it does not guarantee that the staff will accept it as a reasonable excuse for missing whatever commitment you are looking to be excused from. Please contact your direct coach with any issues or inquiries regarding missing any commitments that you are unsure of.

If you know that you have a valid excuse for missing any commitment please provide at least 1 weeks' notice. (Let us know as soon as you know!)

I understand that I must re-audition for the marching band every year. A position one year does not guarantee a position the following year based on an anonymous judging process.

I understand that the band director makes all decisions regarding the operation and performance of the marching band.

## \*\*\*\*\*2016-2017 Band Camp\*\*\*\*\*

**Band camp for students will be held on:**

**THUR. August 11, FRI. 8/12**

**MONDAY 8/15, TUE. 8/16, WED. 8/17**

\*Students in band, dance, and color guard will be learning basics, their show routines/music, and their moving positions (drill) on the field.

Band camp is mandatory for all students in the marching band. If you cannot attend all of band camp you will be dismissed from the band prior to the start of the school year.

Exercise appropriate clothing as well as sneakers, sun block, and water are essential.

Band camp hours will be:

9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. basics on field at WHS\*\*

12:00-1:00 lunch break (students are permitted to leave for lunch)

1:00-3:30 indoor rehearsals (students will be divided into band, color guard, and dance to learn routines)

3:30-5:30 dinner break (students are permitted to leave for dinner)

5:30-8:00 night rehearsal on field (Band, color guard, and dance will combine and learn drill.



# Rehearsals are held every Wednesday and Friday at WHS from 3:30-5:45 p.m.

Please inform all bosses/places of employment *now*.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Does band cost money?

There are costs involved in participating in marching band; however **no student will ever go without due to financial reasons.**

An estimate of costs for the year will be:

Band/color guard shoes: about \$26.00

Band: Navy dress socks \$1.00 at Dollar Tree ☺

Dance line/ color guard gloves: \$ 5.00 a pair

Dance/color guard: Tights \$10.00 a pair

Dance line/ color guardheadpiece/makeup kit Est. \$15.00

Band/Dance/Color guard: Tee Shirt \$7.50 (To be worn under band uniforms and on game days)

Band: Lyres for stand tunes: less than \$10.00... students must purchase themselves (We recommend Amazon.com or a music store)

\*\*\* For the 2016-'17 show dance and guard will be required to purchase a costume corresponding to the show "Lord of the Rings" Approx. \$45.00 per costume.

\*\*\*Please note that no student with outstanding balances for required accessories will be permitted to order band "gear" (sweat pants, Tee-shirts, shorts, jackets etc.).

### Do I have to attend every rehearsal?

Yes! It is imperative that all members on dance, guard, and in band attend all rehearsals throughout the fall. Students are constantly moving on the field and are performing their routines for all four of the field show songs. If students are missing rehearsals they will not know their places on the field and it could lead to dangerous situations where students are crashing into one another leading to damage of instruments, equipment, and most importantly, themselves! We practice in all weather conditions (inside).

## What do we wear under our uniforms?

Band members are to wear boxers (yes, you too ladies) and the band member tee under their uniforms. As the weather gets colder we encourage students to wear longer warm pants under their uniforms but they must be dark blue or black. They are also encouraged to wear long sleeve WHITE or plain gray shirts under their member tee that goes under the uniform. The reason for these specifics is because colors tend to run from under clothes onto the uniforms. By wearing white and gray under our uniforms we lessen the risk of staining our very expensive and irreplaceable uniforms.

Ladies on Dance line and color guard: Tights and appropriate undergarments are to be worn at all times while your uniform is on.

## Does the band travel?

The marching band attends all home games as well as Thanksgiving game. For 2016-2017 all of our football games will be here at WHS including Thanksgiving. We will also be travelling to one official marching band competition held at the Cranston Stadium on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. This is a mandatory event because you will be adjudicated by some of the best and most experienced judges in the nation. You will also be exposed to other high school marching bands, some also amongst the top in the nation. The Entire music department will be going to Disney in April of 2017. This trip is not mandatory in order to be in the program.

## Do I have to purchase an instrument, flag, or uniform?

NO! If you do not own your instrument, the school will go to great lengths to provide you with one. Color Guard does not own the poles or flags, they are property of the school. (You are more than welcome to purchase your own flags and poles as long as they match the dimensions that we perform with) Uniforms are provided to all members most years, however for this upcoming year we ask the color guard and dance line to purchase their own uniforms that they get to keep.

## Do we memorize our music?

Yes, the music for halftime is memorized however all of the stand tunes (music we play while sitting in the stands) can be read from lyres and flip books. Don't be intimidated by memorization! We work on this together ☺

## Can parents attend practices?

Parents are welcome to attend the last 15 minutes of practice to watch the review of all of our hard work. A majority of the practices are closed to observers. Because there are students from both the middle school and high school, and everyone is underage, it is easiest and safest for us to close our rehearsals to observers.



We LOVE to see parents at football games (sit with us if you would like!) parades, and at any other concerts or performances that we participate in; please join us!

## I am a parent and I would like to be involved in the band program, what do I do?

Join our band booster's organization! The WHS Band Boosters meets about once a month to discuss fund raising ideas and plan for events. We are always looking for new, positive parents to help our students raise funds to go on trips and make their band experience as wonderful as possible.

Email [westerlymusicboosters@gmail.com](mailto:westerlymusicboosters@gmail.com) or [Sferry@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:Sferry@westerly.k12.ri.us) with any questions!

## If I am having an issue or questions about my child's participation in the marching band program, who do I contact?

Please begin by contacting the direct coach of your child before anyone else: If you are seeking further information after you have communicated with the direct instructor of your child, please then contact Ms. Ferry.

Sarah Ferry, Director [sferry@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:sferry@westerly.k12.ri.us)

Eleanor Thompson, Assistant Director [ethompson@westerly.k12.ri.us](mailto:ethompson@westerly.k12.ri.us)

## Concert Band FAQs

### Is concert band separate from marching band?

No! Concert band and marching band is the same thing... You are called a "marching band" throughout the football season because we work on our half time music as well as our 20+ stand tunes during the day time in class. As the season winds down we have less after school rehearsals and we only practice in school during class. We ultimately set the football season music aside and focus on our classical winter concert music for our holiday pops concert. Students in both concert band and dance/guard are expected to play in the stands.

Following our winter concert we begin learning our repertoire for Rhode Island Music Educators Association Band Festival that takes place in the spring.

### What does the band wear for our "classical" concerts?

Our dress for our Winter Concert, Band Festival, and Spring Concerts is FORMAL. All members are to wear black button down shirts and Black dress bottoms. NO JEANS PLEASE! Ladies are permitted skirts that are below the knee. All students are to wear black dress shoes. If any students have a difficult time

obtaining these accessories please see Ms. Ferry, and she will make sure that you are discreetly provided with anything you need. No sleeveless shirts or dresses please.

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Please sign and return to Ms. Ferry by Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2016

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand all of the policies set forth by this handbook.

I agree to the terms set forth by this hand book. I \_\_\_\_\_ understand that band camp is a full week-long commitment beginning on August 10<sup>th</sup>, and ending on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

I also understand that all practices/performances are mandatory, and that we rehearse on Wednesday and Fridays after school.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_



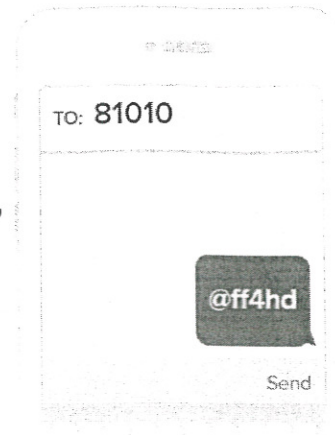
## Please join our text message alerts.

It is imperative that you receive these notifications!

Ask your class to text @ff4hd to 81010

### Everyone Join:

#### "Marching Band 2016-2017"



**1 Send your text to 81010**

81010 is the Remind short code we created so people can join your class without seeing your personal information.

81010 not working?

**2 Text the message @ff4hd**

This is the class code for WHS Marching Band 2016-17. People can always use ff4hd to join this class.

#### Dance Line 2016-2017



**1 Send your text to 81010**

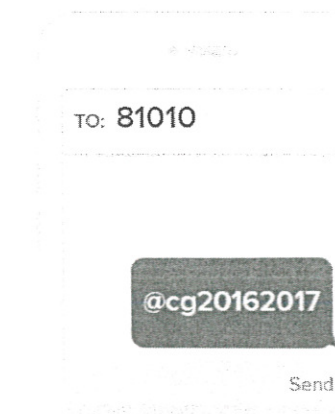
81010 is the Remind short code we created so people can join your class without seeing your personal information.

81010 not working?

**2 Text the message @d3k36**

This is the class code for dance line 16-17. People can always use d3k36 to join this class.

#### Color Guard 2016-2017



**1 Send your text to 81010**

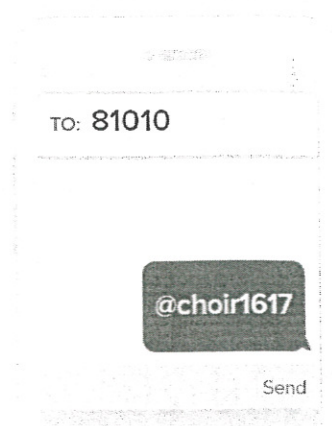
81010 is the Remind short code we created so people can join your class without seeing your personal information.

81010 not working?

**2 Text the message @cg20162017**

This is the class code for Color Guard 16-17. People can always use cg20162017 to join this class.

# Chorus 2016-2017



## 1 Send your text to 81010

81010 is the Remind short code we created so people can join your class without seeing your personal information.

81010 not working?

## 2 Text the message @choir1617

This is the class code for Chorus 2016-2017. People can always use choir1617 to join this class.

# Concert Band

(all band students that are in the marching band should sign up for this It enables me to reach band students without messaging the entire marching band).



## 1 Send your text to 81010

81010 is the Remind short code we created so people can join your class without seeing your personal information.

81010 not working?

## 2 Text the message @fek9h

This is the class code for Concert Band. People can always use fek9h to join this class.



# Westerly High School Band Health & Permission Form

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Home # \_\_\_\_\_

Guardian Cell # \_\_\_\_\_ Student Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

List Any Medical  
Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Daily Medication: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Information We Should Know: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I give my son/daughter/student \_\_\_\_\_  
permission to participate with the WHS Marching band in all events including, but not limited to The Columbus  
Day Parade, Veteran's Day Parade, Mystic Irish Parade, Memorial Day Parade, home football games,  
Thanksgiving Day game, and all other school sponsored events and local field trips throughout the fall and  
spring.

I further give permission for the band director or other designee to seek medical attention (EMS,  
Emergency Room Physician, First Responder Etc.) for my child in the case of illness, injury, or other emergencies.  
All attempts will be made to contact me as soon as possible in the event of medical emergency. The information  
that I have provided is confidential.

My child understands that we are representing Westerly Public Schools and the Town of Westerly and my  
child will follow all school rules. My child understands that he/she will act responsibly and respectfully at all  
times during performances, rehearsals etc. Instructional staff, and the assistant director are representatives of  
the band director.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ parent E-mail \_\_\_\_\_