

West Clermont Marching Band

Handbook

2020-2021

School Year



**West Clermont Instrumental Music
Department**

4101 Bach Buxton Rd.

Cincinnati, Ohio 45103

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Introduction

The West Clermont Instrumental Music Program includes Symphonic Band 1, Symphonic Band 2, Concert Band, Jazz Band, Percussion Ensemble, Color Guard, Winter Guard, Pep Band, and Marching Band.

The education philosophy of the West Clermont Instrumental Music Department is to educate every student enrolled in the program to the fullest extent. This includes skill development, cognitive understanding, and musical appreciation of fine music literature.

The primary objective of the West Clermont High School Band Program is to develop performance, rehearsal, and personal practice skills of each student. Students are expected to have a good work ethic, show consistent progress, and develop goals to achieve personal skills. Instrumentation for the marching band will be based on the concert band roster unless directed by the Director of Bands.

The three attributes we want band students to embody are: Integrity, Empathy, and Excellence

Letter from the Director of Bands

Welcome to the West Clermont band program! The marching band has grown tremendously over the years to become a tight-knit family of performers, parents, and staff members all dedicated to the idea of giving students a positively life-changing experience!

Enclosed in this packet is information for students and parents regarding the marching band season. Please submit the online registration as soon as possible to guarantee a performing position. If circumstances arise that more time is required, please contact Mr. Fischer via email.

Please read the entire packet thoroughly as it contains calendars, expectations, and payment information. As the largest activity in the West Clermont school district, it is important that we set the standard of excellence - students and parents will be expected to abide by all rules and regulations in this handbook at all times.

We are looking forward to the upcoming season as we continue our pursuit of excellence and pride in the community.

If you have further questions, please contact me via email!

Best Wishes!

Brian Fischer
Director of Bands
Fischer_B@my.westcler.org

Policies

Attendance Policy

All rehearsals and performances are mandatory. Attendance will be taken at all rehearsals and performances. Emailed excuses are required *prior* to an absence. Emails can be sent to Mr. Fischer.

A parent may be called to verify the student's absence. All working students should provide their employers with the summer and fall schedules, thus providing a means of eliminating schedule conflicts. Conflicts with other school organizations will be taken into consideration provided: A) The directors are informed in writing, by the student, at least one week in advance of the conflict; B) The student is in good standing according to the rules and regulations and grade requirements of the organization. *Attendance should be split evenly with both activities.* An unexcused absence from a rehearsal may result in the loss of position or suspension for the upcoming performance. Homework, projects, work, and driving classes are not excusable – *students must manage their time effectively.*

Grading Policy

Punctuality- Punctual means being prepared with all materials at the specified call time. This does not include walking into the building or getting your instrument at the call time. Students who are not in their spots at the specified time will be considered late and will not receive the punctuality points for the event.

Materials- Are all items that are necessary to be successful. These things include a properly functioning instrument, dot books, music books, and other items required by directors.

Participation- This is defined as following the proper rehearsal procedures as well as completing assignments given.

Rehearsals – 30 points	Performances – 300 points
Punctuality – 10 points	Punctuality – 20 points
Materials – 10 points	Materials – 30 points
Participation – 10 points	Participation – 250 points

Expectations

1. Treat all members with mutual respect.
2. Be punctual and in your designated area at all times. Being “on time” in the West Clermont Band means **fifteen minutes prior** to the scheduled starting time.
3. Profanity/disrespect will not be tolerated at any time.
4. It is the responsibility of each member to have all equipment and other pertinent items at all rehearsals (drill books, music, pencils, etc.) Likewise, it is just as important to make sure **everything is put away and stored in its proper place after rehearsal.**
5. While at rehearsal you are expected to give 100% effort. Everyone will be working hard, *just do it.*

Code of Conduct

A firm and fair policy of enforcement is necessary to uphold the regulations and standards of the West Clermont Music Department. The community, school administrators, and the music staff feel strongly that high standards of conduct and citizenship are essential in maintaining a sound program in music education. The welfare of the student is our major consideration and transcends any other consideration.

All band members shall abide by a Code of Conduct, which will earn them the honor and respect that participation in the Co-Curricular Music Program affords. Any conduct that results in dishonor to the musician, the Marching Band, or the school will not be tolerated. Acts of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to: theft, vandalism, disrespect, immorality, or violations of the law. **Tarnishing the reputation of those associated with West Clermont High School and the Instrumental Music Program will not be tolerated.**

Students participating in the Marching Band must conduct themselves as mature young men and women. Participation in co-curricular programs is a privilege and not a right. Any band member whose conduct could be construed to reflect discredit upon the band and/or the school, will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the music staff and/or administration. Issues of misconduct that are not directly stated within this document will be dealt with on an individual basis. This is an extension of the West Clermont High School Student Code of Conduct.

Uniform Requirements

The following criteria have been established for achieving a clean and uniform look in our band. All uniform parts must be worn as instructed. When not performing, but still in uniform, all members may remove pieces of the uniform as per instructed by the directors. Required under-layers as specified are necessary at all times as there is no privacy when changing into uniforms. At competitions and football games, students may have to dress in public with limited privacy.

Prior to each performance, members must pass an inspection of their uniform and equipment. This ensures that the band maintains a cohesive, consistent appearance. In addition, we hope to foster good personal habits and pride in the band.

Practice Uniform	
All Sections	
Practice Uniform	Comfortable T-shirt, shorts/pants, athletic shoes, cushioned socks to prevent blisters, hat, tool belt and sunscreen All clothing must be in accordance with dress code of West Clermont School District.

Summer Uniform

	Winds/Battery Percussion	Front Ensemble	Color Guard
Summer Uniform	Show Shirt/Wolves Shirt Khaki/Tan shorts – knee length Brown Belt Athletic Shoes White Socks – ankle length or shorter	Show Shirt/Wolves Shirt Khaki/Tan shorts – knee length Brown Belt Athletic Shoes White Socks – ankle length or shorter	Per Color Guard Director

Competition Uniform

	Winds/Battery Percussion	Front Ensemble	Color Guard
Uniform	All uniform parts, (bibs, jacket, shako, gauntlets, bling)	All uniform parts, (bibs, jacket, gauntlets, bling)	Current season competition uniform
Under Layers	Show shirt, snug-fitting shorts	Show shirt, snug-fitting shorts	Current season competition under layers
Hair	Hair should be under the shako and must not cover the collar. Hair color will be a natural color.	Hair should be under the shako and must not cover the collar. Hair color will be a natural color.	Per show design. Hair color will be a natural color.
Makeup/Nail Polish	None	None	Per show design
Jewelry	Only if concealed by uniform; otherwise no jewelry	Only if concealed by uniform; otherwise no jewelry	Only if concealed by uniform; otherwise no jewelry
Facial Hair	Well-groomed facial hair is acceptable	Well-groomed facial hair is acceptable	Per show design, well-groomed facial hair is acceptable
Shoes	Black Marching shoe	Black Marching shoe	Competition shoes
Socks	Black calf to knee high socks	Black calf to knee high socks	None
Gloves	Provided by boosters, must be clean and free of wear/damage	Provided by boosters, must be clean and free of wear/damage	Guard gloves if required by Color Guard Director

Leadership Team

The Marching Band leadership team is then chosen by the directors, following an extensive process throughout April. Being a member of the leadership team is an opportunity for students to take on additional responsibilities that develop leadership skills. They are also the directors' eyes and ears of the band. Together, they work to make the band the best it can be.

If your student has a problem and does not know where to turn, or does not feel comfortable talking to the director, they could talk to a member of this group. That person will take the problem to the leadership team, who will suggest a solution or bring the problem to the director's attention for assistance in resolving the issue. Who knows - it could be that other students are having the same problem. This is also the group who knows what is going on and can be a source of information to your student. If you or your child have any questions or are not sure that the information heard through the grapevine is correct, ask one of the student leaders.

Modes of Communication

West Clermont Band uses various modes of communication. First and foremost, Charms is the primary mode of communication. Charms is a Music Education Administrative Software that West Clermont Band uses for email communication, student data and the master band calendar. Please follow this link to self-register for a Charms account or for existing band members, follow the link to verify and update your information.

[Charms Self Registration Link](#)

*Once registered, please access Charms at <https://www.charmsoffice.com/>. Login as Parents/Students/Members with the school code of **WESTCLERMONT**. Click "Enter Parent Area", then enter your student's ID as the password then click "Enter". On this dashboard, you can update info, access volunteer opportunities, access the band calendar, view your student's financial statement*

West Clermont Band also has a website. Information that was sent via Charms will also be found here.

www.wcwolvesband.com

Remind is a tool used to quickly send out informational blasts to certain groups. Download the Remind app on your smartphone. The Director of Bands will provide further instructions on how this app works.

Social media is used to send out information as described above, but with typically less detail. Social media is also used to share fun band information, events, photos and accomplishments. Please refer to the Charms emails for ALL information.

Facebook – West Clermont Bands (private group) and West Clermont Bands (public page)

Instagram – westclermontbands

Twitter – @wcwolvesband

Financial Information

There are fees associated with participating in the Marching Band.

West Clermont School District charges a Pay to Play fee of \$250.00 per student enrolled in Marching Band.

This fee will appear on the school fees bill at schedule pickup in the fall. This fee pays for a spot in the custom designed marching band show, transportation to competitions and parades, uniforms and costumes and other items. We urge you to pay this fee as early in the season as possible since nearly 100% of marching band activities are in the late summer/early fall. This fee is payable to West Clermont School District as early as 7/1 of each year. You can pay on your student's EZPay account or mail a check to the address below.

Mail payment to:
West Clermont High School
c/o Cashier
4101 Bach Buxton Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45103

West Clermont Band Boosters charge a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 per student enrolled in Marching Band.

This fee pays for marching band staff, meals at band camp, clinicians, and other misc. items. New instrumentalists and all color guard members must purchase shoes at \$40.00. Instrumentalists shoes in good condition can be worn for multiple years. Color guard shoes may change from year to year. The non-refundable fee of \$100.00 and \$40.00 can be paid on the band website at <http://wcwolvesband.com/shop/>. Fees will apply. If you prefer to pay by check or money order (do not mail cash), please send it to the address below and **INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT'S NAME ON THE CHECK MEMO.**

These payments will not be collected in person.

Mail payment to:
West Clermont Band Boosters
P.O. Box 755
Batavia, OH 45103

Financial Hardships

Financial hardships may be brought to the attention of the Director of Bands for consideration of financial assistance/payment plans. All correspondence may be communicated with certain members of West Clermont Band Boosters to determine if financial assistance/payment plans can be provided.

In addition, families may indicate intent in applying for a need-based financial scholarship. See link to the scholarship below. Please note that there may not be enough funds to provide financial assistance to all applicants. <http://wcwolvesband.com/jimpease/>

The funding for this scholarship is made possible from West Clermont families like yours; so please consider donating so you can help a band family in need. [Donate - James Pease Memorial and Scholarship](#)

Individual Fundraising to Pay Fees


West Clermont Band has partnered with Eastside Motivators, Inc. (EMI) for individual fundraising needs. The funds you raise with EMI are distributed to nonprofit organizations, such as West Clermont Band Boosters Inc., to pay for your student's Booster Fees or band related trips. These funds can also be applied to your student's districts fees (i.e. \$250.00 Pay to Play fee, etc.). Please contact Stephanie Norris at stephnorr@aol.com. If you are fundraising with EMI, you must also be in contact with the current WCBB Treasurer and WCHS Cashier to manage these funds.

Volunteer Expectations

The Marching Band program provides students with the opportunity to grow and develop through an experience of shared learning that is truly unique. The program is like no other at West Clermont with about 200 students participating each year beginning in May with Mini-Band Camp and continuing through AAA Championships in November. The Directors work very hard and invest many hours, but there is simply no way the program can be what it is without the amazing support of parent volunteers. Through volunteering, parents create new friendships with other parents and have the unique opportunity to be involved with something that is such an important part of their students' high school experience.

Parents/Guardians are expected to support the program by volunteering with the below minimum commitment:

1. We expect every parent to volunteer at a minimum of two events throughout the year - NOT including mandatory participation at Showcases, the WC Band Invitational, and MSBA Class AAA Championships. These competitions play a significant role in fundraising for the program and help cover some of the participation costs, lowering fees for all families.
2. In addition, to volunteer a minimum of six volunteer shifts (3-4 hours in length) throughout the season from May through November 2020. There are many ways to volunteer including:
 - Help 'Feed the Band' by serving a meal provided by one of our sponsors during a rehearsal or before a game
 - Help in the concessions stand during home football games
 - Help during one of our fundraising events such as Yankee Candle, Bloom Spring Flowers, Mattress Fundraiser, etc.
 - Serve as a Chaperone to help care for student health & well-being during rehearsals, camps, games, and competitions
 - Volunteer to support the Pit Crew to create/support management of props and equipment
 - Help with the uniform crew at a uniform fitting or by washing uniforms
 - Etc, etc, etc! There are so many ways to volunteer, everyone can find a unique way they enjoy volunteering that fits your schedule

Volunteer opportunities are always listed on the Charms band calendar. Click on the colorful waving hand! 

Schedule Information

The master band schedule is in Charms. There are two ways to access the calendar.

<http://wcwolvesband.com/calendar/>

<https://www.charmsoffice.com/public/calendar.asp> School code is WESTCLERMONT

All practices, events, competitions, fundraisers, meetings, etc. are in this calendar.

You can find instructions to sync the calendar to your mobile device at

<http://wcwolvesband.com/sync-the-band-calendar/>

Registration – Mandatory - must follow links to complete!

Please complete the following registration steps with a parent or guardian.

1. This handbook is located at <http://wcwolvesband.com/registration>
2. [Charms Self Registration Link](#) or access Charms at <https://www.charmsoffice.com/>. Login as Parents/Students/Members with the school code of **WESTCLERMONT**. Click "Enter Parent Area", then enter your student's ID as the password then click "Enter". On this dashboard, you can update info
3. <http://wcwolvesband.com/shop/>
West Clermont Marching Band Fee Payment (Booster Fees and Shoes)
4. [2020 West Clermont High School Marching Band Agreement](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Fischer.

West Clermont Band Boosters Contacts

Please feel free to reach out to the boosters with any questions that you have. We are here to help Mr. Fischer, his students and their families.

President	Hillary Hollis	Booster.president@wcwolvesband.com
Vice President	Chris Dulaney	Booster.vp@wcwolvesband.com
Vice President of Development	Bridget Goebel	Booster.vpd@wcwolvesband.com
Treasurer	Laurie Crothers	Booster.treasurer@wcwolvesband.com
Assistant Treasurer	Lisa Hungler	Booster.asst.treasurer@wcwolvesband.com
Secretary	Beth Burcham	Booster.secretary@wcwolvesband.com
Public Relations	Krysti Barnhill	Booster.pr@wcwolvesband.com
Event Coordinator	Stephanie Hurley	Booster.events@wcwolvesband.com
Concessions Manager	Chris Prewitt	Booster.concessions@wcwolvesband.com
Uniform Manager	Jodi Franks	Booster.uniforms@wcwolvesband.com
Middle School Representative	Pam Day	Booster.wcms@wcwolvesband.com
Director	Brian Fischer	Fischer_B@my.westcler.org