

Corrections to the following Band Manual:

Some important dates that were incorrectly listed on the Fine Arts Events dates in this year's Band Manual.

Those corrections are as follows:

Tuesday, April 24, 2012 Should be the Jazz Bands, Choirs and SM/SW Cadet Band Spring Concert NOT APRIL 19

Tuesday, May 22, 2012 should be the Spring Band Concert NOT A WEDNESDAY

**WAUKESHA CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC MANUAL
2011-2012
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN**



REBECCA VAN TREECK, BAND DIRECTOR
Waukesha Catholic Middle School-- St. Joseph Campus
St. Mary Campus
St. William Campus

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TO THE PARENT

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you for being the parent of one of the finest students at Waukesha Catholic. At least that is how I feel about students who are involved in the school instrumental music program. I'm sure that you will agree.

Parents, I would like to emphasize the important role **you** play in the musical development of your child. Your constant support and encouragement can make all the difference in making his/her participation in the instrumental music program a successful and positive experience. Support can begin by promoting good practice habits, providing a separate area of the house and designating a daily practice time will. All these things will certainly be beneficial for your child. Naturally, the single most important way you can show your support is your attendance at band performances. **A list of the year's performances is attached at the end of this handbook.**

This handbook has been prepared to keep both the student and the parent informed of the existing instrumental music program. Please sign and date the attached slip and return it after you have read the booklet. If you have any questions that still persist regarding the band program, please feel free to contact me at home (414-546-6239) at school (896-2930 X331), or by e-mail, vantreeckb@archmil.org. Band parents may contact me through WebGrader using WebNotes as well. Expressed interest in your child's activities is greatly appreciated.

Musically yours,

Rebecca Van Treeck
Waukesha Catholic Band Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: Waukesha Catholic develops well educated, caring and confident individuals who lead Christ—centered lives and are inspired to build a better world.

TO THE STUDENT

A very warm welcome to all band members. Hopefully, we all have had a safe, fun-filled, and refreshing summer. This year we begin with many brand new musicians as well as experienced performers. I am confident we can pool our talents together to form some exceptionally talented groups.

The band is one of the most visible and active organizations at your school. The Middle School bands will perform concerts at least three to four times a year and may have an opportunity to play at the Waukesha Christmas Parade. The Cadet Band does not perform as often, about two to three times a year. Jazz Ensemble will again be offered as a co-curricular for students at the Middle School.

We are counting on your dedication and responsibility toward the group so that it is possible to perform so often. Your time, talent and energy are needed to make this year musically successful.

This handbook has been prepared to inform you, the student, and your parent(s) about the instrumental music program. Take the time to read through it carefully. Students, you are encouraged to check your progress through Web Grader and may WebNote or talk to me about any questions or concerns you may have. Please sign the attached slip and return it to Ms. Van Treeck or the school office. Be sure your parents have read it and signed the slip also. This indicates to me that you have a genuine interest in band.

Musically yours,

Ms. Van Treeck
Band Director

PHILOSOPHY AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

“The most successful schools explicitly involve the subjects that are frequently and systematically disregarded in traditional accountability systems: music, art, physical education, world languages, technology, career education, consumer and family education, and many other variations on these themes. Analysis of holistic accountability data reveals that the involvement of these seemingly peripheral subjects in academic achievement is neither serendipitous nor insignificant. Rather, a deliberate strategy of involvement in these subjects leads to the improvement of academic results for all students.”

Reeves, Douglas B., *Accountability for Learning: How Teachers and School Leaders Can Take Charge*, ASCD, Alexandria, VA, 2004 p. 72

Music is an area of knowledge important in itself. It should be an integral part of the curriculum from kindergarten through high school. Music education should not be reserved for those with “talent”. Nor should it be restricted to those who can afford it, or whose parents deem it important. Music is one of the hallmarks of what it means to be a human being. Band, the study of instrumental music, has many beneficial qualities that can lead to the growth and development of a student.

Band is unique in that it lends itself to group activity. While constantly striving for musical excellence and quality, each band member has the responsibility to contribute to the group as a whole. The following are the State of Wisconsin Music content standards. These standards are the basis upon which students are taught and assessed.

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performance.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

A new music K–8 Grade Curriculum was developed last year (2010-11) and will be implemented this year. The new music standards that will appear on the report card are:

- Demonstrates an understanding of musical concepts through singing and playing instruments.
- Demonstrates an understanding of music in relation to history, culture and the arts.
- Demonstrates an understanding of musical concepts through composing and arranging
- Demonstrates an understanding of musical concepts through reading, notating analyzing and evaluating music.

Band is open to any 5th-8th grade student. Beginners traditionally start in the 5th grade, but those in the upper grades are welcome to join at any time. **BAND IN EACH GRADE REQUIRES A FULL YEAR COMMITMENT.**

CADET BAND

Cadet Band includes all 5th grade students. Individual or small group lessons are scheduled once a week during the school day on a rotating basis. Full band rehearsals will be scheduled during the school day starting around late October. Students from St. Mary and St. William will also have the opportunity to practice all together in preparation for the concert in spring.

6th GRADE BAND

6th Grade Band is comprised of students with one year playing experience or less. Individual and /or small group lessons are scheduled once a week during the school day. Full band rehearsals are scheduled twice a week, Wednesdays and Fridays. 6th Grade Band performances include two to three yearly concerts. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many small group performing opportunities such as playing for Thursday morning liturgies, Café’ Create and Grandparent’s Day.

7th GRADE BAND AND 8TH GRADE BAND

These two separate bands are made up of students with at least one full year of playing experience and they rehearse two times a week on Wednesdays and Fridays. Individual and/or small group lessons are scheduled as well. Both bands perform two to three yearly concerts and may be invited to perform at the Christmas Parade. There are also smaller ensemble opportunities scheduled throughout the course of the year.

7th/8th GRADE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

This jazz group is an offshoot of their respective grade level bands and is open to any 7th or 8th grade student. However, the student must be a member of one of the grade level bands (except for piano, guitar, or bass guitar), in order to participate. In the past, Jazz Ensemble traditionally rehearsed during the school day at Tool Time, but at this writing and with the new school day schedule, it is unclear if that time slot will be available. So, the 7th/8th Grade Jazz Ensemble will rehearse before school every Thursday morning from 7:45–8:20. The signup sheet for joining Jazz Ensemble will be posted in the band room the first 2 weeks of school. **(Jazz Ensemble requires a full year's commitment.)** Jazz Ensemble performances number about 1-2 times per year. Students will explore the musical styles of swing, rock, Latin, blues and the art of improvisation. Students who participate in this group will receive enrichment points towards their overall quarter grade.

TEACHER EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The success of a school band program is largely dependent on the competence of its individual members. In order to achieve musical success, the teacher's expectations must be met. Although it may seem that more is required of the band students than in any of the other classroom subjects, the rewards and benefits of both individual and group achievement cannot be compared. Three factors can be stated which are necessary for effective participation in the band program.

Responsibility is first and foremost among these factors. Each band member must demonstrate a sense of responsibility both to him/herself and the band organization. Band is a combined effort with each of its members cooperating and respecting one another.

Attitude is a second necessary factor. Students must to the best of their ability, put forth their greatest effort at all times. "Can't" is a four letter word that will not be accepted as an excuse in band. "I'll try" is much better. We can accomplish so much more when we put things in a more positive perspective.

Demonstrating an understanding of musical concepts is the third and final factor needed for a worthwhile band experience. There is a big difference between merely playing the notes and playing the music with understanding. Success in musical comprehension is largely due to diligent student practice. Student improvement and progress are obvious results of both individual and group practice.

SUMMER BAND OFFERINGS

During the summer of '12, all students in the instrumental music program will have the chance to participate in **Summer Band Lessons**. Also, there are many Colleges and Universities in the area that offer week long **Summer Band Camp** experiences. Middle school students have the opportunity to apply for and earn a scholarship to help defray the cost. More than 10 of our Middle School students attended a summer camp this past year! More details regarding summer band opportunities will be available to all interested students sometime in the later part of second semester.

CONCERT DRESS

The 7th and 8th Grade Band members' formal concert attire will be the following: black pants, black shoes, black socks and white shirt/blouse. Cadet Band and 6th Grade Band members are expected to "dress up" for their respective formal concert events—no jeans, please. I encourage all musicians to look **and** sound their best.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grading and evaluating is a constant, on-going process. It should be noted that there is always room for improvement and this is especially true of the young band student.

There is no reason why a student should receive less than a “C” if all band requirements and expectations are met, and it is evident that he/she is putting forth his/her best effort. All Waukesha Catholic band students’ grades will appear on each student’s report card.

The final grade each quarter will be an average of the following four areas:

- I. Performance Attendance - 50%**
- II. Skill Development- 30%** (Will include playing and/or written test or quiz)
- III. Participation by Effort/Attitude - 10%** (Will include additional in class or out of class written assignments, i.e. practice journals)
- IV. Rehearsal Technique -10%**
(First quarter will not include performance attendance. The percentages will be 60% for skill development, 20% for participation/effort and 20% for rehearsal technique.)

A more detailed break down follows on the next page. This check list will be part of a self-assessment tool for the first quarter at the middle school level.

Enrichment activities are averaged in after the final grade has been determined and all the requirements have been met. Enrichment activities are listed on the next page. Ask Ms. Van Treeck for even more options.

A note about weekly lessons at the Middle School: All band students are required to have accumulated 5 lessons per quarter. If a student misses a lesson, it will be recorded as a missed assignment and must be made up by either scheduling a make up lesson or completing a Self-Assessment Lesson Sheet in order to meet the required number of lessons. Students will have the entire quarter to make up for the missed lesson. The score/grade that is earned from completion of the assessment form will then take the place of the missed lesson.

Students and parents are strongly encouraged to check out band grades on Webgrader on a weekly basis. Students and/or parents may WebNote me if a question or a concern arises.

FIRST QUARTER CHECKLIST

NAME _____
GRADE _____

PERFORMANCE (50% of grade, 0% of grade*)

Each performance will be designated 100 or 200 points

SKILL DEVELOPMENT (30% of grade, 60% of grade*)

100 pts. each _____

Number of lessons attended _____

*required 5 per quarter

PARTICIPATION BY EFFORT/ATTITUDE (10% of grade, 20% of grade*)

I show great leadership by example, convey a positive spirit of cooperation, participate with consistent energy and I contribute and share within my section and the class as a full group.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE (10% of grade, 20% of grade*)

I respect the rehearsal process by being a good listener, marking my music appropriately, completing and updating my practice journal, and not talking out of turn.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

ENRICHMENT (1 extra point per event)

- _____ Performed outside of class requirements (church, etc.)
- _____ Extra Lessons _____
- _____ Outside Concert Attendance and Critique
- _____ Private Lessons _____ (teacher's name)
- _____ Written paper on pre-approved musical subject
- _____ Participant in Jazz Ensemble
- _____ OTHER

FIRST QUARTER GRADE _____

COMMENTS:

**Italicized percentages are for first quarter only because there are no performances for the first quarter. Bold percentages apply to all other quarters.*

BAND EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be present and on time for all band activities.**
2. **Bring a pencil and any other necessary materials to every rehearsal and lesson.**
3. **Be considerate, courteous and respectful to the band director and all band members.**
4. **Play your own instrument.**
5. **Take care of your instrument—keep it in good playing condition.**
6. **Follow directions given by the band director.**
7. **All reed instruments—have a supply of three to four reeds at all times. Brass instruments should have a bottle of valve oil or slide cream/slide oil.**
8. **Put forth your best effort and show consistent musical improvement. Practice and Participate!!!!**

CONSEQUENCES FOR MISCONDUCT

–It is the responsibility of each student to arrange his/her schedule in such a manner that he/she can participate in all band activities. Few excuses other than illness or injury will be accepted for absence from a band performance. Clubs, out-of-school sports, and vacations are not considered acceptable excuses. A written notice from the parents is required for an excused absence of illness or injury. Unexcused absences will be entered as a 0 in the performance attendance percentage. Students should consult the enrichment opportunities in order to improve their grade due to a missed performance.

--Students from the Middle School will follow the Honor Level Discipline policy for all misconducts. Middle School students who do not bring their instrument to band class will complete a written, in class assignment. A 1 point code of conduct will also be issued. Students who forget their instrument after the first time will a 3 pt. Code of Conduct. Class behavior and conduct will be reflected in the student's overall grade (see pg. 5 for Grading and Evaluation).

RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to promote a more positive attitude, maximize participation, and motivate students to do their best at all times, the following will be part of the band program:

Recognition Opportunities

- Verbal praise
- Periodic in-class free time
- “Exceptional Music Makers” recognition bulletin board
- Receiving “mile markers”
- Concert trip or field trip outside of school
- Musical requests and suggestions
- Student conductors
- Scholarships to summer band camp
- Special 8th Grade Band membership Recognition

Special Responsibilities (Middle School only)

Band Manager(s)

- In charge of setting up chairs and stands for the respective grade level rehearsals

Band Librarian(s)

- Assist in distributing/collecting music and handouts and helping with attendance
- Responsible for keeping music neat and in order
- See that each member of the band has his/her own copy of the band music.

Section Leaders (7th Grade Band and 8th Grade Band)

- Set proper example and are leaders not only within your section, but also in the entire band.
- Attend to various other responsibilities as the band director sees fit.

Semester I

Positions are appointed by the band director based on your past performance and dedication to the band. Some responsibilities are on a volunteer basis.

Semester II

Positions will be held unless the members of the band or the band director feel you are not fulfilling your requirements.

ALL OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE PRIVILEGES AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH!

BAND FEES AND BAND PARENT ORGANIZATION

The cost for participation in band for a single child is \$117.50 for the first semester and \$117.50 for the second semester. For a second child the cost is \$175.00 per year. These fees help to defray the cost of the band director's salary. \$5.00 per semester will go towards the band fund. This fund will be set aside to purchase quality musical arrangements for the band, solo/ensemble expenses and some much needed additional band equipment. (For example, we recently purchased a full-sized Yamaha keyboard with weighted keys for the band program as a direct result from collecting monies for this fund. This year, we are looking to add to our band instrument library and purchasing a concert bass drum for the middle school campus). The Waukesha Catholic business office will bill you as to the cost and due date of the fees.

In an effort to involve more parents and to build upon the current support of the band program, we have a Band Parent Organization. Involved parents help with things such as concert and performance preparation, band fund management, possible field trip planning, Café Create, etc. Meetings are held 1-2 times per year. Please answer the question on the back cover of this booklet regarding your interest in this group. Waukesha Catholic Fine Arts Department is also looking to form a parent support group as well. Look for information regarding this group a few months prior to Café' Create.

A WORD ABOUT PRACTICING

Each student is expected to practice at least 15-20 minutes every other day. This is the bare minimum. Students are certainly encouraged to practice more. Individual student practice goals are discussed at lessons and are recorded on the students practice charts and journals. In the 5th grade, students are required to record their daily practice times on a quarterly practice sheet available from the band instructor. A parent signature is required at the end of each week on these practice charts. Middle School band students will be recording information about their practicing in a practice journal. Journals will be collected and assessed twice per quarter. A parent's signature is required on the journals as well. The purpose of each weekly lesson is to demonstrate or play what the student has prepared and to learn new material. Lessons are not practice or drill sessions. If a student needs extra help, I am very willing to make myself available after or before school if necessary.

INSTRUMENTS

A musical instrument is a big investment and great care should be taken to keep it in proper playing condition.

Proper care and routine maintenance will be part of the musical instruction. Major repairs can be avoided if the student acts responsibly with his/her own instrument. A qualified repair person must do all necessary repairs. Trying to "fix it" at home may do more harm than good.

Most instruments must be rented or purchased through a nearby music store. Waukesha Catholic deals with White House of Music, but parents are under no obligation to deal with them exclusively. Waukesha Catholic has been slowly building a band instrument library whereby students may pay a yearly, minimal fee to use a school owned instrument. *If you have an unused family owned instrument or know someone who does, consider donating it to the school so that students who may have financial issues may participate in band.*

**Fine Arts Events
2011-2012 School Year**

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Beginning Band Recruitment Night

(General Meeting for all students and parents in grades 5—8 who have never participated in the band program before)

6:30 P.M. Waukesha Catholic Middle
School lunch Room

Thursday, September 8, 2011

Beginning Band Appointments

3:45—8:30 P.M.
St. Mary Computer Lab

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Grandparent's Day

Selected 7th/8th Grade Middle School small ensembles from the Band
Art work on display

A.M.
St. Joseph Middle School Campus

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

St. William Campus Christmas Concert

Cadet Band

7:00 P.M.
St. William Church

Thursday, December 15, 2011

St. Mary Campus Christmas Concert

Cadet Band

7:00 p.m. Shattuck Auditorium Carroll University Campus
Dress Rehearsal A.M.

Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Middle School Christmas Concert

Bands

7:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal 9:00—12:30
Shattuck Auditorium Carroll University Campus

Friday, March 23, 2012

Café Create (voluntary)

Featuring Waukesha Catholic Fine Arts Students Grades 4—8

5:00—9:00 P.M.
Middle School Campus 6th Grade Wing

Tuesday, April 19, 2012

Middle School Spring Concert

Jazz Bands, Choirs and SM/SW Cadet Band

7:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal in A.M.
Shattuck Auditorium Carroll University Campus

April 26, 2012

Waukesha Catholic NOW Luncheon Event

Select Middle School musical groups and student art work displayed

Country Springs Hotel

Wednesday, May 22, 2012

Middle School Spring Band Concert

6th—8th Grade Bands

7:00 P.M. Dress Rehearsal in A.M.
Shattuck Auditorium Carroll University Campus

Other possible Events TBA: Waukesha Christmas Parade, Sunday, November 20 possibly coordinated with Catholic Memorial's Band—Middle School only, volunteer participation. Spring Band Field Trip

Unless otherwise indicated, all of these performances are mandatory. More information regarding definite times and places of all performance events will be relayed to you as soon as possible.

NOTE: "Band Notes" is an informational letter sent home with the students as often as needed regarding upcoming band activities and performances. Letters will be sent home in Tuesday's packet.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS SLIP TO INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE POLICIES AND CONTENTS WITHIN THE WUAKESHA CATHOLIC BAND MANUAL. (This booklet is available for viewing on-line at www.wcssonline.org)

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

****Parents, would you be interested in being part of the Band Parent Organization?** Remember to look for more information regarding the formation of a Fine Arts group in an upcoming Tuesday folder as well. (Refer to page 8 for details.)

YES

NO

MAYBE

Thank you!!

Rebecca Van Treeck 2011--12 School Year

BAND SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
7:45				7/8 Jazz Ensemb.	
8:25-8:50	St. Mary	St. William	6th Grade	St. Joe's Liturgy	St. Joe's
8:50--9:15	L	L	Band	St. Joe's	Lessons
9:15-9:40	E	E	St. Joe's	L	
9:40--10:05	S	S	Lessons	E	
10:05-10:30	S	S		S	
10:30--10:55	O	O		S	
10:55-11:20	N	N		O	
11:20--11:45	S	S		N	LUNCH (11:15--45)
11:45-12:10	LUNCH		8th Grade	S	8th Grade
12:10--12:40		LUNCH	Band		Band
12:40--1:10		St. Joe's	LUNCH	LUNCH/DUTY	6th Grade
1:10-1:35	L	L	7th Grade	(12:40--1:00)	Band
1:35-2:00	E	E	Band	L	7th Grade
2:00-2:25	S	S	LESSONS	E	Band
2:25--2:50	S	S		S	LESSONS
2:50--3:15	O	O		S	
3:15-3:30	N	N		O	
3:30	S	S	Bus Duty	N	
				S	

Phone numbers: St. Joseph Middle School- 896-2930 X331

St. Mary- 896-2932 X419

St. William- 896-2920