

Syllabus

All Band Classes: Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Jazz Band 2025-26	
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NOTES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student grades reflect student achievement and not student behavior.• This syllabus is a living document. Changes made after the start of the school year will be communicated with students and families.	

Course Description

- The Washington-Liberty Concert Band (Intermediate Band) and Wind Ensemble (Advanced Band) provide a culturally and musically enriching experience through public performance, while affording the opportunity for continued development and improvement of technical skills, sight-reading, and musicianship to all members.
 - Participation in Concert Band and Wind Ensemble requires a \$60 (\$30 for students on Reduced Lunch, \$15 for Free Lunch; documentation of this status is required) fee due Oct 1
 - Participation in Marching Band requires a \$300 (\$150 for students on Reduced Lunch, \$75 for students on Free Lunch) fee due August 1st
 - **These fees are non-refundable**
- The primary goal of the W-L Marching Band, as one of the most visible groups in the school, is to meet the many challenges of public performance. This will be done through teaching the musical and marching skills necessary to perform at school and community functions while fostering school spirit. In order to achieve this goal successfully, each band member, with the support of the Band Director, must be willing to make a commitment towards reaching the highest potential possible in the development of musical as well as marching skills along with self-motivation, discipline, and pride.

Learning Objectives

Concert Band/Wind Ensemble

- The Concert Band and Wind Ensemble will meet during the daily school schedule and will rehearse and perform at school assemblies, winter and spring concerts, as well as at district assessment and out of area festivals on the national level. One full credit is offered for each class. Students in the Wind Ensemble will receive an additional half credit
- The more advanced members in the Wind Ensemble will be encouraged to participate in the Arlington Youth Symphony, All Regional Orchestra, and All District Band
 - Wind Ensemble members will be required to audition for All District Band

- Complete attention will be given during class to the individual development of technical, musical, sight-reading, rhythm, and articulation skills while exploring various forms, styles and periods of band literature.
- Performance/Audition tests will be given at various times throughout the year and will be used through scores received to measure progress and determine chair placement. After school and evening rehearsals will also be weighed as a test and/or quiz grade.
- Mental skills and knowledge required in music will be emphasized and assessed in coordination with the Arlington Public School Instrumental Music Curriculum and the Virginia Standards of Learning.
- Members of the Wind Ensemble are **required** to participate in the Marching Band. Participation in the Marching Band is optional (but highly encouraged) for students in the Concert Band.
- Members of the Wind Ensemble are **strongly encouraged** to take private lessons on their instrument in order to be able to meet the requirements of the music that the ensemble performs throughout the year. Students interested in receiving “scholarship” funds for lessons should speak with Dr. Sedatole

Marching Band

- The Marching Band meets after school periodically, dividing practice time between musical development and marching skills, which will culminate in the preparation of Halftime and Competition shows.
- In addition to preparation and performance of shows for all home games and competitions, the band will also participate in the Arlington Marching Showcase, the Yorktown away game, and the District 12 Assessment. The band will also perform as a pep band at home playoff games if needed.
- Although the band is most active during the football season, the ensemble will continue to perform at various events and activities throughout the year (e.g. pep rallies). Each member of the band will receive one half credit at the end of the semester.

Jazz Band

- The Jazz Band’s primary goal is directed towards rehearsing and performing music in the swing, bebop, fusion, and Latin idioms while offering members the opportunity to develop improvisational skills used in this style of music.
- All woodwind, brass, and percussion students in the jazz ensemble are required to be enrolled in one of the concert ensembles in order to participate. Membership in the jazz band will be determined by audition at the end of marching season.
- The Jazz Band will perform at the Winter Concert, Spring Concert, Jazz Pyramid Festival, and other special performances throughout the year.
- Development of improvisational skills through instruction of jazz theory will be emphasized. Clinics with specialists in this field of study will be offered when feasible.

Course Materials

- Pencil

- *Marching Band*: Three-ring binder and sleeve protectors
- Instrument
 - School owned instruments are available for a fee (\$100 or \$25 for students with Free/Reduced Lunch)
 - Specialty instruments such as Piccolo, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, French Horn, Euphonium, and Tuba will be provided to students who are assigned to play them
- Items necessary to keep your instrument in good playing condition:
 - Valve oil
 - Slide grease
 - Cork grease
 - Reeds*
 - Woodwinds are expected to be changing reeds out monthly

Course Resources

- Canvas
- Rhythm Randomizer (online)
- Foundations for Superior Performance (provided)
- Concert repertoire (provided)

Extra Help Opportunities *

- Dr. Sedatole will be available during Generals Period and during lunch on W days

Grading Policy

- Grades will be posted to Canvas and synced to Synergy/StudentVue regularly
- Evaluation for all bands and ensembles:
 - Attendance: during class, extra rehearsals when called, and all performances
 - Musicianship: Application and understanding of all skills developed in class, and preparation of music
 - Responsibility: Music, uniforms, lockers, instruments and instrument needs
 - Behavior: At all times while the group is together
 - Special note: All of the after school performing ensembles are co-curricular courses and carry the same weight and letter grade as a core or elective class. Please don't confuse these courses with after school clubs and/or sports that are offered at W-L. All students should be cautious when auditioning for these ensembles that may cause conflicts with other after school activities. It is recommended that you talk with your sponsor, coach, or music teacher before making your final decision. In most cases an agreeable solution can be worked out between you, the sponsor/coach, and music teacher for those W-L after school activities on campus.
- Quarterly grade calculation:
 - Marching Band/Concert Band/Wind Ensemble/Jazz Band:

- Summative Assessments - 60%
 - Written reflections
 - Playing tests
- Formative Assessments - 40%
 - Weekly rehearsal technique
 - Sight Reading Factory assignments
 - Written assignments as needed
 - Concerts and Performances
- Quarterly exams calculated into quarter grades
- Quarterly grade will round up when percentage is .5 or higher
- Final exams:
 - A final examination is **required** for the Concert Band and Wind Ensemble students in grades 9-11. Students may be exempted from this exam if it is the Orchestra's year to perform at the graduation. This exam will consist of two rehearsals and a final performance at the W-L graduation. All **senior band members are exempted** from this performance. All senior band members will perform in the spring concert before leaving for their senior experience at the end of the year. **All senior band members should arrange their senior experience so they are able to attend the in class or night rehearsals for the spring concert.**
- Rubrics for all assignment types will be posted in canvas for students to view
- Grade reporting:
 - Quarterly report cards will be issued electronically
 - Weekly progress reports will be sent via email to parents/guardians through the student information system.

APS Marking Period and Final Exam Grading Scale			
Letter Grade	Percentages	Quality Points	AP and Dual Enrollment Quality Points
A	90 - 100	4.0	5.0
B+	87 - 89	3.5	4.5
B	80 - 86	3.0	4.0
C+	77 - 79	2.5	3.5
C	70 - 76	2.0	3.0
D+	67 - 69	1.5	2.5
D	60 - 66	1.0	2.0
E	0 - 59	0.0	0.0

Letter Grade	Quality Point with Rounding to Determine Final Course Quality Point	AP, IB, and Dual Enrollment Quality Points
A	4.0 (3.75 to 4.0)	5.0
B+	3.5 (3.25 to <3.75)	4.5
B	3.0 (2.75 to <3.25)	4.0
C+	2.5 (2.25 to <2.75)	3.5
C	2.0 (1.75 to <2.25)	3.0
D+	1.5 (1.25 to <1.75)	2.5
D	1.0 (0.75 to <1.25)	2.0
E	0.0 <0.75	0

Late Work Policy

- Late work will be accepted and will receive a maximum grade of 90%
- Students will have until the date of a performance to submit late work on music that is being rehearsed. After the performance assignments will not be accepted

Re-take policy

- **Summative** assessments only
- A student who scores below 80 percent must be afforded the opportunity to retake or revise a summative assessment after remediation. The teacher shall determine the type and timeframe of remediation and implementation of the retake or revision. Only the higher score, up to 80 percent, on the summative assessment from the original or the retake or revision, will be used to calculate the student grade. ([APS PIP I-7.2.3.34 PIP-2](#))

NOTES:

- It is the student's responsibility to initiate the retake process
- Does not apply to final exams
- Does not apply to official IB assessments (neither internal assessments nor external assessments).

Attendance Expectations

- Students learn best when they are on-time, present, and engaged.
- It is expected that any anticipated absences be communicated by a parent ***at least two weeks prior*** to an event; conflicts that are not emergencies **will not be excused** if they are communicated less than two weeks ahead of time
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- If a conflict arises due to a rescheduling of a *school-sponsored* activity, students *may* be excused from a portion of rehearsal to accommodate both events. Students are expected to communicate any conflicts with other school activities (even potential ones such as the district track meet) for the *entire season* at the start of the year/season
- Absences from football games should be avoided if at all possible. Students who participate in multiple activities/sports will have the choice between the two events if it involves the equivalent of a “performance” for the other activity
- Absences from competitions will almost never be excused unless it is an emergency, religious observance, or a *school sponsored* sport activity (game, not practice). Absences for any other reason will not be excused as it is imperative to have every member of the band present at these events.
- Whether an absence is excused or not (beyond illness or family emergency) is up to the discretion of the director
- Participation in performances:
 - Tardies - students with 5 or more unexcused tardies within a concert cycle will be prohibited from performing on the concert and given an alternative assignment
 - Absences - students with 3 or more unexcused absences will be prohibited from performing on the concert and given an alternative assignment

Expectations for Student Engagement

- *APS Student/Parent Handbook*
 - Students must follow the Code of Conduct
 - Students must follow the guidelines for Digital Citizenship
- Students are expected to have their phones **off** and out of sight during class. There will be certain times when they will be directed to use their phones for specific rehearsal purposes, otherwise they will be confiscated for the duration of the class period if a student is found with their phone out more than once
- Students are expected to assemble their instrument and begin warming up in an appropriate manner (long tones, tuning, lip slurs, etc.) immediately upon entering the room.
- Rehearsal will begin 5 minutes after the bell. Students are expected to have looked at the agenda for the day and gotten their music out in the rehearsal order listed.
- Students are expected to remain mentally engaged during rehearsal. There will be times when the director is working with another section in the ensemble for a period of time—students should use this time as an opportunity to mentally practice the same section of music, or a different section that they can improve.
- Students are expected to treat each other with respect at all times

Academic Integrity

Students at Washington-Liberty are expected to respect the principles of honor and academic integrity. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

Artificial Intelligence can be a positive resource for education, but misuse will not be tolerated. Any misuse of software or representing another source's work as your own (without teacher permission or proper citation) is considered a violation of our principle of honor and will result in disciplinary action.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for more information on this policy.

Band Handbook Agreement

PARENT/GUARDIAN: I understand the requirements and responsibilities for membership in the Washington-Liberty High School band program. I have read and understand the special policies concerning grading, attendance, and behavior. I realize that my child is enrolled in a performance-based curriculum for academic credit and I agree not to use suspension of their participation in rehearsals or performances as a disciplinary tool.

NAME OF PARENT: _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT: _____

STUDENT: I have read and agree to abide by the principles, ideals, procedures and guidelines set forth in this handbook, and I understand the consequences for non-compliance.

NAME OF STUDENT: _____

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____

Please sign and return this form by October 1, 2025.