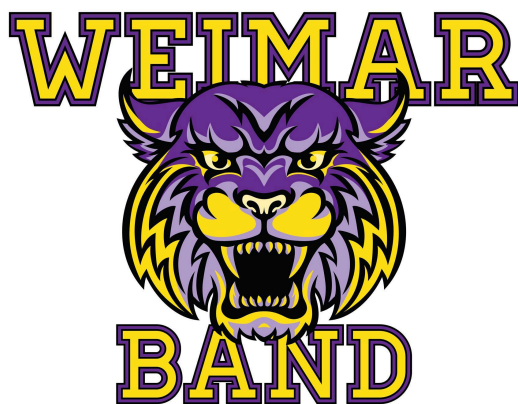


Weimar Wildcat Band

HS Band Handbook 2025-2026

Kendall Freeman, Head Director
Alyssa Patton, Assistant Director
Candace Mahaffey, Assistant Director



This handbook has been made for the benefit of all band members and their parents. The handbook describes the organizational aspects and student expectations of the Weimar ISD Band Program.

Attendance - Rehearsal and Performance Expectations

In order to achieve and maintain a high quality band program, it is sometimes necessary to have extra rehearsals outside of the regular school day. If possible, extra rehearsals will be scheduled in advance so that transportation arrangements can be made.

If at any time a band member is unable to attend a rehearsal or a performance, it is the student's responsibility to notify the director **with reasonable advance notice or AS SOON AS POSSIBLE in cases of emergencies**. Absences will be considered unexcused unless advance approval is given. **Notification of an absence does not excuse an absence.** It will be up to the directors whether or not the absence will be excused or if a make-up can be done.

All band members are expected to be at all band rehearsals and performances. Band is a performance-based class. Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances will have a negative impact on the student's grade. Performances cannot be made up as with other class work. If a performance is missed and is unexcused, an alternate assignment may be given at the discretion of the band directors and receive partial credit.

Examples of required performances (but not limited to):

Football games
Concerts / other public performances
Events that the band has been requested to perform at.
Contests / festivals (UIL eligibility participation guidelines in affect)

Sectionals:

Sectionals **may** be held at some point during the school year (usually early fall and early spring). These sectionals are mandatory. Everyone will be expected to attend sectionals on the assigned day and time. Each sectional will count as part of your grade. Sectionals may be held before, after, or possibly during the school day if possible. Please remember that we do our best to find a time that will work to alleviate after school conflicts. There is always the possibility that all conflicts can not be avoided.

Grading:

Students will be graded on playing tests, written tests, tardiness to performances & rehearsals, participation, etc... in accordance with school grading policy(at least 6 daily grades and 3 tests per 6 weeks). It is very easy to get a good grade in band as long as you do what is expected of you.

Students are expected to take instruments home to practice on a regular basis for homework. If a student cannot take an instrument home due to transportation issues, they may practice in the band hall before or after school.

Grade Checks:

We will be doing our own grade checks to help keep up with who might be falling behind on grades/classwork. Anyone not passing all of their classes on Friday will be held in the stands during 3rd quarter and will not be allowed to leave the stands during the game except to go to the restroom. Students held in the stands may still ask others to purchase items from the concession stand for them if they choose to.

Grading Outside of School Hours:

TEA / UIL Side-by-Side:

May a (fine arts director, coach, or academic sponsor) teacher or extracurricular sponsor responsible for posting a student's grade give points or subtract points from a grade when a student (excels in or) does or does not (fully) participate in an extracurricular activity? The teacher of a class is responsible for assessing students for promotion based only on "academic achievement or demonstrated proficiency of the subject matter of the course or grade level" (TEC §28.021). If a student is enrolled in a class in which participation in extracurricular activities is a reasonable expectation of the class, the teacher may consider the student's participation in the extracurricular activity when assigning the grade for the grading period during which the extracurricular activity occurred.

Band Calendar-

The official band calendar will be visible through the BAND App. A hard copy can be requested if necessary. It will be the responsibility of each student and their parents/guardians to be familiar with the calendar and check it often, as dates and events may change. Remember, all dates/times are subject to change. If there is any question about a date please ask Mr. Freeman.

Band App-

The Band App will be an important means of communication between staff, parents, and students. It is the most efficient way for Directors to communicate information quickly. It is essential that all students and parents with access to devices download the app and register with the organization's page. Information such as dates, event updates, travel, reminders, etc. will be posted here. The QR code to join will be made accessible to band members/families via flyers and social media.

Photo/Video Uploads-

A Photo/Video folder will be made available in Google Drive, where photos and videos from throughout the school year can be uploaded. These photos will be used for slideshow presentations for social events at the end of the school year. This is the link to that folder:

Google Classroom-

There will be a HS Band Google Classroom. From time to time we may put assignments in the classroom to help students and parents keep up with current assignments and announcements. We encourage parents to accept the invitation for the class when that invitation goes out.

Rules & Conduct

1. Be on time to class/rehearsals or you will be tardy.
2. Stop talking when a director is on the podium.
3. Respect yourself and others.
4. Respect equipment. Take care of it!
5. Not yours...Don't touch!!!
6. Always put your instrument away **correctly** in its rightful place.
7. **Only Band Students** are allowed in the band hall - Everyone else can wait outside.
8. Always have your instrument - You can't play without it - No Play...No Pass.
9. Always have **your own music** with you at your stand or in your flip folder. Don't depend on someone else.
10. Make sure you have a pencil at all times.
11. No food, drinks (other than water), or gum in the band hall unless permission is given by a director.
12. Do not leave trash lying around. Clean up your mess if you make one.
13. No horseplay in the band hall.
14. No use of electronic devices other than when specified by directors.
15. Most importantly: HAVE FUN!!!

If you choose to not follow these rules, any rules that may be added in the future, or any instructions that the directors may give, it means that you acknowledge that you are breaking the rules and, will therefore, willingly accept the consequences for your actions that the directors or administration feel necessary.

Supplies-

Some supplies that may be needed for playing or caring for your instrument, such as reeds, oil, grease, etc. may be available in the band hall office. Please make plans to get these items before or after school, NOT during class time. Please, be prepared to pay a small fee (amount to be determined) for supplies (if necessary).

School-owned Equipment-

Anyone who is issued school owned equipment is responsible for its care and upkeep. Any damages or loss due to negligence made to an instrument will be repaired and charged to the student. Be careful!! It costs approximately \$70-\$80 per hour for instrument repair.

Any book, binder, tuner, etc. that is checked out will be the responsibility of the student. Students will be charged for replacing damaged/lost materials. Whether or not materials need to be replaced will be at the directors' discretion.

Travel-

The band will have to travel. When traveling, the following rules will apply:

1. Boys and girls may not sit together if there are enough seats to accommodate.
2. Stay seated properly at all times.
3. No walking, standing, sitting or lying down in the aisle.
4. Keep all body parts inside the windows.
5. Do not throw or pour anything out of the windows.
6. No yelling. Talk to the person beside you.
7. No Food or drinks (other than water) are allowed in the buses except when specified by directors.
8. Trash will be put in the trash bag. If trash is left on the bus, everyone will be held until all trash is disposed of properly.
9. Electronic devices . . . bring at your own risk. If you bring one and it disappears the school and/or directors will not be responsible.

When the band takes a trip with instruments, each student is responsible for making sure all necessary equipment and/or materials is loaded. There will be a loading crew assigned to help load the bus/trailer but each student is responsible for staging and/or loading their equipment properly. Upon returning from the trip each student is responsible for helping to unload and getting everything put up in its rightful place. The band hall will not be opened until all trash in the bus is picked up and disposed of properly.

Students will be expected to ride with the band to and from our destination according to school policy. If a student will be leaving with a parent after an event, both parent and student need to

check in with a Director before leaving. Students will only be released to a **parent only unless prior arrangements have been made or approved by the director**. Documentation will be required.

Band Fees-

Each student will have band fees that will need to be paid at the beginning of the school year. Not all students may need to pay the same amount. The amount of fees due will be determined by what each student must purchase from one year to the next. Some fees will be reoccurring, while other fees may be a one time fee.

Items that may need to be purchased are (but not limited to) current band “show” shirt, marching shoes, uniform shorts, etc...

Each student will also be required to purchase **BLACK crew length socks** to wear with their band uniform. We will order everything that must be purchased. Shorts, shirts, and shoes must be paid for before they are ordered unless specific arrangements for payments have been made with Mr. Powers. Orders may be placed through the online order form that will be sent out through ParentSquare.

Required Attire-

Marching practice:

Marching shoes or tennis shoes...**ONLY**

Marching:

Band shirt

Band shorts to wear under uniform - Info will be given out for ordering at a later date (July)

Black socks – Crew length (no ankle socks)

Band shoes – info will be given out for ordering at a later date (July)

Concert Attire:

Band Uniform or as instructed

General Conduct

During school or at school functions, band members shall:

1. NOT use or be in possession of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or substances, any type of weapon
2. NOT participate in any illegal activity
3. NOT exhibit improper behavior
4. Be respectful at all times
5. Abide by all school rules and dress code

All students will behave appropriately. Any band student that violates these rules may be:

- Subject to disciplinary action
- Sent home at parents' expense by way of public transportation, or other school personnel
- Removed from the band program.

Spring Band Trip-Every Other Year (2025-26 is a trip year!!!)

Anyone who wants to attend the spring band trip on a trip year must meet certain criteria in order to participate:

1. Students must have **no more than** 2 referrals per school year, OR have been assigned to DAEP/suspended.
2. Students must meet all attendance requirements for rehearsals and performances.
3. Students must have been eligible for and attended all required contests and performances. Unexcused absences may count against students. Whether or not an absence is excused or unexcused will be at the discretion of the directors.
4. Students must be eligible at the time of the trip.
5. Students must make timely payments by the designated date each month toward the cost of their trip.
6. Students planning to go on the trip will be required to make a non-refundable deposit (amount to be determined) by the deadline given.
7. All balances due for band fees, supplies or other materials must be paid in full by the designated due date.

Forms-

There are forms that will need to be signed and returned to Mr. Freeman **no later than**
Friday, August 22nd.

1. Emergency contact/Medical Form
2. UIL Acknowledgement Form (**Hard Copy Handout**)
3. Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form (**Hard Copy Handout**)
4. Copy of Physical / Medical History Form - all freshmen and juniors will need to have an updated physical for the 25-26 school year, as well as anyone else that did not get a new physical last year.
5. SCA Form (Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Form)

Changes to this handbook may be made at any time. A copy of any changes will be submitted to the students and/or posted for everyone to read.

Director Contact Information:

Kendall Freeman, *Director of Bands*

Email: kfreeman@weimarisd.org

Phone: (979) 725-9504

Alyssa Patton, *Assistant Band Director*

Email: apatton@weimarisd.org

Phone: (979) 725-9515

Candace Mahaffey, *Elementary Music Teacher*

Email: cmahaffey@weimarisd.org

Phone: (979) 725-6009

WISD Band Technology Clause:

The Band program is piloting the use of a new computer-based software to assist in Performance Assessments. Students will need access to the internet and a computer that contains a microphone or microphone attachment, such as a Chromebook, Macbook, desktop, etc to complete some assignments.

Depending on classroom time constraints and limitations, students MAY have the opportunity to complete these assignments during the class period. Otherwise, they will need to complete them outside of class time. The students will be made aware of their options for that assignment by the Directors.