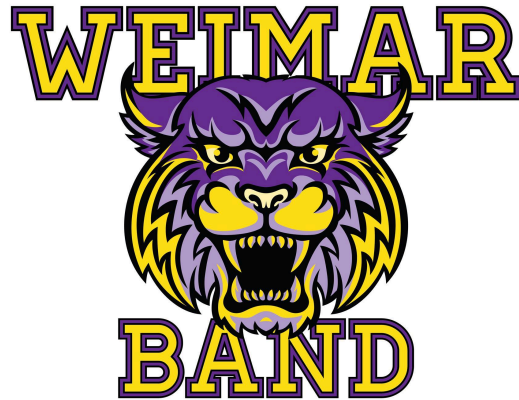


Weimar Wildcat Band

Junior High Band Handbook 2025-2026

Kendall Freeman & Alyssa Patton, Directors



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.

Rehearsal Attendance

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. There will be VERY FEW REHEARSALS after school if any depending on the class situation.

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.

Examples of required performances (but not limited to):

Christmas Concert (Semester Exam)
Spring Concert (Semester Exam)
Events that the band has been requested to perform at.
Contests / festivals

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. Absolutely no food, drinks (other than water), or gum in the band hall at any time.
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. You may 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). Supplies will not be provided in excess. If it is deemed by the directors that the amount of supplies being distributed to an individual is excessive, the student WILL be required to start paying for supplies given.

School-owned Equipment

Anyone who is issued a school owned instrument will be responsible for its care and upkeep. Any damages due to negligence made to the instrument will be repaired and charged to the student. Be careful!! It costs approximately \$70 per hour for instrument repair. We will be sending home an instrument contract this year as another level of accountability.

Any books, binders, etc. that are issued 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.

Grading

Students will be graded on playing tests, written tests, tardiness to performances, rehearsals, participation, etc... in accordance with school grading policy. 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. Students may be required to turn in assignments online also.

Google Classroom

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

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.

Sectionals/Rehearsals:

We do our best to try to meet for a big rehearsal during the Activity period so that we do not need to meet after school when possible. If this can't be done, we MAY need to have a rehearsal after school. Everyone will have notice ahead of time so that transportation arrangements may be made. This is usually not a problem.

Traveling

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

1. Boys and girls may not sit together.
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.
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 is loaded. There will be a loading crew assigned to help load the bus/trailer, but each student is responsible for watching their equipment get loaded properly. Upon returning from the trip, each student is responsible for helping to unload and get everything put away into 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 a director.** Documentation will be required.

Required Attire

Concert Attire: Every band student will need to purchase a band shirt to be worn as a part of their "uniform". This will usually be done in the spring semester to make sure that the shirt fits properly when the band goes to their contest toward the end of school.

Band shirt, jeans, and tennis shoes or as instructed.

General Conduct

During school or any school function, 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 the school dress code.

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

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

Spring Band Trip/Festival

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.
2. Students must not have been placed in DAEP or suspended at any time during the school year.
3. Students must meet all attendance requirements for rehearsals and performances.
(Requirements may vary depending on event)
4. Students must be eligible at the time of the trip.
5. If required, students must make timely payments by the designated date for the cost of their trip.
6. All balances due for supplies or other materials must be paid in full.

Forms-

There are forms that will need to be signed and returned to Mrs. Patton **no later than**
Friday, AUGUST 22ND.

1. Band Medical/Permission form (not the same as the school's form)
2. Band Handbook Acknowledgement Form
3. Instrument Rental Agreement

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

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.