

WASATCH HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK

-Everything you need to know to get started.

DIRECTOR: JOHN RYSZKA



Welcome to the Wasatch High School Marching Band.

"Invest yourself in everything you do. There is fun in being serious." -John Coletrane



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WELCOME AND MISSION STATEMENT

Welcome Congratulations, you are in the marching band! The marching band staff is excited to work with you to create amazing performance opportunities. The strength of our band is dependent on the individual effort of each band member. We will work hard to continue to develop your talents in music and marching. It is important that we work together, create a great show, and enjoy ourselves. Please read this information and share it with your parents. It will be a great reference throughout the year.

Our Mission Statement

WE are the Wasatch High School Band
WE accept and learn from our mistakes

WE welcome growth with open arms

WE seek guidance

WE take pride in what we do

WE trust each other

WE are friends with everyone

WE have fun

WE keep our commitments with integrity

WE give a perfect effort

WE share mutual respect for all

WE perform with heart

WE are especially one big family



LEADERSHIP

Staff Positions

- Band Director John Ryszka
- Color guard Jenna Haynie
- Battery Instructor Bailey Minich
- Woodwind Instructor Kimberly Ryszka
- Visual Instructor John Ryszka
- Frontline Instructor Bailey Minnich
- Low Brass Instructor Allan Gale

Section leader Positions

- Drum Majors
- Horn Sargent
- Synergy Captain (s)
- Flutes
- Clarinets
- Saxophones
- Trumpets
- Trombones and Baritones
- Tubas
- Battery Percussion
- Front Ensemble (pit)
- Color guard

LEADERSHIP ROLES

Leadership

To lead is to serve. Remember if you are a leader your roll is an example a cheer leader, and a helper.

Director and Staff

The director and staff rolls are to run rehearsals and planned sectionals. They are responsible for helping students achieve excellence in rehearsing and performing through meaningful instruction.

Drum Majors

Drum Majors in a real way define the success of the band for their season. Your roll is to make sure rehearsal is started on time.

UNIFORMS

-Your uniforms are to be respected and held in the highest of care. They are a symbol of the band, its tradition, and legacy. They are also expensive to replace and it is necessary to look amazing for performances.

Rules

Never eat in uniform (water is ok)

Never run in uniform.

Never wear parts of your uniform improperly.

Always dress in full uniform (*we will have a half uniform dress for warmups on hot days for performances.

We have a specific way to fold your uniform, we will teach this at band camp and review it before the first show.)

Use appropriate language

Don't allow non-band members to wear your uniform or parts of your uniform.

Students will be issued a Wasatch band shirt to begin the season that will ALWAYS be needed under the uniform with the bibers for half uniform dress.

Uniforms must be returned in the condition they were issued. There will be a cleaning fee associated with the uniform.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

The key to having an effective rehearsal is to focus on personal performance. It is vital to remember that we as human beings tend to focus on the mistakes of others more than on our own. We need to encourage each other to do better. However, it isn't your job to correct others. You personally have a lot to learn. It is encouraged during any paused moment in rehearsal to focus on the aspects of your show. For example the counts of each of your sets, what you are doing visually or musically and its count structure, think of your yard line relationships to each set, your step size, your interval size to the person next to you, or work on memorizing your music are a few of the examples of what you can work on.

The point is that you personally have many things to master and should use every minute of rehearsal learning more. However, if you notice someone struggling with something in rehearsal that you can help with it is suggested to go help them after rehearsal or during a water break. The main goal should always be to keep rehearsal running smooth. Creating a good show is a team effort, but it must be done in the right way. This will help cut down the talking on the field. Section leaders and staff are allowed to communicate with band members about rehearsal related items. These should be brief and at the right time.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS CONT...

Participation guidelines

- 1.) Students are expected to participate in everything the band is doing.
- 2.) If there are injuries, they need to be communicated about from a parent and/or via a doctor's note as to what activities need to be avoided.
- 3.) Students that feel the need to sit out will be timed and will need to make up the lost time at the end of rehearsal to justify PE credit.
- 4.) Students/Parents are expected to check the schedule at the beginning of marching band and communicate any schedule conflicts ahead of participation.

Rehearsal Philosophy and Methodology

I think we can all agree that the best rehearsals are those that everyone is on the same page and is focused on a goal. Below is a pattern we would like to implement to generate success in our rehearsals. Please read and digest the information so you know what is expected.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS CONT...

10-15 minutes before rehearsal

Show up with all your gear for rehearsal
make sure it is ready to go.

5 minutes till rehearsal

Get ready for rehearsal-instrument ready,
drill charts ready, music ready, and water
up. Instruments, bags, watercoolers should
be lined up in sections neatly.

Rehearsal begins

Circle up with section leaders and warm up
through stretch.

Marching warm-up

Various warm-ups involving cardio, body
movement, with visual focus, marching
fundamentals, and body training.

Sectionals

Time devoted to working in small groups
working on fundamentals, sections of the
show, and showman ship.

Ensemble Marching Rehearsal

Instruction for rehearsal will come from the
front of the field (Director's viewpoint). It is
important that you as a member of the
band follow those instructions as closely as
possible. This will help avoid confusion in
rehearsal as well as errors.

End Of Day Wrap Up.

This is a recap with directors on the
rehearsal reviewing effectiveness and
accomplishments. This is a moment also to
celebrate eachothers accomplishments and
have a section cheer.

REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS CONT...

Important Commands

“Set!”

-When you hear “SET” go to attention as quickly as possible and wait for instruction. It is important that everyone hear the instruction.

“Check-Adjust-Standby!”

“Check”

-This command will be used when marching the drill sets, visual block, or in concert arc.

It is designed for cleaning the forms quickly. After the “Check” command (look at the form)

“Adjust”

Adjust-(Fix the form)” command is given, the band fixes the form by looking around, checking their individual set, and yard line relationship. This should take only 5 to 10 seconds.

“Standby”

The “Standby” command will be given and the band returns to attention in the corrected set.

PERFORMANCE AND STADIUM ETIQUETTE

It is important that we represent our school, family, and ourselves well when we perform and compete. We rely on support of the community in which we live. By representing ourselves well we will be able to continue to have such support and will gain the respect of our peers we compete with.

A sportsman-like (Classy) conduct towards all bands is required. Foul language is not tolerated. Remember, "No matter how untrue, we in some way create what is said about us."- Jason Buckingham. Our words and actions will determine the respect we will have. Another important aspect of performance and stadium etiquette is having fun and cheering for the other groups. Please do so. This is an activity where we can be supportive of our competition.

SCHEDULE

Always refer to the schedule found on the website. We try to have all of the dates up to date months in advance and notify you of any changes. See...

<https://wasatchbands.weebly.com/marching-band.html>

Football game schedule will be added later. We will play a 3-minute performance at all home football games and full show at competitions. Calendar is subject to change.

Parade Camp and Show Band Camp is critical to our success, participation is crucial. Please commit to the following schedule and prepare to work hard.

Parade Camp is to be held as school ends. This is usually a week or two after school ends for four days. At this camp we focus on marching fundamentals and music. You will be responsible to take your music home after this camp and memorize it for the Show Camp.

Show Camp will focus on learning drill and the music to be implemented into the show. It will last five days. Each camp is vital to the development of the show and is required for the members of the band. Below is a list of student supplies, camp schedule, and evening menu.

SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Parade Camp Supply List

Water

Sack Lunch

Sunscreen

Running shoes (no open toe or sandals)

Appropriate Athletic Clothing

Pencil

Music and drill

Instruments

*color guard- all show equipment.

SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Show Camp Supply List

bag/ backpack

bowl plate fork, spoon, knife

water Jug ½gal

hat

sunscreen

bathing suit

towel

close toed shoes, i.e. gym shoes. no sandals/
flipflops

pencil, pen, highlighter

clipboard/folder instrument music (if you
have already received it)

175 g. frisbee (optional)

Kite (optional)

Water gun (necessary)

SCHEDULE CONTINUED

You are responsible for providing your own lunch. We will have coolers to store your food. Please have lunches marked clearly with your name. Dinner will be figured out.

*Drinks will be served at all meals.

Membership, Student Conduct Code,
Attendance, and Grading

As a member of the Marching Wasps, your conduct reflects the entire band. Wasatch High School behavior and discipline policies apply to all members. Students are responsible for their own actions.

GRADES AND STUDENT CONDUCT

You must maintain an over all 2.0 GPA, no failing grades and passing grades in all classes in order to participate. No UA's can be on your record as well. That means also for your previous years in school.

Expectations Students should also be signed up in either Concert, Symphonic ensembles concurrently as a minimum requirement for participation. Exceptions need to be approved by Mr. Ryszka. Commit to attending and participating in all rehearsals, football games, parades, and all scheduled events. This activity requires you to participate. Success only comes from individual effort and commitment. There is only one person to march your position that you have committed to march. Be prepared with instruments, equipment, music and drill sheets, uniform, and other supplies.

If a student knows that he/she will be absent, Inform Mr. Ryszka in advance. All absences need to be communicated clearly with Mr. Ryszka in a written note, email, or phone call. Two or more unexcused absences will result in a suspension of participation and a review of eligibility in the group. Two tardy marks are equivalent to an absence. Camps are required and between June and August you are allowed to miss two scheduled rehearsals for summer commitments. These need to be approved ahead of time.

PHYSICAL FITNESS

Physical Fitness

It is recommended that all band members take action to be physically fit. Any form of a safe cardiovascular workout (gets the heart pumping) is recommended at least three times a week for twenty minutes.

COMMUNICATION

Communication.

Sign up for Texting and Email Reminders. You can also download the Slack App at the app store. This is for both Parents and Students. Instructions for students and parents to join Wasatch Marching Band and make sure you are on the Marching band and general parent channel.

Download the Slack app or register from this link. you will be added to the correct sections by Mr. Ryszka.

https://wasatchhighschoolband.slack.com/join/shared_invite/zt-14yt74j43-snknnVLyL61~gEo~XxaDqg#/shared_invite/email

Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Wasatch-High-School-Bands-444865199008602/>

Students: We are using the app Slack for rehearsal reminders and communication during rehearsal. Download the Slack app or register from this link. you will be added to the correct sections by Mr. Ryszka.

https://wasatchhighschoolband.slack.com/join/shared_invite/zt-14yt74j43-snknnVLyL61~gEo~XxaDqg#/shared_invite/email