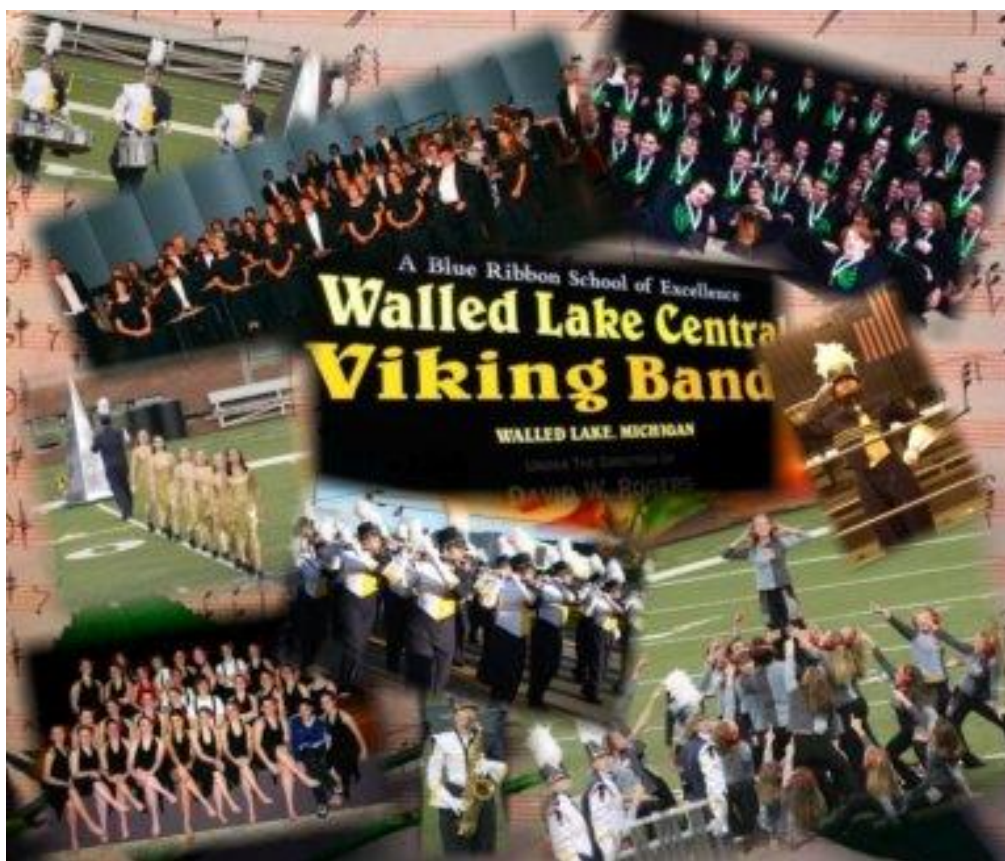


# Walled Lake Central Bands Syllabus



Walled Lake Central High School  
1600 E. Oakley Park Road  
Walled Lake, Michigan 48390  
[www.wlcbands.com](http://www.wlcbands.com)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Director of Bands  
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Band Department Parent Run Website: [www.wlcbands.com](http://www.wlcbands.com)  
Room # A102

Dear Band Students and Parents, the band classes at Walled Lake Central are designed to teach students to love music through performance in band. This is a performance based class so the performances themselves are the end goal in which we display the skills we've worked on for the previous several weeks. Unlike other classes, we are a unit. We play as one the majority of the time. It is with that in mind that this handbook was made. It is my hope that it will help your student have the best possible experience and give them a life-long love of music.

Please read thoroughly and return the signed participation agreement by September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you so much and I look forward to another outstanding year with the bands.

-Mr. Rogers

The Walled Lake Central Bands are among the most honored in the state of Michigan over the past 20+ years. Below is a list of notable achievements earned by the band program:

- The Viking Marching Band has won 3 State Championships (2010, 2011, 2013), is a 4 time State Runner-Up (2007, 2009, 2015, 2018) and has won the bronze medal 5 times (2002, 2003, 2008, 2014, 2016).
- The Viking Marching Band performed in the 2015 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (1 of 6 HS bands from a nationwide audition. 188 bands applied).
- The Wind Symphony was featured performer at the Michigan Music Conference in 2008 and 2017, the highest honor for concert bands in Michigan.
- The Wind Symphony was a featured performer at the Western Michigan University Spring Conference on Wind and Percussion in 2009. The Wind Symphony has received a Division One Rating at band festival yearly since 1997. The Symphony band, Concert Band and Jazz Band have also had outstanding success at festival
- The Viking Marching Band has been a state finalist yearly since 1998. During that time the band has finished in the trophy range (top 4) 15 times.
- The Walled Lake Central Winter Guard has won multiple state championships and has been a WGI Open Class World Finalist two times. (2009, 2012)
- Walled Lake Percussion, a collaborative ensemble between all three Walled Lake High Schools, has won a WGI A Class Championship (2006), was a Bronze Medalist in Open Class (2007), and has achieved World Class Finalist (top 15 in country) status at the Winter Guard International World Championships 9 times, including being named fan favorite in 2012 (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019)
- Viking Marching Band has been a Grand National semi-finalist (top 30 nationally) 5 times. (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014)
- The Viking Marching Band has been Bands of America Regional AAA Champions 3 times (2013, 2016, 2018)
- The Viking Marching Band has produced 17 U.S. Army All-Americans

## **ENSEMBLES**

### MARCHING BAND (94190)

First Semester Course.....1/2 credit (fees required – expenses discussed in detail in at a special spring meeting)

Prerequisite.....Participation in a concert band (winds and percussion)

The Marching Band is made up of four main sections that perform as one unit – winds, percussion, color guard, and drum majors. Auditions are required for color guard, drumline, and drum major. Rehearsals are held outside of the school day. The Marching Band performs at all home varsity football games, as well as Michigan Competing Band Association invitations in the fall. In addition, the Marching Band performs as part of the annual Walled Lake Memorial Day Parade in May. There are many rehearsals during the summer and they are mandatory. Wind players and percussionists must be enrolled in one of the concert bands unless exempted by Mr. Rogers. Color guard members are encouraged to participate in the color guard class.

### CONCERT BAND (Freshman Band) (94110/94111)

One Year Course.....1 credit

Prerequisite.....Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band

Open to freshman band students without an audition. Emphasis is placed on the continued development of tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and interpretation. Performances are required, including four home concerts, and the District Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Band Festival. All Concert Band students are strongly encouraged to take private instrument lessons and participate in the MSBOA District and State Solo & Ensemble Festivals.

### SYMPHONY BAND (94250/94251)

One Year Course.....1 credit

Prerequisite.....Symphony Band is available to grades 10, 11, and 12 without audition.

Emphasis is placed on the continued development of tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and interpretation. Like Concert Band, performances are required, and include four home concerts, the District Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) Band Festival, and occasionally the MSBOA State Band Festival. All Symphony Band students are strongly encouraged to take private instrument lessons and participate in the MSBOA District and State Solo & Ensemble Festivals.

### WALLED LAKE PERCUSSION

Extra Curricular Ensemble.....(fees required-Information on expenses will come at a required meeting in November)

Walled Lake Percussion is a district wide high school percussion ensemble under the direction of Nick Pourcho. Walled Lake Percussion is a competitive marching percussion ensemble that primarily performs at Michigan Color Guard Circuit and Winter Guard International events. It also performs at various community events. All performances are required unless otherwise stated. Should there be enough interest in Walled Lake Percussion, it may be necessary to form two groups. Membership is contingent on participation in a concert ensemble unless given a special exemption by the director of bands from that school. This group is not open to 9<sup>th</sup> grade wind players. Any wind members must go back to their wind instrument for the marching band season unless the director of bands from that school chooses otherwise.

### WIND ENSEMBLE (94310/94311)

One Year Course.....1 credit

Prerequisite.....Audition

Wind Ensemble is the most advanced band at Walled Lake Central and admission is based on an audition held in the spring (for the following school year). Incoming freshman may audition for Wind Ensemble if they are currently studying privately on his/her instrument. Performances are required, and include four home concerts as well as the District Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA). Occasionally the Wind Ensemble will perform at other festivals and conferences. All Wind

Ensemble students are expected to take private instrument lessons if financially possible and are strongly encouraged to participate in the MSBOA District and State Solo & Ensemble Festivals.

#### WINTER GUARD

Extra Curricular Ensemble.....(fees required-Information on expenses will come at a required meeting in November)

The Walled Lake Central Winter Guards are under the direction of Seth Williams. The Walled Lake Central Winter Guards are competitive ensembles that primarily perform at Michigan Color Guard Circuit and Winter Guard International events. They may also perform at various community events. All performances are required unless otherwise stated. Membership is by audition. Any wind members must go back to their wind instrument for the marching band season unless the director of bands chooses otherwise.

#### JAZZ ENSEMBLE (94180)

Second Semester Course.....1/2 credit

Prerequisite.....Participation in a concert band (winds) and an audition

Jazz Ensemble admission is based on an audition held in the winter prior to 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. A traditional jazz big band instrumentation is used: alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drum set, piano, guitar, and bass. Rhythm section positions (drum set, piano, guitar, and bass) will be made available to the general student body as needed, however, priority preference will be given to those students currently enrolled in a concert band. Performances include home concerts and occasionally community events.

#### CALENDAR AND EVENTS

The band calendar is found on the band website: [www.wlcbands.com](http://www.wlcbands.com) The website calendar is the "official" calendar and all modifications to the schedule will be made there and posted. All performances are required and part of a grade unless otherwise noted.

**Concert and Jazz Band Performances** (marching band, and winter competitive ensembles will pass out calendars at information meetings specific to those groups)

- September 9, All-State Band Audition Application and Payment Due. \$15.00. WLCMB.
- October 11, Solo and Ensemble money and forms due. WLCMB.
- October 27, All-State Audition, Walled Lake Northern HS
- November 11, Fall Concert. All Bands and Marching Band. WLC Auditorium. 7PM.
- December 4, Collage concert after school rehearsal
- December 5, 6 7:00 PM Collage Concert, Auditorium, All Concert Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras. Ticketed event.
- January 10-11, District 4 Honors Band
- January 15-18, Michigan Music Conference, All-State Band Members
- January 22, Introduction to Instruments Concert, Wind Symphony Only, Auditorium, Wind Symphony
- January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> District Solo and Ensemble.
- January 28, State Solo and Ensemble registration due
- February 25, Pre-Festival Concert at **WESTERN HS**, 7PM
- March 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> , MSBOA District Festival probably at Northern. We could be given either of those dates
- March 14, State Solo and Ensemble
- May 9, Italian Dinner Concert, Jazz Band, Cafeteria.
- May 7-9, Michigan Youth Arts Festival, Western Michigan University (top State S&E performers)
- May 25, 11 AM, Memorial Day Parade, Downtown Walled Lake, Marching Band
- May 27, 7 PM, Spring Concert, Auditorium, All Concert Bands and Jazz Band

For a complete an up-to-date schedule, please refer to the on-line calendar.

## Classroom Management Plan

### Rules

- 1) Listen to and follow directions. Be ready to go.
- 2) Raise your hand before speaking or leaving your seat.
- 3) No distracting/disruptive behavior
- 4) Respect your classmates, your teacher, and your equipment.
- 5) No phones unless specifically asked to use it. No headphones at all.
- 6) Set up within four minutes after the bell.
- 7) Have all materials including music, instrument, and pencil
- 8) Put all gear away in its proper place every class

### Consequences

Consequences will reset every day with the exception of lack of materials or set up/clean up which will accumulate

- 1) First offense: Warning
- 2) Second offense: Cooling off period until the student is ready to fully participate
- 3) Third offense: Call home. Sidelined for rest of rehearsal.

Any extreme behavior as determined by the teacher will result in an immediate discipline referral.

Upon the third call home, a discipline referral will be assigned.

## ACTIVITY FEE

All concert band students (concert, symphony, wind ensemble) are **requested** to pay a 30.00 clinic fee. This fee covers section clinicians, guest conductors that will be out at various times during the year, and allows us to buy other materials/new music that go above and beyond what the district provides. Refusal to pay the clinic fees will NOT result in a lowered grade or dismissal from the band. If it doesn't fit in the family budget then I understand, but I ask PLEASE that everyone who can afford it please pay it WE WILL AVOID FUND RAISERS completely this way. Please pay by 9-16-19 or as soon as fits into your budget. Checks to WLC or pay online. Memo: Child's name and band activity fee

## HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Ask your child to perform for you every once in a while.
- Arrange a regular time for your child to practice.
- Find a quiet place where he/she can practice without interruption.
- Help the student keep a daily record of practicing.
- Keep the instrument in good repair and keep at least three reeds in the case (reed players).
- Purchase metronome and tuner for your child (Tonal Energy App is my preference)
- Provide private instruction
- Make attendance at all band activities important.
- Notify the teacher if the student is to be absent for rehearsals or performances with as much notice as possible.
- Attend booster meetings, concerts, games, and contests.

## PERFORMANCE

- Attendance at performances is a required part of all band classes and represents 30% of the marking period grade. Both parents and students should carefully review the calendar. The calendar will also be kept on our website [www.wlcbands.com](http://www.wlcbands.com).
- Performance attendance includes the entire concert from beginning to end. Performances are rarely more than 2 hours and students are required to attend the entire concert to earn full credit and a passing grade.
- There will be a sign in/sign out sheet found in the band room after each concert and it is the student's responsibility to initial next to their name before leaving for home.
- Call time (arrival time) for most performances is 45 minutes prior to the scheduled concert start time.

- Always plan ahead to arrange for transportation. Talk to your section leader or to Mr. Rogers if you are having transportation issues.
- To get full credit for a concert a student must:
  - 1) Arrive on time and sign in
  - 2) Be in proper uniform as instructed
  - 3) Be a good audience member when not performing
  - 4) Have all necessary materials and perform to the best of his/her ability.
  - 5) Stay until the end of the concert. Help with clean up. Sign out.
  - 6) Any infraction will result in a 20% deduction from the student's grade for the concert.

## **CHAIR PLACEMENT**

Chair placements tests occur once a quarter.

## **PRIVATE LESSONS**

Private lessons make playing an instrument much more enjoyable. See Mr. Rogers if interested in finding a teacher. We have highly qualified teachers in the area and some that even teach right at WLC. All teachers that are at WLC have been background checked on a yearly basis.

## **THE SEMESTER GRADE FOR ENSEMBLE CLASSES**

### **Performances/Evening Rehearsals (30%)**

This category involves some of the most important aspects of being in a performing ensemble, and it is taken very seriously. It is crucial for both parents and students to review the performance calendar ([www.wlcbands.com](http://www.wlcbands.com)) so that performances are not missed and potential conflicts can be avoided.

It is the responsibility of each Band member to keep track of his/her personal schedule. The majority of conflicts can be avoided with proper planning. If you are in an after-school extracurricular activity such as a club or sport – know your schedule. Check your activity's schedule against the band calendar and bring schedule conflicts to Mr. Rogers as soon as possible.

### **Benchmark Assessments (10%)**

Benchmark Assessments occur approximately four times a year – one series for each marking period. All B.A. materials will be discussed and reviewed in rehearsals. All Benchmark Assessment tests may be retaken within the same marking period if the initial grade was a "C" or better. If you are absent on the day of a Benchmark Assessment, you will be given extra time to prepare equal to the number of days you were absent from school.

### **Playing Tests/Quizzes (40%)**

All tests and quizzes may be retaken within the same marking period if the initial grade was a "C" or better. Quizzes or tests based on concert music must be retaken prior to the performance date. If you are absent on the day of a quiz or test, you will be given extra time to prepare equal to the number of days you were absent from school.

### **Rehearsal Technique/Classroom Work/Homework (20%)**

This category includes all aspects of the rehearsal including attitude, leadership, preparation, materials, cleanliness, and focus.

## **THE SEMESTER EXAM**

The semester exam may be a playing or written exam and worth 20% of your overall semester grade.

## **THE FINAL SEMESTER GRADE CALCULATION**

The final semester grade (the one that will appear on a transcript) is comprised of 80% for the semester grade and 20% for the exam grade.

80% Semester Grade  
20% Exam grade

**DISTRICT WIDE GRADING SCALE**

100% and above = A+	79% - 78% = C+
99% - 92% = A	77% - 72% = C
91% - 90% = A-	71% - 70% = C-
89% - 88% = B+	69% - 68% = D+
87% - 82% = B	67% - 62% = D
81% - 80% = B-	61% - 60% = D-
	59% and below = E

**CALENDAR CONFLICTS**

It is the intention of the Central Music Department that students will be able to be members of the Band, Choir, or Orchestra and still successfully participate in after-school extracurricular activities such as clubs and sports. It is essential that students bring Band/activity conflicts to Mr. Rogers as soon as possible.

**INSTRUMENTS AND MATERIALS**

**INSTRUMENTS**

School instruments are made available as needed whenever possible. Students are responsible for damage to school instruments due to neglect or misuse. Students who play tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, horn, euphonium, or tuba will have an instrument to use at school and at home. Students using a school instrument will be responsible for transporting their mouthpiece and reeds to and from school. A loan agreement must be filled out for the instrument.

**MOUTHPIECES**

Students using a school instrument may be responsible for supplying their own mouthpiece for the instrument. Mouthpieces may be purchased through Marshall Music and will receive the substantial school discount (see list below), or you may purchase through any other music vendor of your choosing. Those students who also play a secondary instrument, a mouthpiece will be provided.

**Endorsed Woodwind Mouthpieces**

INSTRUMENT	CHOICE 1	CHOICE 2	LIGATURE
Clarinet	Vandoren M13 Lyre		D. Bonade
Bass Clarinet	Ridenour	Jewel	Rovner Mark III
Tenor Saxophone	Selmer C*	Woodwind Series II	Rovner Mark III
Baritone Saxophone	Selmer C*	Woodwind Series II	Rovner Mark III

**Endorsed Brass Mouthpieces**

INSTRUMENT	CHOICE 1		
Horn	Stork 4.5 or Holton Farkus MC or Schilke 29 or 30		
Trumpet	Bach 3C or 1 1/2 C		
Trombone	Bach 5G		
Euphonium	Bach 5G		
Tuba	Bach Helleburg		

## **REEDS**

Reeds for clarinet and saxophone are available through Marshall Music at the school's discounted price, however you may purchase them with any company you choose. It is highly recommended to purchase reeds by the box. Reed players need to stay on top of their reed inventory and purchase a new box before they run out. Oboe and bassoon players should purchase hand-made reeds.

Notice to clarinet and saxophone players: You are asked to use Van Doren or RicoReeds

## **MUSIC**

Students are responsible for the music and concert folder that is assigned to them. Lost parts need to be replaced, and the replacement costs are as follows:

Lost Music – \$10.00/each part (includes cost of shipping)

## **LOCKERS AND LOCKS**

Students will be assigned a locker at the beginning of the school year. It is the student's responsibility to keep their locker locked and secure at all times. **Students must provide their own locks if using a cage locker.**

## **PERCUSSIONISTS**

Percussion students need to own at least one pair of concert drum sticks and bring them to each rehearsal. These sticks should be clearly labeled with initials or some other identification. The recommended stick is the Innovative Brand IP-1 or Vic Firth SD-1 General.

## **METRONOME and TUNER**

All students should own a practice metronome of some kind and wind players a tuner as well. A metronome will be widely used as part of playing tests and Benchmark Assessments throughout the year. Metronomes are very economical and they are available through Marshall Music as the school's discount price (as low as \$10). You can also find an App called TONALENERGY TUNER which has the most sophisticated yet easy to use tuner and metronome all in one product. I highly recommend. (\$3.99)

## **FORMAL CONCERT UNIFORMS**

Formal concert uniforms are fitted by **volunteer** parents. These fittings are mainly done during the school day, but may need to take place in the evenings. The evenings will be chosen based on the convenience to our volunteer fitters. It is critical that each Band student make it to one of these fitting nights if they are scheduled.

## **UNIFORM SPECIFICATIONS**

Gentlemen – Tuxedo coat\*, tuxedo pants\*, vest\*, bow-tie\*, tuxedo shirt\*, black tuxedo shoes, and black socks.

Ladies – Black concert dress\*, black closed-toe dress shoes, and black hosiery.

\* indicates a school-provided uniform part

## **CLEANING**

It is recommended that concert outfits be dry-cleaned after each performance. Uniforms do not to be dry-cleaned before returning at the end of the school year.

## **DRESS AND PANT HEMMING**

Please do not cut the excess hem! Also, do not use fusible hemming tape. No permanent alterations are to be made to a uniform.

## **DAMAGE AND LOSS**

Tuxedos and dresses are checked out to students to keep at home during the school year, and students are responsible for any loss or damage. They will be charged current replacement costs as appropriate.



## **CONCERT UNIFORM DESCRIPTION**

tuxedo shoes for men

Black dress shoes (closed-toe preferred) for the ladies

Black socks/nylons

## **SCRIP**

SCRIP is similar to gift cards but with a percentage of the purchase coming back to the Music Boosters. You can purchase SCRIP to be used on daily necessities such as gas, groceries, dining out, etc. For more information on SCRIP, please see the link on the Music Department website – [www.wlcbands.com](http://www.wlcbands.com).

## **AWARDS**

### **SENIOR AWARDS**

The senior awards are chosen by Mr. Rogers and are presented during the Senior Awards Ceremony in May.

John Philip Sousa Band Award

Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

### **LETTER AWARD**

A Student can earn his/her Band letter in one of 3 ways:

- 1) Two or more years in good standing in the marching band
- 2) One year in the Wind Symphony along with participation in Solo and Ensemble achieving minimally a 1 at District MSBOA solo and ensemble festival on a solo.
- 3) Making MSBOA All-State
- 4) Get a Division 1 rating on a SOLO at state solo and ensemble on a solo

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The West Bloomfield Countrysider's Women's club provides a \$600.00 scholarship annually to a Walled Lake Central Band student, preferably to them a female, for use an approved (by Mr. Rogers) summer music camp.

Richard Smith Scholarship goes to the most talented, as determined by the entire performing arts teachers team, graduating senior who is planning to continue on in music and who applies for the scholarship.

Walled Lake Central Music Boosters Scholarship goes to a graduating senior, and an under classman. The amount of the scholarship is contingent upon the amount of money available. This scholarship can be used for school expenses.

Please read the participation agreement below, sign and return by September 9, 2019 for a homework grade.

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## ***Participation Agreement***

### **STUDENT**

I accept membership in the Walled Lake Central High School Band and understand that I am responsible for all the policies as set forth in the band syllabus. I agree to carry out my responsibilities to the very best of my ability.

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(Printed Name)

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(Student Signature)

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(Date)

### **PARENT OR GUARDIAN**

I give permission for my child to be an active member of the Walled Lake Central High School Band, which includes all policies and dates presented in this syllabus.

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(Printed Name)

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(Parent Signature)

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(Date)