

Williamstown High School

**2018 INDOOR PERCUSSION
ENSEMBLE**

**MEMBERSHIP
HANDBOOK**

EFFECTIVE November 21, 2017

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Program Objective

The Indoor Percussion Ensemble provides an opportunity for all students to hone their musical and marching abilities through the art of percussion performance. Students will create and perfect a production showcasing a high level of musicality, athleticism, and showmanship. In addition to solidifying musical skill sets, this experience will produce better musicians, better teammates, and ultimately, better people.

Eligibility Requirements

The Percussion Ensemble is open to WHS+WMS instrumental music students. Clinics will introduce basic skills to interested participants in the month of November, during which the staff will evaluate them. In order to become part of the Ensemble, students must meet the following requirements:

Students enrolled in the WHS/WMS music program and non-musicians with administrative approval (seniors are exempt):

- 1. Are eligible by audition only.**
- 2. Must maintain a solid academic performance as well as in the ensemble.**
- 3. Are expected to follow all rehearsal/performance requirements as outlined by this handbook and WHS code of conduct.**
- 4. Students not currently enrolled in the marching band program are encouraged to do so for the following school year to maintain their eligibility.**
- 5. Students must be in good standing with the program to maintain eligibility for participation (strong commitment to excellence, no disciplinary issues/indifference toward other members or staff/negative attitude, etc).**

Audition Procedures

- The audition process takes place during the month of November, in a series of clinic-style rehearsals where all necessary concepts are applied and their performance evaluated by the instructional staff.**
- Students auditioning for the Indoor Percussion Ensemble need to adequately prepare themselves prior to the audition process.**
- Individuals auditioning for the ensemble are expected to be up front about their capabilities and able to justify the benefit of their membership would be for themselves and the ensemble.**

Code of Conduct

All members of the Percussion Ensemble are expected to adhere to the code of conduct set forth in the WHS student handbook. The ensemble will practice just as it performs. Thus, all members of the team must adhere to the following conduct guidelines for both rehearsals and performances:

- 1. No Chewing Gum- This prevents a physical hazard to performers and can damage equipment (performance floor) if not disposed of properly.**
- 2. No Cell Phones- Self Explanatory.**
- 3. No Jewelry- This is not only a physical hazard, but could impede performance ability.**
- 4. No Running/Eating in uniform- This looks unprofessional and could damage the uniform.**
- 5. Any other etiquette as defined by the instructional staff.**

Attendance

Attendance at performances and rehearsals is **REQUIRED** by all members of the ensemble. The only acceptable exceptions are previously noted events or emergencies. Absences will be considered either **Excused** or **Unexcused**, described as follows:

A. Excused absences - Illness, Major religious events, College exams or visits and Family events (i.e. weddings, *previously* scheduled vacations). All requests for excused absences **MUST** be made in advance to the director, who holds the final say on whether or not absences will be excused. All absence requests are due in writing by November 21, 2017.

- Submission of a request for absence does not guarantee approval.
- In the event of an emergency that would prevent your attendance, the administrator must be notified immediately via phone 856-262-2435.

B. Unexcused Absences - Will result in disciplinary action up to, but not excluding removal of the student from the program.

Please Note:

- Students with jobs **WILL NOT** be excused from rehearsal/performance to work.
- Students are not permitted under any circumstances to leave school property during a rehearsal or performance without permission from a staff member (this includes meal breaks!)
- Students missing rehearsal the week of a show, excused or unexcused, may or may not be permitted to perform, in regard to the safety of other performers.
- Should a student be removed from a performance, they are still required to attend and assist with the event in full uniform.
- Students participating in other activities sponsored by Williamstown High School are required to provide their performance schedule to the director of that activity and honor as such. Communication is **KEY** to resolving potential scheduling conflicts!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Every member's role in the ensemble is crucial to our success. Unlike a sports team where substitutes are available, all of our players "start" all of the time. We cannot rehearse or perform successfully and to the ensemble's full potential without every member in attendance. Please consider this greatly before committing yourself to this program.

Rehearsals

All students (including the pit) must wear sneakers and clothes suitable for marching (NO JEANS!) to rehearsals. The instructional staff reserves the right to remove a student from rehearsal should their attire prove improper or dangerous for the activity. It is not required, but preferred that the students wear black tops/bottoms to rehearsal for the sake of visual uniformity and cleaning stick heights/drill. T-shirts and shorts are recommended.

The indoor percussion activity is physical by nature. All students will be subject to conditioning exercises during rehearsals to increase stamina, flexibility, and agility.

Water is the best and only thing recommended to be consumed during rehearsals.

With any physical activity, there is the potential for injury. Should a student suffer an illness or ailment prior to or during a rehearsal, they must notify the staff immediately so that we may accommodate the situation.

Performances

Students are expected to follow the code of conduct as outlined in the WHS Student Handbook when not on school property. This includes adhering to rules on school buses as set forth by the Board of Education.

Students are expected to perform in full uniform. Being unprepared with any item, especially footwear, can be a safety hazard. If unprepared, the staff will make the call as to whether or not the student can perform. Some performance venues are not local; we will not make any special trips to return for forgotten items.

Every individual is responsible for themselves and their equipment. This includes things such as uniform parts, instruments, drumsticks, mallets, props, etc.

Students must remember that they are representing WHS, the music department, and the community at large. Failure to act in anything but a respectable manner that reflects positively on our organization will result in disciplinary action up to, but not excluding, removal from the program. There is zero tolerance for this issue.

Uniform Maintenance

Uniforms for the 2018 season will be relatively simple and can be cared for with nothing more than a household washing machine and shoe polish.

It is expected that every student's uniform be cleaned and polished for performances.

Financial Obligations

The Indoor Percussion Ensemble benefits from a school funded operating budget supplemented by an excellent booster organization run by extremely dedicated parent volunteers. It is the organization's goal to limit any potential expenditure to the students by offsetting them with fundraising and donated resources, but some minor purchases will be necessary.

Transportation Procedures

Students are required to follow posted bus rules, as per the Board of Education policies, at all times. This includes adhering to all directions given by the bus drivers.

Parent Support and Responsibilities

The support of your student's participation in this and all their scholastic activities is invaluable. Positive reinforcement and encouragement of success are vital keys to providing your student and yourselves as parents with the most rewarding experience.

Please assist the staff in establishing a structured foundation for student development. The most important thing about their membership is their attitude. A positive attitude and willingness to try anything to succeed and entertain are more valuable than anything they can ever play.

The Booster organization is another great way to get involved with your child's activity. Their purpose is to boost the overall program through fundraising and other means of support so that our students can have the best experience possible in this program. Please see a member of the executive board of the booster organization for more information about meetings and membership.

Other Ways to Help:

- Chaperone bus rides and competitions
- Assist with information via phone chain
- Help develop and implement fund raising activities with the staff
- Encourage your child to practice for both Indoor and Concert Band as often as possible (programs must support each other).
- Help to facilitate good time management skills
- Ensure that your child is on time and prepared for each rehearsal

Staff Contact Information

The staff has been selected due to their extensive qualifications in the marching arts. If at any point you have a general concern or a question about any aspect of the program, please communicate with the staff. However, if a concern is raised about a particular staff member, please contact the director FIRST as soon as possible before going to that staff member. Your cooperation in following this chain of command is greatly appreciated. Communication between parents, students, and the percussion staff is crucial to the success of the program!

Director

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