

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to all our new and returning families for 2015-2016. This is our opening letter.

OUR WEBSITE www.wshsb.org, is our primary means of communication. We keep emails to a minimum. **It is the responsibility of parents and members to keep abreast of current information, especially on the Member's News page.**

Member's News is where you will find the weekly **Rehearsal Notes** PDF with "homework" assignments for each band. For quick, easy reference and planning ahead, **Member's News** also includes the following two charts and job assignments from the **Rehearsal Notes** document.

- Important Dates and Deadlines
- Sectional Chart for the following week **which require earlier arrival times**
- Sweeping/Trash Assignments for after Symphonic Band the next week

Our goal is to have the **Rehearsal Notes** posted on the web by Friday evening, the day after rehearsal. If the Friday goal cannot be met, then we will shoot for 6pm on the Saturday. If we anticipate they will be later than that, we will post a notice to that effect on **Member's News** and then send an email letting you know as soon as they are posted.

Rehearsal Notes are divided into two parts, Music Notes and General Notes. **They contain information for both parents AND students/helpers alike.** All band members, Cadet through Symphonic, should be printing out and utilizing these notes **as soon as they are available. Waiting until the day before the next band rehearsal to get the notes is not going to do much good. A week's worth of daily practice cannot be done in one day, especially when there are things requiring practice to correct.**

We try to keep the Rehearsal Notes as brief as possible and much time and work go into preparing them. Basic information for recurring events is not detailed in the notes but can be found in the Handbook. With nearly 200 members, and 4 band levels it is not practical to repeat information at every band and expect everyone to hear and retain it, plus we also cannot afford the time. Be sure to record all important dates on your calendar as soon as they are announced/posted.

Students/helpers should review the entire document paying particular attention to the **Music Notes** for their band's daily practice instructions. For each band, songs are generally listed in the order they will be played at the next practice but it may differ. Members should put their music in their folder in the order listed, to save time at band.

- Notes for Cadets come first and include an assignment for the week.
- Next are instructions for the concert bands, Junior, Senior and Symphonic, including any specific instructions for particular songs. These notes, **in blue**, are from the director. She may point out problem measures/areas in different songs that need extra practice at home and may assign quizzes for the next week.

Parents should read the **General Notes** and check the weekly sectional table at the beginning of the Rehearsal Notes to see if their student has an upcoming sectional, requiring an earlier arrival. More information about arrival times and sectionals are in the Handbook.

FORMS/DOCUMENTS WEBPAGE

On this page you will find a variety of forms and information including things like -

- The updated **2015-2016 Handbook** and the **Handbook Agreement** are delayed and will be emailed to all families when they are ready. To keep the weekly Rehearsal Notes from being so lengthy, we refer to the handbook frequently for details which will not be duplicated in the notes. *Every family must return the signed agreement to the Admin Person at the front table by the date stated on the form.*
- A link to the **2015-2016 Concert Season Calendar page**. The calendar changes throughout the year and includes the most recent revision date. Mark important dates on your home calendar.
- The **2015-2016 Winter Concert Well-Wisher, Registration, Rental and SEC forms**, and **Concert Dress Code** are all there as well as a helpful resource, **Music and Instrument Stores**.
- The **WSHSB Practice Report** for reporting weekly practice times. Print off copies now for your student to keep in their music folder, so they have one ready every week.

MUSIC RESOURCES WEBPAGE

The first link on this page is to recordings of the WSHSB live, in concert. Please enjoy and share this link with prospective members, family and friends.

Also on Music Resources you will find a good number of links to websites, YouTube videos, and documents to help students better understand and improve the playing of their specific instrument both wind and percussion. For percussionists we strongly encourage them to utilize the Vic Firth Percussion Rudiments regularly.

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**ATTENDANCE**- As we begin our new concert season, remember that we expect and depend on full participation/attendance, by all our members.

### LATE ARRIVALS

Late arrivals should be rare, but if you do arrive late and are not in your seat, either while attendance is being taken or after it has been completed, you will be marked absent unless you do the following. Check in with the attendance taker if you see a red stop sign standing up, which says "**STOP, CHECK IN WITH ATTENDANCE.**" If there is no red stop sign then just continue on your way.

**NAME TAGS/SHEETS** – All band members are asked to fold an 8 ½ x 11 sheet of copy paper in half to 8 ½ x 5 ½. With the folded edge at the top, print in dark, **bold marker**, your first and last name. Hang it on your stand behind the music, facing the director. Do this each week for both trimesters. Names should be dark enough and large enough to be read by the attendance taker. Keep this "name tag" with your music.

### LABEL ALL YOUR BELONGINGS, WIND AND PERCUSSION

We don't want to collect things in Lost and Found. Label your music folder, all parts to your music stand including the carry case, all your own books, and refillable water bottles, to name a few. These are some of the items left after practice most frequently.

**ATTENTION - EXTRA EARLY ARRIVALS** - If due to car pooling or other reasons, you are going to be dropped off or arrive an hour before your band starts, **the director expects you to be a helper in the band below the one you are assigned to.** She will need to know this ASAP for music distribution purposes. Otherwise, arrive for your assigned band not more than the normal 15 minutes before its start time (30 minutes if you have a sectional), due to space constraints in the hall. We are not prepared to supervise waiting students. If your child is unable to participate in playing, a parent will be required to come and supervise their student.

**WSHSB BOOSTERS** – Please fulfill the task(s) for which you signed-up. This obligation needs to be taken seriously. Please 1) Do the task you agreed to. 2) Find a replacement if you can't fulfill your job. 3) Consider signing-up for an additional open job if your first was not too demanding.

The volunteer positions are posted on the sign-up site about 10 days prior to the registration deadline and are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. Once the jobs are posted, the earlier you sign-up, the more choices you have. In order to fulfill your required parent hours don't stop looking because the jobs are all taken during your child's rehearsal time. Realize it may be necessary that you choose a task which does not fall during your child's band time. Please visit the sign-up site as there are generally spots still needing to be filled. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**BAND APPAREL ORDER** – About October 1 you will be emailed an order form for the annual Band Apparel order. Past orders have included short and long-sleeved t-shirts, crew-neck and pull-over hoodie sweatshirts. The deadline order will be October 29. The order form will not be on the web.

**HOUSEKEEPING** – Close and latch all cases. Every week, place them **neatly and orderly** along the open walls of the halls and out of the walkways or in the middle of the floor space. As the different groups come and go, it will make it easier to navigate the space. We will lose precious rehearsal time if we have to stop and organize messy belongings.

**ROSTER ORDER IS NOT A SEATING CHART**– At practice there will be seating charts (different from roster order) on the posts in Cornelius hall. They will be on two separate posts and two sets of charts will also be on the wooden structure near the entrance. Check these charts before taking a seat. THE NUMBERS SHOWN ON THE LIST AND CHART REFER TO ROSTER POSITION WITHIN EACH INSTRUMENT SECTION AND NOT THE NUMBER OF CHAIRS IN FROM THE EDGE OF THE ROW. You must count in from the edge to know where you should sit. If you do not understand, see Mrs. Gutfeldt or Mrs. Szklanecki. All members must sit in this posted order every week. The only exception is if the director rearranges things. You will be told to move if you are not where you should be seated. Avoid delaying the band's rehearsal time.

**DAILY PRACTICE STARTS NOW** - Since band members received music at the parents' meeting they should start practicing daily and turn in a Practice Report (found on Forms/Documents) signed by a parent, at the first band practice. Hours will be tallied and the three highest from each band will be published in the respective concert program. **The required parent signature tells us you agree with and accept the practice time reported.**

**ESPECIALLY FOR CADETS** - Cadets should already be experimenting with their instruments, in terms of trying to produce sound and practicing long tones, for about 10 minutes a day. If you have them, continue working daily with **HOME HELPER: FIRST LESSONS AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME** and **THE ULTIMATE BEGINNER SERIES** video. (These aids are described in the Cadet Requirements document.) In Essential Elements, continue reviewing pages 2 and 3 at home in preparation for pages 4 and 5 which will be worked on in class.

*Note: The title, Essential Elements 2000 has changed to Essential Elements for Band. The contents are the same in both. Either title can be used.*

**BAND DIRECTORY**- A few weeks after the first trimester is underway the oldest band member from your family will find a band directory in their music file folder. There will be a notice in the Rehearsal Notes when it is released. **Parents, be sure to ask your student for the directory and keep it in a safe place.** It has the name, address, phone number and email address for every band family, along with their student(s), instrument(s) and primary band(s). That same contact information is included for the director, assistant director, Booster coordinators and web manager. **This is a confidential list.** No one should use the directory to contact the entire group in a mass email, unless the director or assistant director gives you specific permission/instruction to do so. If such a communication is necessary, please include addresses as an undisclosed list or as blind carbon copies. Under no circumstances should an email be sent with every address showing.

If any of your contact information changes during the year (email address, home or cell phone) please inform the director, Mrs. Karen Borow, so we can reach you if/when we send out an email or need to call.

**Any parent who plays a wind instrument and wishes to join us should contact the director. There's still time! We'd love to have you join us.**

## MUSIC AND MORE

**NOTE TO JR, SR and SYM - Before you take your seat each week, be sure to check your folders for new music.** New music may be used for sight-reading that same night. **ALSO** When pulling music please always look for smaller, marching-size, pieces that are easily missed. We will let you know what all music has been distributed.

**CARING FOR MUSIC** – Bring a sharpened pencil to every rehearsal, to make light notations. Anything heavier will require the member to make a working copy. **DO NOT** damage (i.e. cut, tear, color, mark up, etc) band music. Read in the Handbook about Caring for Music and possible fines. Unless you make working copies you must carry your music in one of the extra-large folders distributed at the parent meeting. Many originals are oversized and will not fit in regular folders. Folders are free for the asking at the front table.

### **IMPORTANT - MARK TITLES ON ALL PAGES BEFORE NEXT WEEK**

When you pick-up your music from the file on Thursday, keep it in your folder in the order received until you can do the following at home. On any song with multiple pages check to make sure the title is at the top of each page. If it is not there, use a pencil to print the title at the top of each page.

The following music has already been distributed for the Winter Trimester, with more coming. Songs are listed in alphabetical order. If you attended the meeting on 9/17 and did not receive the following songs please email Mrs. Borow ([director@wshsb.org](mailto:director@wshsb.org)) as soon as possible, **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL NEXT THURSDAY TO TELL HER.** **Note:** No one should be playing any music assigned in a previous year as part assignments change. This includes titles such as Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America which are also reassigned each year.

**EXCEPTION : Percussion may not have received all titles on their band's list below.**

#### **Concert Junior**

Dark Eyes

De Colores

Fanfare Prelude 'From Greenland's Icy Mountains' refer to as **Greenland**

Land of the Brave

On the Road Again

Three Welsh Chorales - All Thru the Night

Troika

Üsküdar

When **Koalas** Do the Conga with the Kangaroos

#### **Concert Senior**

Danzon

"Irish Suite", Leroy Anderson's

March in F

Swedish Hymn of Praise

White Eagle - A Polish Rhapsody

#### **Symphonic**

Bartered Bride Polka

Bugler's Holiday

Clarinet. Polka

**Entry** of the Gladiators - "Thunder and Blazes"

In the Bleak Midwinter

Land of Make Believe

Libertango

Pines of Rome, The

Scherezade

Valdres, Norwegian March

***We look forward to seeing you at our first band practice, September 24!***