

# WILLIAMSTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

## Student/Parent Handbook 2019-2020



Ms. Lynn Kelsey  
Band Director

E-mail Address: [kelsey@gowcs.net](mailto:kelsey@gowcs.net)  
Band Office Phone: (517) 655-2142 ext. 7780  
Website: [www.williamstonbands.weebly.com](http://www.williamstonbands.weebly.com)

## 2019-2020 WHS BAND CALENDAR

(BOLDED DATES ARE MANDATORY ATTENDANCE FOR REHEARSALS/PERFORMANCES)

This calendar is subject to change. I will update you as revisions occur. Be sure you update all rehearsal and performance dates! Revised 6.24.2019

July	23	Tuesday – Pre-Camp Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the high school
July	24	Wednesday – Pre-Camp Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the high school
July	25	Thursday – Pre-Camp Rehearsal 5:30-8:30 pm @ the high school
July	29	Monday Band Camp at Camp Kimball
Aug.	3	Saturday – Band Camp Parent Informance 9:00 am at Camp Kimball
Aug.	21	Wednesday – Marching Band Rehearsal 7:30-9:00 pm @ the high school
Aug.	26	Monday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the high school
Aug.	29	Thursday – Home Football Game, Rehearsal at 5:30 pm @ the HS
Sept.	3	Tuesday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the stadium Marching Band pictures at the stadium?
	9	Monday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the stadium
	13	Friday – Home Football Game, Rehearsal at 5:30 pm @ the HS Marching Band pictures in the auditorium?
	16	Monday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the stadium
	23	Monday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the stadium
	25	Wednesday – Chelsea High School Marching Band Exhibition
	30	Monday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the stadium
Oct.	4	Friday - Home Football Game and Homecoming Parade
	7	Monday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the stadium
	9	Wednesday – Grand Ledge High School Marching Band Exhibition
	14	Monday – Marching Band Rehearsal 6:00-9:00 pm @ the stadium
	18	Friday - Home Football Game
	22	Tuesday – Fall Music Fest in the New Gym at the HS at 7:30 pm
	25	Friday - Home Football Game, Senior Night and Potluck dinner
	26	Saturday – All State Honor Band/Orchestra Auditions @ Chippewa MS
	27	Sunday – All State Honor Band/Orchestra Auditions @ Chippewa MS
Nov.	1	District Solo and Ensemble Registration Deadline
	24	SYWS Concert 3:00 pm
Dec.	7	Light Parade - 6 pm –Downtown Williamston
	9	Monday - Winter Collage Concert (6 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Grade) – HS New Gym at 7:30 pm
Jan.	18	All State Honor Band/Orchestra Performance at the MMC
	25	Saturday – District Solo and Ensemble Festival @ Haslett HS
Feb.	4	District Jazz Festival (during the school day for those in jazz band)
	19	Wednesday – 7-12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Festival Concert – McGoff Auditorim at 7:30 pm
	27 or 28	Thursday or Friday - High School District Band Festival – Location/Time TBA
March	14	Saturday – High School State Solo and Ensemble – Location TBA
	20	Evening of Jazz (for those in jazz band)
April	20	Fine Arts Fest – 6:00 pm New Gym
	17-19	Band Trip
	26	SYWS Concert – 3:00 pm
May	9	Mattress Sale Fundraiser 10-4 pm @ the HS
May	7-9	Thursday-Saturday Michigan Youth Arts Festival
May	13	Wednesday – Spring High School Band Concert – McGoff Auditorium at 7:30 pm
	25	Monday – Memorial Day Parade-10:00 am
	26	Tuesday – Band Banquet – HS Commons 6:30 pm
May	31	Sunday – HS Graduation – Wharton Center @ 2 pm

## I. ORGANIZATIONS

**THE HORNET MARCHING BAND:** This organization consists of all band members in grades 9-12. The Hornet Marching Band performs at all home football games. The band also participates in parades, assemblies, and a marching exhibition at Chelsea and Grand Ledge. Students are graded on attitude, participation, attendance and performance. The Marching Band is a symbol of excellence in our school and community.

Auditions for Drum Major, the percussion section and the Color Guard are held every year in May. Interested students should contact Ms. Kelsey for further information. Veteran members of these three areas must re-audition each spring. Membership is granted each year based on the audition performance.

**THE SYMPHONY BAND:** This concert organization consists of students in grades 9-12. The Symphony Band performs numerous concerts throughout the year. Emphasis will be placed on the fundamentals of music theory and performance. Students are strongly encouraged to study privately with qualified teachers in the area or from Michigan State University. Students are also encouraged to perform at solo and ensemble festivals, recitals and attend a summer music camp. (i.e. Interlochen, Pine Mountain, Blue Lake, Western Seminar etc.)

**THE JAZZ ENSEMBLE:** This ensemble is a class that rehearses before school as a zero hour. It is offered to students in grades 9-12 and participants in this ensemble will receive one semester class credit per marking period of enrollment. Wind players in this ensemble must also be a member of a concert band. This group will be exposed to the study and performance of big band, swing, and jazz styles, forms and genres. Often, we will have a Jazz Band I and a Jazz Band II. Placement in these groups will be determined by an audition to be held in the fall.

**THE CHAMBER ENSEMBLES:** These ensembles are dedicated to the performance of the finest in wind and percussion chamber music repertoire. Membership will vary according to the instrumentation of the work being performed. Students will be invited to participate in a chamber ensemble by Ms. Kelsey based on their performance in the concert band. Chamber ensembles may be organized and rehearsed by students as well. All rehearsals will be held before or after school. Chamber Ensembles perform at various events throughout the year (i.e. band concerts, solo and ensemble festivals, recitals, etc.)

## II. HIGH SCHOOL BAND COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To provide each band member with a workable knowledge of music, so she/he may enjoy, understand, and participate in the aesthetic experience relayed through music making.
- To help the student mature socially as an individual and become a good citizen.
- To provide a rewarding experience for all interested students.
- To provide the highest degree of music performance at school or community functions and special events.
- To represent the school in events outside the community.
- To continually broaden the musical tastes of the students and the community through the performance of fine wind band literature.
- To promote school spirit.

## III. MAINTENANCE OF THE BAND ROOM AND MARCHING PRACTICE AREA

This is OUR home. We should all take pride in our equipment and our band room. We need to treat it with extra special care and we all must invest in its upkeep.

- Respect other people's property.
- Percussion equipment is only to be played during rehearsal.

- Please leave the band room clean and neat.
- Chairs and music stands set up for rehearsal are not to be disturbed.
- Use your hall locker rather than instrument storage locker for books or personal belongings.
- Use of the band room needs Ms. Kelsey's permission.
- Students should not be in the band room unless Ms. Kelsey or another adult are there as well.
- Keep all your equipment neatly stored in your locker. Locker contents are very visible.
- Keep all lockers locked with a school issued lock.

#### **IV. MUSIC**

Students will be responsible for any music assigned to them. Lost original parts (not copies) need to be replaced by the student. The standard cost is \$1.00 for concert-size music, \$.50 for marching-size music, \$5.00 for flip folders, and \$10 for concert folders. When marking your music, please use pencil only. Music should be kept in the folders provided. Folders should be kept in your band locker.

Solo and ensemble music can be obtained by asking Ms. Kelsey. Do not look for solo and ensemble music in the band library without asking permission to do so.

#### **V. CONCERT UNIFORMS**

The concert uniform for the boys consists of black tuxedo pants, a black tuxedo coat, black bow tie, black cummerbund, and white tuxedo shirt. The concert uniform for the girls consists of a black skirt and a plain black long sleeved shirt. Students are to provide their own uniform shirts which must be purchased through the band department to ensure uniformity. Anyone with difficulty doing so should contact Ms. Kelsey. All other uniform parts are provided by the school.

- Concert shoes: Boys - plain, black, tie down, polished dress shoe, black socks. Girls - Plain, black, polished dress shoe, black nylons or black socks.
- No unusually large necklaces, earrings, bracelets, or large rings are to be worn with the concert uniform. Conservative jewelry is acceptable. See Ms. Kelsey if yours is questionable.

#### **VI. MARCHING UNIFORMS**

The basic design of the uniform consists of two major components: a one-piece jacket and one pair of pants, in a contrasting color combination of green and white.

This uniform is the apparel, which identifies you as a Hornet Marching Band member. It may be worn **ONLY** at authorized appearances and must **ALWAYS** be worn properly. Individual parts of the uniform may be worn by band members, but only to facilitate the use of a particular uniform part during an authorized practice period. Example: hats and shoes only, etc.

#### **DESCRIPTION OF AND DRESS POLICY REGARDING, THE MARCHING UNIFORM:**

- The uniform jacket is a one-piece coat with a full-length zipper. The jacket is green with white and silver trim. **REQUIREMENT:** A white, black, or green T-shirt with sleeves (no tank tops) or a white, black, or green long sleeved shirt is to be worn under the marching coat. Only these two options are acceptable. The bibbers are green with white stripes down the outer sides of the pant legs. **REQUIREMENT:** A pair of black socks is to be worn with the bibbers.
- The style of the hat is that of a military cadet. It is white vinyl with green trim. There is a chinstrap that can be adjusted and is to be worn at all times. The chinstrap should be adjusted so that the hat does not fall back while playing or at attention. The hat is **NEVER** to be worn backwards.
- The plume is made of marabou, a fluffy type of feather that is dyed white. The plume is fastened into the hat by simply inserting it into the plume holder and pushing it down. To take the plume off of the hat, pinch the wire at the base of the plume while pulling it off.
- White marching band gloves must be purchased from the high school band office to insure uniformity. Gloves must be clean and in good condition.
- Shoes are made of black leather and must be purchased from the high school band office to insure uniformity. Only black socks are to be worn with the marching band uniform. Shoes must be clean for all performances.

- The Color Guard uniform consists of black pants, a black long sleeve shirt, black shoes, and a green sparkle top. The black pants and black long sleeve shirt will be purchased by the student from a designated supplier in order to insure uniformity. Students will then keep these items at the end of the season. Shoes are made of black leather and must be purchased from the high school band office to insure uniformity. The green sparkle top will be provided by the school and turned in at the end of the season. The Color Guard uniform, as with all other uniforms, must be neatly stored at home after EVERY game.

### **CARE AND CLEANING OF THE MARCHING UNIFORM:**

Proper care and cleaning of the uniform is essential. Members must pride themselves in taking good care of school equipment. When the WHS Band performs, the visual impact must be as great as the musical impact. This means that each and every member must do their utmost to insure that the uniform is clean and that your shoes are shined. Uniforms are to be properly stored at school after each performance. Listed below are the different parts of the uniform and a description of how each should be properly cleaned and maintained.

#### **The jacket and bibbers**

- The sleeve length should be halfway down the palm of the hand when standing at attention with arms down to the side.
- The pant length should reach one half inch below the top of the shoe when standing at attention.
- If caught in the rain, allow the uniform to dry at normal room temperature.
- When hanging the uniform in the band room, place it on a well-shaped hanger and allow it to hang freely without crowding.
- Don't stuff the uniform away; hang it neatly on your hanger in your section area where it will not be wrinkled.
- The large zipper on the front of the jacket is to be handled with care; if it jams, do not force it!
- Always check to make sure that the closures on the jacket and pants are securely fastened and the zippers are closed.

#### **The gloves**

- Always wash before wearing the gloves. This helps them to remain white and prevents dirt and stains from setting.

#### **The hat**

- Sponge off with warm, soapy water and dry with towel.
- When storing the hat, be careful not to place anything on top of it. Avoid placing pressure on the rim or neck strap.

#### **The plume**

- Take care so that the tip is not bent and the feathers are not constricted for extended periods of time.
- Plumes must be returned to the plume box and carefully inserted into the plume tube at the end of every performance.

#### **The marching shoes**

- The marching shoes must be clean for all performances. Consult upperclassmen for cleaning strategies.

#### **The marching instrument**

- The marching instrument must be clean and shiny for all performances. Consult upperclassmen for cleaning strategies.

## **MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE GROOMING:**

To insure the clean, uniform appearance of the Hornet Marching Band, the following grooming regulations will be STRICTLY adhered to:

- HAIR shall be worn off the uniform collar and behind the ears. Band members may choose to meet these requirements by either cutting the hair to a manageable length or putting hair up in such a way that it will not fall down when the hat is taken off. When the latter choice is made, band members must use a hair net, bobby pins, styling gel or other inconspicuous devices to hold hair in place through the entire performance day or evening. Bright colored mesh hairnets and other noticeable devices are strictly prohibited.
- No band member's hair will be cut, shaved, or clipped without her/his expressed approval to do so.
- SIDEBURNS must not extend below an imaginary line from the corner of the mouth to the bottom of the earlobe. No beards or goatees are permitted. A trimmed mustache is acceptable. The remainder of the face will be clean-shaven while in uniform.
- COSMETICS (mascara, lipstick, eye makeup, etc.) or jewelry (earrings, ID bracelets, watches, sunglasses, etc.) WILL NOT BE WORN WHILE IN UNIFORM unless applicable to Color Guard.
- Each marching section leader will inspect her/his section before every performance. She/he will make certain that all of the above criteria are met and will double check to see if the shoes, uniform, and other equipment of her/his section are acceptable.
- The uniform must be worn in its entirety unless otherwise decided by the directors.
- The section leaders and directors will take action should any of these criteria not be met. Pending review through the chain of command, members not conforming to these guidelines will not be permitted to participate in band activities until these guidelines are met.

## **VII. JAZZ UNIFORMS**

The jazz uniform for the boys consists of plain black dress pants, a plain black long sleeve button down dress shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. A uniform green tie must be purchased from the band department for \$12.00. The jazz uniform for the girls consists of a plain black skirt or dress pants, a plain black dress shirt, black socks, and black dress shoes. Students are to provide all of their own uniform items. Anyone with financial difficulty should contact Ms. Kelsey so that we can help provide a uniform for you.

## **VIII. CONCERT/JAZZ BAND SCHOOL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONAL INSTRUMENTS**

No student should play an instrument that does not belong to her/him. Only percussionists should use the percussion equipment. Students should provide their own accessories for their instrument (example: brass instrument mutes, valve oil, cork grease, reeds, swabs, lyres, etc.). Order forms for accessories will be available in the band room. Instrument accessories may also be purchased from local music stores. In case of financial burden and the student cannot afford these necessities, arrangements can be made with Ms. Kelsey.

## **IX. MARCHING BAND SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

The high school provides the following instruments for marching band use: marching horns, marching baritones, sousaphones, percussion, and color guard equipment. Percussionists must provide their own marching mallets, sticks, and beaters. Sousaphone players must provide their own mouthpieces and will be charged for lost bits and necks. School instruments will be issued after the Memorial Day Parade for the following school year. All instruments must be returned in good working order. The brass instruments should be flushed out; valves oiled, and slides cleaned and

greased. Proper care of school instruments during the marching season is essential. All school instruments checked out in good working order must be returned in good working order. Should intentional or negligent damage occur to a school instrument during the season, the student is responsible for the repair of the damage. Do not set marching horns or baritones on the bell on the ground.

You should come to band camp with your instrument in good working order. The band has a busy schedule of rehearsals and performances, and the school cannot supply you with an instrument while yours is being repaired. Be careful of what you are doing while carrying your instrument. Dents and repairs can be avoided if caution is used.

Those individuals wishing to check out a school-owned instrument must fill out an Instrument Checkout Form and sign an instrument contract. The student whose signature appears on the instrument contract is responsible for that instrument.

## **REPAIRS AND SUPPLIES**

A music store representative from Port Huron Music at 800-284-7891 will come to our school weekly to take care of individual repairs. Repairs usually take one week and parents/guardians will be billed for this work. Port Huron Music carries "loaner" instruments, which may be used by the student while their instrument is being repaired. Individuals are encouraged to call ahead and ask the store to bring out a "loaner" instrument, at no cost, before sending an instrument in for repair so that the student may continue to participate in daily class rehearsals. Meridian Winds and Marshall Music are also local music stores that also do instrument repair.

## **X. REHEARSAL PROCEDURES**

- Students will be expected to act maturely and professionally at all rehearsals.
- No gum chewing, wearing of hats, unnecessary talking, or other noise will be accepted during rehearsal.
- Only you, your instrument, music and the accessories you need in order to perform will be allowed in the rehearsal setup. All cases and items that are not needed during rehearsal must be kept outside of the rehearsal setup.
- Check the white board for the rehearsal order before the rehearsal begins. Please place your music in the given order.
- Percussionists should have their section set up and all equipment ready before rehearsal begins.
- You may quietly warm up and tune your instrument prior to rehearsal.
- Rehearsal begins when Ms. Kelsey steps on the podium. All playing and talking should stop immediately.
- All excused or unexcused absences from any rehearsals, sectionals, and performances must be made up. (See attendance policies XIX through XXI.)
- Students who forget their music or instruments will have their grade lowered accordingly if this habit becomes excessive.
- Students will not be allowed to do other work or reading during rehearsals.
- Any discrepancies or discussions concerning disciplinary action will take place outside of rehearsal. All rehearsals will be conducted in a professional work atmosphere, with emphasis on improvement. Come to rehearsals ready to perform. Practice at HOME.
- Corrections and criticisms will be made with respect to the student's musical and marching performance. Corrections are not to be taken on a personal level. Each individual's performance affects the performance of the entire group. It is important for all members to do their job well. Occasionally, student concerns arise. These concerns should be heard as soon as possible. Ms. Kelsey is available after rehearsals, between classes, or during conference periods for consultations with students. Any suggestions, which can benefit the well being of the band, should be mentioned to Ms Kelsey, section leaders, or band council members.

### **Responsibilities of a section leader:**

- Be able to demonstrate music.

- Show a concern for the members in the section.
- Help and encourage those who are struggling with the music.
- Challenge those who are not putting forth an effort.
- Share concerns, or suggestions, with Ms. Kelsey for the benefit of the band.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Lead in such a way that others will follow.
- Set an example of proper conduct.
- Be responsible: be punctual, be prepared with your own music, and take proper care of both your instrument and music.
- Support the policies and expectations of the band.

## **XI. BEHAVIOR WHILE IN UNIFORM**

A student in the Williamston High School Band is a high profile member of the Williamston school community. A Williamston High School student who is privileged to be a member of the band bears a large responsibility to model appropriate behavior, on and off the drill field, in or out of the concert hall.

When a student wears the concert band uniform or marching band uniform, others view them as talented, dedicated professionals who have earned the privilege to represent Williamston High School on our campus and in other places.

Because of this high profile student status, members are expected to uphold the highest moral and behavioral standards. Special trust and responsibility has been given to student members who have been selected in leadership positions. If the behavior of any Williamston band member falls short of appropriate standards as reflected in this article, the status of that student is subject to immediate review.

## **MARCHING BAND GAME SEATING POLICY**

**ALL MEMBERS MUST SIT WITHIN THEIR SECTION AND ROW. THE INSTRUMENT NOTED FIRST ON THE SEATING CHART LIST SITS ON OUR LEFT AS WE LOOK AT YOU WHEN YOU ARE SEATED IN THE BLEACHERS.**

## **BAND STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY DURING FOOTBALL GAMES:**

- All must be ready to play at any time. All must sit while playing unless told to stand.
- There will be no individual playing of wind or percussion instruments. Ms. Kelsey or a drum major will conduct any and/or all music.
- You may not go to the restroom or concession stand unless given permission to do so by Ms. Kelsey or the drum major. Use the restroom before the parade march to the game.
- DO NOT take off your hat or gloves or unzip your coat, unless told to do so by Ms. Kelsey or a drum major. Percussionists should take off their carriers immediately after arriving at your seat, and then zip the coat back up.
- Parents and friends are not allowed to bring food or drinks to you. Do not ask them to.
- Only band members may sit in our band bleacher setup. Band alumni, friends and parents are not allowed to sit within our seating area.
- Participate in all organized cheers. No questionable cheers or bad language.



- In short, our image is determined not only by what we do on the field, but off of the field while in uniform as well. All must agree to follow the above rules and guidelines if we are to preserve a good image and reputation as a first class organization. It is up to you to enforce the rules.

## **XII. TRIPS**

Bus rides of any kind are considered trips. All school rules apply for each trip. Students must ride the bus both to and from the event. Family members are encouraged to attend all events and may follow the busses. Only members of the Williamston Bands and chaperones may accompany the group on the bus. Directions to the event will be sent home with the students or distributed by the directors to the parents at school before departure. Students not riding the bus back home to Williamston must turn in a travel release form to the band department before the trip. Travel release forms can be picked up in the high school main office.

## **XIII. STUDENT BAND ACCOUNTS**

Each member of the Williamston Bands has an individual band account. This account is maintained by the Williamston Band Boosters for their entire career in the Williamston Band Program. Each time students participate in designated fundraisers; money is put into their account and stays there until they decide to use it for a band sanctioned trip decided on by the directors and /or Band Boosters.

## **XIV. CHAIN OF COMMAND**

- Ms. Kelsey oversees the band program at Williamston High School.
- The Marching Band Camp Instructors and student section leaders serve as assistants to Ms. Kelsey and perform specifically defined assignments in the areas of administrative work, sectional rehearsals, visual coordination, sectional drills, individual member assistance, and other assignments as necessary.
- The Band Council, led by the Band President, organizes various events and handles problems not of a musical or marching nature. The officers serve as a catalyst for the strong spirit that comes with being a member of the Williamston High School Band.
- The Drum Majors assist Ms. Kelsey and have specific duties, which include fulfilling a field generalship role in rehearsals and performances. The Drum Major and President work together in utilizing the Student Chain of Command in cooperation with the band directors.
- The Section Leader is the musical/marching leader who sets the example for their section. This individual has leadership responsibilities and is capable of conducting sectional music rehearsals as well as marching rehearsals. This individual should be an outstanding musician, marcher, teacher, and leader. This position is limited to members who have had a minimum of one season's experience in the Williamston Marching Band.

## **BAND COUNCIL**

The Band Council is responsible to the band directors. The band council will be the governing body of the band. The council will help promote internal discipline and serve as a sounding board for students. The council may recommend changes within the band structure and organize social events for the band members. The council will consist of the following eight students:

**PRESIDENT** -- In charge of conducting monthly meetings and consultations with Ms. Kelsey.

**VICE PRESIDENT** -- Assists the president and will take over meetings when the president is absent. The vice president will be in charge of all publicity for the bands.

**SECRETARY** -- Responsible for all council correspondence, taking minutes of meetings, and relaying information to the band. The secretary will serve as band historian, gathering all news articles about the organizations.

**TREASURER** -- In charge of all the band council money. The treasurer will also assist the vice-president in publicity.

The above officers will be elected from the Williamston Marching Band. The Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior class will have one elected representative on the council.

## **XV. CONDUCT AND ESPRIT DE CORP**

The Williamston High School Band has a proud heritage. Wherever the band goes, its members are representative of Williamston High School. Whether in or out of uniform, at a performance or at a rehearsal, on the road or at home, at operational functions or official band social activities, band members must conduct themselves in a mature and professional manner. Any action by a band member reflects either positively or negatively on the band and the school. The manner in which a WHS Band member conducts themselves should never be questioned for appropriateness.

Whenever the traditions of the band are threatened, its reputation is questioned, or the attitudes of the members of the band becomes at odds with the goals of the group as a whole, members of the band often take it upon themselves to rebuild a healthy attitude and maintain a high esprit de corps. The pride in adhering to these methods and policies of the WHS Band will be explained in detail to new members during band camp.

Spirit and loyalty are important ingredients in the success of the Hornet Marching Band. Spirit provides the rationale for concentrated efforts. Loyalty provides the motivating, unifying force for the band members during the rigorous season. Many activities exist within the band to help build spirit and maintain tradition. Actions by members of the Band at raising spirit must always be done in good taste and without ulterior motives in mind.

The Williamston High School Band does not tolerate hazing (See XVII. "Hazing and Harassment Policy"). If a band member believes that policies or established practices of the band have been violated, Ms. Kelsey should be informed immediately.

## **XVI. ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY**

The possession, consumption, and distribution of alcohol or drugs by the members of this organization at any Williamston High School Band event shall be strictly prohibited. The possession or use of weapons is also prohibited. The Williamston High School Band will not tolerate alcohol, drugs, or weapons at any school sponsored activity (i.e. camp, bus trips, rehearsals, etc.). Any violation of this policy may result in automatic expulsion from the Williamston High School Band.

## **XVII. HAZING AND HARASSMENT POLICY**

The Williamston High School Band believes that a positively functioning student organization is nurtured by an atmosphere of social and moral responsibility, respect for authority, and loyalty to the principles of higher education.

The Williamston High School Band further believes that, while social behavior cannot be legislated, a school program without morally sound precepts and practices is not a constructive influence upon its members.

The Williamston High School Band further believes that, despite the fact that much progress has been made, one of the most damaging agents in any school environment is hazing. This unproductive and hazardous custom has no rightful place in education.

The Williamston High School Band defines hazing as any action taken or situation created which is intentionally designed to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities and actions include: creation of excessive fatigue; physical or psychological abuse; wearing apparel which is not in good taste; engaging in public stunts, morally degrading or humiliating games and activities, and any other activities which are not consistent with policies of the organization or rules and regulations.

The use of degrading names in the Williamston High School Band is strictly prohibited. Nicknames are not an official part of the Hornet Marching Band. It is important to be aware that the use of degrading nicknames could be considered a form of hazing and could be found offensive by some members. This practice will not be tolerated by the Williamston High School Band.

Any violation with the Williamston High School Band Hazing Policy will result in a meeting of Ms. Kelsey Dr. Thoenes. An immediate dismissal may be issued to any student in violation with this policy.

Ms. Kelsey, section leaders and individual members will monitor actions within the organization and will report behaviors which violate the intent outlined in this policy.

## **XVIII. SUSPENSION**

The following constitutes serious infractions against the band and may result in suspension from band and or school:

- The use/possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, or weapons while in uniform, on school property, or at a school function.
- Stealing from the band or intentionally defacing band property.

## **XIX. EXTRA CONCERT, JAZZ AND MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS AND/OR SECTIONAL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

It may become necessary to schedule additional band rehearsals or sectionals during the school year. These will be called with enough time in advance to allow students adequate time to adjust their schedules. The section leader may call sectionals, and it is the responsibility of each individual to attend. It is possible and practical to balance band and other activities. Compromises can be made between band/sectional rehearsals and other activities. Simply contact Ms. Kelsey and explain the situation. Students will not be put in the middle between band and other activities. A reasonable and fair solution will be made between both the band directors and the coach/advisor/boss.

If a student has a conflict and cannot attend an extra rehearsal or sectional, s/he must notify the directors and the section leader before the rehearsal. A signed note by the parents, email or a telephone call is necessary. Additionally, an unexcused absence must be made up by the student. The form of the make up is to be mutually agreed upon by the student and the directors. Failure to do this will result in the lowering of the student's grade.

## **XX. REGULARLY SCHEDULED DAILY AND EVENING MARCHING BAND REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE POLICY (TO BE ENFORCED IN ADDITION TO ARTICLE XVIII.)**

Attendance is taken at all rehearsals. If a member arrives after attendance has been taken, the student must sign in on the attendance clipboard and notify the drum major with the reason for tardiness. If a member is absent from rehearsal they must have a written note or some other notification from a parent/guardian (phone call/email). This notification should preferably be before the rehearsal in question. Excessive absences will result in dismissal from the band.

## **XXI. CONCERT, JAZZ, AND MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCES ATTENDANCE POLICY**

One of the main functions of the band is to perform. The performance is the culmination of our rehearsal preparation. Performances are required activities. No excuses will be accepted unless there is a death in the family or severe illness. A note, email or telephone call from the parent verifying the reason for absence will be necessary. Ms. Kelsey will determine if the absence is excusable. It is most helpful if the directors are notified before the concert or performance. Any absence from a performance, excused or unexcused, must be made up within one week of the missed performance. The absent student must ask for an out of class appointment with Ms. Kelsey, at which time the student will be asked to:

1. Perform some or all of the concert music. The appointment must be made by the student within one week of the missed performance. The individual performance will be graded. Reminder: The student must initiate the request for a make-up appointment.

Or

2. Write a ten-page typewritten paper on a subject of Ms. Kelsey's choice. Ms. Kelsey will determine the due date of this assignment.

Failure to make up a missed performance will result in a lowering of the grade for the semester.

## XXII. TARDY POLICY

Students must be in the band room by the time the bell rings in order to be “on time” for class. Those students who arrive after the bell has rung, without a pass, will receive an unexcused tardy. When this occurs the following procedure will be followed:

**First Offense:** Student marked tardy in Powerschool; verbal discussion with student

**Second Offense:** Student marked tardy in Powerschool; verbal discussion with student

**Third Offense:** Student marked tardy in Powerschool; student will receive a 30 minute before or after school detention, parent will be notified via email communication

**Fourth Offense:** Student marked tardy in Powerschool; student will receive a 30 minute before or after school detention, parent will be notified via email communication

**Fifth Offense:** Student marked tardy in Powerschool; automatic referral of the student to the office for disciplinary action by the Administration

## XXIII. GRADING PROCEDURES

Because of the unique aspects of instrumental music, the evaluation of each student will be dependent upon a variety of criteria. Grades will be updated weekly in PowerSchool.

### Semester Grading Procedures:

- **Performances – 50%**
  1. All marching performances
  2. All concert/festival performances
  3. All jazz performances
- **Auditions, individual performance exam – 25%**

Auditions and/or performance exams will be performed for Ms. Kelsey and will usually consist of the following:

  1. A prepared solo of the student's choice which should demonstrate tone quality, intonation, technique, and musicality through the use of proper phrasing, dynamics, and nuance.
  2. Assigned music given by Ms. Kelsey.
  3. Sight reading material of a medium grade of difficulty, to be provided by Ms. Kelsey.
  4. Selected scales.
- **Class Participation – 25%**

Class participation includes being prepared for each rehearsal with your instrument, music, mutes/accessories, and a pencil. This includes following all classroom procedures and being actively engaged during the rehearsal. Failure to have proper materials or to follow rehearsal procedures will result in a lowering of the class participation points earned for the week.

### **Semester Exam: (20% of the final semester grade)**

Concert critique or Composition (see next page)

**2019-2020  
WILLIAMSTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND  
SEMESTER CONCERT CRITIQUE ASSIGNMENT**

**PURPOSES FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT**

- To communicate your feelings and impressions about musical performances.
- To become a musically literate person.
- To learn to listen critically.
- To help you to develop attitudes, feelings, and make intelligent decisions concerning different types of musical performances.

**In YOUR OWN WORDS, type your impressions of the performance. Include your likes and dislikes about the program and tell why. You may comment on any area of the performance -- instrumentation, particular sections of the ensemble, instruments or soloists, conductors, dynamic contrast, intonation, musical expression, concert etiquette, etc. What is important is that you formulate your own ideas and opinions.**

**Please adhere to the following information:**

- Critiques must be typed
- Use a 1 inch margin
- Double space
- 12 point font/Times New Roman
- Two page minimum length
- Spelling and sentence structure will be graded.
- Taped performances or television performances do not qualify.
- The majority of the performance must contain live music – plays do not qualify
- You cannot be a performer in the performance you critique.
- Two critiques (one for each semester) are required.
- Avoid waiting until the end of the semester to complete this assignment. Concert critiques are due no later than two weeks following the concert attended.

**Please turn in the program with the conductor's or guest artist's autograph on it. Simply go back stage after the performance and introduce yourself, congratulate him or her, identify yourself and explain that you need an autograph to complete this assignment for your band director. The conductor or artist will probably smile and be flattered.**

**An original musical composition/arrangement may be written to fulfill the concert critique assignment. See Ms. Kelsey for details regarding this alternative.**