

WOLF BRANCH

FOOTBALL



NOON

LINDA A. TESSEREAU

DIRECTOR OF BANDS

Dear Music Students and Families,

Hello and welcome to a new and exciting year of music making! My name is Linda A. Tessereau and I am honored to be the Director of Bands at Wolf Branch Middle School. I attended William Holiday/ Pontiac School then graduated from Belleville East High School. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. I then became the Collegiate Assistant Director of Bands at Collinsville High School for the 1997-1998 school year. From 1998-2003 I was the Director of Bands at Emge Middle School. I also perform part time professionally as a freelance musician and I am a member of the 571st Air Force National Guard Band out of the 131st Fighter Wing at Lambert International Airport.

This handbook is to inform students and parents of information vital to a positive experience in band. Both students and parents are asked to read this handbook together. Please complete and sign the agreement form and return it to Mrs. Tessereau or the Wolf Branch School office during the first week of class.

Rules and Expectations

Each student begins with 0 points with the hope and goal of staying at 0. Student will be given points when not living up to the following expectations. If a student reaches 6 points, he or she will be denied field trip privileges. ***(Many times, the band and chorus combine for field trips. If a band student reaches 6 absences, they will not be permitted to attend the field trip even if they have fulfilled their chorus obligations.)***

Level 1 (1 point)

- Doesn't know music at appropriate level (The students isn't practicing at home and coming to class "musically" prepared. This will be decided on an individual basis through playing tests.)
- Does not keep instrument and music in instrument cubby

Level 2 (2 points)

- Attends class without music, pencil, instrument, binder
- Tardies to band (during study hall only)

Level 3 (3 points)

- Talking back to authorities (including parent volunteers)
- Leaving without permission
- Use of profanity
- Lying
- Disruptiveness/Talking during class
- Vandalism
- Bullying/Harassment
- Physical aggression (general horseplay)
- Running in band room
- Stealing
- Gum chewing
- Use of cell phones or mp3 players (ect.)
- Inability to keep hands and/ or feet (and other objects) to self
- Inappropriate hallway behavior
- Playing someone else's instrument
- Absence from rehearsal (students will be permitted 3 unexcused absences before given 3 points. This will allow students to complete an occasional group project without consequence.)

Level 6 (6 points)

- Unexcused absence from performance.
- Physical aggression

PRACTICING

Students are expected to practice outside of class time just as they do homework in other classes. In order to be fluent on an instrument, each student must spend time practicing the fundamentals of their instrument and the repertoire assigned in band class. Unfortunately, too many young musicians do not take the time to learn these fundamentals such as scales, lip slurs, rhythms, rudiments, etc. and they end up starting from every time a new piece of music is placed in front of them. This can be a very frustrating process. By learning the fundamentals of one's instrument, they can gain more enjoyment from performing music.

In order to develop a good habit of practicing, I suggest that students choose the same time each day to practice. Middle school students should practice 30 minutes daily.

Students: Even though you may leave a lesson playing a difficult passage perfectly, you must continue to practice the passage at home constantly. You will forget how to play an extremely difficult passage in 1 day!!!

BAND WEBSITE

All band information will be distributed through the band webpage which is linked through the *Middle School home page>Clubs and Orgs>Wolf Branch Bands*. Mrs. Tessereau does not send home paperwork. Please check the webpage frequently. Students will also be notified of any important information as it is being posted (such as field trip permission slips, performance information, etc.)

Should you have difficulty accessing the band webpage or do not have a computer, please contact Mrs. Tessereau as soon as possible.

The address is: <http://www.wolfbranchschooldistrict.org/linda-tesser/>

You will find exciting information on the Wolf Branch Program such as:

- Calendar of events
- Description of the Band Program and its parts
- Necessary Middle School Band Supplies
- Necessary Elementary Band Supplies
- Group Lessons Information
- Challenges
- Band Uniforms
- Field Trip Information
- Local Band Festivals
- Solo and Ensemble Contest
- Organizational Contest
- Band Boosters

**WOLF BRANCH BAND AGREEMENT
(RETURN TO MRS. TESSEREAU)**

I understand the commitment of being a member of the Wolf Branch Band Program. I will do my best to carry on the tradition of excellence at Wolf Branch School. By doing this, I understand, the importance of practicing faithfully, as well as excellent attendance at rehearsals, lessons and performances. I understand the policies outlined in this handbook and agree to abide by them and strive for excellence. Failure to abide may result in dismissal from the Wolf Branch Band Program. I understand the field trip procedures as they pertain to attendance to rehearsals and performances.

All band information will be distributed through the band webpage which is linked through the Middle School home page>Clubs and Orgs>Wolf Branch Bands. Mrs. Tessereau does not send home paperwork. Please check the webpage frequently. Students will also be notified of any important information as it is being posted (such as field trip permission slips, performance information, etc.)

Should you have difficulty accessing the band webpage or do not have a computer, please contact Mrs. Tessereau as soon as possible. Please check one of the options below.

I DO have access to the band webpage.
 I DO NOT have access to the band webpage

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____

Email Address (s) _____

Check this box if you DO NOT have a functioning address.

THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE SIGNED BY BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT

Please return this form to Mrs. Tessereau or the office during the first week of class.