

## Table of Contents

An Introduction to the W. T. Woodson Band Program .....	4
Contact Information .....	4
About the Bands .....	4
The Symphonic Band.....	4
The Concert Band.....	5
Beginning Band.....	5
The Marching Cavaliers .....	5
The Jazz Ensemble .....	5
The Color guard/Winter guard .....	5
Policy on Marching Band Participation .....	6
Summer Marching Band Rehearsal.....	6
Athletic Exemptions .....	6
Grading.....	7
Attendance.....	7
After-School Rehearsals.....	7
Performances.....	7
Communication about absences .....	8
Rehearsals .....	8
Football Game Itinerary and Expectations .....	8
Typical Football Game Itinerary .....	8
Inspection .....	9
Game Expectations.....	9
Band Trips.....	9
Transportation while on trips .....	9
Home Practice .....	10
13 Tips for Better Practice .....	10
Extra Events .....	10
Challenges.....	11
General Challenge Info .....	11
Private Instruction .....	12
Do's and Don'ts for Parents .....	12
Auditions.....	13
Requirements.....	13
Percussion Requirements .....	13
General Audition Information .....	13

Equipment .....	14
General Information .....	14
School-owned Instruments .....	14
Personal-owned Instruments .....	14
Percussion .....	14
Accessories.....	15
Brass.....	15
Woodwinds .....	15
Uniforms .....	15
Marching Uniforms .....	15
Hair.....	15
Jewelry .....	15
General Rules .....	16
Marching Band Uniforms.....	16
Wearing the Uniform .....	16
Uniform Check-out Procedure .....	16
Uniform Check-in Procedure .....	17
Concert Uniforms.....	17
General Information .....	17
Financial Obligations .....	18
General Fees.....	18
Uniform Fees.....	18
Trip fees .....	18
Financial Aid.....	18
Student Leadership.....	19
Band President .....	19
Band Vice President.....	19
Band Secretary .....	19
Librarians .....	19
Drum Major.....	20
Band President .....	20
Social Coordinator.....	20
Banana News Editor.....	20
Equipment .....	20
Marching Band.....	20
Symphonic Band .....	20

Concert Band.....	20
Section Leader; Responsibilities for Marching Band.....	21
Communication .....	21
Summer Sectionals .....	21
Leadership Meetings .....	21
Water/Extra Help.....	21
Music Pass-offs .....	21
Dot Book/Drill Charts .....	21
Tuners.....	21
Accountability .....	21
Discipline .....	21
Commitment.....	21
W.T. Woodson Band Letter Points .....	22
Musicianship Points .....	22
Service Points.....	22
Award Descriptions.....	23
Fall Awards .....	23
Spring Awards.....	23
Special Awards.....	23

## ***W.T. Woodson Band Handbook***

### **An Introduction to the W. T. Woodson Band Program**

The Woodson Band program has a long tradition of excellence that has come about through hard work, dedication and a system of rules and expectations. What makes Band such an invaluable experience for students is the level of performance and personal accountability which is expected of each and every student in the program. Each student is expected to give 100% both as an individual and as a team player, always striving to become the best musician possible. Because the strength of the program is determined not by the top players but by the depth of talent within the program, all members are an integral part of the quest for superior music making. Members of the program are serious about music and study privately on their instruments. By the time a student becomes a member of the Symphonic Band, they are performing college level music with the maturity and finesse of a college level player. Students also learn time management skills when they have to organize rehearsals, studies and other activities into their day. Band students therefore, leave high school with a greater ability to deal with the rigors of college and the challenges of adult life.

The Woodson Band program has a variety of ensembles available which will satisfy every ability level and interest. The program provides a progressive musical education for its members. Students in all band classes learn basic fundamentals which will make them proficient on their instruments and teach them to problem solve in their own practice sessions.

### **Contact Information**

Band Office Phone 703-503-4665

Band Director – Melinda McKenzie Hall [mmhall@fcps.edu](mailto:mmhall@fcps.edu)

Band Patron President – Jim McDonald [jimmcdonald@erols.com](mailto:jimmcdonald@erols.com)

W.T. Woodson Band Website [www.woodsonband.org](http://www.woodsonband.org)

The band's website contains calendars, trip itineraries, forms, photo galleries and other helpful information. If you visit our site frequently, don't forget to force IE to retrieve the latest copy of the website by selecting "View" and "Refresh" from the IE menu.

### ***About the Bands***

**The Symphonic Band:** Members of the Symphonic Band are the most advanced musicians in the Woodson Band program. Students are selected by audition in the spring and will re-audition for each new school year. The group will perform varying levels of music at concerts throughout the year but will perform Grade 6 at competitions or festivals. Members of this group are required to participate in the marching band (unless on Athletic Exemption) and also have the requirement of after-school sectionals and rehearsals throughout the year. Marching Band participation and performance along with class participation are figured into the student's quarter grade for the first quarter. After-school sectionals/rehearsals, performances and class participation are figured into the student's quarter grade for the other 3 quarters. This band performs at the winter and spring concerts, the VBODA District Band Performance Assessment and whatever competition or Festival venue that the WTW Band attends on the spring trip. Students in this band are highly motivated and most take private lessons on their instrument. Any 9<sup>th</sup> graders who make this band are required to study privately.

**The Concert Band:** Concert Band or Intermediate Band is open to all 9-12 Woodson students who audition in the spring and are placed in this level group. It is separated into 3 classes: Woodwinds, Brass and Percussion. Basic skills are an important part of the musical program of studies for this group. Students will learn all Major scales and some minor scales and work on basic rhythms as well as sight-reading. The group plays various levels of literature throughout the year usually grades 4-5. Members of this group are required to participate in the marching band (unless on Athletic Exemption) and also have the requirement of after-school sectionals and rehearsals throughout the year. Marching Band participation and performance along with class participation are figured into the student's quarter grade for the first quarter. After-school sectionals/rehearsals, performances and class participation are figured into the student's quarter grade for the other 3 quarters. This band performs at the winter and spring concerts, the VBODA District Band Performance Assessment and whatever competition or Festival venue that the WTW Band attends on the spring trip. The majority of students in this group take private lessons on their instrument.

**The Beginning Band:** Beginning Band is open to all students of Woodson High School and will focus on basic skills such as tone production, rhythm, scales and sight-reading. Students with no previous band experience may start an instrument but only at the discretion of the director. Instrument choice will be decided by the director taking into consideration the appropriateness of the instrument for the physical makeup of the student and the instrumentation needs of the program. This is also a great class for those students interested in switching instruments. Beginning Band is usually not a performing group in and of itself depending upon the instrumentation enrolled in the class for that year. If not, the first semester will be spent on basic skills and second semester we will provide performance opportunities for those students who are maintaining a high level of musical achievement. Members of this group may participate in marching band only with the approval of the Director of Bands. Members of this group may perform with the Intermediate Band later in the year if their skills warrant it and may also participate in the spring trip if they are on performance status with the intermediate band by 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

**The Marching Cavaliers:** The W. T. Woodson Marching Cavaliers is the most visible group in the band program and it is made up of the brass, woodwinds, drum line and color guard. The group performs at all home Varsity football games, selected away games, and competes in 3-4 competitions and/or festivals during the marching season. Students participating in the marching band learn precision marching to a musical program that has been carefully selected to show off the musicality and pageantry of the group. No other group provides such an outlet for students where the sense of pride and team spirit is so intense. Marching Band is a co-curricular class which means that a student's performance and participation in rehearsals and performances has bearing on the quarter grade for band. Students in the Advanced and Intermediate Bands are required to be in the Marching Band unless approved for the Athletic Exemption. Students in Beginning Band are not required but may participate at the discretion of the Director of Bands depending on the playing level of the student.

**The Jazz Ensemble:** The Jazz Ensemble meets one day a week beginning and performs at many local events. The group attends the Chantilly Jazz Festival and will perform with a guest artist in the spring. Members are chosen by audition, must have a good work ethic, conduct and must be in good standing with the band program. Commitment to the rehearsal and performance schedule to include the spring band trip is a requirement for membership. Students will be enrolled for second semester only and will receive a ½ credit for this course.

**The Color Guard/Winter guard:** The color guard is open to any student, grades 9-12, who has attended the spring color guard clinics and passed the audition requirements. Color guard members may be members of a band class but this is not required. The color guard is an auxiliary unit in the band that adds color, pageantry and general effect to the show. All members are held to the same standards and expectations as the band students and are considered to be a part of the band. Color guard members must attend all after-school rehearsals, football games, competitions and Tag Day. Members of the color guard may also participate in the Winter Guard. The Winter Guard rehearses two nights per week plus some weekends and performs at several competitions in the late winter and early spring. Color guard has a separate handbook.

### ***Policy on Marching Band Participation***

According to the Fairfax County Program of Studies for Music and Woodson's Course Description guide, Marching Band is an integral part of the Advanced and Intermediate Band course requirements. Therefore, students enrolled in the Intermediate (Concert) and Advanced (Symphonic) Bands must participate in Marching Band as a co-curricular requirement. The only exception is described below in the "Athletic Exemption".

### ***Summer Marching Band Rehearsal (aka "Band Camp")***

Summer Marching Band Rehearsal is an important precursor for the marching band season which sets the tone and has a definite effect on the level of success achieved by the marching band at all performances. All marching band members are required to attend. Summer rehearsals will begin 3 weeks before Labor Day weekend and may be scheduled as follows:

Week 1: Leadership, drum line/Pit, Color guard, and Rookies (last 3 days) 8-11am Color guard 4pm-8pm

Week 2: Full Band 8am-5:00pm

Week 3: Full Band and Color guard 3pm to 9pm

Students not attending summer rehearsal may be assigned to alternate status for the season which does not guarantee the member a permanent spot in the competition show. Please plan vacations accordingly.

### ***Athletic Exemption\****

At Woodson High School, athletes who are also serious musicians may be allowed a *special exemption* to participate in a **VHSL sponsored W.T. Woodson sport (Football, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Volleyball and Field Hockey) whose practices and games directly conflict with Marching Band activities**. Students who take this exemption and are cut from the team are required to report to Marching Band. Although freshmen may take this exemption, they may be placed in the advanced band only at the director's discretion.

\*Only band students in good standing will be allowed an athletic exemption. Students must maintain good attendance, positive attitudes acceptable playing performance in order to obtain an exemption.

Because the first quarter grade is based on performance in marching band, students requesting this special exemption must perform the following material in order to earn a first quarter grade:

- All 15 Major Scales and Arpeggios (selected)
- Chromatic Scale (full range)
- Solo work(s) or Etudes (grade appropriate) Selections and length to be approved by the private teacher and band director.
- Percussionists will play material to be approved by Doug Wallace, Percussion Specialist.

Note: Under this exemption you will still be expected to participate in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade (if not away on vacation), Uniform Day, Car Washes, Fruit Sale and Tag Day.

Students who commit to the marching band will not be then granted an exemption after June 1<sup>st</sup> due to number considerations in the drill.

If your student is requesting this exemption, they must turn in to the band director, the two forms (found in this handbook) before being approved for the exemption:

- ***Request for Special Exemption*** Form due June 1<sup>st</sup>
- ***Works to Be Performed*** Form due by September 30th.

## **Grading**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter – 20%, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter – 20%, Mid-Term – 10%, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter – 20%, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 20%, Final Exam – 10%. Specifics about grading are in the *Woodson Band Syllabus*.

## **Attendance**

**After-School Rehearsals: Students and parents are reminded that band is a co-curricular class which means that attendance at after-school marching practices, sectionals, full band rehearsals and/or concerts is required and figured into the quarter grade.** Musical information that is given to the students during the rehearsal cannot be made up (like a history lecture) because students have to hear the problem and experience the solution in order for the rehearsal to be effective. Even one student missing from a rehearsal lowers the performance quality.

All members of performing groups **will** attend any extra rehearsals scheduled by the director. Conflicts with a rehearsal should be brought to the attention of the director at least 5 school days **prior to** the rehearsal in question by filling out a W.T. Woodson BAND ABSENCE REQUEST FORM. The director may or may not excuse the student's absence from the rehearsal.

Students who do not attend required rehearsals and are unexcused may be placed on non-performance status and **will have their quarter grade affected**.

## **Performances**

Absences from a performance are detrimental to any of the performing groups. Every effort and sacrifice should be made to be there because the entire band is counting on you! Attendance at performances is mandatory and is a factor in the student's quarter grade. Performance will include concerts, competitions and football games for marching band. Personal illness, death in the family, or family emergencies are the only excusable absences and these must be reviewed and excused by the director.

Students who have an excused absence from a performance will see the band director about an alternate assignment within one week of the concert date in order to receive a grade for that performance. Those with an unexcused absence will receive a zero for that performance grade and may be placed on non-performance status.

## **Excuses that will not be accepted are:**

<i>"Had to work"</i>	Be responsible. Make arrangements with your employer early. They must allow you time for school activities. We give you plenty of notice and there are 150+ other people counting on you.
<i>"Couldn't get a ride"</i>	Be responsible. Arrange this early. Get a carpool.
<i>"Didn't know about it"</i>	Be responsible. Listen and read all information carefully.
<i>"Forgot instrument, etc."</i>	Be responsible. Show up anyway. Work it out.
<i>"Parents leaving town"</i>	Be responsible. Make arrangements early. Communicate.
<i>"I have homework"</i>	Be responsible. So does everyone else. Uphold your commitment and learn to budget your time. Band rehearsal is your homework too!
<i>"I have an appointment"</i>	Be responsible. Schedule these at a different time. You know these dates <u>well</u> in advance.
<i>"Relatives visiting"</i>	Be responsible. Explain your commitment to the band. They will respect that!
<i>"Had an AP test today"</i>	Be dedicated. AP tests take place during our preparation for the spring concert. By all means, do your best on the AP test and of course it is an excused absence from rehearsal but going home early after the test and missing rehearsal is NOT the right thing to do. You need to be in rehearsal for the sake of the band.
Any other excuses!	Be responsible. Read the handbook.

**Communication about absences:** Communication is the student and parent's biggest asset. Students will be given plenty of advance notice about rehearsals and concerts, therefore it is expected that conflicts will be resolved beforehand. If the student is ill or there is a last minute emergency, the parent must e-mail or call the band office voicemail (703-503-4665) prior to the beginning of rehearsal. The student will then bring a parent-signed note to the director immediately upon the student's return to school. This includes if the student is absent from school. Be proactive. It is not the director's job to track down each student and find out why they are absent. Again, it is up to the director whether or not to excuse the absence.

### **Rehearsals**

- **Remember! To be early is to be on time.** All students are expected to be early for rehearsals in order to have adequate time for warm-up. For marching band or after-school rehearsals, get there at least 10-15 minutes early! For the band classes, each student is expected to be in the room by the tardy bell and assembling their instrument. You will have 5 minutes to warm up and arrange the music for rehearsal.
- There will be no disruptive behavior during rehearsal. Students found to be disrupting the learning environment will be removed from the rehearsal.
- Food, drinks, gum, or any other consumable items are not allowed in the rehearsal. Students will have their participation grade lowered and will be assigned after-school band room clean-up.
- Students will have the appropriate materials for class to include:
  - A sharpened pencil w/ an eraser
  - All required sheet music/hand-outs/method books/chorales/A Rhythm A Day packets (RAD)
  - Instrument in good working condition (movable slides, etc.)
  - Necessary accessories (See Equipment Expectations below)
- Students will read that day's music line-up on the board and put all music and/or method books in order on the stand before the rehearsal begins.
- Students should warm-up their instruments in a professional manner using lip slurs, scales and long tones. This is not an opportunity to socialize. Warm-up should cease when the director takes the podium.
- Music should be prepared outside of rehearsal time. The purpose of rehearsal is to experience everyone else's parts and learn how yours fits in.
- Remember: A poor rehearsal makes a poor performance and a great rehearsal ensures a great performance.

### **Football Game Itinerary and Expectations – Game dates are on the Marching Cavalier Calendar**

(Please go to [www.woodsonband.org](http://www.woodsonband.org) for any up to date inclement weather changes)

#### **Typical football game Itinerary:**

5:30pm Uniform room open (must present black socks, clean shoes, white T-shirt and hair put up to get uniform)

6:15pm Inspection

6:25pm March down to practice field

6:30pm Warm-up/Run-through on practice field

7:30pm Game begins

8:30pm Half-time (approx.)

9:45pm Game ends (approx.)\*

\*students are usually finished turning in uniforms by 10:00-10:15pm.

**Inspection (Note: This is an important part of your performance grade)** Students will be inspected for the following:

- Hair neatly up in the hat
- No jewelry (ear rings, necklaces, watches)
- No nail polish or make up
- Black Socks
- Polished black marching shoes
- White T-shirt (not gray or yellow)
- Pep music, flip folder and lyre

### ***Game Expectations***

- The band will march to and from the stadium as a unit unless told otherwise.
- No gum, food or drinks in uniform or in the stands except for 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Parents should not be bringing food to students while they are playing with the band. No food or drinks after 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- Sit with your section.
- No switching of instruments.
- No unsportsmanlike or unprofessional behavior towards the other band or team will be tolerated. This includes playing or singing any type of music that may be considered a provocation.
- All students are expected to play in the stands. No cell phones or other electronics allowed.
- No “civilians” sitting with the band.
- Students will get 3rd quarter off as a general rule but there may be some exceptions. Students are to remain fully dressed (except for hats and gloves) while off for 3rd quarter. Do not unbutton the coat. Hats should be kept on the marcher. You may take them off your head but they must be around your neck. Do not leave them in the stands during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Do not take off the gauntlets at any time. Students not back by 4th quarter will lose their 3rd quarter privilege next game.
- Students are not allowed to leave the stadium at any time during the game.
- Students are to stay through the entire game and parents should not expect to take them home after half-time.

### ***Band Trips***

It should be understood that trips that are planned for the band are considered to be a part of the student’s musical education and all students are expected to participate. This will include the Marching Band overnighiter in the fall (Marching Band) and the spring trip (Concert, Symphonic & Jazz Bands). No student will be excluded from a trip due to lack of funds because every student is important to the success of the group. Arrangements will be made to help students earn funds through service to the band program.

### ***Transportation while on Band trips***

- Students are expected to ride the bus to and from all events
- Any student needing to depart early from an event must clear it with the band director ahead of time and have written permission from their parent/guardian. The band director must give approval for the adult who is driving the student.
- All Fairfax County Bus Regulations are in effect on band bus trips to include, no playing of instruments on the bus.
- No student may travel with the band without an “Emergency Care” form on file in the band office.

### ***Home Practice***

Home practice is our “homework” for band! Every student will need varying amounts of home practice depending on their ability levels and the goals that they set for themselves. Home practice should be done in an effective and efficient manner. Remember that “*slow practice makes fast progress.*”

Band sheet music should be practiced and learned at home. Band rehearsals are not to be used to learn your sheet music. The purpose of rehearsal is to put together and refine the music that everyone has mastered outside of the rehearsal.

Home practice should include the following:

- Proper warm-up (long tones, lip slurs, etc.)
- Scale review
- Rhythm study (RAD)
- Private lesson material
- Band sheet music

### ***13 Tips for better practice:***

1. Mark the music (pencil only)
2. Mark foot taps in measures with tricky rhythms
3. Mark accidentals that need to be carried through or flats/sharps in a hard key
4. Mark key changes and time changes
5. Mark articulations where needed
6. Mark dynamics
7. Set small reachable goals that can be attained in the time that you have available. Playing beginning to end every day is not a good use of practice time. Dissect and perfect!!
8. Practice shorter sections at a time and repeat, repeat, repeat for mastery.
9. Practice slowly for better mastery
10. Use a metronome. There are free or cheap metronomes available for download online.
11. Purchase your own tuner so that you can be responsible for your own tuning.
12. Use rhythmic methods used in our RAD books to get the rhythms (ex. Slow/fast 6/8, 4/4 to cut time, etc.)
13. Don't leave the difficult parts for last. Learn them first.
14. If you have problems that you cannot solve on your own, ask your private teacher or the band director.

***Extra-Events:*** All members of the Symphonic Band are strongly encouraged to audition for All-District Band and participate in the event. Students in Concert Band are not required to audition but may receive extra credit if they do. Symphonic Band members who do not audition for All-District Band will play a scales test to be completed by the Friday after District Auditions.

There are many other outside performance opportunities available to students in Fairfax County. See the Band Director or check the Band Bulletin Board for Audition Announcements.

## ***Challenges\****

Read this carefully before you sign up to challenge:

- Challenger (the person challenging) must inform the challengee (person to be challenged) in person about the date of the challenge and then sign the challenge sheet.
- Material to be played will include:
  - All Major Scales\*\* (will add minor later in the year!) \*\*The challenge will end at this point if knowledge of scales is not demonstrated by either player!
  - Full Chromatic
  - Any Rhythm A Day or Etudes done in class
  - Sheet music in the folder as assigned by the director (if the challenger is challenging someone on a higher part, he/she must play the higher part for the challenge)
  - Sight-Reading (only if the director deems necessary)

### **General Challenge Info:**

- Students may challenge up to 5 rehearsal days before a concert if changing parts, or 2 rehearsal days if not changing parts.
- A student may only challenge the person directly ahead of them in the section.
- Challenges will take place starting at 2:15pm one week after the date that the challenge is signed up on the sheet.
- Please remind the director about the challenge during class on the day that it is supposed to take place.
- A student (challenger or challengee) who does not show up for the challenge and is unexcused, will forfeit the challenge and relinquish his/her chair.
- Challenges are to be done “blind”.
- Students that speak in the challenge will forfeit!
- Unprofessional or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated!
- A student may challenge the same player only twice in one year.

*\* The director has the right to disallow any challenge where the challenger has displayed a poor attitude or is not in good standing with the ensemble.*

## *Private Instruction*

Private lessons are a great resource for the development of the young musician and it is strongly recommended that all musicians study privately on their instruments. Lessons build a foundation of strong fundamentals that will carry the student through any musical experiences that they may encounter. This “one on one” with a professional on the student’s own instrument does much more for an aspiring player than any large ensemble experience that may have 60 -70 or more members. Even the most competent of ensemble directors cannot address all of the individual problems of each player in the way that a private teacher can. Students taking private lessons are much more likely to succeed in the program. They get more enjoyment out of what they are doing because they attain a higher skill level and thus their confidence level as a player is higher. They also have more of an investment in their instrument and so they stick with it long-term and can enjoy the fruits of their labors in more advanced ensembles. A large majority of students do study privately in the Woodson Band program and this is what helps to maintain the high standards. A list of carefully selected private instructors may be found on the Woodson Band website.

## *Private lesson - Do’s and Don’ts for Parents*

**Don’t** enlist the services of just anybody for lessons. Talk to the music teacher about who is the best and don’t assume that a great player is always a great teacher. The Music Director has a list of teachers with a good track record of private teaching.

**Do** communicate in a timely manner with the teacher if you must cancel. They have a life too.

**Don’t** cancel at the last minute. That is disrespectful of the teacher and their time.

**Do** attend consistently. Sporadic attendance is a waste of time and money because the student does not learn anything. It is also frustrating for the teacher because they don’t see any progress with the student.

**Don’t** allow your son/daughter to cancel because they are not prepared for the lesson. Let them “face the music” so that they will be better prepared the next time. 45 minutes a day and 6 days a week is a minimum for practice time for the high school level student.

**Do** pay the teacher on time whether monthly, per lesson or whatever has been dictated. **Don’t** put the teacher in the position to have to chase you down for payment every week. Private teachers usually have another full time job (military bands, symphony, etc.) and do not have the time and usually feel uncomfortable doing that.

**Do** pay the teacher for the lesson if you cancel at the last minute. They could have put someone else in that slot instead of just having that wasted block of time in their day. On the other hand however, the teacher should not charge you for a lesson that they cancelled. Military band members many times have ceremonies or other events that they are required to do with little notice. That is just something that is expected when taking lessons from a military band member. They should offer a makeup lesson if that is the case.

**Do** encourage your son/daughter to practice their lesson material. If they say that they don’t have anything assigned to practice, I would question that.

**Do** make inquiries of your son/daughter about the lesson because your money and time are valuable.

## ***Auditions***

Auditions will take place in **November** for chair placement and in **May** for Band placement for the following school year. All students intending to participate in the band program will go through the audition process as described below:

## ***Requirements***

**Major Scales (20 points):** Students will know all major scales and will perform selected scales, legato tongue up and down, in quarter note/eighth note pattern at mm = 100 in as many octaves as possible: C F Bb Eb Ab Db/C# Gb/F# Cb/B E A D G

**Chromatic Scale (20 points):** Students will perform their chromatic in the full range of the instrument, as fast as possible, using slur-up/tongue-down articulation.

**Prepared Piece (30 points):** Each student will perform a prepared selection. For the November chair auditions the music will be selected by the director. For the May auditions, the prepared piece will be selected by the director for those auditioning for Symphonic and Concert Bands. For rising 9<sup>th</sup> grade students auditioning, the music will be of the student's own choosing unless they wish to audition for Symphonic Band. The piece can be an excerpt from a solo or an etude that is no more than a minute and a half in length. A student would be wise to choose something that demonstrates technique as well as musicality. Pop, show tunes or band music are not appropriate for these auditions. If you need help or suggestions, please see the Director.

**Sight-Reading (20 points):** Each student will perform a sight-reading excerpt which will be chosen by the director.

**Tone Quality (10 points):**

**Percussion requirements:** *Percussion will be auditioned in the fall for Band placement.*

- Snare - Rudiments: each to be performed open/closed/open, prepared, sight-reading
- Mallets - Scales and Chromatic, prepared and sight-reading
- Timpani Tuning and sight-reading

## **General Audition Information for current Woodson students:**

- Don't wait until the last minute to work on your prepared piece.
- If you have a conflict (as approved by the director) it must be cleared ahead of time. No-shows will not get another chance to audition unless excused.
- Auditions will begin at 2:30 each day.
- All auditions will be done blind. Audition results are based solely on performance. Seniority, placement in other groups, prior seating, etc. have no bearing on the auditions and so please prepare!!!
- Use of scale sheets or fingering charts, talking during the auditions or arriving late may result in disqualification.
- Talking is not allowed during the auditions!

## ***Equipment***

### **General Information:**

- All instruments should be brought to class in good working condition. That means tuning slides are movable and valves or keys are not sticking or leaking.
- Brass and Woodwind players need to provide good mouthpieces and any accessories (mutes) that are necessary to perform the music. Alto Saxophone players will need a cloth mute.
- All instruments will be kept in their assigned locker. Any instruments found left out will be confiscated and the student must pay a \$1.00 fine to retrieve them.
- Students are responsible for providing locks for the lockers if they wish. Instruments left in the instrument storage room are left at the student's own risk.
- No student shall touch another student's instrument at any time or for any reason.
- Percussion instruments are off-limits to all band members with the exception of percussionists.

### **School-owned instruments:**

- Each student using a county-owned instrument must pay the required rental fee and turn in the rental contract. This includes percussionists.
- If your FCPS instrument is in need of repair you should tell the director immediately. County-owned instruments will be sent out by the director for repairs if needed. Any damage due to neglect or horseplay will be paid for by the student.
- Students renting a county-owned instrument are not allowed to let anyone else play them. You are responsible for this instrument.

### **Personal-owned instruments:**

- If a personal instrument is taken in for repair, the student must bring in a parent-signed note along with the repair slip to be excused without an instrument. If the instrument will be in the shop for a long time, it is recommended that you ask for a loaner.
- It is highly recommended that parents put instruments on your home-owners insurance. Make sure that you have the Instrument name (ex. Clarinet), Make, Model and serial number plus notate any accessories in the case as well.

**Percussion:** Every percussionist must pay the \$52.00 percussion fee payable to W.T. Woodson H.S. Percussionists should also have the following:

Mallet bag  
 General snare sticks  
 Marimba mallets (yarn)  
 Timpani mallets (Hard, soft and medium)  
 Timpani tuner (pitch pipe or electronic).

*Note: Make sure all mallets, sticks and bags are labeled with your name in permanent marker.*

**Brass** – Cleaning cloth, valve, rotary oil or slide grease, appropriate mouthpieces for the high school level (Trumpets: 7C is a beginner mouthpiece. It is time to go to a bigger one – 5C, 3C, etc. ), a straight mute.

**Woodwind: Accessory Upgrades**

**Bb Clarinet:**

Mouthpiece: Vandoren M30 13 series  
 Ligature Vandoren, Bonade or Rovner  
 Barrel: John Thomas 66mm  
 Reeds\*: Rigotti or Vandoren (no Rico)  
 Swabs: Cotton Handkerchief Swab

**Saxophone:**

Mouthpiece: Selmer S-80C\* (C-star)  
 or Vandoren AL3 (TL3 for tenor)  
 Ligature: Rovner or VanDoren  
 Reeds\*: Vandoren Traditional, V-12  
 (not V-16). Rico Reserve Classic

**Bass Clarinet:**

Mouthpiece: Charles Bay or Selmer C\* (C-star)  
 Reeds\*: Vandoren (no Rico)  
 Ligature: Rovner or VanDoren

*\*Reeds: Students should have at least 5 playable reeds at all times. High school players should be on a 3, 3 ½ or 4 depending on their experience and whether or not they are taking private lessons. Bass Clarinet students should be on at least a 3 or 3 ½ in High School. Single reed players should always have a mouthpiece cap.*

You can get your best prices online:

Cascio Interstate Music – [www.interstatemusic.com](http://www.interstatemusic.com)  
 Woodwind/Brasswind – [www.wbw.com](http://www.wbw.com)  
 Frederich Weiner Music – [www.weinermusic.com](http://www.weinermusic.com)  
 Hickeys Music – [www.hickeys.com](http://www.hickeys.com)

**Uniforms**

*Uniform* means that everyone looks the same and no one stands out in such a way as to detract from the performance. All students are expected to be in full uniform at every event. Uniform requirements will be issued to each student. Each student will be inspected as a part of the performance grade. After a performance, students will remain in full uniform until told to change clothes.

**Hair:** Hair may only be natural colors for any W.T. Woodson Band performance. If you feel the need to have hot pink hair for example, you must either wear a wig or dye it natural for the performance. In marching band, hair will be kept up under the hat by whatever method is most efficient. For concert performance, the hair will be kept neat and pulled back. Any type of hair accessories should be black and understated and extreme hair styles (Mohawks and the like) will not be acceptable. Boys with long hair will be under the same guidelines as girls.

**Jewelry:** There will be no jewelry worn while in the marching uniform. This includes earrings, watches, necklaces, etc. In concert performance, watches are acceptable as long as they are not distracting and any small post earrings may be worn. There will be no necklaces worn with the concert dresses due to the pearl necklaces.

**General rules:**

- Only clear nail polish
- No makeup may be worn (Marching Band only)
- No lip/tongue piercings will be allowed for any wind player which will impede the playing ability of the student.
- Possession of any electronics (cell phones, I-pods, etc.) while in uniform is strictly forbidden. These items will be confiscated if brought to a rehearsal or a performance.

**Marching Band Uniforms**

The band provides:

Garment Bag	White Plume
Red Cape	Hatbox
Black Pants	Jacket
Rain Poncho	White Hat
Gauntlets	White Gloves

For Marching Band, each band member must provide:

- Black marching shoes - \$27.00 and will be ordered through the band
- Black socks
- White T-shirt
- Gym shorts

**Wearing the Uniform:**

Warm weather: Wear your band T-shirt (white) and thin shorts under the uniform.

Cold/Windy weather: Wear a thin but warm shirt or sweat shirt (white), leggings, etc. under the uniform. No jeans or thick sweatpants under the marching band pants please.

Rain Ponchos: Will be handed out by the uniform staff as necessary.

**Uniform Checkout procedure:**

The students will be given an arrival time by the Band Director. When the students are directed to get into their uniforms they will:

- Line up at a table and show their shoes, black socks and white T-shirt. If the shoes are dirty, they will need to get out of line and clean them. If they have forgotten their black socks they should be prepared to pay \$3.00 for a new pair. They will then have to go to the end of the line.
  - The students will then proceed to uniform check-out. Each item is numbered and the student is responsible for returning the same numbered items, hung correctly after each performance. Hats will be on racks in the band room, arranged in alpha order. Uniform bags will be hung on racks provided and are not to be hung on lockers or music stands.
- Gloves will be given out later.

**Uniform Check-in procedure:**

- After the performance the students will stand in line again (after changing out of the uniform) at the designated station that coincides with the first letter of their last name. A uniform volunteer will first check to see if the student has all of the correct pieces and that they are hung correctly on the hangers. Students with missing uniform parts or uniforms incorrectly hung on the hangers will be sent to the end of the line.
- Shoes and black socks will be taken home and brought back for the next performance.
- Gloves will be collected so that they can be washed for the next performance.
- Caring for the uniform: No cleaning of uniforms should be done by parents or students. The marching band uniforms will be cleaned by the uniform committee during the season as needed. Each student is asked to alert one of the uniform parents if they feel that their uniform needs to be cleaned before the next performance.

**Concert Uniforms**

- The men will be provided a tuxedo coat and tuxedo pants.
- The men will be measured for a tuxedo shirt, tie and cummerbund in the fall.

In addition, men will need:

- black concert shoes (MB shoes) to be fitted and ordered on Uniform Fitting Day
- black socks
- white undershirt
- shirt will be washed and pressed for each performance.
- hair pulled back as directed

- The ladies will be provided a long black dress.

In addition, ladies will need:

- black concert shoes to be fitted and ordered on Uniform Fitting Day
- black hose/knee highs
- hair pulled back as directed

**General Information**

- Tuxedo coats/pants and dresses will be checked in and out of the uniform room with each performance.
- A uniform contract will be provided for students who will be participating in the concert performances but who weren't in the marching band. If the concert uniforms become lost or damaged students are responsible for the replacement cost.
- Students are asked to alert the Uniform Co-Chair if their dresses need to be washed or their tuxes dry-cleaned during the season.
- Possession of any electronics (cell phones, I-pods, etc.) while in uniform is strictly forbidden.
- Students participating in out of school performances may check out their concert uniform with the permission of the band director and/or the Uniform Co-Chair.

***Financial Obligations that a student may incur:***

Pre-Season MB payment	\$130 payable to W.T. Woodson High School
Band Fee	\$120 payable to W.T. Woodson Band Patrons
<b>Total MB</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
Band fee (non-marchers)	\$30 payable to W.T. Woodson H.S.
	\$90 payable to W.T. Woodson Band Patrons
<b>Total non-marcher</b>	<b>\$120 (Athletic exemption, Jazz only or beginning band)</b>
Instrument Rental	\$92.00 (school-owned instruments)
	\$52.00 (All Percussionists)
Lost Music	\$0.25 per page
Instrument left out	\$1.00 fine

**Trips:**

Fall MB overnigher	\$90-\$100 approx.
Spring Band Trip*	\$350-\$600 (approx. depending on where we travel)

\*Spring Band Trip payments will be scheduled in 3 - 4 installments so that parents can spread out the payments if desired.

**Uniform Fitting Day:**

This is held after the first full week of Band camp each year. It is required for all members of the band to attend including non-marchers. Each student needs to purchase these on Uniform Fitting Day and as they grow and need another size throughout the season/years.

Men's Tuxedo Shirt	\$20.00
Cummerbund and bow tie set	\$10.00
Ladies Concert shoes	\$25.00
Shoe Order fee (MB only)	\$27.00

**Hemming Fees:**

Marching Band Pants	\$10.00
Concert Dress	\$18.00
Concert Pants	\$10.00

**Financial Aid:** No student shall be excluded from any Band trip or activity due to lack of funds. A student in need of financial assistance is asked to have their parent/guardian fill out a W.T. Woodson Band FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE form (found in the "forms" section of the website) and return it as soon as possible. Every effort will be made to help each student participate fully but parents need to communicate.

### ***Student Leadership Job Descriptions***

Any student interested in a leadership position must be a member in good standing in the band program. This includes level of performance, attendance and service. The Woodson Band Leadership members need to be present at all band events including Car Washes.

#### **Band President** (voted)

Pre-requisite: The candidate for President must be a senior, must be in good standing in the band program and must have held a leadership position the previous year (Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Head Librarian, Equipment Manager, Section Leader)

The Band President will:

- Attend all Leadership meetings
- Attend all Band Patron meetings as a student representative
- Uphold the highest traditions and standards of excellence in the program
- Help maintain discipline when the Band Director is not present
- Be present at summer car washes and all other band events.
- Organize committees for the Marching Band Awards Party, the spring Band Banquet and other duties as directed
- Discuss the agenda of all meetings with the band director
- Organize officer elections for the next year

#### **Band Vice President** (voted)

Pre-requisite: The candidate for Vice President must be a junior or senior, must be in good standing in the band program and must have some leadership experience

The Band Vice President will:

- Attend all Leadership and Patron meetings in the absence of the President
- Help organize and instruct any committees
- Help put together senior gifts (unless a senior)
- Be present at summer car washes and all other band events.

#### **Band Secretary** (voted)

Pre-requisite: Preferably an upper classman (junior or senior)

The Band Secretary will:

- Send Thank you notes to chaperones who assist with band activities PROMPTLY
- Attend and record minutes of the Leadership meetings and keep in a binder
- Send sympathy and get-well cards to members and/or their families
- Be responsible for attendance during marching band to be turned in on a weekly basis.
- Be present at summer car washes and all other band events.
- Keep student letter points.

#### **Head Band Librarian** (appointed)

Pre-requisite: Student in grades 11-12 in good standing

The Head Band Librarian will:

- Attend all Leadership Meetings
- Keep Library neat and orderly
- Oversee and organize other band librarians (Jazz, Marching, C-I, C-II, Sym)
- Pack music folder boxes for Festival and Spring

**Drum Majors** (auditioned)

- Assign and supervise Band room clean up after each Marching Band practice
- Help maintain discipline when the Band Director is not present
- Set up spirit days for Band camp
- Assist Social Coordinator with functions
- Be present at summer car washes and all other band events.
- Set up warm-ups for band camp

**Marching Band, Concert Band, Jazz Librarians** (appointed)

- Distribute, collect and file any music when needed
- Catalog, file and stamp any new music
- Fill any music requests
- Help keep library neat and orderly

**Social Coordinator** (voted)

Pre-requisite: Must be an upper classman (junior or senior)

The Band Social Coordinator will:

- Attend all Leadership Meetings
- Collect monies for the senior party and any other band social functions
- Arrange purchase of flowers for seniors for Senior night and the Spring Concert
- Arrange social functions for the band with assistance from the Band President, Vice President, Secretary, and Drum Majors

**Banana News Editor** (appointed)

Pre-requisite: The Banana News editor sends out weekly e-mail reminders to band students about events, news and special announcements.

**Equipment Managers** (appointed)

Pre-requisite: Student in grades 11-12 in good standing

**The Marching Band Equipment Manager** will:

- Attend all Leadership Meetings
- Make sure field is set up for marching band rehearsal w/ field markers, podiums and sound system
- Make sure field is lined for marching band rehearsal
- Keep and turn in records of crew members who work

**The Symphonic Band Equipment Manager** will:

- Help with set-up and tear-down for all concerts
- Supervise band room clean up after rehearsals and concerts
- Assist Band Director with annual inventory
- Keep and turn in records of crew members who work

**The Concert Band Equipment Manager** will:

- Help with set-up and tear-down for all concerts
- Supervise band room clean up after rehearsals and concerts
- Assist Band Director with annual inventory
- Keep and turn in records of crew members who work

## Section Leader Responsibilities for Marching Band

**Communication:** Make sure that your section members have your phone# or e-mail as well as the office phone number. Encourage your section to communicate any problems or conflicts that they may be having. Call your section members the week before camp to remind them about times and what to bring, etc.

**Summer Sectionals** these should be 50% business and 50% social. Call or e-mail members to remind them about the sectional dates. Have a summer social for your section. Always take attendance at these events (especially sectionals) and turn it in to the band office for Musicianship points.

**Leadership Meetings:** Section Leaders will come to the new member orientation in June and on the first two days of the Rookie Camp week. This meeting will be used to instruct everyone on basic teaching and handling of your section throughout the marching season. After the meeting, we will need students to help put together Drill chart packets for the members of your sections. It is your responsibility to be there. These days will also be used as a work day to set up the band room, finish up the packets and get instruments ready to issue when the Rookies arrive. Beginning on Weds, you will be used to demonstrate and teach the new members so that they will be in good shape for the full band camp. It is very important to the success of the program that all section leaders attend these sessions.

**Water/Extra Help:** Make sure that your section members bring water to every rehearsal. Offer extra help to anyone in your section who may be struggling with the music or marching.

**Music Pass-offs:** Section leaders are to make the posters for music pass-offs during the rookie camp. Section leaders may do music pass-offs for your section members only after you have passed all of it off yourself for a staff member. This can be done anytime starting at the beginning of camp. Everyone must pass off all show music in addition to the Star Spangled Banner and Victors. Keep tabs on who has passed off what tunes and encourage the procrastinators to get it done by the end of camp. Members must march w/ a lyre and music if they are not passed off.

**Dot Books/Drill Charts:** These will be collected after every rehearsal so that they are not lost and are usable for the entire season. Remember that Dot Books are graded! Each Section leader will bring drill charts to every rehearsal.

**Tuners:** Section Leaders should bring a tuner to every football game and competition or concert so that you can assist in tuning your section prior to the performance.

**Accountability:** Section leaders are responsible for making sure that each member of his/her section has the proper materials and/or equipment for every rehearsal (i.e. Instrument, Music, Lyre, Flip folder, pencil, drill charts, dot books, poker chips, appropriate shoes).

**Discipline:** It is crucial that all section leaders demonstrate the best work ethic, rehearsal attendance, and attitude in the band because this can ward off many discipline problems. Setting a good example is the best way to get your section to do what you want them to do. Your section members will only put out about 50% of what you do. Arrive early . . .leave late. Be helpful and understanding, but don't accept less than the best at all times.

**Commitment:** Be committed to excellence in everything you do and everything you expect others to do. You have even more influence on the underclassmen than a staff member will. You can use this influence to bring the band great success and a memorable marching band season.

## W.T. Woodson Band Letter Points

*Award points are designed to reward those students who perform and contribute above and beyond the minimum requirement. Each student needs **50 Musicianship points and 6 Service points** to receive a band letter. The letter point form is in the *forms* section of the band website.*

### **Musicianship Points (need 50 total)**

Marching Band	10
Marching Band Camp (Perfect attendance)	3
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade	2
Football pep band at away games (1 point per game)	1
Private Lessons on a weekly basis (per semester or summer)	2
Outside Auditions (All-District, SRO, Youth Orchestra, etc. not WTW)	1
All-VA audition	2
District Band or SRO <b>participant</b>	2
All-Virginia <b>participant</b>	5
Solo and Ensemble	
Solo/Superior rating	3
Solo/Excellent rating	2
Solo/Good rating	1
Ensemble/Superior rating	2
Ensemble/Excellent rating	1
Pit Orchestra	TBD)
Band Leadership	0-5 (TBD)
Outside Performances (as approved by the director)	1 or TBD
Other musical groups (AYP, Brass of Peace, etc.)	2
Summer Music Camps (not WTW band camp)	1 per week
Summer Sectionals (only w/ verification)	.5
Master classes/Clinics/Concerts (must submit a program)	1
Instrument Switch (only instruments needed in the band)	3

### **Service Points (need 6 total)**

Car Wash	1 point per 2 hours
July 4 <sup>th</sup> parade	2
Cavalier Cards ( <i>per 5 over the 4 required</i> )	1
Unload Fruit	1
Fruit Sale (per 4 cases)	1
Usher at Concerts	1
Volunteer at Spring Fundraiser	1
Set up/Clean up for concerts	1
Trip loader ( <i>must perform this task on <u>all</u> legs of the trip</i> )	1
Librarians	0-5
Equipment	0-5
Pit Captain	0-5
Uniform Fitting Day (1 point per 2 hours)	1-2
Marching Band glove washer (1 point per wash)	1
Other service ( <i>must submit a service confirmation form</i> )	TBD

## **Award Descriptions**

### **Fall Awards:**

Section Leader pins

Most Outstanding Section, Marcher, Guard member, pit member

Most Improved Section, Marcher, Guard member, pit member

Most Outstanding Section Leader

Spirit Award (Band & Guard)

Outstanding Soloists

### **Spring Awards:**

**Band Letters and Bars** (50 Musicianship points + 6 service points)

**Guard Letters & Bars** (40 Performance points + 6 service points)

**Crossed Flags** – for 2<sup>nd</sup> year Guard or winter guard

**Capt. Pin** – for color guard captain/co-Capt.

**Jazz Band pins** – for 2<sup>nd</sup> year in the Jazz Band

**Most Outstanding Musician** (Jazz, C-I, C-II, winter guard)

**Most Improved Musician/Performer** (Jazz, C-I, C-II, Sym, winter guard) presented to one student from each band that has shown the greatest improvement in musical performance during the current year. Criteria for the award include: marked and noticeable instrumental improvement, attitude, dedication, and responsibility.

**Most Outstanding Band member** – Symphonic, Concert II, Concert I – Criteria: Always has music prepared, shows wonderful self-control, good attitude and commitment to the program..

**Spirit Award** (Jazz, C-I, C-II, Symphonic, winter guard) presented to one student in each band who has shown the highest levels of spirit in his/her respective group. Criteria for the award include: spirit, enthusiasm, dedicated service, great attitude, leadership and responsibility.

**Band Officers** – Stars

### **Special Awards**

**Director's Award** – The Director's Award is presented to a **freshman** in who in the opinion of the Band Director, has displayed the highest levels of musicianship, service, attitude and responsibility.

**The John E. Casagrande Award for Musical Excellence** – Presented to the **sophomore** who, in the opinion of the Band Director, has displayed the highest levels of musicianship, character, and responsibility

**The Westervelt Romaine Award** – Presented to the **junior** who, in the opinion of the Band Director, has displayed the highest levels of musicianship, character, and responsibility.

**Cavalier of the Year** – presented to the senior from the band voted by the staff to be an example of outstanding leadership.

**Charles McCormick Spirit and Service Award** – presented to the senior who has the contributed the most in terms of service and exemplary attitude to the band program over four years.

**Ellen Brzonkala Memorial Award** – presented to a **senior** from the who has displayed the highest levels of musical ability, attitude, and service. Criteria for the award include: chair position, preparation of parts in rehearsal, and responsibility.

**Semper Fidelis Award** – Presented to a senior who holds first chair position in the Symphonic Band and is capable of performing as a soloist. It further recognizes the qualities of citizenship and outstanding individual performance.

**Louis Armstrong Outstanding Jazz Musician Award** – presented to the student (usually a senior) who demonstrates the highest level of ability in Jazz.

**John Phillip Sousa Award** – presented to a **senior** who contributed the greatest amount to the success of the band program during his/her senior year in the band. The award is based on the student demonstrating the highest levels of leadership, musical ability, attitude, spirit, unselfishness, and responsibility.