

**West Bloomfield Percussion
Winter 2016**



**Membership Contract and
Guideline of Expectations**

WELCOME TO THE WEST BLOOMFIELD PERCUSSION!

In this packet you will read about the philosophy, expectations, and policies of the West Bloomfield Percussion. The information described below will help you understand what it means to be a part of this special ensemble and what kind of commitment is involved in joining the group. By signing this contract you are confirming that you are 100% on board with the program and will fulfill your commitment to the ensemble.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The WBHS Winter Percussion provides an opportunity for students to develop their musical and life skills through the art of percussion performance. We hope to instill a strong sense of perseverance, dedication, personal achievement, growth, self-confidence, music appreciation, and work ethic through the pursuit of excellence.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The West Bloomfield Winter Percussion has a unique philosophy for rehearsal and performance. It is simply stated:

BE YOUR BEST

Success, as we measure it, is striving to be the best we possibly can be, every day, every practice, and every performance. The only group we want to beat is our own performance of yesterday. In competitions, judges are simply people that put down numbers. They are trained in music or visual techniques but still have their personal preferences and opinions. No two people totally agree about performances, and judges certainly are no exception to this. Trophies and awards, when they happen, are “frosting on the cake” and enjoyable, but they are not our goal. Our goal is to be the best that we can be and achieve excellence each and every day.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

The WB Percussion rules and expectations are based on one thing:

DO YOUR JOB

Everyone has a specific job and responsibility that they must fulfill in order for the program to be successful. “Doing your job” means doing what you’re supposed to do, when you’re supposed to do it, the way it’s supposed to be done, every time. Here are some examples:

- 1. DO WHAT YOU’RE SUPPOSED TO DO:** Have your music memorized, have your drill memorized, be prepared, be respectful of yourself, others, the facilities, equipment, and uniforms.
- 2. WHEN YOU’RE SUPPOSED TO DO IT:** Everything in our program has a time and a place. Show up to rehearsal early, be ready to start rehearsal on time, play your part when you’re supposed to, move when you’re supposed to, focus when you’re supposed to, ask questions when you’re supposed to, etc.
- 3. THE WAY IT’S SUPPOSED TO BE DONE:** With class, pride, and precision; with great technique and performance quality.
- 4. EVERY TIME:** Consistency is critical. If you can’t do what you’re supposed to do, when you’re supposed to do it, the way it’s supposed to be done during every repetition of rehearsal, it means you probably won’t be able to do it in a competition performance. We must behave and perform the way we’re supposed to during every rehearsal and performance.

If everyone in the program does their job, the winter percussion experience will be rewarding, enjoyable, and successful.

Also note, since this is a school organization, all West Bloomfield High School rules and regulations are in effect at all rehearsals, performances, and trips. Please refer to the WBHS Student Handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Winter Percussion is a commitment and an investment. It is a commitment to a group in an effort to achieve excellence and an investment in yourself to become the best that you can to develop life skills that will pay dividends in your personal and professional life for years to come.

EXPECTATIONS: You have made a **commitment** to be in the winter drum line for the season. Everyone in the group is counting on you. In order to have successful rehearsals and performances, it is essential that we have full attendance. **The absence of one person not only affects that person, but also the entire group.** The critical factors of uniformity, balance, precision, spacing and alignment cannot be improved or maintained with absences. **Students must bring an excuse note from parents for any absences.**

BE ON TIME: Students should arrive at the building **15 minutes before** rehearsal is scheduled to begin in order to get equipment, get to the right location, and be ready to start on time.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: Unexcused absence from a performance is unacceptable and results in automatic dismissal from the ensemble. Unexcused absence from a rehearsal will result in removal from the next performance on the first offense. A second unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in automatic dismissal from the ensemble. Work, tiredness, homework, or vacations are **not excused.**

LEGITIMATE EXCUSES: Legitimate excuses for rehearsal absences are *illness, accident/emergency, serious illness/death in the family, and doctor's appointments.* You must contact Chris Vilag at Christopher.vilag@gmail.com prior to an absence from a rehearsal or performance. A **request** to be excused from a future event must be turned in at least *two weeks prior* to the date and will be considered by the director, pending the legitimacy of the case presented.

ASK: If you are not sure or have a request, problem, or question, **ask** the director **before** the event occurs.

VIDEO ASSIGNMENTS: If you are absent, you are expected to make up the time you have missed. The staff may require you to do so through video assignments or arriving to practice early to work with a section member on materials missed.

DISMISSAL: If attendance issues persist, the member may be dismissed from the ensemble at the discretion of the director.

WB Winter Percussion Parent Expectations

Your child will be working extremely hard throughout the season. There will be days where s/he is pushed and challenged more than they've ever experienced before. All of this will result in growth and positive development throughout the course of the season but there's no question that the journey has its ups and downs.

Your student and the program as a whole need your support. Attending shows to cheer and volunteering to load the truck, carpool, adjust uniforms, chaperone, etc. are all ways that you can make a difference. Yes, they may seem minor on the surface, but they really do make a big difference so the more you can get involved the better.

As you will quickly learn, we have a rigorous rehearsal schedule and there are times where facility issues arise that are out of our control. If a rehearsal is canceled, added, or rescheduled, we ask that you be as supportive and flexible as possible to get your child there. The success of the group depends on it.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Winter Percussion: \$550, plus \$350 for two trips (WGI Regional in Indy and WGI Worlds in Dayton). Total: \$900

(Pay in full and receive a 5% discount. If you choose this option your fee is \$855.00.)

- November 24: \$200 Uniform and Drill Writing Deposit
- December 15: \$175
- January 15: \$175
- February 15: WGI Regional Indianapolis Trip Fee \$175
- March 15: WGI Worlds Dayton Trip Fee \$175

All checks are to be made out to **BBAWB** and can be turned into the mailbox in the Abbott Middle School band room.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding fees, please contact Chris Vilag at christopher.vilag@gmail.com.

FUNDRAISING: In an effort to ensure the success of the ensemble for the season and for future seasons, we will be implementing mandatory fundraisers this season. We will provide multiple opportunities for fundraising throughout the season.

Each member is expected to fundraise \$200 in addition to their membership fees. This comes out to about \$50 per month. Once you have surpassed your \$200 goal, all other fundraising efforts will be applied directly to your membership fees.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at Abbott Middle School from 5:00 PM to 8:15 PM. Students are responsible arranging rides to start and leave rehearsal on time.

We will also have several Saturday rehearsals to learn and clean large sections of the show. These will be released at the beginning of the season.

REHEARSAL FLEXIBILITY

We seem to encounter facility conflicts a few times a year when other school organizations neglect to check the calendar and make reservations. Sometimes these situations are out of our control and the only thing we can do to keep rehearsal going is reschedule it for another day that week. We ask that you are as flexible and understanding as possible in these events and ensure your student attends.

COMPETITION SCHEDULE

Date	Show
January 30	MCGC West Bloomfield
February 6	WGI Troy Regional
February 20	MCGC Milford
March 5-6	WGI Indianapolis Regional
March 19	MCGC Lakeland
April 3	MCGC State Championships
April 14-16	WGI World Championships (Dayton, OH)

REHEARSALS DURING BREAKS

Frequent rehearsals are key to having successful shows. If we don't rehearse for multiple days, things start to decline and we waste time re-teaching and re-learning things we've already improved. We keep a regular rehearsal schedule as a result.

Thanksgiving Break: No Rehearsals

Winter Break: No full ensemble rehearsals. HOWEVER, there may be a few sectionals held by Smitty, Chris, or Evan for individuals in town. They will communicate this with you and arrange it.

Mid Winter Break: No Rehearsal February 12-16

Spring Break: State Finals – April 3, 2016. Rehearsal TBD. Please keep in mind, WGI World Finals is the week following spring break. We will need optimal time to be prepared and have our best possible showing in Dayton.

CONTACT INFORMATION

We're here to run the program smoothly and productively as possible. If you have questions, concerns, or rehearsal conflicts, please contact us via email. If something is truly urgent, you may call.

West Bloomfield Percussion Director – Chris Vilag

- (734) 560-1878
- Christopher.vilag@gmail.com

West Bloomfield Band Director - Chad Mielens

- chad.mielens@wbsd.org

After reading all of the content within this packet, please sign the contract on this page, detach, and submit to Chris Vilag no later than December 1st.

West Bloomfield High School Winter Percussion Contract

By joining this group I, _____, confirm that I have read the contract and the attached forms to this contract.

I am able to commit financially to the fee schedule provided.

I understand the role I will play in this upcoming season.

I will adhere to the attendance policy.

I have also read this contract and understand that any violation of the contract will result in taking the necessary action to resolve the violation.

I am committing myself to excellence and to the ensemble and will prove to be a vital part of this organization.

Member Signature

Date

Parent or Legal Guardian Signature

Date