

West Bloomfield Percussion

Winter 2018

Membership Contract



WELCOME TO WEST BLOOMFIELD PERCUSSION!

In this packet you will read about the philosophy, expectations, and policies of 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.

EXPECTATIONS

COMMITMENT: You have made a commitment to be in winter percussion 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.

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. If you are not at your instrument and ready to begin when the group is beginning, then you are considered tardy. Upon your first tardy, you will be given a verbal warning. Upon your second tardy, you shall meet with the percussion director. A third tardy will result in a meeting between the student's parents and the percussion director. Any further tardies may result in dismissal from the ensemble.

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.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: Unexcused absence from a performance is unacceptable and results in automatic dismissal from the ensemble.

Examples of unexcused absences include the following: Work, tiredness, procrastinated homework, or vacations.

Unexcused absence consequences:

Option 1: Meeting with the director and parent contact.

Option 2: Removal from the next performance.

Option 3: Dismissal from the ensemble.

LEGITIMATE EXCUSES: Legitimate excuses for rehearsal absences are illness, accident/emergency, serious illness/death in the family, and doctor's appointments. A doctor's note or other documentation must be provided to the percussion director. School-related events (Solo & Ensemble, for example) are also acceptable as excused absences. 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.

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

1. All members are expected to be respectful to any other member, staff, admin, parent, supporter, etc. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated and will be dealt with by the staff in an appropriate manner.
2. Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared with appropriate attire, equipment, water, and other necessities.
3. The use of phones, apple watches, and other electronics etc. will not be used on the rehearsal field/floor. Phones should be on vibrate or silent and put away in student's bags during rehearsal. They can be used during breaks.
4. Students are not permitted to work on homework during rehearsals. If a student is not being worked with directly, they should find something they can work on to make the show better on their own. If they are unsure of what to work on, they should ask a staff member. They may work on homework during breaks.
5. No gum during rehearsal. Food and drinks are allowed on breaks only.
6. Students should remain in designated rehearsal spaces in facilities. Students should let staff know if they are leaving the room and their destination.
7. No inappropriate conversations or language will be used during rehearsal.
8. While staff is addressing the students, student should not be playing or talking.

Consequences:

- Option 1: Warning.
- Option 2: Meeting with the director/confiscation.
- Option 3. Parent contact/confiscation.
- Option 4: Referral to the school with possible dismissal.

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.

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. Please check the BBAWB Calendar on the WB Bands website frequently for changes: <http://wbbands.info/calendar/>

Please note that rehearsals will be closed. Only instructors and students will be allowed at rehearsals, unless prior permission has been obtained from the percussion director for any other person to be there. Such permission may be granted for such things uniform fittings and providing meals for students. The percussion director will let the parents know when they may come into practice to watch the full ensemble run-through at the end of practice.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are essential to the success of this and all of our programs! For Winter Percussion parents, there are many opportunities to volunteer, such as:

- West Bloomfield's Home Invitational – this is an enormous, “all hands on deck” fundraiser!
- “Feed the Band” – providing students with a hearty meal before competitions – oftentimes breakfast, sometimes lunch or dinner.
- Prop Building – Most shows require some props. We rely on volunteers to help construct, paint and/or decorate our props in order to save the program money.
- Pit Crew: These are volunteers who quickly move instruments, equipment and props onto and off of the performance floor with speed and accuracy. Membership in the Pit Crew is at the sole discretion of the director. If you would like to be a member of the Pit Crew, contact Chris Vilag at christopher.vilag@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The fee schedule is outlined in the Fee Policy.

Before the audition date, in order to be considered for a particular part in the show, the student must pay all balances owing from previous band programs and return all uniforms previously issued. Parts will not be awarded until a properly signed contract is received with the required initial payment (See "Audition" section below).

All checks are to be made out to BBAWB and can be turned in to the director.

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 this and future seasons, we will be implementing fundraisers. Families will have several opportunities to offset their fees while helping to raise money in order to sustain all of our band programs.

Fundraising will not be mandatory this season; however, members will be expected to participate in fundraisers.

The following fundraisers will be offered to Winter Percussion members and their families:

- Show Shirt Ads + Program Ads + Sponsorships (50%/50% student acct/BBAWB)
- Spaghetti Dinner at Friends and Family Show (proceeds split between Winter Percussion and Winter Guard)
- Flower Sale (student account split – to be determined)

More information on these fundraisers will be provided throughout the season.

The following fundraisers are available to all West Bloomfield band students year-round:

- Scrip program (60%/40% student acct/BBAWB)
- Invitational, Curricular Band Concert and Other Event Program ads and semi-trailer ads (50%/50% student acct/BBAWB)
- Can and bottle returns (50%/50% student acct/BBAWB)

AUDITIONS

Before the audition date, in order to be considered for a particular part in the show, the student must pay all balances owing from previous band programs and return all uniforms previously issued.

In order to be considered for a particular part in the show, the student must attend the audition on the date designated by the percussion director. Parts will not be awarded until a properly signed contract is received with the required initial payment.

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 reserve "our" spaces. 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. Please check the BBAWB Calendar on the WB Bands website frequently for changes: <http://wbbands.info/calendar/>.

COMPETITION AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2018

Date	Show
February 3	MCGC West Bloomfield
February 10	WGI Troy Regional
March 10	MCGC Lakeland
March 18 (SUNDAY)	MCGC Stoney Creek
March 23-25	WGI Kentucky Mid-East Power Regional
March 29	Friends & Family Show & Spaghetti Dinner
April 8	MCGC State Championships
April 19-22	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 have 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 staff for individuals in town. They will communicate this with you and arrange it.

Mid-Winter Break: No Rehearsal

Spring Break (March 30 – April 8): State Finals – April 8, 2018. Rehearsal Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am – 4pm. Please keep in mind, WGI World Finals is two weeks 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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

After reading all of the content within this packet, please sign the contract on the next page, detach, and submit to Chris Vilag no later than November 28, 2017. Keep this copy of the contract for your records.

You will not be allowed to rehearse without a signed Winter Percussion contract, Registration Form and Good Health Form.

West Bloomfield High School Winter Percussion Contract

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

- I understand the role I will play in this upcoming season.
- I am committing myself to excellence and to the ensemble and will prove to be a vital part of this organization.
- I am able to commit financially to the fee schedule provided.
- I understand and agree that any fees that I pay are non-refundable.
- I will adhere to the attendance policy.
- I agree to follow the West Bloomfield Bands Parent Code of Conduct as well as the policies of the West Bloomfield School District.

(Both parents must sign this document, unless there is a court order granting custody to just one parent.)

Date:

Student Name (please print clearly): _____ Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print clearly): _____ Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print clearly): _____ Signature: _____

PARENT/STUDENT COPY

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Please detach and return this copy to Director

