

West Bloomfield Winter Winds

Winter 2017-2018

Membership Handbook & Contract



WEST BLOOMFIELD WINDS

WELCOME TO WEST BLOOMFIELD WINDS!

In this packet you will read about the philosophy, expectations, and policies of West Bloomfield Winds. 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 Winds provides an opportunity for students to develop their musical and life skills through the art of musical 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 Winds 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 Winds rules and expectations are based on one thing:

COMMUNITY

Community means treating everyone and everything including but not limited to staff, other students, parent volunteers, officials, facilities, and equipment with our utmost respect. This also includes the commitment on the part of the students to pull their weight as a member of this team. The West Bloomfield Bands are extremely visible throughout our surrounding community; therefore any behavior that portrays the organization in a negative light is strictly prohibited.

Also note, since this is a school organization, all West Bloomfield School District building rules and regulations are in effect at all rehearsals, performances, and trips. Please refer to your school’s Student Handbook.

EXPECTATIONS AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

Winter Winds is a commitment and an investment in yourself and your fellow members of WB Winds. 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 be. You will develop life skills that will pay dividends in your personal and professional life for years to come.

EXPECTATIONS: The absence of one person not only affects that person, but also the entire group, so it is of great importance that students attend every rehearsal. The 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.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCE: Unexcused absences are absences in which the student and/or parent have not informed staff that the student will be absent from rehearsal. It is very important that staff be made aware of absences in advance, where possible. In addition, unexcused absences jeopardize the safety and well-being of students as it is the responsibility of the staff to ensure that every student is accounted for.

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.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Legitimate excuses for rehearsal absences are illness, accident/emergency, serious illness/death in the family, and doctor's appointments. Please contact Sam Silverman at samsil@umich.edu 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.

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.

WINTER WINDS PARENT SUPPORT AND EXPECTATIONS

Your student and the program as a whole need your support. Attending shows to cheer on our students and volunteering are ways you can make a difference. They may seem minor on the surface, but they really do make a big difference so the more you can get involved the better.

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.

Rehearsals may be cancelled or postponed due to weather and other unforeseen events. If a rehearsal is canceled or rescheduled, we will try to communicate this to you as soon as we can. Please check the BBAWB Calendar on the WB Bands website frequently for changes: <http://wbbands.info/calendar/>

FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

The fee schedule is outlined in both the Registration Form and the Fee Policy.

All checks are to be made out to BBAWB and can be turned into the mailbox in the WBHS band room.

If there are any questions or concerns regarding fees, please contact Sam Silverman at samsil@umich.edu.

FUNDRAISING

Families will have several opportunities to offset their fees while helping to raise money in order to sustain all of our band programs.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS: As a band student in the West Bloomfield School District or participant in any of our extracurricular band programs, you are automatically eligible for a student account. Students who participate in fundraisers that offer a student account "split" will receive a percentage of the money they raise for their student account. Each dollar that goes into a student account is converted into one point. Families can use their points for any band or music-related purchase or service, such as band program fees, solo and ensemble fees, lessons, trips, etc. Parents can redeem student account points by downloading a Student Credit Transfer Form from the WB Bands website: www.wbbands.info >WB Bands > Forms. Under "General" heading, click on Student Credit Transfer Form. Due to IRS regulations, the BBAWB cannot redeem points with cash or check.

WINTER FUNDRAISERS: The following fundraiser will be offered to Winter Winds members and their families.

- Winter Winds Show Shirt Ads (form in your packet): (50%/50% split)

GENERAL/ONGOING FUNDRAISERS: The following fundraisers are available to all West Bloomfield band students year-round:

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

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursdays at the West Bloomfield High School Band Room from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM. An activity bus will be available to transport students from the middle schools to WBHS.

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COMPETITION AND PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2017

Date	Show
February 3	MCGC West Bloomfield
March 3	MCGC Milford
March 10	MCGC Lakeland
March 29	"Friends and Family" show at Abbott MS
April 8 (SUNDAY)	MCGC State Championships

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. We generally respond to emails within 24 hours.

West Bloomfield Winds Director: Sam Silverman

- samsil@umich.edu

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 this page, detach, and submit to Sam Silverman no later than November 28 (the first day of rehearsal). Keep the other copy of the contract for your records.

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

West Bloomfield High School Winter Winds 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.

Date: _____

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

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

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

KEEP THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.

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