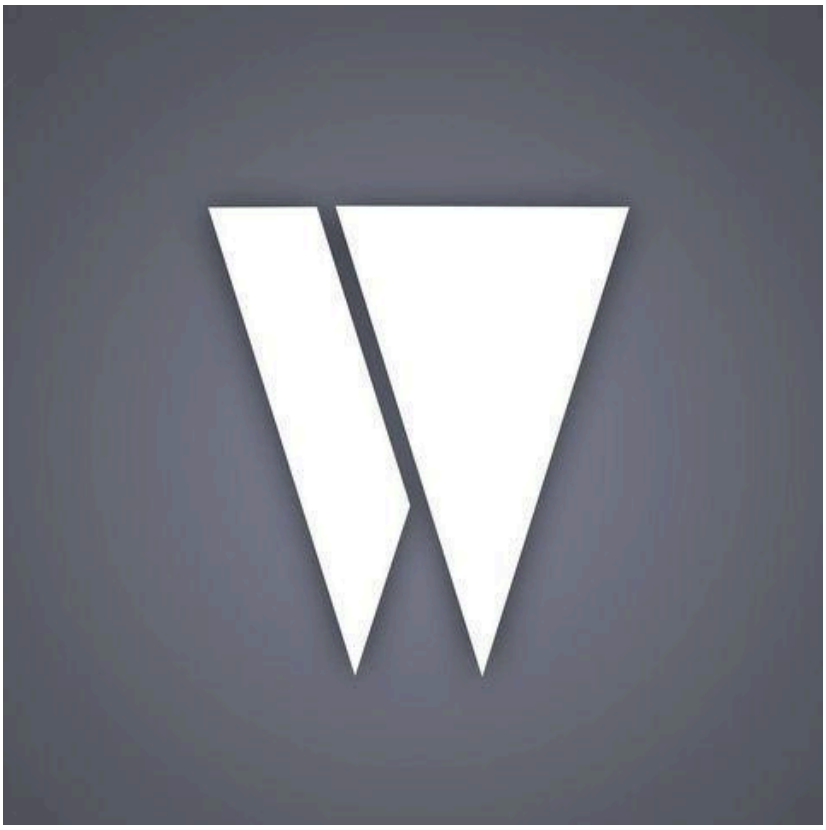

Westlake High School
Chaparral Band
Student Handbook
2026-2027

Eanes Independent School District

Thomas Turpin, Director of Bands
Austin Byers, Assistant Director of Bands
John Pearson, Assistant Director of Bands
Ben Armeni, Percussion Director
Kaysey Thompson, Color Guard Director

May 1, 2026

Dear Chap Band Families,

Welcome to the start of an exciting new year in the Westlake Band Family! We are so excited for what promises to be another great chapter in the Westlake Band program. The contents of this handbook are meant to serve as a guideline for the success of our band program and all of our activities throughout the year. By taking the time to read and review this handbook, you are showing support for your student, for the band program, and all Fine Arts at Westlake High School.

As a student member of the Westlake High School Band, you agree to perform to the best of your abilities and work together with the band staff in making this year's band the finest musical organization that our combined efforts can produce. We do not expect every person in the band to be a virtuoso musician or performer. We do expect mature, responsible attitudes and actions - and your best effort! The success of any organization is dependent on the spirit, pride, leadership, teamwork, effort, dedication and cooperation of its members. Certain rules, policies and procedures are necessary so that the overall goals of the group are met and the welfare of each individual member is best served. With this in mind we have established basic tenets by which every member abides. You'll find those on the next page of the handbook. Please read and familiarize yourself with these important pillars of our program.

As a parent, there are several ways that you can provide support and encouragement for your child including attending performances, encouraging home practice, and providing private lessons. When you insist upon consistent time management and following through on responsibilities, you not only help your child grow by teaching important life lessons, you also help to strengthen the fiber of the Westlake Band Family! We also encourage you to read the section in this publication on "How Parents Can Help."

Perhaps the most immediate way in which you can support your student's efforts is to become involved in WBP – The Westlake Band Parents. Our students benefit daily from the direct financial support provided by this valuable organization. You are all members of this vital part of our success, and we encourage you to "jump in" and get involved as a volunteer!

It is no secret that the success of our band program is due in large part to the tremendous support of parents. Your signature on the Parent/Student Agreement Form is our verification that you are thoroughly familiar with the contents of this handbook and that you have no questions or concerns thereof. You are also encouraged to log onto www.westlakeband.org and check out "Parent Guide" under the Resources page tab.

Thank you again for your support and encouragement of music and the arts in your family. From all of our staff, we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to create music and lasting memories with your students each and every day!

Sincerely,

Your Westlake Chaparral Band Staff

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Westlake Chaparral Band Tenets

Through music and the performing arts, we as individuals and as a collective group strive to continuously exhibit the following:

Demonstrate Character: We represent the Chaparral Band through all of our actions.

- We, as individuals, consistently act with high character and make good personal decisions.
- We demonstrate our character at all times, both inside and outside of band and school activities.
- We work to earn the trust of our fellow members and directors each day.
- We take pride in the Chap Band, in our personal actions, and in everything we do.

Value Teamwork: We believe that collaboration creates a more rewarding result.

- We fulfill our personal roles and understand how we contribute to the team's success.
- We trust in the process and are accountable for our constant improvement.
- We are willing to personally sacrifice for the group's benefit to achieve a greater result.

Strive for Excellence: We commit to excellence in everything we do.

- We focus on excellence in our personal preparation and strive to be better each day, always raising the bar of our own abilities.
- We are self-critical and embrace feedback to develop the skills that we need to improve, individually and collectively.
- We commit to outstanding performances and the opportunity to "wow" our audiences with the excellence our hard work has enabled.

Show Passion: We have passion for our activity, our art, our product and our process.

- We are enthusiastic about improving each day and unafraid of the challenges ahead.
- We value and are excited about the opportunity to work together towards exceptional performances.
- Our passion can be seen in the ways we interact, have fun, and enjoy each moment, and in our commitment to an outstanding product.

Display Work Ethic: We expect to work hard and overcome obstacles on our way to excellence.

- We come prepared with everything needed for productive rehearsals and outstanding performances.
- We are committed to practice the skills needed to achieve the mastery required for success.
- We accept that growth comes with challenges, and we embrace these challenges with grit and determination.
- We are resilient and demonstrate the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties.
- We push beyond present expectations and are willing to work for a long-term result.

Support our Family: We are an extended family.

- We treat each other with respect, show empathy, embrace differences, and value healthy relationships.
- We support each other in good times and, more importantly, during hard times.
- We are happy and eager to be with our friends and mentors.

Chap Band Pride

We Believe | We Perform | We are Westlake

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The Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook is designed to help you understand the policies, complexities, and concepts of a very large and proud body made up of the finest students in our school. Our goal as a staff is to outline the processes that are important in keeping band as an enjoyable and efficient organization. If utilized properly, the concepts of responsibility, teamwork, and good citizenship will develop.

The policies and procedures outlined herein are offered to ensure that all aspects of the band program run smoothly, and to ensure that each student has a safe and successful experience. *Please do not ask for exceptions to rules.* At times, unforeseen circumstances may warrant the modification of a policy. When these situations occur, modifications may be made on a case by case basis at the discretion of the directors with input from the school administration.

If you need information that does not appear here, please ask the directors, any of our "veteran" band parents, or Band Booster officers. We will try to assist you in whatever manner possible. We have a wonderful website (www.westlakeband.org) which contains great resources for our band families.

Goals of the Westlake Chaparral Band Program

- To provide every member of the band a sense of "Band Family." This concept is defined by a sense of commitment to your peers and team members, and knowing that band provides both a physical and emotional "safe space" for all of its members each and every day.
- To provide each student with a comprehensive instrumental music education by teaching the skills and attitudes necessary to develop as a young musician while achieving a high level of artistry. As a result, our students become exceptional young adults with abilities and skills that are applied to many worthwhile pursuits beyond the study of music.
- To benefit the school and community through the public performance of quality music, while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Westlake High School.
- To foster the development of essential character qualities in which we believe. These include: a strong work ethic, a respect for the team and its leaders, and promoting a sense of character and personal integrity. In addition, we wish to promote individual responsibility for one's actions, as well as respect for the time, talents, abilities, and accomplishments of others.

Time Commitment and Management

Membership in the band program requires a major commitment from students and their families. Successful band programs require countless hours of work from each student. It is important for students to understand the necessity of time management.

Methods of Communication:

- Band Google Calendar on your device (live updating)
- Emails via "Presto"
- Regular Band Newsletters/Communications
- Text Messages via Parent Square
- www.westlakeband.org

Students should take great care when becoming involved in multiple organizations and activities. It is wrong to expect any program to lower its standards because you have over-committed yourself. Making wise choices based on your time, talents, and interests is a vital part of becoming an adult. Budget your time wisely!

Parent Square - Full Group Communication

Our primary text communication platform for the Westlake Band program will be Parent Square through Eanes ISD. The band program will send out detailed information on how to join specific groups (both full band, parent groups, and subgroups within the band) via the Parent Square app. This will be the only approved communication platform for communication from Eanes ISD for the band program to families and students in a text-based application.

Practice Expectations

Daily practice is essential for student success in band. No matter how positive the student's attitude is, how much enthusiasm the student exhibits, or how much the student is involved in the social life and leadership of the band program, *the success of the band program is dependent upon INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE!* All Westlake Band Members should spend a minimum of thirty minutes each day in individual practice. Frequent shorter practice sessions are far better than a few extended sessions! Practice to accomplish specific goals, not to simply watch the clock.

Private Lesson Program

It is the goal of the Eanes ISD Fine Arts Department to provide the very best learning experiences for each band student. One of these learning experiences is the opportunity for a student to study privately with a professional instrument specialist.

1. Private Teachers are interviewed and selected by the Fine Arts staff and approved by the Eanes ISD administration.

2. Private lessons are optional, but all members are strongly encouraged to participate in lessons, as they are one of the fastest ways to improve your skill set!

3. Students electing to study privately are taught once per week during their band period, before/after school, or evenings, depending on the availability of instructors.

4. Private lesson rates are determined by lesson staff and monitored by district staff, and are based on years of expertise and experience, degrees held, and services provided. Students are encouraged to pay one month in advance for lessons.

5. If a student is absent from school or in school but cannot attend the lesson, prior notification must be given in order for fees to be adjusted or a makeup lesson to be scheduled. If the student is present at school and misses a lesson without advance notification, the student will be charged for that lesson.

6. Students will be excused from lessons for band trips, concerts, etc., if the teacher is notified in advance. These lessons should be made up if at all possible.

7. Financial aid is available for families who express a need for such aid. Applications for financial aid will be distributed to the students at the beginning of each school year, along with online lesson enrollment forms.

8. PARENTS PLEASE NOTE: Private lessons are for the purpose of individual enrichment...NOT to help us teach the band music! Instead, the focus is on specialized guidance to help the student enjoy a greater master of their instrument, thus maximizing the entire musical experience and enhancing a lifetime skill.

How Can Parents Help?

Regardless of your musical background, your support and encouragement as parents will have a tremendous impact on your student's progress in band and their overall development. To assist in this musical growth:

- Support the goals, policies, and procedures of the directors and school administration. Your band student succeeds when the program succeeds!
- Encourage practicing at home or at school on a daily basis. Provide a regular time and place where your band student can practice every day, with a music stand, proper lighting, and an appropriate chair if needed. Ask your band student to play for you. Encourage performance!
- Provide the means for your band student to take private lessons from a professional, and strongly encourage this activity! This is truly one of the best investments in your student's musical skill and development. The Eanes ISD private lesson program provides this opportunity.
- Teach your student to be punctual by encouraging them to be on time, and emphasize the importance of this in everyday life!
- Enthusiastically attend all band functions to show your support. Get involved and be a chaperone for football games and competitions!
- Be an active participant in the Westlake Band Parents (WBP)!

Westlake Band Parents (WBP)

The Westlake Band Cluster benefits from the support of a very active booster club, consisting of parents and friends of the band program. It is designed to enrich our programs by providing moral, physical, and financial support for all of our bands at Westlake, Hill Country, and West Ridge. Here are a few ways to be active:

- Sign up for volunteer opportunities such as chaperoning, serving meals, or building props during the Band Registration process and attend General Meetings when they are held.
- Serve on committees or consider joining our Executive Board.
- Participate in our fundraising activities such as our Mulch Sale and Patron Program
- Interact and communicate with other band parents at social functions and tailgates!
- Join in the fun and be involved in your student's band experience!

The booster club is an integral part of our entire band program. We hope that you will become an active participant in our Westlake Band Parent Family!

Performing Ensembles

Marching Band

1. The Marching Band is the largest student organization on campus. It performs at:
   - Varsity football games
   - Multiple marching band UIL/BOA contests
   - Parades
   - Segments of the band may also perform at selected athletic events

2. The marching band is open to any student who has completed the band audition process each spring. All students are required to participate in marching band unless an exception is approved by the Head Band Director. Possible exceptions:
   - Athletics conflicts
   - Medical concerns

3. Students will complete a marching audition that will determine placement into either our Varsity or Junior Varsity. All students regardless of status will learn and participate in drill performed at football games throughout the season.

4. All academically eligible students will march every football game. As the season progresses into competitions, only Varsity marchers will perform on contest days. All Junior Varsity members will have the opportunity to fill performance roles in the show that are vital to the band's success, and always travel to all contests.

Rehearsal Schedule

- Summer band rehearsals normally begin in mid to late July.
- Rehearsals are normally held before school four times per week and on one evening after school, not to exceed eight hours per week per UIL rules. These outside of school rehearsals are in addition to the designated band period during the school day. Parents and students are responsible for maintaining all rehearsals and performances via the Band Calendar, viewable on our website.

Summer Band Camp

- Band camp is typically held during late July & early August and is a required event for all Westlake band members.

Percussion Students

- Students in the percussion section will complete an audition for placement on either drumline or front ensemble in the Spring semester prior to the start of the upcoming season.
- Placements in these ensembles are determined by director(s) and are made in the best interest of the organization.
- Students may audition on more than one instrument for consideration.
- A detailed audition rubric will be shared prior to the audition process starting, including skills that are desired for placement on each instrument, as well as point distributions.
- A student's academic eligibility history will be considered in regard to placement on instruments, with the best interests of both student and ensemble success kept in mind.

Color Guard Students (EVE - Elite Visual Ensemble)

The Elite Visual Ensemble (EVE) plays an integral part in the Chap Band program. This organization portrays the visual concepts of the marching band. Through dance, props, flags, rifles, and sabers, the group performs the "musical story" of the halftime show. EVE performs throughout the school year and will compete as a winter guard unit in the Texas Color Guard Circuit and the Winter Guard International circuit. The winter guard will rehearse before or after school once marching season is complete, and during the second semester.

The Elite Visual Ensemble can be made up of instrumentalists, as well as non-instrumentalists. Members of EVE are chosen by audition during the spring semester.

An EVE member that successfully completes at least four (4) semesters of participation in the ensemble, meets all performance and rehearsal responsibilities, and remains a member in good standing throughout high school will be eligible for a letter jacket during their senior year.

Only members of the Chap Band are allowed to travel on a trip that requires a performance.

Elite Visual Ensemble Practice Guidelines:

- Wear appropriate practice attire (designated shorts/tops) to each practice.
- Wear tennis shoes or dance shoes.
- Hair must be worn up and off your face. This should be taken care of before practice begins.
- Bring all of your equipment to practice. Be sure that you only take equipment with your number on it.
- No jewelry, including watches. However, you may wear earring studs.
- No spinning while someone is talking. No spinning while receiving instruction or while at ease.
- Bring all of your equipment back up after practice.

Elite Visual Ensemble Performance Guidelines:

- Be in full uniform and have hair and make-up done before inspection.
- Load your personal equipment on the bus, and remove it and put it away after the performance.
- No personal nail polish for performances. It may be worn for practice but must be removed before all performances.

In addition to the above guidelines, attendance and punctuality are critical. The Elite Visual Ensemble follows the same attendance procedures as the other sections in the band. When you miss a rehearsal, you must be caught up by the next rehearsal. Make an appointment with a director or section leader to learn what you have missed.

Concert Ensembles

Wind Ensemble

1. The Wind Ensemble is composed of the most musically and technically advanced students in the band department. Membership is determined each academic year by live audition for a director.

2. The Wind Ensemble performs at least 3 concerts & UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation. Additional performances may include one or more festivals and occasional guest appearances. The Wind Ensemble regularly records performances for application for various honor competitions, the most notable being the Texas Music Education Association Honor Band competition.

3. Members are required to participate and follow through on all commitments related to the TMEA All-State Band audition process (including auditions at Region/Area levels, Region performances, and attendance at All-State if earned). Wind Ensemble Students are required to participate in the UIL Solo/Ensemble Contest in the Spring Semester. They are also STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to participate in the private lessons program!

4. Once membership into the Wind Ensemble has been achieved, each member's musical ability should continue to be developed by participation in the activities outlined above. Band placement is determined by individual audition each year, regardless of class status or previous band assignment.

5. Students in Wind Ensemble are automatically members of the Westlake High School Symphony Orchestra, a state and national award-winning ensemble! This group rehearses after school one day per week after marching season concludes, and attendance is required. Additionally, membership in the Wind Ensemble includes a weekly sectional rehearsal before school in the spring semester and one after school full ensemble rehearsal.

Symphonic Band

1. The Symphonic Band is composed of students with superior musical and technical skills. Membership is determined each academic year by live audition for a director.

2. Performances include at least 3 concerts & UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation. In addition, the Symphonic Band may perform at one or more festivals.

3. Members of the Symphonic Band are highly encouraged to participate and follow through on all commitments related to the TMEA All-State Band audition process (including auditions at Region/Area levels, Region performances, and attendance at All-State if earned). Symphonic Band students are required to participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in the Spring Semester. They are also STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to participate in the private lessons program!

4. Once membership into the Symphonic Band has been achieved, each member's musical ability should continue to be developed by participation in the activities outlined above. Band placement is determined by individual audition each year, regardless of class status or previous band assignment.

5. Students in Symphonic Band are automatically members of the Westlake High School Philharmonic Orchestra. This group rehearses after school one day per week after marching season concludes, and attendance is required. Additionally, membership in the Symphonic Band includes a weekly sectional rehearsal before school in the spring semester and one after school full ensemble rehearsal.

Concert Band

1. The Concert Band is composed of students with above average musical ability who are still developing the necessary skill sets required to move into Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. Membership is determined each academic year by live audition for a director.

2. Performances include at least 3 concerts and UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation. In addition, the Concert Band may perform at one or more festivals.

3. Members of the Concert Band are encouraged to participate in TMEA All-State Band audition process. They are highly encouraged to participate in the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest in the Spring Semester. They are also STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to participate in the private lessons program!

4. Once membership into the Concert Band has been achieved, each member's musical ability should continue to be developed by participation in the activities outlined above. Band placement is determined by individual audition each year, regardless of class status or previous band assignment.

5. Membership in the Concert Band requires one weekly sectional rehearsal before school in the spring semester.

Jazz Program

The Jazz Bands, like all other parts of the WHS band program, are an important performing organization. These organizations give the students the opportunity to play music in a different venue and idiom. The Jazz Band is made up of the band, orchestra, and choir's best saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and rhythm players (drum set, percussion, piano, bass, and guitar). Jazz Band One meets during 5th period, and Jazz Band Two meets during 6th period (both for the entire school year).

Membership in the WHS Jazz Bands is based on a live audition, past performance, attendance and cooperation.

The Chap Jazz Club is open to all interested Westlake students. This group will meet outside of school once a week beginning in March.

Attendance Policies

As a member of the Westlake Band, you have an obligation to your fellow band members to be at all rehearsals on time, to be prepared, and to have all necessary equipment and materials.

1. All band students must abide by the Westlake High School attendance policies.
2. Attendance is required at all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances.
3. Absences and tardiness will be excused in the following cases IF the student has notified the directors via email at least 48 hours in advance:
    - Medical emergency or personal injury
    - Death in the family
    - Religious holiday
    - Documented conflict with another school activity

4. Examples of UNEXCUSED absences and tardiness include, but are not limited to:
    - Work
    - Oversleeping
    - Tutorials or other school activities that have not been previously cleared with directors.
    - Transportation not arranged
    - Family Vacations
    - Anything deemed unexcused by WHS administration

Absence from Rehearsals

Simply stated, all students must be present for all rehearsals. When one student is missing, all of the other students around him/her are negatively impacted by their absence. We ask that families not schedule doctor and dentist appointments on top of before/after school rehearsals, as these are our only times to rehearse all together as a full band during marching season. While we understand emergencies arise, it is the student's and parent's responsibility to check for all conflicts with schedules ahead of time to avoid missed rehearsals.

Process for notifying Directors of an Absence:

A parent must send an email to attendance@westlakeband.org in order to have an absence considered for "excused" status. The email must include the date of the absence and the cause for this absence. This email should be sent even if you are absent from school. Please note that this email is a request for an excused absence. Each request will be evaluated and then answered within 48 hours by the band staff notifying the user of the status of the request.

Weekly Rehearsal Grades

- Weekly rehearsal grades will be given, with each rehearsal counting 25 points (equaling 100).
- Missed rehearsals will count as a "Zero," and tardies will lower the grade ten points.
- Tardies greater than ten minutes late will count as an absence.

Competition Days

- A grade will be given for each competition day totalling 100 points.
- An unexcused absence on a competition day will count as a "Zero," and a tardy will lower the grade 25 points.

Excused Absences

- Two excused absences in one week will result in the student not marching during half-time. These excused absences will include all rehearsals.
- The directors will decide what is excused and what is not. Excused absences must be documented with the correct director.

Unexcused Absences

- 1st Offense: The student will not travel to the football game the week of the absence. If the student holds a Varsity marching spot, a "shadow" (alternate marcher) will be assigned with potential for permanent replacement.
- 2nd Offense: The student will not travel to the football game the week of the absence. If the student holds a Varsity marching spot, they will lose that spot for the remainder of the season. A parent/student conference will also be held.
- 3rd Offense: The student will not travel to any games or competitions for the remainder of the marching season. Membership in the Westlake Band program could be revoked.

Tardies

- If you are not in the warmup block or assigned location at the start of rehearsal, you are tardy.
- An unexcused tardy will result in your grade being docked 25 points from the rehearsal
- Two unexcused tardies results in the student not being permitted to travel with the band for the football game and/or competition that weekend if applicable

Absences for Make-up Tests

Westlake HS has a Testing Center for make-up tests. Make-ups should be scheduled during your lunch or class time. Please do not volunteer your rehearsal time for these make-ups. If a teacher insists that you take a make-up during a rehearsal, please let a band director know immediately.

Absence from a Performance (Football Games, Concert, Contests)

- These are primary events for the band program and comprise a large part of each grading period. The band follows the same guidelines as stated in the Westlake HS Student Handbook to determine if an absence is excused or unexcused. Grades for performances are Major grades in the gradebook.
- This is rarely ever an issue with the Westlake Band. If this ever becomes an issue, the directors will decide on the correct solution.
- We want to teach our students the importance of fulfilling obligations. Simply put, we cannot pick and choose performances we want to attend. Being a member of the Westlake Band requires within the individual a sense of responsibility and commitment to the organization and all of its members. Varsity Members of the marching band will sign a contract stating that they will be present for all rehearsals and performances for the marching season.

Westlake Band Expectations and Rehearsal Process

1. Be prepared.
2. No talking during rehearsals.
3. Be punctual.
4. Respect all band members.
5. Excellence is the expectation!

By following this process, you'll be in line with the values and goals of the Westlake Chaparral Band Program. As a member of the marching band, students are expected to adhere to these guidelines to allow for fast-paced, quiet, and efficient rehearsals. Any variance to "the process" may result in a director conference, change in Varsity/Junior Varsity status, removal from rehearsal, or football game/performance attendance.

Student Conduct Expectations

1. The use of drugs, tobacco, or alcohol is strictly forbidden. Violations will be subject to the Eanes ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct and Eanes ISD Student Handbook rules/policies.

2. Food, gum, or beverages other than water are never permitted during rehearsal or performance (indoors or outdoors), except during water breaks or at times designated by the directors.

3. Loud and inappropriate behavior, including use of profane language, when in public that is not in the best interest of the band's positive image and reputation will not be tolerated.

4. Band members serve as positive ambassadors for the school and Eanes ISD. Polite and courteous behavior is a credit to the band organization, to the school, and to the parents. "Please" and "Thank You" should always be used in abundance by every band member!

5. PDA (Public Display of Affection) is never appropriate in the band hall, practice rooms, school buses, or at any band function.

6. Proper attire and clothing are required at all times. All Westlake Band students are expected to adhere to the Westlake High School Dress Code policy.

7. All Westlake Band students are held to the same standards and rules that govern Westlake High School via the Westlake High School Code of Conduct and the Eanes ISD Student-Parent Handbook: Eanes ISD Student Code of Conduct

8. All Westlake Band students will adhere to the Eanes ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct: Eanes ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

9. Any issues of conduct, attitude, responsibility, or unexcused absences or tardiness will prompt the following disciplinary sequence:

1. Conference with student
2. Conference with parents and/or Alpha Principal
3. Loss of performance status/Probationary Contract
4. Removal from band program
5. Other consequences dictated by the Eanes ISD Student Code of Conduct (as designated by administration and directors)

Grading Procedures

Assessment (25%)	Playing tests, video/audio recordings, chair tests
Daily (25%)	Rehearsal etiquette, preparation of individual parts, ensemble rehearsal participation, marching band rehearsals, sectionals
Preparation (20%)	Having all rehearsal materials, marking music as directed
Performance (30%)	Performances, Football Games, Contest, Concerts

Assessment Grades

- Some assignments will be completion grades, while others will be graded via assessment rubrics and performance standards.

Daily Grades

- All band students are expected to be in their seats or their assigned locations at the start of rehearsal. This does not mean walking into the band hall when the bells rings!
- Rehearsal etiquette will also be taken into account when assigning these grades. This includes active participation in rehearsal, as well as paying attention when working together as an ensemble to meet our goals.

Preparation Grades

- Students are expected to care for their instrument, equipment, music, music folders, flip folders, reeds, stick bags, mutes, storage areas and uniforms.

Performance Grades

- Concerts and performances are required events and will be graded as essential components of the Instrumental Music Curriculum.
- Sectionals and performances are graded activities that adhere to the Attendance Policies listed earlier in the handbook.

Band Hall and Fine Arts Facilities Expectations

1. NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM is allowed in the band facilities except when designated by the directors.

2. Practice rooms are for practicing, recording assignments, pass-offs, or private lessons ONLY. Private lesson teachers always have the "right of way" with these facilities.

3. Students should not enter the band offices without permission. Please knock and wait for a response. If you see that the directors are in a meeting, please don't knock.

4. Each student is assigned a personal locker/storage space in the Band Hall. Please keep it neat and free of trash at all times. Remember that use of these storage spaces is a privilege and may be revoked at any time at director discretion.

5. Large instrument cases must be kept out of the way of traffic at all times. They must be placed in your cubby during rehearsals and kept off of the tile.

6. The band department assumes no responsibility for personal items stored in the band hall. Our custodians are instructed to discard ANY items left on the floor!

7. Students should have their names on the outside of their instrument cases in a recognizable place. Be sure that your serial number, make, and model are written down at home (and hopefully memorized)!

8. The band offices, library, uniform room, and upstairs storage areas are off limits to all band members except quartermasters, loading crue, uniform staff, librarians, or officers, and then only to conduct band business.

9. No student is to use sound equipment, computers, copy machine, etc. without permission.

10. Any damage of school property must be repaired, the item replaced, or a reimbursement made. The school will withhold grades and/or place a hold on transcripts until the amount is paid. An annual fee is assessed by Eanes ISD for the use of school-owned instruments.

11. Do not prop open doors to any of the Fine Arts facilities at any time, for any person!

Band Uniform Expectations

The Band uniform is something that should be worn with pride at all times. Consider it your own personal "Super Suit!" Participation in the program, and the use of the uniform that comes with it, is a privilege. The uniforms are in good condition, and they must be kept that way for several more years.

<u>Uniform Assignment</u>
Uniforms will normally be issued in late July or early August. Any uniform part that is lost or damaged is the student's responsibility to financially replace.

<u>Each band members will be issued:</u>
- Marching Jacket
- Marching Pants (bibbers)
- Gauntlets
- Shako (plumes issued at performances)
- Tux Coat and Tux Pants or Concert Dresses
- Black Tie (Tuxedos only)

It is the responsibility of each band member to provide the following:

- Marching shoes (purchase via Band Registration)
- Gray socks (purchased via Band Registration)
- Black shorts for "Pep Uniform" (school appropriate length)
- Compression Shorts to wear under the uniform (individual purchase)
- Black gloves (purchase via Band Registration)
- Appropriate black dress shoes for Concert Attire
- White tux shirt with wing tip collar and vertical pleats (for tuxedos)

Alterations

Alterations are not permitted without approval. Any instance where an alteration is deemed necessary MUST BE APPROVED by either a director or Uniform Parent.

Uniform Decorum

- There will be no variations from the proper wearing of the uniform unless designated by the directors.
- Long hair should be worn up in either a bun or with a headband. No hair may extend past the bottom of the shako.
- No jewelry is to be worn in uniform. If you have piercings, they should only be studs.
- Do not wear long pants or jeans UNDER your uniform or concert dresses! Black ties MUST be worn with tuxedos at all times.

Maintenance

- Marching uniforms are stored at school, and sent to cleaners via the fee assessed and paid during band registration. Concert uniforms will be stored at home. You are responsible for keeping these safe until returned at the end of the year. If you lose or damage any part of it, you must pay to have it replaced or repaired.
- The uniform MUST be carefully hung on the assigned hanger immediately after each performance. A uniform crew member will normally be stationed at each hanging rack after performances to monitor this process.
- If you lose, damage, or have any problem with your uniform, see a Uniform Parent or Crew member as soon as possible.
- Uniform parts not properly hung or left in the band hall, restrooms, etc. after performances will be confiscated. These may not be returned to you until AFTER the next performance.
- Uniforms must be kept neat and clean while in student's possession. One of the directors must be informed before you take a uniform from the uniform room. Periodically, students will be asked to take their marching uniforms home to wash them. Please see the washing instructions given to you for care specifications.

Student Leadership

The Westlake Chaparral Band prides itself on excellent student leadership. This leadership is divided into the following categories:

- Band Council includes President, VP of Communications, VP of Logistics, VP of Records, VP of Uniforms, VP of Events, Librarian, Freshman Representative, EVE Captain, Percussion Captain, and all Drum Majors
- TILT (The Instructional Leadership Team) consists of Drum Majors and Section Leaders

Eligibility Requirements for Student Leadership:

- Drum Major, TILT, and Officer candidates must meet the following eligibility requirements:
  - Candidates must be academically eligible at the time of audition.
  - Candidates must maintain eligibility throughout the course of service.
  - Prior eligibility concerns will be taken into account in the selection process.

Game Day Procedures

Arrival at School/Release from School

- Arrive before "Call" time. (Pre-game meals are required for all band members)
- Quickly get into uniform, keeping up with the hanger, garment bag, shako, etc.

Arrival at Game Site

- Listen attentively for instructions from directors, leaders, or chaperone parents upon arrival.
- Exit buses when told and go to "Standby" in the stadium seating block or warm-up arc as instructed by a director or Drum Major.

Pre-game Entry

- When filing into the stands, move quickly to your assigned seat and cover down. Remember you are being watched by everyone in the stadium as you enter!
- Remain attentive and ready to begin warmup immediately after entering the stands.

During Game

- NO FOOD, DRINK, OR GUM is allowed while in uniform. Please do not ask for or accept offers of food or drink from parents or friends.
- CELL PHONES should remain in Shako Boxes while in the stands.
- Do not play your instrument unless instructed by directors or drum majors.
- HOLD your instrument AT ALL TIMES!
- During the third quarter, you may go (as directed) in groups of two (2) to the restroom after checking out with a drum major but do not go anywhere else! Wear your uniform properly (shako and gloves not required during this time) and return immediately to your section.
- There will be no variations from the proper wearing of the uniform at ANY TIME unless instructed by the directors.
- Visitors are not allowed in the stands at any time unless approved by a director.

Football Games

The appearance (at all times - not just on the field) that the band makes when traveling is very important. Most people from outside of Westlake will see the Chaparral Band only once. The impression they receive has a great deal to do with the spirit, pride, and reputation of the band.

Let's make our image a favorable one in all of our actions!!! The following procedures will apply to football game performances:

- Be properly uniformed at all times.
- Sit in assigned seats and do not move about during the games.
- Do not take any unauthorized refreshments during the game/performance.
- No one but BAND PERSONNEL is allowed in the band section without the permission of the band director.
- Treat visitors, other directors, other band members, and guests politely at all times.
- Always play in a musical way. Even outside you can play in tune, with a good tone, good attacks, good releases, etc. Our band is first and foremost a MUSICAL organization!
- Always use your music unless you have 'passed-off' a selection. If you do not have your music, do not play.
- Individual students may be dismissed after the halftime performance only under extreme circumstances. All requests for early dismissal must go to Mr. Taylor. Requests for dismissal must be made in writing prior to game day.

Bus Travel Expectations

Most of our band transportation is on school buses or chartered coaches. When buses are provided, all performers will ride the bus both going to and coming from the event. Exceptions to this rule require written personal requests by the parents at least 24 hours prior to the event. Even then, the final decision is left to the director and/or principal. The directors must see the student and parent together in order for the student to leave in a private vehicle.

For football games, students will be assigned to a specific bus prior to departure. Riding on a bus other than the one to which you are assigned is not permitted. Students are expected to be cooperative and respectful to the driver, chaperones, and student leaders in charge.

Bus Guidelines

- Eanes ISD prohibits loud talking, profane or abusive language, standing in the aisles, or sitting on the backs of seats while on buses . Hands, feet, arms, legs, and head must remain inside the bus, even when parked.
- No food or drink is allowed on buses unless approved by the directors or drivers.
- Public displays of affection are not permitted on the bus, and are against the student conduct rules of the Westlake Band.
- Students may listen to personal devices/phones via earbuds or headphones on bus trips. Students are not allowed to play music through speakers on bus rides for driver safety/focus reasons.
- Instruments and other equipment will be carried on the bus and/or band trucks or trailer. Every band member is responsible for loading his or her own equipment.
- Playing instruments on buses is not permitted.

Letter Jacket Requirements

Earning a letter award in the Chaparral Band is a highly respected honor that is not taken lightly. The following requirements for winds and percussion must be met within one school year if a student is to letter:

1. Attend all performances and rehearsals designated by the directors.
2. Remain a member in good standing for the entire school year, exhibiting a good attitude at all times."Good standing" requires members to participate in the marching *and* concert UIL contests in the year that they letter.
3. Maintain grade eligibility (six weeks grade average of 70 or higher in all subjects) for the entire school year.
4. Attain an overall yearly grade avg. of 90 or above in band.
5. A student may earn a letter award at the director's recommendation.
6. Earn a minimum of 10 points from the following combinations:

<u>5 points...(one of the following)</u>

- selection to the All-District Band
- earn a Division I on a Class I solo

<u>4 points...(one of the following)</u>

- selection to and perform with the All-Region Band, All-Region Jazz Band, or All-Region Orchestra
- earn a Division I on a Class II solo
- earn a Division I on a Class I ensemble

<u>3 points...(one of the following)</u>

- earn a Division I on a Class II ensemble
- earn a Division I on a Medium Ensemble

<u>2 points...(one of the following)</u>

- progress to and attend the Area Band try-out, or selection to tape for the All-State Jazz Band or All-State Orchestra
- audition for district with the approval of the band directors, but not selected to district.

<u>1 point...(one of the following)</u>

- selection to and perform with the All-State Band, All-State Jazz Band, or All-State Orchestra
- obtain a director's assignment of 3 units from the Rubank Adv. Vol. I or II book and satisfactorily perform it for the director. A maximum of 2 points may be earned by passing 6 units.

Major Band Trips

Every two years, our band takes a major trip that may last three or more days, usually involving air travel, extensive fund raising, and excused absences from school for two or more days. In the "off year", there is the possibility that we may take a trip based on an invitation to a prestigious performance opportunity. We may also opt to travel to a destination in-state during the "off year." Prior to the school year of travel, information regarding the costs, methods of payment, fundraising, and itinerary is made available to the parents.

In the weeks leading up to the trip, parents and students are given copies of the itinerary, special guidelines, medical releases, etc. which must be signed and returned. Insurance will always be offered for purchase when the band takes a major trip.

All travel with the band will be done in accordance with the Eanes ISD Student Travel Policy.

Eanes ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

Participation in Eanes ISD extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Therefore, the behavior expectations set forth in the Eanes ISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct (ECC) exceed the behavior expectations set forth in the Eanes ISD Student Code of Conduct (SCC). All student members of the Westlake Band program will abide by the guidelines set forth in the Eanes ISD ECC, and will sign the ECC Acknowledgement Form at the beginning of each year of participation in the Westlake Band program. The Eanes ISD ECC can be found online here.

WHS Band Calendar Acknowledgement 2026-2027

The WHS Band Calendar can be viewed online at all times via the band website:

https://www.westlakeband.org/calendar

The Westlake Band staff will constantly do its best to update any changes to the calendar and inform parents and students of upcoming band activities, especially those where attendance is required. Weekly Band emails will contain reminders of upcoming events.

We understand that on a rare basis there are conflicts with required band functions. Compromise for the benefit of all is often achievable given enough lead time and communication with the directors!

The purpose of this form is to encourage students to plan their school calendar carefully with their parents' help. This enables our very smart and talented band members to be involved in numerous activities without sacrificing their commitment to their peers in the Westlake Band. This also helps to reinforce the fact that our success as a band program ultimately depends upon each other's musical expertise and attendance at all rehearsals and functions.

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WHS Band Handbook Acknowledgement 2026-2027

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https://www.westlakeband.org/

I realize that it takes full cooperation, a willingness to make sacrifices, and dedication to the needs of the whole band program in order to maximize my experience in the Westlake Chaparral Band. I further understand the importance of following the stated policies in the Band Handbook, as well as following directions from all Band Staff and WHS Administrators. I am aware that failure to do so could not only result in disciplinary action that might jeopardize my performance status, my grades, and/or my membership in band, but could also impact other band members who depend on me.

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By signing below, I acknowledge that I have fully read and understand the Westlake Band Handbook. I also acknowledge that I have taken the time to compare the Westlake Band Calendar with my personal calendar to look for any potential conflicts. As a student, I understand that it is my responsibility to alert the directors of conflicts ahead of time and to work to resolve them with a positive and team-oriented mindset.

(Print Name of Student) (Print Name of Parent)

X_____ X_____

(Signature of Student) (Date) (Signature of Parent) (Date)

X_____ X_____