



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 1

Table of Contents

WLISD Band Director	3
Johnney James Whiteaker, <i>Wink Band Director, 1956-1986</i>	3
David Speer, <i>Wink Band Director, 2021-current</i>	3
Purpose of This Handbook	4
Our Mission	4
Goals and Objectives	4
What We Value	4
How Band Makes You a Smarter, More Disciplined Person	4
Performance Standards	4
WLISD Band History and Legacy	4
Band Hall Layout and Information	5
Rehearsal Rooms	5
Main Hall	5
Band Offices	5
Workroom/Kitchen	5
Percussion Room	5
Ensemble Room	5
Practice Rooms	5
Music Library	5
Instrument Repair Room and Storage Rooms	5
Lost and Found	5
Storage Lockers	5
Chairs and Stands	5
Stay Current through Technology	6
Contact Mr. Speer through Email	6
SportsYou and the Wildcat Band (for High School)	6
The Wink-Loving Band Website and Google Calendar	6
CutTime (Text/Web App)	6
Band Google Classrooms	Error! Bookmark not defined.
RankOne	6
Financial Information	7
School Funds, Activity Funds, and Band Boosters	7
Fundraising Opportunities	7
What are Student Accounts?	7
Payment Methods	7



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 2

Trips	7
The Wildcat Band and <i>The Wildcat Way</i>	8
Universal Expectations:.....	8
Rehearsal Expectations:.....	8
Other Expectations	8
Travel Expectations.....	9
General Items	9
Bus Travel.....	9
Hotel Expectations (when applicable)	9
Parent Check-Out Procedure	10
Traveling to and from Band Events.....	10
Instrument Care	11
Acceptable Use Contract	11
General Instrument Care	11
Failure to Care for Instruments or Uniforms	11
Consumable Band Supplies.....	11
Attendance Expectations	12
Students in band are required to perform in concerts and other events.....	12
Students in band are required to participate in extra-curricular rehearsals	12
Failure to attend events.....	12
Excused Absences	12
Unexcused Absences	12
Tardiness.....	12
Daily Student Involvement	13
Materials.....	13
Participation.....	13
Practice Makes You Better...Just Do It!	13
Grading Policy	13
Grades for Excused Absences	13
Grades for Unexcused Absences	13
Eligibility.....	14
UIL Rules and Acknowledgement Form	14
Uniforms	15
Middle School Band Uniform (5 th -7 th)	15
High School Band Uniform (8 th -12 th)	15
Alternate High School Band Uniform (8 th -12 th)	15
Handbook Acknowledgement Form	16



Wink-Loving ISD Band Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 3

WLISD Band Director

Johnney James Whiteaker, *Wink Band Director, 1956-1986*

Mr. Johnney J. Whiteaker moved to Wink from Fort Davis, Texas in the summer of 1956, after three years as their band director, to take the reins of the Wink Wildcat Band. It was a position that he had prayed about and was extremely honored to have. Having been an incredible trumpet player in the Army Air Force band and having the ability to play many instruments, his talents and abilities fit well into a school system that was operated in excellence. Under his direction, the Wildcat band won many sweepstakes awards and 1st division ratings. The Wildcat band adhered to the military style of marching and was widely known as one of the last bands to do so. Mr. Whiteaker retired in 1984, but soon returned and taught another one and a half years. He dearly loved his students and still spoke fondly of them in his last days. He loved and admired the school administration and the continuity they had for many, many years which helped make Wink the great school that it is. Mr. Whiteaker passed from this life to the next on April 1, 2020 at the age of 91.



David Speer, *Wink Band Director, 2021-current*

Mr. Speer married his wife Tamara in December of 2003 and they have two boys and a girl: Jackson, Turner, and Priscilla. He began his professional teaching career in the Fall of 2004 as an Assistant Band Director at Frenship High School and Percussion Coordinator for Frenship Schools - a post he held for eight years before transferring to Terra Vista Middle School to serve as their Director of Bands for four years. In 2021, after five years leading the band in New Deal, TX, he began directing the Wink Wildcat Band. He holds a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin and Texas Teacher Certification for Secondary Music.

Before coming to Wink and the Lubbock Area, Mr. Speer taught private lessons and marching percussion in Leander ISD at Cedar Park High School and surrounding schools from 1999-2003. He also served as the percussion director for Vista Ridge High School and Henry Middle School in 2003-2004. While in college, Speer performed regularly with the prestigious UT Wind Ensemble under the direction of Jerry Junkin as well as Longhorn Band, Symphony Orchestra, Opera, Concert Chorale, and was President of the UT Men's Chorus. His notable teacher influences include Glen Richter, George Frock, Dr. Craig Hella Johnson, Dr. Suzanne Pence, Dr. Tom Burritt, Dr. Morris Stevens and Paul Garretson. Speer attended Westwood HS in Round Rock ISD and was a TMEA All-State percussionist in 1996 in addition to multiple All-Region Band, All-Region Orchestra, and All-Region Choir appearances.

Outside of his teaching, Speer serves First United Methodist Churches of Wink and Kermit as a Certified Lay Minister. He occasionally freelances as a percussionist, performing with several area big bands and community ensembles like the Lubbock Concert Band. He and his wife also sing in the Chancel Choir at First Methodist Church in Lubbock, TX. Speer is also a published composer and an Educator Artist for Innovative Percussion, Inc.

Speer's professional affiliations include the Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, The National Association for Music Education and the Percussive Arts Society.



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 4

Purpose of This Handbook

This handbook provides students and their families with a comprehensive overview of the Wink-Loving Band Program; our philosophy, history, goals, policy, and standards for student conduct and achievement.

Our Mission

Inspire students to enhance themselves and their community through a lifetime of exceptional performance in instrumental music.

Goals and Objectives

What We Value

- Individual Effort and Improvement
- Sharing Our Musical Gifts with the World Around Us
- Finding and Experiencing Success in Everything that We Do

How Band Makes You a Smarter, More Disciplined Person



*"But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? And they may well ask why climb the highest mountain? Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic? **Why does Rice play Texas?***

*We choose to go to the moon. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the other things, **not because they are easy, but because they are hard**, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to win..."*

President John F. Kennedy

September 12th, 1962 at Rice University (in Houston, TX)

Learning to play an instrument well is not easy, but those who work hard in band develop their best "energies and skills" and put them to work in all of life's adventures!

Performance Standards

Wink-Loving Band Students and Directors will always seek the highest ratings and honors at various contests and performances through the year. We know that this standard requires each individual band member to prepare their music well in advance of any performance – full ensemble or solo. We confidently choose goals that can be attained with the time, skills, and resources we have available!

WLISD Band History and Legacy

The Wildcat Band will achieve recognition at every level of band performance, and we expect each future class of students to add to that legacy of success. For nearly one-hundred years, the Wildcat Band has earned honors at the state and local level. However, the band that forms at the beginning of each year is new and must fashion goals and earn awards for itself. **Our community in Wink-Loving wants to enjoy their band's performances, and we will continue to give back to our supporters with our musical deeds and integrity.**



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 5

Band Hall Layout and Information

Rehearsal Rooms

The Wildcat Band rehearses in the Johnney J. Whiteaker Band Hall, a fabulous facility first opened in 2021. The hall consists of a main rehearsal room, offices, storage, and several smaller practice rooms.

Main Hall

The general space when you enter the building is our Main Hall, where we gather for full band rehearsals

Band Offices

Mr. Speer and Mrs. Speer have desks and work areas in the band hall. Please be courteous upon entering if we are busy working or trying to communicate with other people. The Band Offices are the place to go for instrument repair, financial transactions, questions, and more.

Workroom/Kitchen

A workroom/kitchen between the band offices houses office supplies, reeds, and appliances designated for director use. Please do NOT enter this room without permission.

Percussion Room

The Percussion Room, which is in the corner of the band hall, is for percussion storage and occasional director-approved practice. Typically, this room is off-limits to all but percussion students unless a director is present or has granted permission to use it.

Ensemble Room

The large ensemble room across from the ladies restroom is used for sectionals and occasional instrument storage.

Practice Rooms

We are equipped with four practice rooms, accessible from the Main Hall, which may only be used for practice or designated assignments from Mr. Speer. The piano in one of the rooms may only be used with permission.

Music Library

The Music Library is tucked away behind the offices and is generally off-limits.

Instrument Repair Room and Storage Rooms

Several other rooms for instrument storage and repair are located around the band hall – occasionally students will have access to these areas for practice or instrument storage.

Lost and Found

Any items lost in the band hall can be dropped off and found with a director. Sometimes we keep misplaced items at the front of the room by the whiteboard.

Storage Lockers

The band hall contains many beautiful lockers designed to hold instruments for each grade level. Students will be assigned a locker and may only store instruments and binders.

Students who put themselves (or others) in lockers will be severely punished.

Chairs and Stands

Be mindful of the chairs and stands found throughout the band hall.

EACH STUDENT is responsible for maintaining the quality of our stands and chairs.

- do not move chairs and stands from their initial location unless instructed to do so.
- do not draw, decorate, or leave gum on our equipment!
- Rack or stack chairs and stands correctly when prompted (ask!)



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 6

Stay Current through Technology

Contact Mr. Speer through Email

Mr. Speer: DSPEER@WLISD.NET

SportsYou and the Wildcat Band (for High School)

Please join the band's account on SportsYou to stay current on events and announcements

Enrollment Code: VPVN-46M2

At the moment, there really isn't a reason to use this for 5-7th grade band students because those groups do not regularly need announcements or information.

The Wink-Loving Band Website and Google Calendar

Please visit the school's website for the most current list of band activities on the sync-able Google Calendar and other basic information.

The Google Calendar serves as the official calendar for all band activities and will be updated throughout the year as some event schedules become finalized.

Telegram (Phone App)

The High School Band utilizes an invitation-only group in telegram for regular announcements, media sharing, and conversation.

Band Boosters also have a separate group for discussion and meeting announcements.

MusicFirst

Every band class has a companion virtual class in MusicFirst

Students have a unique login and classes designed around their band and instrument

MusicFirst allows for MANY functions like assessments, content sharing/creation, and learning.

RankOne

WLISD athletics and band students must complete several forms in the RankOne database each year.

The RankOne software can be reached via website at www.RankOne.com or the free app.

*****Failure to complete required forms and participation physicals will prohibit students from participating in band and other activities until they are completed*****



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 7

Financial Information

School Funds, Activity Funds, and Band Boosters

Funding for the band and our activities comes primarily from the school's budget each year, but we also maintain an activity account for expenses that cannot be paid from tax or State revenue. Fundraisers run by the band deposit profits into the activity fund, which are then used to make trip payments on behalf of students. Profit from fundraisers and direct payments to the Wink-Loving Band are deposited into our WLISD Activity Fund. All money raised for the activity fund is effectively a donation to the band program in general but payments on behalf of students may be proportionately based on their participation in fundraising efforts. Our Band Boosters are a separate fundraising entity (that maintains their own account) that exists to help students pay for trips, special meals and other items in support of the band.

Fundraising Opportunities

Each year, the WLISD Band and the Band Boosters provide opportunities for students to raise money for special trips in high school. All fundraisers benefit the entire band program, but a majority of profits (and all incentives/prizes) will be designated only to the students who participate. Students who do not participate in fundraisers should expect to pay for band trips out of pocket. **Fundraiser activities are completely optional and HIGHLY recommended!** Some of our fundraisers are based on selling items, but boosters also host and pay for concession stand work at home football and basketball games.

What are Student Accounts?

Fundraising databases allow us to track money for each student when applicable, and we can then maintain an open, accessible accounting of all credits and debits. Any "credit" available to students as shown on their statements can be applied toward band expenses, but remember that credits earned through fundraising cannot under any circumstance be embezzled directly to students. Once a student leaves band or graduates from WLISD, unused credit may be transferred to other siblings in band (using a written transfer form) or the remaining balance will be reallocated for general use.

Payment Methods

The band office can accept **cash** and **checks** made out to "Wink Band" for our fundraisers, which also have separate built-in credit/debit card ordering and processing. Band trip payments can be made directly to the Band Boosters (cash, check, card, CashApp).

Trips

Each Summer, Wink-Loving High School band students will have an opportunity to participate in a special trip. In odd-numbered years, we will plan to travel on a multi-night trip to Dallas or San Antonio (usually around \$250/person), enjoying theme parks and other tourist attractions. Every 3-4 years, we want to travel to Orlando for a week-long visit to Disney World and Universal Studios OR an equally special location in the United States. **Only students who earn fundraising or pay their way can attend these trips-Wink-Loving ISD does NOT fund these special trips, although we are often blessed with transportation on a school charter bus.** We highly encourage students to get other people to pay for their trips through fundraising!

High School Band Trips (future trips are subject to approval and *force majeure*):

June 2024: Orlando, FL

June 2025: San Antonio

May 2026: DFW

May/June 2027: Lubbock Area Fun Day

June 2028: Orlando, FL



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 8

The Wildcat Band and *The Wildcat Way*

Wildcat Band students will apply *The Wildcat Way* values and more in our program.

Universal Expectations:

1. Respect Your Directors
listen with your eyes when an adult is speaking to you
2. Respect Your Peers
listen to your peers when they speak or play
3. Respect All Instruments & Equipment
Treat ALL things with respect and care
4. "Yes, Sir" or "No, Sir"
Please use these while communicating with an adult
5. Get To Your Seat-with ALACRITY
Students must exhibit an enthusiasm for getting to their seat quickly
6. Equip Yourself with Needed Materials
Have what you need for class every day, including your instrument and music
7. Encourage Excellence, not Mediocrity
Bad sounds and poor performances are not funny, so don't encourage them
8. Represent The Wildcat Band at All Times
Exhibit the best behavior and choices wherever you go
9. Clean Up After Yourself
Accidents happen – don't make it someone else's problem

Rehearsal Expectations:

1. Always Aim for SUPERIOR Sounds
Don't waste your time making bad sounds on purpose – aim for your best sound in everything you do
2. Seek Improvement with Every Repetition
Plan on playing passages many times, targeting small skills to improve on each pass
3. Assume BEST Posture When Playing
Sit tall and forward in your chair so that your torso can freely expand when you play
4. Assume READY Posture When Not Playing
Keep your eyes and ear attentive and your instrument in your lap
5. Listen To Directors with Your EYES immediately
Look at the adults who speak to you WHEN they speak to you
6. Practice Your Music BEFORE Rehearsals
No one in rehearsal wants to watch you practice in front of them
7. If You Don't Have Something – ASK!
Let us know if you need any materials of HELP ☺
8. If You Don't KNOW Something – ASK!
Ignorance is curable and therefore not an excuse

Other Expectations

If it isn't yours...DON'T TOUCH IT

Food and drink are generally prohibited in the band hall

We suspend this rule for pregame dinners and rehearsal meals

When allowed, students must CLEAN UP THEIR MESS

Water is awesome and always encouraged!

Mobile phones are prohibited at school and during rehearsals

Fidget spinners or other fads yet to be determined are prohibited at the Director's discretion



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 9

Travel Expectations

General Items

- Students will represent themselves, their family, the band, and Wink-Loving ISD to the highest standard
- The Wink-Loving ISD Code of Conduct remains in effect during trips
- Violations will be dealt with and could result in being sent home early (at the family's expense)
- Students should avoid (1) Touching other people, (2) Touching other people's things, and (3) Saying things that are not positive, truthful, useful, and acceptable in public
- Our standards for conduct do not change because of situational ethics, "dares" or bets
- Medications should be clearly marked in their prescription bottle; students must be able to self-medicate
- Students must have an accurate medical information on file in RankOne
- The Band is NOT responsible for items that are lost...here are helpful hints:
- Keep money in very secure places
- YOU MAY CERTAINLY BRING EXTRA MONEY...but we are not responsible for it
- Don't leave small electronics lying around
- Bags are subject to search for contraband (the same things that are prohibited at school)
- Travelers may bring pillows, blankets, and other comfort items as necessary and reasonable
- Travelers should report on time to all activities
- Be prepared to organize yourselves for a quick and accurate roll check while we are in public.

Bus Travel

WLISD Students travel in very nice, expensive charter buses – failure to maintain the quality of these vehicles will not be tolerated due to the detrimental effect on all students and the community.

- Students must keep their bus space CLEAN

We will NOT dismiss you until the bus is clean – even at 2am when we are all tired.

- Students will have assigned seats on the bus when we travel

Students may be given the privilege to sign up for seats

Additional guidelines will be outlined prior to each seating assignment opportunity

- When the bus is moving slowly or stops, refrain from all noises (talking)
- While the bus is in motion, keep your voices down and only move to use the restroom or trash bag
- A restroom is available on the bus for emergency use; be mindful of bathroom cleanliness and etiquette
- Portable electronics must have headphones
- Travelers are allowed to disembark for breaks when the bus stops...don't keep us waiting
- Food and drink (other than water) are prohibited in school vehicles

Any food or drink you possess for the event should be properly stored/sealed for travel

Hotel Expectations (when applicable)

- We are not the only guests in the hotel, so act with the utmost respect towards other guests
 - We will not be in the hotel with lots of time to hang out...we are there to rest, not for recreation
 - In general...STAY IN YOUR ROOM
 - Do NOT hang out in the hallways or be disruptive (keep your voices down)
 - Do not overload elevators (consider taking the stairs)
 - You are allowed in your room and no one else's (especially the opposite sex)
 - For the sake of everyone...please shower and take care of personal hygiene
 - At the designated **Room Check** time:
- All roommates should be present in the room
- We will check your room for overall conditions
- After your **Room Check** is complete:
- Reduce all volume and activity to a level undetectable from the hallway (should be anyway)
- Stay in your room from this time until you go to breakfast
- Violations of this policy will result in severe consequences



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 10

Parent Check-Out Procedure

When we take a bus on a school-sponsored trip, **parents** may sign-out their children **after** a game or special event; sign-out sheets will be available at the bus as we are loading.

Students MUST sign out prior to leaving so that we can account for their absence when checking roll. Students who sign out must take their instrument and uniform with them OR make other arrangements.

Students may NOT leave with anyone else besides a parent or guardian without prior approval.

EXCEPTION: If a parent or guardian wishes for an adult family member or friend to check out a student from an event, they must provide the director with a written note or email at least **TWO DAYS PRIOR** to the event. Principal or Superintendent approval is required for all exceptions, and they may also deny the request. Failure to follow this policy may prohibit students from being signed out or suspend them from future travel or events in addition to other disciplinary measures.

- Please DO NOT arrange to have a friend or neighbor take your child home from an event outside of Wink **without** permission. A phone call to a director asking for an exception will NOT be accepted in lieu of written requests.

Traveling to and from Band Events

-Students may not drive themselves to away football games or contests.

-Students who live in Mentone will always have transportation provided before and after most events; football games (especially away games, when faculty is unavailable to take them in a timely manner after the bus returns) are not always included in this service, but communicate special needs as they arise and we will try to accommodate as best as possible.

-Transfer students from surrounding areas are not entitled to school transportation to and from school events, **but if you will communicate special needs we will do our best to make accommodations.**



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 11

Instrument Care

Wink-Loving ISD provides high-quality instruments and required accessories to every student in band. In the last six years, WLISD has spent over \$250,000 on new instruments and \$123,000 on new uniforms. Students are expected to maintain the quality of these investments at all times – for themselves and future generations of the Wildcat Band!

Acceptable Use Contract

All WLISD Band students must have an Acceptable Use Contract for Band Instruments on file – you only need to complete this contract once during your band career in Wink.

General Instrument Care

- Carefully store your instrument in its assigned locker and case after every use
 - Do not share instruments
 - Report damages or malfunctions immediately
 - When you take your instrument home, avoid extreme climates (comfy for humans=safe for instrument)
- WIND INSTRUMENTS:

- Perform oiling and lubrication of moving parts properly and regularly
- Inspect your instrument for damage or lose parts every time you assemble it
- WOODWINDS:** swab before storing
- BRASS:** empty water before storing
- Marching Brass:** always use gloves and polish away fingerprints daily
- Do not allow others to touch your horn (you are always responsible for the instrument)
- Be careful removing and replacing the horn in its case
- Care for the CASE as you would for a horn
- Do not stuff anything in the case against the horn (use other compartments if possible)
- BE CAREFUL when moving around while carrying your instrument – AVOID DINGS
- Only place your instrument down properly on a surface that is soft, not abrasive, and out of traffic areas

Field Turf – yes

Track – yes

Carpet or tile – yes

Bleachers w/o coverings – NO

Sandy or rocky areas – NO

Concrete sidewalks – NO

Grass – maybe

Chairs – very, very carefully if even possible

PERCUSSION:

- Return all drums and sticks to their assigned location after rehearsal
- Report any damages or loose parts immediately
- Avoid adjusting moving parts without instruction or consent from Mr. Speer
- Do not give your sticks to non-percussionists (report attempts to Mr. Speer)

Failure to Care for Instruments or Uniforms

Wink-Loving ISD reserves the right to revoke access to school-owned property or issue fines to repair damage to property caused by gross negligence. Our expectations will also be enforced through standard disciplinary measures if students are found to be handling their instrument or uniform improperly.

Consumable Band Supplies

WLISD provides *everything* students need to participate in band – this includes consumable items like reeds, oils, swabs, and more. Students are expected to maintain these items for the duration of their usable life; please do not waste oil or carelessly chip reeds, etc.



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 12

Attendance Expectations

Students in band are required to perform in concerts and other events

Concerts and other performances are as intrinsic to band students as games are to football or volleyball players; practice is great, but the learning process is not complete without a final demonstration of skills. Students are therefore expected to attend every performance scheduled throughout the year.

Unfortunately, scheduling a concert during school hours is typically not possible, nor would we wish to greatly diminish our audience by scheduling a performance during typical work hours.

Students in band are required to participate in extra-curricular rehearsals

The High School band rehearses on Monday evenings from 7-9pm every week from the start of school and becomes intermittent after our final marching contest. *Note: We will typically NOT have rehearsal on school holidays.* The High School band also has limited rehearsals on weekdays starting on or around August 1st to prepare for marching band needs. These rehearsals do NOT conflict with athletics – Mr. Speer coordinates facilities and times with coaches to make sure we can all benefit from your talents!

5-7th grade band students do not typically have any rehearsals outside of school hours.

High School percussionists may have special mini-camps in the Spring and right before summer band.

Failure to attend events

Unexcused absences from rehearsals or concerts will result in low performance grades towards the student's average in band class, but HS students who miss events without excuse may also lose privileges or face additional disciplinary measures or make-up practices. Make-up performances will be scheduled in the event of an absence from an individual event like solo contest.

Excused Absences

Students will be excused from required band events for the following reasons:

1. Serious illness or injury (contagious or the imminent presence of bodily fluids)
2. Family emergencies such as death or serious health issues in the family
3. Other Wink-Loving ISD activities such as athletics (communicate prior to the event!)
4. Medical appointments for which parents have no control in scheduling
5. Special circumstances approved by Mr. Speer in advance*

**Always ask for permission instead of hoping for forgiveness!*

Students **MUST** provide **written** documentation from a parent or doctor to be excused (w/date).

"written" for band means (1)typed or hand-written note, (2)email, or (3)SportsYou/Facebook DM

Unexcused Absences

Students will **not** be excused from required band events if they do not meet the criteria laid out in the previous section. Examples of absences that may be determined to be unexcused:

1. Non-serious illness or injury (jammed finger, headache, papercut, oversleeping, etc.)
2. Transportation issues
3. **Non**-Wink-Loving ISD activities such as little league, gymnastics class, etc.
4. Birthdays (*see Mr. Speer if you think Grandmother's 80th birthday will qualify-it might!*)
5. Medical appointments that could have been scheduled with respect to the band event
6. Other circumstances or activities that were not communicated in advance

Tardiness

Students who arrive late to rehearsals or performances without an acceptable excuse will face disciplinary measures until the behavior is corrected.

REQUIRED CONCERTS AND EVENTS ARE SCHEDULED WEEKS OR MONTHS IN ADVANCE – CHECK THE WLISD ACTIVITIES GOOGLE CALENDAR AND AVOID THE CONFLICTS BEFORE YOU CREATE THEM.



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 13

Daily Student Involvement

Students in each band class receive a daily grade that represents their involvement in class. Typically, these grades are easy 100s, but we use these assignments to reflect any negative issues with student participation or lack of materials.

Materials

Students should maintain their band binder and bring it with them to their music stand every day at the beginning of class. Binder contents should always include:

- Pencil pouch with functional pencil
- Music for upcoming concerts
- Method Books as needed
- Handouts and daily exercises

Participation

WLISD Band students are expected to get to their seats with materials in a timely manner and follow instructions during class to the best of their ability. Failure to participate for whatever reason will result in grade penalties and other school disciplinary procedures.

Practice Makes You Better...Just Do It!

WLISD Band students should practice DAILY to meet their playing goals and progress as musicians. Time itself is not a goal, but a typical routine of warmups and targeted practice should take at least 20-30 minutes. We know that our students have many talents that pull them in several directions, but those who discipline themselves will appreciate the benefits of regular work towards their musical projects and goals. Students who practice make rehearsals more efficient and enjoyable!

Grading Policy

The WLISD Band issues grades for students based on activities throughout the year – these activities include performances, playing assessments, and daily rehearsals. Please remember that **several of our performances that take place outside of school hours are still graded.**

Failing Grades (below 70) are extremely rare but be issued for the following reasons:

- significant failure to participate in rehearsal
- multiple unexcused absences from activities
- chronic poor effort on playing assessments

Playing assessments that receive lower than desired grades can and SHOULD be attempted again for a higher grade! Chair tests cannot be rescored for a higher chair placement – students will have to wait for the next chair test if they want to earn a higher chair. Keep in mind that chair placements are sometimes based on cumulative scores from many playing tests.

Grades for Excused Absences

- The student's grade will be marked as "no count" for the activity if it is a unique experience.
example: a band concert or pep rally
- Students will be expected to earn a grade if the activity can be reproduced at a later date.
example: solo performance or written quiz

Grades for Unexcused Absences

- Students who do not have an excuse or documentation will receive a "0" for that graded performance.
- Students may still be expected to earn a grade for an activity that can be reproduced.
example: solo performance, written test, chair test

Categories and Their Grading Weight:

- I. **Assignments (70% of Average)**
 - a. Daily Involvement
 - b. Written Assignments
- II. **Assessments (10% of Average)**
 - a. Playing Tests
 - b. Concerts and other performances
- III. **Projects (20% of Average)**
 - a. Concert Performance preparation
 - b. Playing Test preparation



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 14

Eligibility

Students must maintain good grades in **every** class at WLISD! Those who earn an average lower than 70 in any class at the end of a 6-weeks grading period will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular afterschool activities or competitions for 6 weeks. This rule is not limited to band events – ineligibility prohibits participation in any extracurricular activity - including athletics.

Students can regain eligibility if they pass ALL their classes on either a progress report or report card.

UIL Rules and Acknowledgement Form

The High School Band participates well inside of UIL's "8-hr rule" that governs rehearsal time per week outside of the academic school day. However, each student and parent must still sign a one-time UIL form indicating their compliance with this rule.

The Wink Wildcat Band's evaluations and competitions are governed by the University Interscholastic League; students and directors will comply with all rules and policies set forth in the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules (CCR).



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 15

Uniforms

To maintain our professional appearance at public events, members of the Wildcat Band will be expected to adhere to our standard uniform requirements. Students out of uniform may not be allowed to participate in performances or travel and could also suffer from the resulting unexcused absence grade penalty. **Band students need to learn the ability to conform to a uniform to prepare them for life in the professional world.** Our uniforms should evoke a sense of pride in our band, school, and community; they should be greatly respected and maintained!

Middle School Band Uniform (5th-7th)

Middle School Band students are required to wear the following uniform for special events and concert performances:

- Any Wink Shirt OR a provided Band Shirt (when applicable)
- Pants (students provide)
- Shoes (students provide)

High School Band Uniform (8th-12th)

High School Band Students are supplied with a marching band uniform for performances throughout the year. This uniform consists of the following components (students provide asterisk* items):

- Marching Show-Themed Shirt (provided)
- Black Band Shirt (provided)
- Black Band Shorts (provided) (leave on underneath uniform bibbers)
- *TALL Black Socks ("crew" style, NOT ankle height)
- Uniform Jacket/Coat
 - Uniform Pants (a.k.a. "bibbers")
 - Hat (plumes and hat covers will be added at performances)/Berets for Sousaphones
 - Black Marching Shoes
 - Black Gloves
 - Uniform Bag

Students are responsible for the care and cleanliness of their uniform!

- Uniforms should be properly stored on a single hanger with shoes in their own compartment
- Hats should be properly stored in their box and may also contain gloves, flip folders, lyres, hat covers
- Dirty uniforms may be dry-cleaned (we will do it at least once before marching season)
- Alterations are not required (use the built-in snaps)
- DO NOT zip up a wet uniform in your bag – hang it and leave to bag open to dry
- Do not store uniforms at home-they must remain at school on the rack when not in use

Alternate High School Band Uniform (8th-12th)

High School Band students will be required to wear the following uniform for special events and performances as directed:

- Black Band Shirt (provided)
- BLUE Jeans OR Black Band Shorts (we all do one or the other...usually jeans)
- *Shoes (students provide)
 - if we are MARCHING, they must be athletic shoes (not boots, slides, clogs, barefoot, etc.)



Wink-Loving ISD Band

Band Handbook

Band Policy, Standards, and Reference Guide

Page 16

Handbook Acknowledgement Form

After reviewing this handbook, please sign and return THIS PAGE to the band office.

I have read the Wink-Loving ISD Band Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year and will abide by the policies and standards as printed.

I understand that serious failures to follow policies and standards from this handbook could result in negative consequences and even suspension or removal from the band program.

I will communicate with band directors if I have concerns about financial, time, logistical, or other issues that I think might limit or prohibit participation in band.

Student's Name (Print)

Student's Signature (Sign)

Date

Parent or Guardian's Name (Print)

Parent or Guardian's Signature (Print)

Date