

# Westhill High School Winter Percussion Ensemble

## Program Overview



**Director:**  
Michael Wyatt

**Staff:**  
Rae Alejandrino, Austin Avery, Devin Gritten, Matt Kravetz,  
Courtney MacDonald, Julia Matusiewicz, Nigeal McBride,  
Tom Morris, Conor Mulford, Blair Roberts, Robert Villanova

Parents and Members:

I would like to welcome you to the Westhill High School Winter Percussion Ensemble. We are extremely excited for another year of competition!

This handbook should provide answers to most questions you may have regarding the Winter Percussion program and its operations. It will outline the responsibilities that you are committing to with this program. Also attached is the tentative rehearsal and performance schedule, as well as the necessary forms that need to be completed. These forms need to be returned to Mr. Wyatt ASAP. **Please be sure to review your family calendar thoroughly against the attached calendar to ensure an accurate representation of your anticipated conflicts.**

The staff and I are looking forward a successful and enjoyable season. Parents and family members: be sure to come support us often at performances, and your assistance in many facets of the operations of this group is always greatly appreciated!

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the course of the season.

Sincerely,

Michael Wyatt  
Instrumental Music Director  
[mwyatt@stamfordct.gov](mailto:mwyatt@stamfordct.gov)  
(203) 977 - 4426

## **Ensemble Expectations**

Attendance is mandatory! This includes being *on time* to all scheduled events. Being on time means being prepared to PLAY at the designated time, not walking in the door. To that end, you should arrive 15 minutes early to be ready to fulfill your obligations on time. Any conflicts need to be worked out with the staff immediately, so be proactive about your schedule as soon as possible. A **Three Ring Binder** with plastic sleeves will hold this handbook (including calendar), your exercise packet, a pencil, music, and drill for the show.

The Westhill High School Winter Percussion Ensemble will be treated as a professional percussion ensemble and in turn we expect professional behavior from all members. It is of supreme importance that we continually look after our equipment, and our responsibilities as contributing members of the ensemble.

There are two facets of improvement in any musical endeavor: practice and rehearsal. Practice is done at home to work on learning the music and refining the technique. Rehearsal is where we all come together to put that practice time together and learn to succeed as a group.

## **Care for Your Health**

At no time should anyone play while hurt without us knowing about it. If you suspect a physical problem due to your playing, you **MUST** inform us immediately. We are not doctors, but if something can be done for you we will take care of it.

## **Care for Your Schoolwork**

The Westhill High School Instrumental Music Department requires that students maintain a 2.3 or "C" grade point average. Students may be placed on probation with a 1.8 GPA, wherein a program will be designed by the Director and Guidance Counselor to assist this student to raise their academic standing. All aspects of this program must be met for the student to remain eligible. All students must be enrolled as full-time students (4 Carnegie units of work or more) to be eligible to participate in the music department.

## **Care for the Group**

There are many parts of this activity that go way beyond playing and marching. Far more important is how well you work with the group, how well you interact with others from different backgrounds, different ability levels, different ages, and different experience levels. We are all in this together and you have to take care of each other no matter what. Especially being a group that spends so much time together throughout the season, each member needs to be able to trust those around them. Be a positive and trustworthy part of this circle. Be helpful, be sensitive, but be a motivator too. Keep in touch with each other and the staff, practice every day and be prepared to swallow your pride if necessary (we all have those moments, from the section leader on down!).

## **Financial Obligations**

Dues for the season are \$300. This goes to cover uniform costs, staff, the performance mat, props, and various other items that are vital to the group's success. There will also be a fee for the Dayton, OH trip, which is where our World Championships are held. We are working to keep this cost as low as possible, but it currently looks to be approximately \$550. However, there are **MANY** fundraising opportunities to alleviate these costs. Members in the past have fundraised their entire financial obligations, so it is possible! Dues should be paid by December 31, and checks may be made payable to "WHSBPA".



# WESTHILL HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM Registration - Winter Percussion

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' E-mails \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list as many e-mail addresses as you would like to receive information from both the Band Director and the Band Parents' Association; this is a primary means of communication)

Parents' Cell Phones \_\_\_\_\_

Student's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Student's shoe size \_\_\_\_\_ Student's tee shirt size (Program shirt - generic sizing) \_\_\_\_\_

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### Fees for Winter Percussion:

Registration	\$300	due 12/31	_____
Dayton cost	275	due 1/31	_____
	275*	due 2/28	_____

\*final amount depends on actual cost of trip

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If new to the instrumental music program, please obtain and complete the accompanying forms: "Permission Form" and "Health History Form", and include a photocopy of front and back of student's insurance card. Thank you.

# Westhill High School Winter Percussion Ensemble

## MEMBER ATTENDANCE CONTRACT

In order for the Westhill High School Winter Percussion Program to achieve the highest level of performance excellence, attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. A parent or guardian must submit any potential conflicts with rehearsals or performances. It is important for students to be on time and ready to begin (instruments, music, and equipment on person, dressed appropriately) at the designated starting time. It is important to note; in order to start on time the student must arrive a few minutes prior to rehearsal.

The only acceptable excuses for missing rehearsals or performances are:

- documented illness
- calendar religious holiday
- death in the family

Emergencies constituted by *extreme extenuating* circumstances not covered above are subject solely to the discretion of the director. No absences will be considered excused if documented **after** a given rehearsal/performance date.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, accept the terms of attendance for the Westhill High School Winter Percussion Ensemble. I understand that the director reserves the right to revoke my performing opportunities subject to the above penalties and/or remove me from membership if I violate the above policies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have discussed the attendance policy of the Winter Percussion Program with my child and will support the above policies regarding attendance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed (parent/guardian)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*World Championships in Dayton, OH is during a school week this year*

### **Winter Percussion Conflicts**

Please list ALL possible conflicts, even if they are tentative, in the space below.

# Westhill High School Instrumental Music Department

## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Westhill High School Instrumental Music Department believes that our student performers have a responsibility to provide a positive image to our community and peers at all times, regardless of location (classroom, rehearsal, visiting other schools, etc.). Our performers are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with this code and with the rules and regulations governing the student body at large.

Students are expected to act with respect towards the professional staff, adult chaperones, fellow students, and other ensembles at all times. Performers are expected to exhibit optimal effort, participation, sportsmanship and behavior. They are expected not to engage in behavior that could compromise the safety of themselves or others (e.g. consuming and/or possessing alcohol or drugs, breaking curfew, fighting, vandalism, shoplifting, etc.). **Westhill High School and its Instrumental Music Program have a zero-tolerance policy.** Violations of this code will result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, and possible removal from the program.

The way our performers act in the community is extremely important. As a student performer, you must always represent yourself, your family, your ensemble, Westhill High School, and the City of Stamford with dignity and in a manner in which we can all be proud.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand the Code of Conduct, and agree to abide by it at all times. I understand the consequences of my actions affect the entire ensemble, and failure to comply could result in various degrees of disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the ensemble.

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Student Signature

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Date