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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Bands of Westview Middle School! Each band member's goal should be to become a strong, independent, successful and disciplined musician. Band members enjoy and learn more from playing in successful ensembles rather than unsuccessful ones. Well-disciplined, attentive and responsible students are needed to ensure the band program's success. This handbook reviews the policies and expectations of students and parents. **Participants in the band program are expected to know and abide by the material in this handbook; therefore, it is important that both students and parents / guardians read the handbook in its entirety.** Please refer back to this handbook during the school year if you have questions or forget any procedures. If you have any questions please feel free to call or email me.

## PHILOSOPHY

The Bands of Westview Middle School and the director, together with the support of our principal, Mrs. Perry, operate under the following philosophy.

*Our middle school band program is designed to promote a basic understanding and appreciation for music, which will continue throughout the rest of the students' lives. Thus, we establish performance, leadership, and teamwork expectations that will prepare them to be productive members of society.*

## OBJECTIVES

1. To develop the technical skills necessary to play a musical instrument both as a solo instrument and as a member of an ensemble, and to develop the necessary skills to read music.
2. To promote the success of the individual student as well as the Westview Band Program. MUSIC IS FUN!! However, there is no fun in mediocrity.
3. Each individual - including each student, the director, and each parent - must be aware of his/her individual responsibilities and be willing to sacrifice individual desires for the good of the band.

4. To increase the amount of fun and satisfaction each student receives from being in band. "What you get out of band depends on how much you put into it." Each student is expected to strive to put enthusiasm and hard work, as well as a desire to "do the job right" into all band activities.
5. To build leadership and character. The Bands of Westview Middle School strive to be known by outstanding character and citizenship. We will work to ensure proper conduct, consideration, and courtesy as a vital part of the participation of students - both in the band hall and in all public situations.
6. To promote and encourage each and every student to work together as a team toward specific goals and objectives. Students will learn both leadership and teamwork skills.

## BAND CLASSES

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Beginner Band

This class is made up of sixth grade students who wish to participate in their first year in band. These students have limited knowledge on their instrument.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Intermediate Band

This class is made up of seventh grade students who have successfully completed one year on their instrument. The students have a more comprehensive knowledge of their instrument.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Band

This class is made up of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have successfully completed one or more years in band. These students have the most comprehensive knowledge of their instruments.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz Ensemble

The eighth grade jazz ensemble is a performance based class and travels to represent our band program. Students in this class should have completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade jazz ensemble and also be enrolled in 8<sup>th</sup> grade band.

## **SMALL ENSEMBLES**

The following ensembles meet before or after school. These groups are made up of the best playing students at Westview who can also make the commitment to meet for every rehearsal. Students will not receive a grade for these ensembles. However, their playing will be reviewed to determine if they are to continue to participate. These groups are performing ensembles and will participate in a concert and possibly Solo & Ensemble.

### **Jazz Ensemble**

Students who wish to participate in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade jazz ensemble will meet after school one day a week beginning around November. This ensemble will consist of students with at least one year of playing experience. Students will be required to purchase the Essential Elements for Jazz Ensemble Method Book (\$13.00) for their instrument. Any other information pertaining to this ensemble will be passed out on the first scheduled rehearsal.

### **Brass Ensemble**

Students will be invited to join this group based on their performance in the band program to date. The director will provide all music for this ensemble. Any other information pertaining to this ensemble will be passed out on the first scheduled rehearsal.

### **Woodwind Ensemble**

Students will be invited to join this group based on their performance in the band program to date. The director will provide all music for this ensemble. Any other information pertaining to this ensemble will be passed out on the first scheduled rehearsal.

### **Percussion Ensemble**

Students will be invited to join this group based on their performance in the band program to date. The director will provide all music for this ensemble. Any other information pertaining to this ensemble will be passed out on the first scheduled rehearsal.

## **CLASS MATERIALS**

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade beginner band:**

- Essential Elements 2000, Book One. \$8.00 (Percussion books \$16.00)
- Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory, Book One. \$8.00
- Three Ring Binder Notebook with pockets
- Terms list
- Scale sheet
- Plastic sheet protectors
- Pencil
- Instrument
- Sheet music
- Instrument supplies (reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide oil, drum sticks, mallets).

### **7<sup>th</sup> grade intermediate band:**

- Essential Elements 2000, Book One and Two. \$8.00 (Percussion books \$16.00)
- Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory, Book One and Two. \$8.00
- Three Ring Binder Notebook with pockets
- Terms list
- Scale sheet
- Plastic sheet protectors
- Pencil
- Instrument
- Sheet music
- Instrument supplies (reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide oil, drum sticks, mallets).

### **8<sup>th</sup> grade advanced band:**

- Essential Elements 2000, Book Two
- Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory, Book Two.
- Three Ring Binder Notebook with pockets
- Terms list
- Scale sheet
- Plastic sheet protectors
- Pencil
- Instrument
- Sheet music
- Instrument supplies (reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide oil, drum sticks, mallets).

### **8<sup>th</sup> grade jazz ensemble:**

- Essential Elements for Jazz Ensemble Method Book (\$13.00)
- Three Ring Binder Notebook with pockets
- Plastic sheet protectors
- Pencil
- Instrument
- Sheet music
- Instrument supplies (reeds, cork grease, valve oil, slide oil, drum sticks, mallets).

**\*\*Woodwind players are required to have at least two reeds with you at all times\*\***

**\*\*\*Each student is expected to bring the above-mentioned items to class each day\*\*\***

## **INSTRUMENTS**

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade beginner band**

Unless otherwise notified, each student will need to purchase or rent an instrument that is in good working condition. At the beginning of the year the director will organize an instrument rental night in the band room for beginners. The director will ask one of the reputable music companies in the Charleston area to come in and speak to parents about renting or purchasing instruments. The company that is selected will be working closely with the band director to ensure that every student receives quality instruments and supplies at a reasonable price.

### **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade bands**

Students in these bands should have already purchased instruments from the previous year. However, during the year the director will ask a reputable music company to provide a Step-Up instrument night. This is a night where students and parents can explore the opportunity to purchase an intermediate or professional level instrument. Intermediate and professional level instruments allow the student to grow with his/her instrument. Those instruments are manufactured based on recommendations of respected professionals in the music business. Students will be allowed to "Test Drive" the instruments that night before purchasing them. This is an opportunity to find the best instrument for that student. An opportunity such as this one

is normally unavailable to middle school students. The band director will be working closely with the music company to make sure that the students receive the best quality instruments.

### **School Owned Instruments**

The school owns several instruments available for student use. These instruments include various percussion, tuba, euphonium, french horn, bassoon, and baritone saxophone. Students are to provide their own mouthpiece for school owned wind instruments. Over the summer school owned instruments will be cleaned and all major damage will be fixed. To help with these expenses we charge a \$50.00 maintenance fee. This check should be made payable to Westview Middle School and should be paid by the end of the first nine weeks. When instruments are checked out to students a list of any minor damages is notated on a Student / Parent-Guardian Contract that the student and parent / guardian will be required to sign. By signing the contract the student and parent / guardian agree to repair any damage that occurs beyond normal wear and tear or replace instruments that are deemed un-repairable. Damage beyond normal wear and tear is defined as major dents, broken or stuck slides, broken or stuck valves, bent/broken piping, broken keys, solder that has come loose and missing parts. Students are to notify the director immediately if there is a problem with a school owned instrument and are expected to take good care of our resources. All percussionists will pay a \$50.00 instructional/maintenance fee to help cover the cost of weekly private lessons. This also helps with the maintenance and purchase of percussion instruments. Please make checks payable to WVMBB before the end of the first nine weeks.

## **OTHER SUPPLIES AND CARE OF INSTRUMENTS**

### **Wind Players**

It is recommended that each player purchase a metronome, cleaning kit and a tuner. Woodwind players should consider purchasing a reed case to keep their reeds clean and undamaged. The students should make sure to permanently place their name on each item for security purposes.

### Percussionists

It is recommended that each player purchase a metronome and a stick bag containing the following:

- ❖ Snare drum sticks (Vic Firth SD1)
- ❖ Medium rubber mallets
- ❖ Medium yarn mallets
- ❖ Hard plastic mallets
- ❖ Timpani mallets (Vic Firth T1)

The students should make sure to permanently place their name on each item for security purposes.

### INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Every student owned instrument should be taken home from school each day for daily practice. The instrument room is provided for students to place their instruments during the school day. The instrument room is open only when the director is on the property. Students **ARE NOT** allowed to keep their instruments in their homeroom class. These classrooms are not made to store instruments; therefore band instruments in the classroom can cause a safety hazard. All cases must be labeled in several ways with the student's name. A luggage tag is not enough. Students should use the instrument room **AT THEIR OWN RISK**. Students and parents should be aware that the director, The Bands of Westview Middle School, Westview Middle School, The Administrators and Berkeley County School District **ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE** for instruments lost, stolen or damaged. Any incident of students handling instruments that are not their own will be taken very seriously. The administrators, parents and the police will be notified of major offences. This is a serious matter and we currently have a zero tolerance policy.

At the beginning of the school year each student will be issued a shelf or a space to place their instrument inside the storage room. They will be responsible to keep that space clean and tidy. In some instances students will have to share that space with another student. Students are expected to respect each others' property and treat it as if it were your own.

### LOST OR STOLEN EQUIPMENT

Many instrument dealers offer instrument insurance policies specifically for theft or damage. Some homeowner insurance policies will offer protection for your instrument while it is at school. Please call you insurance agent for more information. It is a good idea to keep the following information in a safe place in the event the instrument is lost or stolen:

- Instrument serial number.
- Instrument manufacturer.
- Instrument model number.
- From whom you purchased it.
- When the instrument was made.

In the event that an instrument is lost or stolen, contact the director immediately. After that point a decision will be made concerning the involvement of the police department. The best way to protect your investment is to take the instrument home with you every night and keep it in the instrument room during the school day.

### SHEET MUSIC

Throughout the school year, sheet music will be issued to each student. If a student is absent or loses the sheet music, he or she is responsible for obtaining a new copy. This should be taken care of **BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL...NOT DURING CLASS**. Sheet music must be placed in plastic sheet protectors. This will protect the piece of music and also allow for ease of use during performances. A fee of .25 cents will be assessed to replace music that is lost. This money will be placed in the bands account and will be used to replace copies of music lost and help pay for copy maintenance. "Stolen" music will be considered lost.

### INSTRUMENT REPAIRS

*All students are expected to have their instruments in class each day unless otherwise notified by the director.* Students and parents should make sure that their instrument is in good working condition often. Students who are planning to have instruments repaired should notify the director with a parent note **BEFORE** turning them in. Arrangements can be made for the students having instruments repaired to use a school instrument until theirs is returned. Thus, students should **always keep their mouthpieces**. Students that fail to observe this policy will receive an "N" (No Credit) for that class. Each "N" will count FIVE points against the final average of their daily grade.

**RECOMENDED LOCAL BAND INSTRUMENT AND SUPPLIES DEALERS**

The following is a list of local music dealers that the band director works with on a regular basis. These dealers have a list of supplies that our students will need throughout the year. This is to ensure that our students purchase the correct equipment. We highly recommend these local companies.

**Pecknel Music Company**  
500 B Altman Street  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
(843) 761-2385 – Phone  
[www.pecknelmusic.com](http://www.pecknelmusic.com)  
wphillips@pecknelmusic.com  
(843) 870-4894

**Music and Arts Centers**  
975 Savannah Hwy, Suite R1  
Charleston, SC 29407  
(843) 852-0900

**MUSIC SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FROM THE BAND BOOSTER CLUB**

The band director will keep music supplies such as reeds, cork grease, drum sticks, and valve oil available for sale in the band room. **The students may purchase these supplies from the band director before school or after school only.** Do not attempt to purchase any of these materials just before class. The sale will not be permitted. Cash or checks will be accepted. Checks should be made out to Westview Middle School Band Boosters (WVMBB). All prices include tax.

**Price List:**

(Marlin Leshor or Jones – double reeds)

**Oboe:**  
Medium / Soft = \$12.00

**Bassoon:**  
Medium / Soft = \$12.00  
(Vandoren – single reeds)

**Clarinet:**  
2 ½ = \$3.50  
3

**Bass Clarinet:**  
2 ½ = \$7.00  
3

**Alto Saxophone:**  
2 ½ = \$4.50  
3  
**Tenor Saxophone:**  
2 ½ = \$7.00  
3  
**Baritone Saxophone:**  
2 ½ = \$11.00  
3  
**Clarinet Swab:** = \$4.00  
**Sax Swab:** = \$4.00  
**Thumb Saver:** = \$3.00  
**Teeth Saver:** = \$4.00(2)  
**Cork Grease:** = \$1.00  
**Valve Oil:**  
1 bottle - Al Cass = \$5.50  
**Slide Oil:** = \$3.00  
**Selmer Slide Grease:** = \$4.00  
**SD 1 Drum Sticks:** = \$10.00  
**Metronome:**  
Quick Time Metronome = \$11.00  
**Tuner:**  
Korg Chromatic Tuner = \$28.00

\*\*Parents will be notified of any price change\*\*

**GRADING**

The following list outlines what every student in the band program will be evaluated on each term. All of the below mentioned items will be averaged to determine a final grade.

**All Band Classes**

**PERFORMANCE (30%)**

**Playing Tests**

Playing tests are given to evaluate the students' progress through the term. Playing tests do not count toward chairs. These tests are for grading purposes only. There will be at least one playing test each nine weeks.

**Performances**

The band classes are performance-based classes. Students are expected to perform on their instruments to receive a grade. Students are also considered to be a part of a team. Students who miss performances let everyone down. For these reasons, attendance for performances is mandatory. Each performance that the band participates in will count toward a grade. Students who are in attendance will receive a 200 for a test grade. Students who fail to attend will receive a 0. The band holds two

performances a year. If a student misses a performance, they must attend two extra credit concerts approved by the director and turn in the concert reviews to make up the zero.

### **Scale/Rudiment Tests**

Each nine weeks scale/rudiment tests will be given to every member of the band. The students will be notified as to which scales/rudiments they will be tested on prior to the test. All scales must be played from memory exactly as it is written on the scale sheets.

### **Chair Tests**

Chair placement tests are playing tests given to encourage practice, competition within a section and individual growth on one's instrument for the purpose of seating placement within each section of the band. There will be at least one chair test per year.

### **WRITTEN (25%)**

#### **Written Work**

Periodically throughout the term the director will issue written work. This will either be out of the theory book or separate worksheets. This work will be turned in, and checked for accuracy for a grade or a written test will be administered.

### **TERMS (20%)**

#### **Terms Tests**

Each nine weeks terms tests will be given to every member of the band. The terms tests are to ensure that each member has a firm understanding of the terminology used in band music. These test may be made up before or after school within a reasonable amount of time.

### **DAILY (15%)**

#### **Daily Participation**

Students are expected to have all materials in class every day. Each student begins each nine-week period with a 100 daily grade average. If a student is unable to play or their instrument has been turned in for repairs, the director must receive written notification from a parent/guardian.

### **Notebook Check**

Periodically throughout the term the director will check the students notebooks to make sure that they are keeping all sheet music in plastic sheet protectors, keeping up with their practice record, have a copy of the terms list, and any other important handouts. Students should have their notebook at all times.

### **Equipment Check**

Periodically throughout the term the director will check to make sure that students have all of the proper equipment with their instrument.

*Woodwinds* = all pieces to their instrument, cork grease, cleaning towel/swab and 3 reeds

*Brass* = All pieces to their instrument, cleaning towel and valve oil.

*Percussion* = Bells, Snare Drum, Drum Pad, Drumsticks, Bell Mallets and Drum Key.

### **RECORDS (10%)**

#### **Practice Records**

Practice records are a way for the band director and parents to keep track of how much and what each student is practicing. The records should be considered the bands *daily homework*. There are three practice records due each nine weeks with three weeks on each record. It is the responsibility of the student to keep up with the records and turn them in on time.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Jazz Ensemble**

##### **PERFORMANCE (50%)**

See above for description

##### **WRITTEN (20%)**

See above for description

##### **DAILY (30%)**

See above for description

#### **Concert Review/Extra Credit**

Any student who attends a musical event such as a local public school band concert, symphony concert, college band concert, Spoleto Festival event or musical theater performance and brings back a ticket stub and / or a program with a one page written review of the performance will receive **extra credit** at the end of that grading period. This written review must follow the guidelines set forth in a handout available from the director.

## PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

All students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. It is difficult for directors to give students enough individual attention on their instruments. Students who take private lessons will move along faster than students who do not. These students will find a greater success at county, region, and state band auditions. Please contact Mr. Ward if you are interested in taking private lessons. I have a list of teachers from students to professionals that should be able to meet you and your child's needs.

## MORNING & AFTERNOON PRACTICE

The band room is open most mornings and afternoons for students to practice their instruments by themselves or with other students. Students are encouraged to use this time for practice purposes only, to make up test, or to receive help. **HORSEPLAY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** Parents are asked to make sure that their students have transportation arranged for after school practice. Band students are reminded that non-band members are not permitted in the band hall. For morning practice times students are asked to enter through the rear door in the band room. **Students are not permitted in the school hallways before school.**

Hours:

Mornings = 7:15 – 7:50

Afternoons = 2:50 – 5:00\*

\*Afternoon practices are at the discretion of the director's schedule. Please check with the director before making any definite plans.\*

\*\*The band room may not be available every day due to rehearsals, sectionals or private instruction. Please check with the director daily.  
\*\*

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to take their instruments home and practice each day.
- Students are expected to use the restroom before or after class / rehearsal.
- Students are expected to respect the director, teachers, substitute, each other, the administrators or any person associated with the band program.

- Students are expected to enter the band room in a quiet and calm manner and be on time for class and rehearsals.
- Students are expected to keep their hands to themselves and not touch another student, their instrument or any percussion instrument.
- Students are expected to bring all "Class Materials" to class each day.
- Students are expected to get their chair, stand and instrument out and assembled by the time the director steps onto the podium.
- Students are expected to sit quietly when the director, another student, teacher, administrator or anyone associated with the band program is on the podium.
- Students are expected to follow any and all directions given by a director, teacher, administrator, chaperone, or any adult associated with the band program.
- Students are expected to take care of all school owned instruments and notify the director immediately if there is a problem.
- Students are expected to help police the band hall. Students who are not enrolled in band are not permitted in the band hall unless the director, another teacher or administrator gives prior permission.

## FESTIVAL BAND

The Festival Band is a highly polished group of students made up from the members of the seventh and the eighth grade bands. The Festival Band is a traveling group. Every year this group represents Westview Middle School and Berkeley County School District at the South Carolina Band Directors Association Concert Performance Assessment. This group may in the future have the opportunity to travel to festivals and conventions in other parts of the country. For these reasons, this group is auditioned. Audition requirements will be posted prior to the audition process, and the students that are able to execute those requirements at the highest levels of proficiency will be asked to join.



## **BAND TRIPS**

Students enrolled in band may have the opportunity to participate in a trip at some point in time. This may include, but is not limited to, missing portions or all of the school day. Students are responsible for making up any missed work and should check with their teachers before the event. Students who are not meeting an acceptable level of academic progress may not be allowed to go on the trip. Each student's situation will be reviewed before hand and parents will be notified with any concern. Students are reminded that when on a trip they represent the Westview Middle School Band, Westview Middle School, Berkeley County School District, themselves and their parents. Students with a history of misconduct in school may not be allowed to go on the trip. Each student's situation will be reviewed before hand and parents will be notified with any concerns.

## **BAND DISCIPLINE PLAN**

The Discipline Plan used with The Bands of Westview Middle School is a very structured one. Listed below are the rules that your child will have to follow in the band room and on trips. The consequences that your child will face should he/she choose to disobey the rules **and** the rewards for expected behavior are included as well.

### **Rules for Band**

1. Follow Directions
2. Be in your seat on time with all materials
3. Keep hands, feet and other objects to yourself
4. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak
5. Play your instrument only when told to do so!
6. Follow all Berkeley County and Westview Middle School rules

### **Consequences**

1<sup>st</sup> time – Warning  
2<sup>nd</sup> time – Detention and/or Disciplinary Writing Assignment  
3<sup>rd</sup> time – Detention and parent conference  
4<sup>th</sup> time – Office referral

Severe offenses will result in immediate office referral.

## **Rewards**

- Praise
- Limited free time
- Other treats
- More Pleasant Director**

Every time the director has to address student behavior in class or at rehearsal it will be noted in the discipline log. Parents are welcome and encouraged to check their student's behavior at any time.

## **REHEARSALS AND CONCERTS**

Periodically throughout the school year it will be necessary to have after or before school rehearsals to prepare for concerts and / or trips. The attendance at these rehearsals is mandatory. The success of the band program depends on having every student involved at each rehearsal. Students who consistently fail to attend festival rehearsals may be released from the ensemble. If a student is absent from any rehearsal or performance, the director must receive written notification from a parent/guardian.

Students and parents are very busy these days and the director will make every effort to notify the students / parents of the after school rehearsal schedule one week or more in advance. In most cases parents will be notified of rehearsals several weeks in advance. Parents are responsible for arranging and providing transportation to rehearsals and concerts. Parents are asked to make sure that the students arrive 15 minutes before the scheduled time and are picked up no later than 30 minutes after events.

## **UNIFORMS**

### **All Bands**

The uniforms for the bands will be the band golf shirt, Black slacks or appropriate skirt, Black sock / hose and Black Shoes. The band shirt will be ordered at the beginning of the year and will be worn at all band functions unless otherwise specified.

Band Golf Shirt = \$20.00

\*All fees will be paid to the Westview Middle School Band Booster Club\*

\*\*Parents will be notified of any price change\*\*

## **DRESS CODE**

While in public the students of The Bands of Westview Middle School will adhere to the dress code policies of the Berkeley County School District. It is understood that distracting hairstyles and jewelry might be inappropriate for a band, group or individual performance setting. Your personal grooming and attire reflect upon our group and the director reserves the right to have our school and band represented in a reasonable manner. **While in public, students will remain in full uniform. Students may not break uniform without the director's permission.**

## **BAND WEBSITE**

The band's website was established as another way for students, parents and the director to keep in contact with each other and to provide a medium for information about our program. Students can download the practice records, terms list, scale sheet, and find links to other band related sites. Parents will be able to find out news and information from the booster club as well as links to register for our year round fundraisers. The website is updated often by Mr. Ward so please check the site frequently. If you have any ideas or would like to have something published on the website, please contact Mr. Ward.

[www.wvmbands.com](http://www.wvmbands.com)

The official website of the South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) is

[www.bandlink.org](http://www.bandlink.org)

This website contains valuable information for students concerning state sponsored events.

## **BERKELEY COUNTY BAND EVENTS**

Currently Berkeley County has only one band related event for middle school students to participate in. All-County Band is an auditioned group consisting of band students from around Berkeley County. Students interested in participating in this group must prepare all of the requirements as described by the Berkeley County Band Directors. Students who perform at the highest levels will be asked to join the group.

Audition Registration fee = \$5.00

Auditions for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are generally held around the first Saturday in December and the clinic in January or February. Beginner auditions usually occur at the junior clinic and their clinic is in April. An information sheet will go home to interested students.

\*All fees will be paid to the Westview Middle School Band Booster Club \*

## **SOUTH CAROLINA BAND DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**

The South Carolina Band Directors Association (SCBDA) is an association made up of most band directors in the state of South Carolina. The organization functions under the South Carolina Music Educators Association (SCMEA). The purposes of the SCBDA is to provide support for music education standards for bands in South Carolina and to establish and conduct activities which will serve to enhance and enrich the growth in music education of our individual students and of the band programs in South Carolina schools.

### **SCBDA Events:**

#### **Region Band**

Region Band is an auditioned group consisting of band students from each region (five in all). Our region, Region 5, consists of twelve counties along the South Carolina Coast. Students interested in participating in this group must prepare all of the requirements as described by the SCBDA. Students who perform at the highest levels will be asked to join the group.

Audition Registration fee = \$6.00

Clinic Registration fee = \$6.00

\*Registration and fee deadlines will be posted\*

#### **All-State Band**

Students who are chosen to participate in Region Band may be given the opportunity to audition to make the South Carolina All-State Band. The audition requirements are the same as region band. Students who perform at the highest levels will be placed in this group and will be removed from the region band. However, these students may and should still attend the region clinic as alternates.

### **Solo & Ensemble**

Solo & Ensemble is an opportunity for students to perform by themselves before a judge or in a group. Students will receive a rating for their performance. Students who receive a superior or excellent rating will receive a certificate. Students receiving a superior rating at this event will have the opportunity to purchase a medal for \$3.25.

#### **Definitions:**

- a. **Solo:** A piece of music executed by one performer either alone or with accompaniment.
- b. **Small Ensemble:** A group of two to six musicians performing together.
- c. **Large Ensemble:** A group of seven or more musicians performing together.

#### **Registration Fees:**

Solos = \$6.00  
Small Ensembles = \$3.00 per person  
Large Ensembles = \$3.00 per person  
Theory Test = \$2.00

\*Registration and fee deadlines will be posted\*

### **Concert Band Performance Assessment**

This is an SCBDA event where the director will prepare the Festival Band with three pieces of music and we will go as a group to perform in front of a panel of judges. We will also perform a piece we have never seen for a panel of judges to determine our skill level. The band will receive a rating for its performance.

### **SCBDA RATING SYSTEM**

#### **Rating I – Superior**

Represents the best conceivable performance for the event and class being judged; worthy of the distinction of being recognized as a first place performance. This rating may be compared to a grade of 95 to 100.

#### **Rating II – Excellent**

An exceptional performance in many respects but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in performance or to ineffective interpretation. A performance of distinctive quality, this rating might be compared to a grade of 87 to 94.

#### **Rating III – Good**

A good performance but not outstanding, showing accomplishments and marked promise but lacking in one or more essential qualities. This rating might be compared to a grade of 80 to 86.

#### **Rating IV- Average**

An average performance but not worthy of a III rating. Comparable to a grade of 75-79.

#### **Rating V – Poor**

Much room for improvement.

### **OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD**

The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in musical performance in school band programs. To win this award, the band must have 7 or more students participating in either Region Band or All-State Band, must make a Superior or Excellent at Concert Performance Assessment, and must have 7 or more festival students make a Superior rating at Solo & Ensemble. Only then will the Bands of Westview Middle School Qualify to win the OPA.

The Bands of Westview Middle School have received the Outstanding Performance Award SIXTEEN years!

**1996-1997,1997-1998,1998-1999,  
1999-2000, 2000-2001,2001-2002,2004-  
2005,2005-2006,2006-2007,2007-  
2008,2008-2009,2009-2010,2010-2011,  
2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014  
Keep up the good work!**

### **MONEY**

Periodically throughout the year students may have to turn money into the director, a parent, or business representative for fundraisers or for supplies purchased. All money that is to be turned in must be in a sealed envelope with the following information:

- Student's name.
- Student's grade.
- Student's class period
- Instrument.
- How much is enclosed.
- The purpose of the money.

It is very important that students and parents observe this policy to minimize the possibility of confusion. Money will not be accepted unless presented in the manner outlined above.

### **BAND DROP POLICY**

Students may drop band the first week of school by filling out a request of schedule change form or at the end of each semester. Students who wish to drop band should have their parents contact the band director by phone, note, or email. The director will then discuss with administration the student / parent wishes. Only then will the student be dropped from band. This policy must be followed to be sure to protect the best interest of the students and to protect the investment of the parents.

### **FUNDRAISING**

Because Berkeley County School District only funds a portion of the budget needed to function on a yearly basis, fundraising is necessary. Each student is expected to participate in fundraisers and raise their "fair share." This is expected because all students benefit from materials purchased through our budget.

#### **Year Round Fundraiser**

##### ***Publix***

This program gives credit for each purchase made by a person who uses the Westview Band Publix Card. Each time you shop at Publix you must have the Westview Band Card Scanned and we will earn the points. Each quarter if we earn \$500.00 or more they will send us a check.

Westview Band Publix Cards are available from the director.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Throughout the year students will travel to various events related to band. Some of the transportation will be handled by the band via bus, van, or car. The rest of the responsibility will fall on the parents. Schedules for events involving parent transportation will be given out prior to each event. Listed below is a rough outline of some of the transportation responsibilities.

- Berkeley All-County Band Auditions – Parent
- All-Region Band Auditions – Parent
- All-State Band Auditions – Parent
- All-County Band Clinic – Parent
- All-Region Band Clinic – Parent
- All-State Band Clinic – School
- Concert Performance Assessment – School

- Spring Trip (if applicable) – School
- Solo and Ensemble – Parent

### **BAND BOOSTER CLUB**

The purpose of the Westview Middle School Band Booster Club is to serve and support the Band Directors' plans and needs for the Bands of Westview Middle School. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the program has sufficient funding and support to provide a quality music experience.

Fundraising activities help supplement funding provided for the band from the Berkeley County School District. Funding provided by the booster club helps to purchase new instruments / equipment, master classes, clinicians, music, pay for band travel, accommodations and other items considered important for the education of our students. The booster club will meet quarterly.

***At anytime, Berkeley County School District, the Administrators of Westview Middle School and / or the Band Director reserves the right to restructure or disband the Band Booster Club should it be deemed unproductive or counterproductive to the educational goals set by the Band Director.***

### **QUESTIONS / CONCERNS**

Throughout the year, you as parents will have many questions about activities, details, fundraising and other things. Hopefully this handbook will answer many of your questions. The best way to avoid conflict and confusion is a clear line of communication. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. As you may know the school day is very busy and usually there are before and after school rehearsals that occupy my time. If you call the school you may have to leave a message. I will respond as soon as possible. Email is best.

#### ***The Bands of Westview Middle School***

101 Westview Blvd.

Goose Creek, SC 29445

School Phone: (843) 572-1700

School Fax: (843) 820-4066

Ronnie C. Ward

wardr@bcscschools.net

WWW.WVMBANDS.COM

<http://www.berkeley.k12.sc.us/webpages/rward>

# ***Publix Education Partners***

This program gives credit for each purchase made by a person who uses the Westview Band Publix Card. Each time you shop at Publix have your Westview Band Card Scanned and we will earn the points. At the end of a quarter our points will be reviewed and they will send us a check.

Westview Band Publix Cards are available from the director.

# **STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET**

Please fill out and **return** entire sheet to Mr. Ward.

(6<sup>th</sup> graders fill out after they obtain instruments)

Please provide the information below: (Please Print Clearly)

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ SUBDIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT SERIAL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT MANUFACTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

INSTRUMENT MODEL NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM WHOM YOU PUCHASED IT: \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION SHEET**

Please fill out and **return** entire sheet to Mr. Ward.

The information requested below is for the express use of the band director. Its only purpose is to ensure that your contact information is current and correct. The band director will keep this on hand during the school year for band trips in case of emergency.  
Please Print Clearly.

CHILD'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LEGAL GUARDIAN #1:**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATION: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### **LEGAL GUARDIAN #2:**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATION: \_\_\_\_\_ PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ TYPE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS OR CONCERNS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one of the items below

\_\_\_\_\_ I have insurance to cover my child if an injury should occur while he/she is participating in any of the above extra curricular activities and understand that I will be responsible for all bills incurred.

Name of Insurance company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I **do not** have coverage on my child.

Please sign and return entire sheet to Mr. Ward.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Class period: \_\_\_\_\_

***By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand all of the information found within this handbook. I agree to follow these rules and procedures while a student at Westview Middle School.***

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand all of the information found within this handbook. I will do my best to work with the Band Director to enforce these rules and procedures.***

Parent / Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_