



2016
Student Handbook

“Excellence through Class, Style, and Pride”

WMB Activities

The WMB is an active organization beginning in late spring with practice season following with parades during the late spring and summer; finishing up with our competition season in the fall.

Rehearsals

A rehearsal schedule will be available at the beginning of the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. Typically practices are Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6-9 but may be adjusted due to availability of practice facilities or special events. Please be aware that updates to the schedule are made throughout the season as we have to work around the activities scheduled in the schools. The current schedule will be posted on the website and will be available near the student folders. Students are encouraged to schedule other activities around rehearsals. **All absences must be reported to Mr. House at 585-764-2055 or by email as soon as possible at Stephen_House@websterschools.org.**

◆Students are expected to bring the following with them to practices:

- Writing utensils
- Water Bottle
- Music & Dot Books

◆Students are required to dress appropriately at all rehearsals. Students are expected to wear sneakers at all times during practices. *Be prepared for any type of weather!*

Parades

The WMB performs in several parades during the spring and summer. The schedule is released early so that you can plan ahead. Handouts are given out to let you know the details of each parade such as uniform information, transportation arrangements, and time schedules.

Band Camp

Band camp is **MANDATORY**. Band camp is an intensive block of rehearsals held in August when the band rehearses the specific field music and movements for the competitive field show.

For 2016 Band Camp will be 8 days: Monday –Thursday August 8-11 and August 15-18 from 4:00PM – 9:00PM. A mid- rehearsal snack break will be provided by the Boosters. Band members can bring their own food if they desire. Breaks are limited so band members are not allowed to leave the school grounds. An information sheet will be sent home to give ideas on how to dress and what your band member may need.

Football Games

Typically the WMB performs at three to four games during halftime at either Thomas or Schroeder High Schools. These games will be identified as part of the fall schedule and information will be provided prior to each game.

Competitions

Our competition season runs about eight weeks in the fall - September through October. We travel on weekends to various locations in western and central New York. In addition, the band may travel to a Regional Competition through BOA (Bands of America) or USBands. Competition days typically start at 10am with practice prior to boarding buses to the events. Competitions are typically in the evening and we return to Webster late in the evening. Most events occur on Saturdays, but for the few that are on Sunday before a school day, please be aware that according to the Webster Central School policy: *“attendance at school is expected the day following a late return”*.

The New York State Field Band Competition at Syracuse University (NYSFBC) (aka “THE DOME” or “STATES”)

This event is the grand finale of the New York State Field Band Conference competition season and will be held Sunday October 30, 2016. This is the day you have worked hard for through dedication and perseverance. The WMB competes in the Large School 2 Division which typically competes during the day time hours. More information will follow regarding the schedule on this day.

Expected Behavior

The WMB members are expected to behave in a manner that promotes the Band motto:

“Excellence through Class, Style, and Pride”

General Rules

At all MB practices and events, members are expected to adhere to the following expectations:

- Be respectful to those in authority – Staff, Chaperones, Medics, Equipment Staff, Bus drivers and other adults at events. Give careful attention to all instructions and directions.
- Come to rehearsal with a healthy attitude conducive to learning and prepared by practicing at home and doing the required pre-work.
- No talking or negative disruption during rehearsals.
- Be responsible for your belongings- water bottles, clothing, uniforms, etc. Members are expected to clean up after themselves including practice rooms and areas (fields or parking lots) and buses. Everything and or place is to be left in better condition than we left it.
- Make sure all instruments and equipment are properly put away at the conclusion of rehearsals and performances.
- Refrain from roughhousing or dangerous behavior.
- Do not use inappropriate language.
- Stay in the practice areas; do not leave the school grounds.
- No displays of affection.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices are **not** to be carried or used during practices, parades, events and competitions. Students will have the opportunity to use them on breaks or after the practice or performance. Please have your parent contact your staff's cell phone numbers if your family needs to contact you during rehearsal.
- No chewing gum at rehearsals or performances.

Bus Rules

- No one will sit in the back seat of school busses – hats may be stored there.
- Sit properly in a seat at all times. No more than 2 people per bench
- Keep your area clean and neat – no one will be allowed off of the buses until it is clear of trash.
- Keep aisles clear.
- Never throw anything out the windows, reach out the window, or yell, communicate or gesture to anyone outside of the bus.
- Do not bring glass containers, aerosol sprays, nail polish or nail polish remover on the bus.
- Never open the rear door of the bus or emergency exits except in the case of an emergency
- No loud or inappropriate music or videos
- **If you are not returning back to the school with the band, you must have a note from your parents and signed by Mr. House.** You and the adult you are leaving with must check out with your busses or trip assigned chaperone before leaving the event.
- **No displays of affection – if couples are found behaving inappropriately, they will be separated and not allowed to sit together for the rest of the season.**

Sportsmanship

- Always display good sportsmanship by giving support and encouragement to other student, parents and supporters we see from other bands/schools.

Attendance Policy

Rehearsals and performances are very important and students are expected to attend every event.

ALL FALL SEASON PERFORMANCES ARE MANDATORY INCLUDING FOOTBALL GAMES

Absenteeism:

- Students that have known conflicts with outside activities will need to bring these to the attention of the Band director and caption head prior to commitment night. Additional conflicts that occur during the season need to be brought up as soon as they arise. In the event that a student misses, it is the responsibility of the student to know what was covered and to make every attempt to learn what was missed prior to the next rehearsal. All decisions regarding conflicts with respect to the attendance policy will be left up to the discretion of the Band director and caption head.

Rules and Exception's

- School related functions such as: Awards ceremonies, concerts, and field trips, it is the responsibility of the student to learn what was covered at the rehearsal they missed.
 - Members are expected to attend all rehearsals, parades, sectionals, clinics, competitions and trips*. Exceptions are made for student illness or the death of a family member.
 - During summer months, members are expected to attend all rehearsals unless on vacation as documented and approved by Mr. House on the summer vacation form.
 - All Band Camps, Parades, Football Games, Competitions and trips are Mandatory.
 - Students are expected to arrange all non-emergency conflicts (doctors or dentist appointments, parties, work commitments, etc.) for other times outside a marching band rehearsal.
 - If a student has a sport, school extra-curricular activity or religious obligation, he or she must report to rehearsal no later than 7pm during weeknight rehearsals and noon on Saturday rehearsals. These conflicts will also be dealt with on a case by case basis.
 - **Students or parents must notify Mr. House at Stephen_House@websterschools.org at least three days prior to a rehearsal of a possible conflict. If a student is sick, the student or parent must notify Mr. House no later than two hours prior to the rehearsal.**
 - Students are not allowed any unexcused absences and can be removed from performances or the program. This includes the big trip. No monies will be refunded in this situation.
 - If a student misses too many rehearsals they may be dismissed from the program. These instances will be dealt with on a one on one basis and will be left up to the discretion of the Band director.
- *Clinics, band camps and mandatory practices: During these events, we will occasionally bring in writers and or clinicians to work with the band. 100% participation ensures quality across the board.

As always there are exceptions to these rules and these exceptions will be granted on a case by case basis by Mr. House only. Discussion with the student's caption head will be taken into consideration.

Uniforms and Equipment

All band members are responsible for:

- **Uniforms** – Each member is issued a uniform - including shoes, that needs to be cared for as described in the **Uniform Handbook**. Be sure to read the instructions regarding uniform care and equipment responsibilities, which will be provided as uniforms and equipment are distributed. Uniform bags are provided for all uniforms and must be used at all times. Please contact the color guard or band uniform chairperson if something is missing or needs repair.
- **Gloves** – Certain members of the band and guard may be required to wear gloves which will be provided by the boosters.
 - Guard – if you lose your pair of gloves, you may be able to purchase new gloves from the boosters for \$15 per pair.
 - Winds - We will supply a new pair of gloves to each member three times during the year (When they receive their uniforms/ at the beginning of the competition season and the day of the Autumn Fanfare. If a student loses their gloves or requires more than the three pairs we provide, the student can purchase their gloves from the boosters for the cost of \$3.50 per pair.
- **Colorguard Parade uniform** - top is supplied by the band. Student will need to provide black yoga pants, black socks and a white tank top (no spaghetti straps). Black shoes will be purchased by the boosters. Shoes will also be used for the 2016 field show.
- **Colorguard Competition Uniform** - Show uniform, body stocking or undergarment will be supplied by the band. Student will need to provide socks or stockings.
- **Parade Day Uniforms are the standard full dress uniforms**
 - Exceptions to this rule are on a case by case basis and will be determined by the director only.
- **Clothing to be provided by the band member and worn with the uniform:**
 - Musicians - Black(not blue or any other color or pattern) socks that cover the ankle(crew length), Black t-shirt with short sleeves (no logos, no tank tops) and silky-type shorts to go under the uniform pants
 - Guard – Socks or stockings to match uniform as requested approved by the guard staff

BAND MEMBERS ARE NEVER ALLOWED TO EAT OR DRINK ANYTHING OTHER THAN WATER WHILE IN UNIFORM.

*****NO JEWELRY IN UNIFORM*****

This includes necklaces, bracelets, any piercings, and gauges. If you wear gloves that are cut off, no nail polish in uniform either.

*****Hair while in uniform*****

For Front Ensemble – To be determined by competition season and approved by the director.

Winds and Battery – Tied into a bun to fit inside the shako (Uniform Hat) unless too short. Hair not in a bun must be approved by director.

Colorguard – To be decided and approved by colorguard staff.

- **Instruments or equipment** – the members are expected to bring their equipment to each practice in good working order. Any issues with equipment or instruments need to be immediately brought to the attention of the staff.

Colorguard Requirements

Pre Commitment (Phase I)

- Rehearsals will teach the students the skills necessary for the season. Skills will include dance, movement, marching, spinning and technique for several kinds of equipment that we may use throughout the season.

Post Commitment night/Parade Season/Auditions (Phase II)

- Rehearsals will give the students time to master the skills, learn the parade routine, and join us for the parade season. This is also a time for the students to “audition” for a spot in the 2016 show.

Show Preparation (Phase III)

- Rehearsals will focus on learning the 2016 show. It is imperative that members be present to be included in the show. If a student is not present when a new song is taught they may not be included in that portion of the show. Subsequently this may affect the remainder of the show that the student is able to participate in if we cannot get the student back into the show unobtrusively.

Proper rehearsal attire/etiquette

- It is the student’s responsibility to dress appropriately at all rehearsals. If not dressed appropriately you will be sent home and this will count as an unexcused absence. Nothing Baggy - NO PAJAMAS - NO DENIM.
- Please pull your hair back out of your face.
- You may dance barefoot or with socks for dance class.
- FIELD REHEARSAL requires you to wear low-cut sneakers (below the ankle) that lace up, no flip-flops or sandals.
- Dress in layers. A light jacket may be worn if it gets chilly.
 - Sometimes we will ask that you wear black dance pants and a white t-shirt or tank top. You will know ahead of time if this is required.

Important safety measures:

- NO DANGLING EARRINGS - this is a safety concern - our flag fabric can easily get caught in your earrings.
- EYEGASSES are another safety concern. If equipment hits your face and breaks your glasses you could be blinded or sustain serious injuries. If you have contact lenses you may want to wear them.

Members are required to read and understand the Webster School District policies on Academic Eligibility and Alcohol and Drug Regulations and to sign their acceptance of the policies.

The Board of education is committed to the prevention of alcohol and any other drug use. It is the policy of the Webster Central School District that an alcohol and other drug-free environment be maintained. No person may use, possess, sell, manufacture, or share drugs, alcohol, or other illicit substances or associated paraphernalia on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school functions. The following guidelines reflect the range of District responses to incidents and issues related to drugs, alcohol, and other illicit substances. District policies and programs are aimed at prevention, intervention and support.

Pursuant to the Board of Education Policy 5179, firm disciplinary consequences will apply to any student who is at school or at a school-sponsored activity under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or other illicit substances or in possession of them or of paraphernalia for their use. Elevated consequences will apply to any student who sells or distributes such substances at school or school-sponsored activity. The term “drugs, alcohol or other illicit substances” in this policy refers to substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, tobacco (including smokeless tobacco), inhalants, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, amphetamines, heroin, steroids, look-alikes, any substances referred to as “designer drugs”, prescription and nonprescription medication (unless possession of the medication is authorized as described below).

AT SCHOOL OR SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

Administration of Prescription/Non-prescription Medications in the School Setting

A written order from a duly licensed prescriber and written parental permission to administer the medication are required. All medications, including nonprescription drugs, given in school shall be prescribed by a licensed prescriber on an individual basis as determined by the student’s health status. All medications must be stored in and administered through the nurses’ office. If school nursing personnel receive a request from a parent and licensed prescriber to permit a student to carry and self-administer her/his own prescribed medication, such decisions should be made on an individual basis.

Any other use of prescription/non-prescription medications, including sharing with other students, will be considered a violation of this regulation.

Possession or Under the Influence

When a student appears to be under the influence of, and/or in possession of drugs or alcohol or associated paraphernalia, the matter will be reported to a responsible school administrator and an appropriate investigation will be conducted; if the use of alcohol is reasonably suspected, an alcohol breath testing device (‘alco-sensor’) may be administered. When there is reasonable suspicion that a student or other person at a school related activity is under the influence or in possession of drugs, alcohol, or an illicit substance or associated paraphernalia, they will be denied admission to or participation in the activity pending an appropriate investigation by the administrator or other responsible school personnel at the activity.

Consequences

In all cases, parents will be notified as soon as possible and consequences will be applied:

- For any drug/alcohol related offenses, committed at school or at a school-sponsored event students will be subject to a short term suspension by the Principal (up to 5 days), and will be referred to a Superintendent's hearing to consider long term suspension.
- Where a drug/alcohol related incident includes the possibility of criminal activity, police will be contacted by the responsible administrator and appropriate legal action will be taken.
- For high school students found guilty of drug/alcohol related charges at a Superintendent's hearing, the period of suspension that will be considered will be twenty (20) weeks, unless otherwise determined by the Superintendent of Schools based on all relevant factors. At the discretion of the Superintendent, Webster Central School District high school students who voluntarily commit to and follow through with a prescribed program of support as described below may reduce that suspension by up to fifteen (15) weeks.
- For middle school students found guilty of charges at a Superintendent's hearing, the period of suspension that will be considered will be fifteen (15) weeks, unless otherwise determined by the Superintendent of Schools based on all relevant factors. At the discretion of the Superintendent, Webster Middle School students who voluntarily commit to and follow through with a prescribed program of support may reduce that suspension by up to twelve (12) weeks.
- Incidents at the elementary level will be considered on a case by case basis.

Program of Support

If the Superintendent authorizes participation in a support program and the student agrees, the Chemical Abuse Prevention Counselor will design and monitor the program, which will include at least the following components:

1. At least (1) meeting/contact per week with the Chemical Abuse Prevention (CAP) Counselor.
2. Evaluation by an outside drug/alcohol agency and involvement with an agency-sponsored support program (student/parent will be required to sign an exchange of information document which permits communication between the outside agency and the CAP counselor)
3. Student will be required to attend all tutoring sessions, complete assignments, and adhere to the Webster Central School District Code of Conduct.

The Chemical Abuse Prevention Counselor and treatment agency personnel will monitor the student's commitment and adherence to the prescribed program and will make recommendations to the principal and Superintendent with respect to reductions in the period of suspension. If it is determined, at any point, that the student is not adhering to the specific treatment program, he/she will not be granted a reduction of the suspension period.

Sale or Distribution

Students found guilty at a Superintendent's hearing of the sale or distribution of drugs, alcohol, or other illicit substances or associated paraphernalia will be suspended for a minimum of 40 weeks and will not have the opportunity for a reduced suspension, unless otherwise determined by the Superintendent of Schools based on all relevant factors. Students will be afforded a prescribed program that will include the following:

1. At least (1) meeting/contact per week with the Chemical Abuse Prevention (CAP) Counselor.
2. Evaluation by an outside drug/alcohol agency and involvement with an agency-sponsored support program (student/parent will be required to sign an exchange of information document which permits communication between the outside agency and the CAP counselor)
3. Student will be required to attend all tutoring, complete assignments, and adhere to the Webster Central School District Code of Conduct.

Prevention

A prevention program will be implemented and modified as needed to prevent or delay the onset of alcohol, tobacco and other substance use by students to encourage healthy lifestyles. The program includes but is not limited to the following:

1. Sequential K-12 prevention education that is incorporated across the instructional program. This education will address the legal, social and health consequences of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.
2. Information will be provided and training made available for each school's faculty, staff and parents/guardians to reinforce the policy in the home, school, and community.
3. The District will assist students to develop appropriate life skills and decision-making skills to help them develop effective techniques for resisting pressure to use alcohol and other drugs.
4. The District will require an active prevention/intervention and disciplinary program which will promote a safe and responsive learning climate for students.

Intervention

An intervention program will be implemented and modified as needed to address any existing use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances and identifying and providing supportive services to students in kindergarten through 12th grade who are at high risk for using substances. This program includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Identification, assessment, and referral process
2. Support for students who are in the recovery process
3. Support for high risk students
4. Education for parents/guardians on accessing the Districts intervention services
5. Confidentiality of identification, assessment and referral

SPORTS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – NON-SCHOOL RELATED VIOLATIONS

Students who participate in extracurricular activities and/or athletics are role models for other students, both at school and away from school. They are subject to the same drug and alcohol rules as all other students. In addition, when a student who is a member of any extracurricular club, team, organization, etc. uses, distributes or is in possession of alcohol or other drugs off school grounds and when not engaged in a school-sponsored activity, the following will apply:

- 1) When an allegation is made, the investigation will be conducted by the Principal or Assistant Principal which will include a meeting with the student and an opportunity for the student and parent to explain the student's side and provide any relevant evidence.
- 2) If the student is found guilty of the violation, the penalty will be suspension from all extracurricular activities/athletics for one calendar year, unless the student voluntarily agrees to participation in a recommended program of support as described below.
- 3) Parents/guardians will be contacted and a conference will be arranged to include the student, parents/guardians, principal or his or her designee, and Chemical Abuse Prevention (CAP) counselor.
- 4) Parents and student will be offered the opportunity for the student to voluntarily participate in a recommended program of support which will reduce the suspension from extracurricular activities to two calendar weeks
 - Week 1: Student will be present at practices or activities but may not participate in them.
 - Week 2: Student will participate in practices or activities but may not participate in - contests/performances.
- 5) The program of support will be in a written agreement including at least the following:
 - a. Student will undergo a chemical use assessment by the CAP counselor or approved community agency
 - b. Student will undergo a drug test
 - c. Student will be expected to follow through with recommended treatment plan. Subject to due process, failure to do so will result in a disciplinary review and the student will be subject to further suspension from all extracurricular activities.
 - d. Students and parents will sign a consent form giving the agency or CAP counselor permission to release the result of the assessment and drug test to the school whether the assessment is pursued at school or at an agency.

Communication

This regulation is to be distributed to and reviewed at least annually with all District faculty, staff, students and parents/guardians and disseminated to the community through its organizations.

Webster Central School District

Academic Extra-Curricular Participation

Regulation (5010R)

The Webster Central School District believes that the primary objective for all students is to achieve academic success. The district also recognizes that many students choose to participate in extra-curricular activities. While participating in extra-curricular activities is encouraged, it should also be understood that participation is a privilege and that a relationship between academic effort, performance and participation exists. All students must also be in compliance with the district's attendance policy, which requires 85% attendance.

Activation of this protocol will be under the direction and supervision of the student's Assistant principal and the coach/ supervisor of the activity. Additionally, interventions will remain in place until grades are remediated to the satisfaction of the student's administrator or the end of the 5 and 10 week grading periods proves grades have improved. **Any appeal regarding eligibility and this regulation must go to the student's Assistant Principal.**

The following levels have been identified to help students understand the relationship between academic performance and extracurricular eligibility:

Level

I. **Failing one class**

Student must schedule an appointment with his/ her assistant principal to determine best intervention to remediate his/ her grades. Student remains eligible throughout the remediation process.

II. **Failing two classes**

Student is ineligible until he/ she schedules an appointment with his/ her assistant principal to determine causes of difficulty as well as interventions for remediation. To be eligible for participation, student must adhere to contract for remediation developed by administration and student.

III. **Failing three classes**

Student is not eligible for extracurricular activities nor are he/ she allowed to participate in practices until the 5 or 10 week grading period ends and eligibility is reevaluated.

***This regulation applies to all school activities regardless of monetary commitment.
This regulation does not prohibit any student from trying out for a school activity.***



More information and updates on schedule can be found at:

<http://webstermarchingband.webs.com/>

Have a great season!!