



Webb Bridge Middle School

Band Handbook

2022-2023

Webb Bridge Middle School Band

Mr. Stroud, Director of Bands

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 Webb Bridge Middle School Band Program. My name is Kirk Stroud and I am your band director. Please know that it is my sincere hope that all students in the Webb Bridge Band have a positive experience in band that they can take with them as they progress into high school.

Being a member of the band has many benefits that go beyond becoming a musician. Numerous studies have shown that students who are involved in music have higher test scores and get accepted to some of the best colleges. The music students are also typically the leaders within the school and community. Band provides a great opportunity to become a musician, but also brings with it many attributes that students should strive for: Work ethic, Persistence, Dedication, Commitment, etc. Joining band in middle school also sets you up for success at the high school level. Our feeder high schools have band programs that are nationally recognized and perform frequently at state and national conventions, and nationally recognized parades.

Overall, band can be very rewarding filled with many opportunities for performance. Again, I look forward to providing musical experiences and opportunities throughout this band year.

Very Sincerely,

Kirk Stroud

Stroud@fultonschools.org

Webb Bridge Middle School, Band Director



WBMS Band Activity Fee

At WBMS, we work to create vibrant, rigorous music programs that inspire passion in our students. Unfortunately, music programs are very costly and supply intensive. **In lieu of fundraisers**, our band, chorus, and orchestra are asking families to contribute **\$110 per performer**.

Payment Fee Link for the 2022-2023 School Year: [2022-2023 Band Activity Fee Link](#)

Binder: Each student will receive a black 1” binder to use in the classroom throughout the year.

Band Polo: Each student will receive a band polo for their band uniform.

Instruction: Throughout the year we will have clinicians come in and provide specialized instruction. The band fee will help to cover costs associated with bringing in some of the best directors and performers around.

Participation Fees: Participation fees include (1) entry fees for full-band participation in the annual GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation, and (2) Fees for other events as they may arise.

Instrument Repair: Maintaining school owned instruments throughout the year is crucial in order to provide quality school owned instruments.

Student Recognition: Student recognition includes (1) ALL GMEA medals and plaques, (2) concert receptions, (3) all end-of-year awards, and expenses for any other recognition events or materials as the need arises.

Miscellaneous: This category covers any and all expenses tied to the running of the Webb Bridge Band program that may arise.

Local School Fee

Please email me at Stroud@fultonschools.org if your family is unable to pay the fee.

Money will never keep a child from participating in our programs.

Communication

Communication is essential in any large performing group. Below are some ways in which we will be communicating with parents and students throughout the year.

Band Website

Please always visit: wbmsbands.org for the band calendar, up-to-date information, announcements and information relating to the band.

Charms Office

Charms is a program that helps band directors organize large groups of people, instrument inventory, music libraries and many other aspects related to running a band program. Each student has a Charms account that will need to be updated.

Microsoft Teams

For assignments we will be utilizing Microsoft Teams to communicate with the students in each class.

Best Way to get in touch

Mr. Stroud: Stroud@fultonschools.org

Band Room: Room #205

If you need to contact us on the phone, you are welcome to call the school at [470-254-2940](tel:470-254-2940).

About the Program

Webb Bridge Middle School has always had a commitment to excellence in music performance. The Webb Bridge Middle School Band Program consists of approximately 300 students in 6th, 7th and 8th Grade. The program has an ensemble for each grade level and a percussion and jazz ensemble program.

The band students at Webb Bridge consistently earn superior ratings at Georgia Music Educators Association Solo & Ensemble Festival, Large Group Performance Evaluation and have students that participate in both the district honor band and All-State Band. Recently, the 2019 8th Grade Symphonic Band performed at the 2019 Music for All Southeastern Regional Concert Band Festival and the University of Georgia's Midfest Band Festival as an invited ensemble. The bands at Webb Bridge Middle School have performed at the Trills and Thrills Music Festivals, consistently earning superior ratings, Universal Stars Program in Orlando, Florida and regularly reach out to the North Fulton Community through performances at events such as the North Fulton Relay for Life.

The Webb Bridge Middle School Band students feed directly into the Alpharetta High School Band Program, which has performed at the National Concert Band Festival, Georgia Music Educators State Convention, University of Georgia's Janfest and Midwest with the Alpharetta Symphony.



Director

Kirk Stroud, Director



Kirk Stroud is in his 17th year of teaching and 10th year as Band Director at Webb Bridge Middle School in Alpharetta, Georgia. He received his Bachelor of Music Education from Kennesaw State University where he studied trombone with Colin Williams and Richard Brady. In 2014, Mr. Stroud received his Master of Music Education from The University of Georgia.

Prior to Webb Bridge, Mr. Stroud was the Assistant Director of Bands at Campbell Middle and High School in Smyrna, GA for the Cobb County School District.

During his time at Webb Bridge, the band program has grown and earned consistent superior ratings at Large Group Performance Evaluation. In 2019 the 8th Grade Symphonic Band performed as an invited ensemble at the Music For All Southeastern Regional Concert Festival and the University of Georgia Midfest Band Festival.

Mr. Stroud has been recognized at Webb Bridge by the National League of Junior Cotillions Best-Mannered Teacher (2014), Rotary Club International Teacher of the Quarter (2015), Teacher of the Year (2017) and has received the National Band Associations Citation of Excellence (2019). Professional affiliations include Georgia Music Educators Association, National Association for Music Education and the Professional Association of Georgia Educators.

Mr. Stroud lives in Alpharetta, Georgia with his wife, Nicole, daughter Maren and our Cockapoo named Hugo!

Band Uniform

The Webb Bridge Band uniform for 2022-2023 consists of:

6th, 7th & 8th Grade Band Students

- Band Polo (provided through the to be announced band fee)
- Black Pants/Slacks – please no jeans, leggings or pants with sequins/designs
- Black Belt – if you want to wear a belt
- Black Dress Shoes/Flats – please no tennis shoes
- Black Socks for black dress shoes – not required for flats

The Band Polo must be tucked in for all band concerts/events throughout the year unless instructed otherwise.

We prepare our music to be performed at a high level of performance and we want to look our very best when we perform!

WBMS Band Materials

Binders:

- All Band Students: Students will be provided a hard 1” black binder for their music and warm-ups.

Method Books: (All provided by the school)

- 6th Grade: Habits of a Successful Beginner Band Musician (provided through band fee)
- 7th Grade: Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician (provided through the school)
- 8th Grade: Habits of a Successful Middle School Musician (provided through the school)

Individual Instrument Materials (All required 6th Grade Required Materials will be sent home in a packet)

Flute: Tuning rod (specific to your make & model), cotton cleaning swab or bandana.

Oboe/Bassoon: 3 reeds at all times (Jones medium-soft, or equivalent), reed case, small canister (prescription bottle – cleaned out!) for reed soaking, weighted silk swabs (for boot Joint and wing joint), bocal brush (or long pipe cleaners), cork grease.

All Clarinets: 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional: strength 2 ½ for 6th grade, strength 3 for 7th grade, strength 3 ½ for 8th grade), Bonade or Rovner Ligature, Clear mouthpiece patches, weighted silk swab, cork grease.

All Saxes: 4 reeds in a reed case at all times (Vandoren Traditional: strength 2 ½ for 6th grade, strength 3 for 7th grade/8th grade). Stock mouthpieces are fine for 6th Grade. Upgrade Recommendation: Selmer S90-190 Mouthpiece. BG, Bay, or Rovner Ligature, Clear mouthpiece patches, weighted silk swab, cork grease.

Trumpet: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.
Bach 5C mouthpiece or equivalent is best.

French Horn: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush.
Holton Farkas, Schilke 30 mouthpiece, King H2 or Conn H2 mouthpiece or equivalent is best.

Trombone: Slide lubricant, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.
Bach 6 ½ AL small shank mouthpiece (in most cases) or equivalent is best.

Euphonium & Tuba: Valve oil, tuning slide grease, mouthpiece brush, cleaning cloth.
For euphonium, a Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece or equivalent is best.
For tuba, Conn Helleberg mouthpiece is best. Bach 18 or equivalent is also good.

Percussion: See Below

All Grades:

- The Innovative Percussion FP2 Intermediate Mallet Pack or the Vic Firth EP2 Intermediate Education Pack (or equivalent – see below)

What the Innovative Percussion FP2 Intermediate Mallet Pack or Vic Firth EP2 Intermediate Pack contains in case you want to purchase each item separately.

- Pair of drumsticks, pair of timpani mallets, pair of xylophone mallets, pair of marimba mallets and stick bag for class – usually someone at the store can help you assemble a bag
- “Real Feel” 12” practice pad
- Pair of drumsticks, pair of timpani mallets, pair of xylophone mallets, pair of marimba mallets and stick bag for class – usually someone at the store can help you assemble a bag

***All percussion sticks and bags must be labeled. Every stick bag will have a strip of colored duct tape (your choice) and every mallet/stick must have that same color tape wrapped around it. This will help with not mixing up your students stick/mallet with other students.**

Instruments

A major component to band class is having your instrument in class every day. The instrument needs to be in working order so that the student can progress daily in their musical study.

If your instrument does have to go in for maintenance or repair, please notify Mr. Stroud.

Most local music retailers that provide instrument repair will provide a loaner for the time the instrument is out.

School-Owned Instruments

Students who need to have access to a school-owned instrument (**based on availability**) will be provided a school owned instrument. *Instruments are assigned at the discretion of the director and are available in VERY limited quantities.*

Students and the parents of students who use school-owned instruments must sign a Fulton County liability/loan contract. In signing the contract, parents/guardians are assuming responsibility for any major repairs incurred during the period of use. **Students using school-owned instruments are required to provide their own mouthpieces.** Please refer to the

materials list for appropriate mouthpieces. In the event of loss or major damages inflicted upon the instrument (major scratches, dents, dented valves, broken piping, curled bells, etc.) **the student (parent) is financially responsible for replacement/repair.** These instruments are **very expensive** and are purchased on a very limited budget. Students are responsible for cleaning instruments and performing regular upkeep duties, such as oiling valves, greasing slides, and applying cork grease where needed. Please be sure to keep cases latched and dusted when applicable.

6th Grade Band Class Expectation: Sign up for band in 6th Grade – Commit to a year!

Switching Instruments

Some students will be asked to change instruments so that our band can have a balanced instrumentation. This is the perfect opportunity for selected students to learn to play a new instrument. Typically, switches will remain within instrument families (ex: clarinet-bassoon, trumpet-euphonium, etc.) Of course, there are some exceptions to this rule. **Please note: Students may NOT switch to percussion instruments (unless the band is in need of more percussion players).** All instrument changes must be approved by Mr. Stroud. Instrument changes are based on ensemble need, as well as the availability of school-owned instruments.

As a general rule, students are expected to remain on the same instrument from 6th Grade to 8th Grade. This helps with keeping the ensemble progressing towards more difficult music literature and helps with the student developing skills on his or her instrument that will help them as they move into high school band.

Sixth Grade Instrument Switches

Sixth grade band students will begin their band experience playing one of the following instruments – Flute, Clarinet, Alto saxophone, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium (Baritone), Tuba and Percussion. **At the end of semester 1, the students will be introduced to more available instruments in the band. These include the oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone and baritone saxophone.** Selected students who express interest in switching will be allowed to try out for one or more of these instruments.

Purchasing New Instruments

Parents/guardians who wish to purchase a new instrument should feel free to contact Mr. Stroud. We will be more than happy to recommend a great step-up instrument that will prepare them with entrance into high school. **Always keep your beginner model instrument for use with the marching band in high school!**



Grading System

GRADE CATEGORIES AND WEIGHTS

Teachers work with their PLC to create Balanced Assessment Plans prior to each unit of study. Not all assessments are graded or count in a student's average. Grades are a representation of what a student knows, has learned and can demonstrate. All middle school course gradebooks at WBMS (and in Fulton County) are set up the same:

- 50% - Major: An assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature that measures learning targets from multiple standards/skills.
- 40% - Minor: An assignment or assessment that measures an individual learning target, standard, or subset of learning targets/standards/skills within a unit.
- 10% - Practice: Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework to build pre-requisite skills, measure progress towards mastery of a learning target or standard, enrich, and/or remediate skills.

Please see the band syllabus for more detailed information related to grading.

Daily Classroom Expectations*

During Class

1. Enter class as directed, get your instrument out, and report to your assigned chair.
2. Only percussion students should touch and practice on percussion instruments unless specifically directed by Mr. Stroud. **This includes when rehearsal is complete.**
3. Percussion students need to remove the mallet covers, fold them neatly and place them on the percussion cabinet while the instruments are in use.
4. Be prepared and seated on time. Follow directions on the board to prepare for each rehearsal. Students will be permitted to play before class the given warm-up exercises outlined in the class directions. After Mr. Stroud steps on the podium all talking stops and we will warm-up together as a group.
5. Be attentive during class.
6. **Respect** the right of others to learn.
7. Play only when directed to do so.
8. If you must ask a question during class, please raise your hand. Talking and conversation is not allowed during rehearsals except to ask questions or during teacher-directed class discussions.
9. Have all assigned music prepared on schedule.
10. Follow all verbal and written instructions.
11. At the end of the rehearsal, quietly pack up instrument and music, return them to the storage areas, and return to your seat. **All percussion students must place all equipment back neatly. All covers on mallet instruments must be placed back on at the end of each rehearsal.**
12. Pick up any trash near your chair. Straighten your chair and stand so that the room will be ready for the next class.
13. Write down homework assignment before leaving class.
14. Do not leave the room until you have been dismissed.

Behavior Guidelines

Our standards for musical excellence in band are high, as so they should be for conduct as well. Students are encouraged to follow Class Expectations included in this packet. If students follow these guidelines, they will enjoy a very productive, positive and fun year with the band.

Please refer to the student handbook regarding the WBMS Discipline cycle for the 2022-2023 school year.

Rehearsal & Concert Attendance

Students are expected to attend every rehearsal scheduled. In order for a band to be successful every person plays an important role in the music making process. I have put all rehearsals on the calendar so that the students and families can plan accordingly. **If a student must miss a scheduled rehearsal, please let Mr. Stroud know at least a week in advance.** Please know that I understand that family emergencies, illnesses and unforeseen circumstances occur, and these absences will be excused.

Students are expected to attend their concerts. A band is a performing group which can only develop to its fullest potential when each member is fulfilling his/her role completely. Absences not only affect the learning of one student, who misses the summative assessment, but also the learning of the other band students. Concert dates and times are published on the Band Website (www.wbmsbands.org) and in concert letters that go out via email approximately two weeks before each concert event.

How to handle conflicts

Students should be encouraged to participate in a variety of activities at this age, and sometimes conflicts will occur. Use the following guidelines to resolve any conflicts:

1. Subscribe to the band calendar online at wbmsbands.org with your smartphone/device.
2. Copy the Band Calendar (included in this handbook) into your family calendar.
3. Notify the directors of any school conflicts at least 1 week before the concert so that the directors may make arrangements.

Make-Up Policy

Missing a concert is the same as missing an exam or summary project in another class, and therefore requires an individual make-up performance with the teacher.

Private Lessons

We encourage every student – 6th, 7th, and 8th grade – to take private instruction from an accomplished musician. Private lessons make the most of your band investment, allowing for individual attention and a specialist's advice. Furthermore, lessons typically raise your audition

scores for Honor Band and All-State; it is rare for students to make these groups without taking private lessons. As an added benefit, private lessons help the band improve.

As the saying goes, “Make the *individual* better, and the band will get better.”

Contact the directors before choosing a private lesson teacher. We know the area very well and can help you with your selection.

Webb Bridge Band Student Recognition Program

Many of our Webb Bridge band students are recognized throughout the year for outstanding achievement in instrumental music. The areas for recognition are outlined below.

GMEA Honor Band and All-State Band

Students have the opportunity to earn a seat in the GMEA District 5 Honor Band and the GMEA All-State Band through an audition process. The audition consists of performing four major scales (as posted on www.GMEA.org) from memory plus the chromatic scale for the full range of the student's instrument from memory. In addition to scales, students must successfully sight-read two musical samples which are written in contrasting styles. Students preparing for the All-State Band audition must prepare to perform the etude for their specific instrument as posted on www.GMEA.org. Students performing in one or both of these groups will also earn a GMEA medal. Registration forms will be sent home.

The Webb Bridge Band Wall of Fame

Students earning a seat in the All-State band will have a plaque on permanent display in the band room on the All-State Band Wall of Fame.

GMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival

GMEA sponsors a Solo & Ensemble Festival where students have the opportunity to perform as a soloist or as a member of a small ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, quintet, etc.) Students awarded the rating of superior (I) or Excellent (II) will earn a GMEA medal. Registration forms will be sent home.

Please continue to visit www.wbmsbands.org for the latest news and information about the Webb Bridge Middle Bands!

I look forward to a fantastic year and if you have any questions, please feel free to email!

Sincerely,

Mr. Kirk Stroud

