

**WAUKESHA CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS
INSTRUMENTAL
MUSIC MANUAL
2016-2017
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN**



REBECCA VAN TREECK, BAND DIRECTOR
Waukesha Catholic-- St. Joseph Campus
St. Mary Campus

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TO THE PARENT

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you for being the parent of one of the finest students at Waukesha Catholic. At least that is how I feel about students who are involved in the school instrumental music program. I'm sure that you will agree.

Parents, I would like to emphasize the important role **you** play in the musical development of your child. Your constant support and encouragement can make all the difference in making his/her participation in the instrumental music program a successful and positive experience. Support can begin by promoting good practice habits, providing a separate area of the house and designating a specific practice time. All these things will certainly be beneficial for your child. Naturally, the single most important way you can show your support is your attendance at band performances. A list of the year's performances is attached at the end of this handbook.

This handbook has been prepared to keep both the student and the parent informed of the existing instrumental music program. Please sign and date the attached slip and return it after you have read the booklet. If you have any questions that still persist regarding the band program, please feel free to contact me at school (896-2930 X340), or by e-mail, bvantreeck@waukeshacatholic.org. Expressed interest in your child's activities is greatly appreciated.

Musically yours,

Rebecca Van Treeck
Waukesha Catholic Band Director

MISSION STATEMENT

Mission: Waukesha Catholic develops well educated, caring and confident individuals who lead Christ—centered lives and are inspired to build a better world.

TO THE STUDENT

First of all, I want to extend a very warm welcome to all band members. Hopefully, we all have had a safe, fun-filled, and refreshing summer. This year we begin with many brand new musicians as well as experienced performers. I am confident we can pool our talents together to form some exceptionally talented groups.

The band is one of the most visible and active organizations at your school. The St. Joseph Campus bands will perform concerts at least three to four times a year. Café Create, Waukesha Catholic's evening of showcasing the Fine Arts, will have a new look this year: It will be replaced with a day-long celebration of the arts, to be held during Catholic Schools Week. Look for more information in regards to this exciting day in the weeks ahead. The Cadet Band does not perform as often, about two to three times a year. 7th/8th Grade Jazz Ensemble will again be offered as an extra-curricular for students at the St. Joseph Campus. Jazz Combo is also an option for a small group of ambitious and highly motivated 8th graders.

We are counting on your dedication and responsibility toward the group so that it is possible to perform so often. Your time, talent and energy are needed to make this year musically successful.

This handbook has been prepared to inform you, the student, and your parent(s), about the instrumental music program. Take the time to read through it carefully. Students, you are encouraged to check your progress through PowerSchool. You may also email me or talk to me about any questions or concerns you may have. Please sign the attached slip and return it to Ms. Van Treeck or the school office. Be sure your parents have read it and signed the slip also. This indicates to me that you have a genuine interest in band.

Musically yours,

Ms. Van Treeck
Waukesha Catholic Band Director

PHILOSOPHY AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

WHY MUSIC? WHY BAND?

“Music for the sake of music.” Any responsible music educator will emphatically echo this important mantra; it is the keystone theme that serves as the foundation of music teaching, music learning, and music performance. There is no substitute or replacement for music making as it relates to the positive growth and development of the human mind, body, and spirit. Participation in band avails the musician to the infinite journey of creative expression connecting to a language (music) that is understood, communicated, and appreciated by all of mankind around the globe. More importantly, MUSIC IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE. --Tim Lautzenheiser, renowned author, music educator and music advocate

Music is an area of knowledge important in itself. It should be an integral part of the curriculum from kindergarten through high school. Indeed, the United States Senate recently passed The Every Child Achieves Act, stating that music and the arts are core subjects. Music education should not be reserved for those with “talent”. Nor should it be restricted to those who can afford it, or whose parents deem it important. Music is one of the hallmarks of what it means to be a human being. Band, the study of instrumental music, has many beneficial qualities that can lead to the growth and development of a student.

Band is unique in that it lends itself to group activity. While constantly striving for musical excellence and quality, each band member has the responsibility to contribute to the group as a whole. The following are the State of Wisconsin Music content standards. These standards are the basis upon which students are taught and assessed.

1. Singing, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
2. Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
3. Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
4. Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
5. Reading and notating music
6. Listening to analyzing, and describing music.
7. Evaluating music and music performance.
8. Understanding relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.
9. Understanding music in relation to history and culture.

The Waukesha Catholic Music department has been using the Arch Music Curriculum that was developed in 2010-11 school year. The music standards that will appear on the report card are:

- Demonstrates an understanding of musical concepts through singing and playing instruments.
- Demonstrates an understanding of music in relation to history, culture and the arts.
- Demonstrates an understanding of musical concepts through composing and improvising
- Demonstrates an understanding of musical concepts through reading, notating analyzing and evaluating music.

This year, in order to incorporate more technology in the music classroom, band students at all levels--both at lessons and large group classes--will be using a software program called SmartMusic. SmartMusic is award-winning interactive music software that provides the ideal practice environment for students in band, orchestra, and choir. Utilizing SmartMusic, students have unlimited access to the world’s largest accompaniment library for all ages and skill levels, which includes thousands of pieces of music. I would highly encourage band students at every level to subscribe to Smartmusic (\$40.00 yearly).

Band is open to any 5th-8th grade student. Beginners traditionally start in the 5th grade, but those in the upper grades are welcome to join at any time. **BAND IN EACH GRADE REQUIRES A FULL YEAR COMMITMENT.**

CADET BAND

Cadet Band includes all 5th grade students. Individual or small group lessons are scheduled once a week during the school day on a rotating basis. Full band rehearsals will be scheduled during the school day starting around late October/early November. Students will also have the opportunity to practice all together in preparation for the concert in spring.

6th GRADE BAND

6th Grade Band is comprised of students with one year playing experience or less. Individual and /or small group lessons are scheduled once a week during the school day. Full band rehearsals are scheduled twice a week, Mondays and Wednesdays. 6th Grade Band performances include two to three yearly concerts. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the many small group performing opportunities such as playing for Friday morning liturgies. (Please see pg. 10 for a complete Fine Arts list.)

7th GRADE BAND AND 8TH GRADE BAND

These two separate bands are made up of students with at least one full year of playing experience and they rehearse two times a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Individual and/or small group lessons are scheduled as well. Both bands perform two to three yearly concerts and may participate in the district solo/ensemble festival. There are also smaller ensemble opportunities scheduled throughout the course of the year. (Please see pg. 10 for a complete Fine Arts list.)

7th/8th GRADE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Jazz Ensemble is an offshoot of their respective grade level bands and is open to any 7th or 8th grade student. However, the student must be a member of one of the grade level bands (except for piano, guitar, or bass guitar), in order to participate). Students who participate in this group should be prepared and plan for before school rehearsals. Early morning rehearsals will begin mid-September and will be scheduled every Tuesday morning from 7:45–8:20 in the band room. The signup sheet for joining Jazz Ensemble will be posted in the band room during the first three weeks of school. (**Participation in Jazz Ensemble requires a full year's commitment.**). The jazz group performances number about one to two times per year. Students will explore the musical styles of swing, rock, Latin, blues and the art of improvisation. Students who participate in this group will receive enrichment points towards their overall trimester grade.

TEACHER EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The success of a school band program is largely dependent on the competence of its individual members. In order to achieve musical success, the teacher's expectations must be met. Although it may seem that more is required of the band students than in any of the other classroom subjects, the rewards and benefits of both individual and group achievement cannot be compared. Three factors can be stated which are necessary for effective participation in the band program.

Responsibility is first and foremost among these factors. Each band member must demonstrate a sense of responsibility both to him/herself and the band organization. Band is a combined effort with each of its members cooperating and respecting one another.

Attitude is a second necessary factor. Students must to the best of their ability, put forth their greatest effort at all times. "Can't" is a four letter word that will not be accepted as an excuse in band. "I'll try" is much better. We can accomplish so much more when we put things in a more positive perspective.

Demonstrating an understanding of musical concepts is the third and final factor needed for a worthwhile band experience. There is a big difference between merely playing the notes and playing the music with understanding. Success in musical comprehension is largely due to diligent student practice. Student improvement and progress are obvious results of both individual and group practice.

SUMMER BAND OFFERINGS

During the summer of '17, all students in the instrumental music program will have the chance to participate in Summer Band Lessons. Also, there are many colleges and universities in the area that offer week long Summer Band Camp experiences. St. Joseph Campus students have the opportunity to apply for and earn a scholarship to help defray the cost. Several of our St. Joseph Campus students attended a summer camp this past year! More details regarding summer band opportunities will be available to all interested students sometime in the later part of the third trimester.

CONCERT DRESS

The 7th and 8th Grade Band members' formal concert attire will be the following: black pants, black shoes, black socks and white shirt/blouse. Cadet Band and 6th Grade Band members are expected to "dress up" for their respective formal concert events—no jeans, please. I encourage all musicians to look **and** sound their best.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Grading and evaluating is a constant, on-going process. It should be noted that there is always room for improvement and this is especially true of the young band student.

There is no reason why a student should receive less than a “C” if all band requirements and expectations are met, and it is evident that he/she is putting forth his/her best effort. All Waukesha Catholic band students’ grades will appear on each student’s report card.

The final grade each trimester will be an average of the following four areas:

- I. Performance Attendance - 50%**
- II. Skill Development- 40%** (Will include playing and/or written test or quiz.)
- III. Participation by Effort/Attitude - 5%** (Will include additional in class or out of class written assignments, i.e. practice journals.)
- IV. Rehearsal Technique -5%**

(First trimester will not include performance attendance. The percentages will be 80% for skill development, 10% for participation/effort and 10% for rehearsal technique.)

A more detailed break down follows on the next page. This check list will be part of a self-assessment tool for the first trimester at the middle school level.

Enrichment activities are averaged in after the final grade has been determined and all the requirements have been met. Enrichment activities are listed on the next page. Ask Ms. Van Treeck for even more options.

A note about weekly lessons at the St. Joseph Campus: All band students are required to have accumulated 8 lessons per trimester. If a student misses a lesson, it will be recorded as a missed assignment and must be made up by either scheduling a make up lesson or completing a Self-Assessment Lesson Sheet in order to meet the required number of lessons. Students will have the entire trimester to make up for the missed lesson. The score/grade that is earned from completion of the assessment form will then take the place of the missed lesson.

Students and parents are strongly encouraged to check out band grades on PowerSchool on a weekly basis. Students and/or parents may contact me through email concerning student progress and/or assignments at bvantreeck@waukeshacatholic.org.

FIRST TRIMESTER CHECKLIST

NAME _____

GRADE _____

PERFORMANCE (50% of grade, 0% of grade*)

Each performance will be designated 100 or 200 points

SKILL DEVELOPMENT (40% of grade, 80% of grade*)

Number of lessons attended _____

*required 8 per trimester

PARTICIPATION BY EFFORT/ATTITUDE (5% of grade, 10% of grade*)

I show great leadership by example, convey a positive spirit of cooperation, participate with consistent energy and I contribute and share within my section and the class as a full group.

REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE (5% of grade, 10% of grade*)

I respect the rehearsal process by being a good listener, marking my music appropriately, completing and updating my practice journal, and not talking out of turn.

ENRICHMENT (1 extra point per event)

_____ Performed outside of class requirements (church, etc.)

_____ Extra Lessons _____

_____ Outside Concert Attendance and Critique

_____ Private Lessons _____ (teacher's name)

_____ Written paper on pre-approved musical subject

_____ Participant in Jazz Ensemble

_____ OTHER

FIRST TRIMESTER GRADE _____

COMMENTS:

**Italicized percentages are for first Trimester only because there are no scheduled performances. Bold percentages apply to all other quarters.*

BAND EXPECTATIONS

1. **Be present and on time for all band activities.**
2. **Bring a pencil and any other necessary materials to every rehearsal and lesson.**
3. **Be considerate, courteous and respectful to the band director and all band members.**
4. **Play your own instrument.**
5. **Take care of your instrument—keep it in good playing condition.**
6. **Follow directions given by the band director.**
7. **All reed instruments—have a supply of three to four reeds at all times. Brass instruments should have a bottle of valve oil or slide cream/slide oil.**
8. **Put forth your best effort and show consistent musical improvement. Practice and Participate!!!!**

CONSEQUENCES FOR MISCONDUCT

–It is the responsibility of each student to arrange his/her schedule in such a manner that he/she can participate in all band activities. Few excuses other than illness or injury will be accepted for absence from a band performance. Clubs, out-of-school sports, and vacations are not considered acceptable excuses. A written notice from the parents is required for an excused absence of illness or injury. Unexcused absences will be entered as “missing” (68) in the performance attendance percentage. Students should consult the enrichment opportunities in order to improve their grade due to a missed performance.

–Students from the St. Joseph Campus will follow the Honor Level Discipline policy for all misconducts. St. Joseph Campus students who do not bring their instrument to band class will complete a written, in class assignment. Two (2) “OOPS!” passes will be issued to each student per year. Passes may be used for students who miss their lesson the first time or forget their instrument for class. Students who chronically do not have their materials for class or miss lessons will receive an additional consequence. In either case, please see the following “Band Reminder” form to be sent home and to be completed by the parent. Class behavior and conduct will be reflected in the student’s overall grade (see pg. 5 for Grading and Evaluation).

Waukesha Catholic – St. Joseph Campus
Band Instrument/Lesson Reminder



Student's Name _____

Date _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

Reason for Reminder

- a. Student had no instrument for band class/lesson
- b. Student did not attend their band lesson

Your child has received the following consequence:

_____ Warning for first Offence--Turned in "OOPS! Pass" _____ 2nd Offence: Complete a Student Self-Assessment

_____ Completed in-class written assignment _____ 3rd Offence: Make up time w/ Ms. Van Treeck during Open Gym

Students need their instruments for class every Monday and Wednesday AND for their band lesson. Your child's band lesson day and time is _____. For a complete explanation of our school's band program, please refer to the Waukesha Catholic Instrumental Music Manual. Your support in this matter is appreciated.

Parent/Guardian/Student: Please return copy of this form to Ms. Van Treeck by the next school day.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

RECOGNITION, ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES AND SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to promote a more positive attitude, maximize participation, and motivate students to do their best at all times, the following will be part of the band program:

Recognition and Performance Opportunities

- Verbal praise
- Periodic in-class free time
- Receiving Accolade slips
- Field trip outside of school or special music assemblies
- Musical requests and suggestions
- Student conductors
- Scholarships to summer band camp
- 6th/7th Grade Graduation Band
- Participating at School Liturgies
- Special 8th Grade Band membership Recognition
- 8th Grade Jazz Combo

Special Responsibilities (St. Joseph Campus only)

Band Manager(s)

- In charge of setting up chairs and stands for the respective grade level rehearsals

6th Grade/7th Grade Percussion Leaders

- In charge of keeping band room and percussion section organized

Attendance Assistants

- Record Daily Attendance for all band classes and track various class information.

Student-led Fine Arts Group (St. Joseph Campus only)

- Generating and implementing ideas for fine arts events and activities
- Attend monthly meetings

Monthly Announcer

- In charge of making classroom announcements

Tri Semester I

Positions are appointed by the band director based on your past performance and dedication to the band. Some responsibilities are on a volunteer basis.

Rest of Year

Positions will be held unless the members of the band or the band director feel you are not fulfilling your requirements.

ALL OF THESE RESPONSIBILITIES ARE PRIVILEGES AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH!

BAND FEES AND PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Band participation fees are listed below. These fees help to defray the cost of the band director's salary. \$10.00 of the total fee per year will go towards a band fund. This fund will be set aside to purchase quality musical arrangements for the band, purchase additional band equipment and supplement the band camp scholarship fund. The Waukesha Catholic business office will bill you as to the cost and due date of the fees. Waukesha Catholic does not want to deter any student/family interested in participating in band. Please know there is assistance available for families who have financial concerns.

<u>BAND FEE (with one payment in full by October 15)</u>	<u>With payment option *</u>
One child: \$250	\$275
Two children: \$440	\$485
Three children: \$575	\$635
The fee for each additional child: \$135	\$150

*Fee if payable in two installments – October 15 and February 1

In an effort to involve more parents and to build upon the current support of the fine arts programs at Waukesha Catholic, we have many volunteer opportunities for parents. Willing parents help with things such as concert and performances and preparation, band fund management, and possible field trip planning.. Please answer the question on the back cover of this booklet regarding your interest in becoming a more involved fine arts parent!

A WORD ABOUT PRACTICING

Each student is expected to practice at least 15-20 minutes every other day. This is the bare minimum. Students are certainly encouraged to practice more. Individual student practice goals are discussed at lessons and are recorded on the students' practice charts and journals. In the 5th grade, students are required to record their daily practice times on a tri-semester practice sheet available from the band instructor. A parent signature is required at the end of each week on these practice charts. St. Joseph Campus band students will be recording information about their practicing periodically in a practice journal. Journals will be collected and assessed at the end of each trimester. A parent's signature is required on the journals as well. The purpose of each weekly lesson is to demonstrate or play what the student has prepared and to learn new material. Lessons are not practice or drill sessions. If a student needs extra help, I am very willing to make myself available after or before school if necessary.

INSTRUMENTS

A musical instrument is a big investment and great care should be taken to keep it in proper playing condition.

Proper care and routine maintenance will be part of the musical instruction. Major repairs can be avoided if the student acts responsibly with his/her own instrument. A qualified repair person must do all necessary repairs. Trying to "fix it" at home may do more harm than good.

Most instruments must be rented or purchased through a nearby music store. Waukesha Catholic deals with White House of Music, but parents are under no obligation to deal with them exclusively. Waukesha Catholic has been slowly building a band instrument library whereby students may pay a yearly fee (\$50.00) to use a school owned instrument. ***If you have an unused family owned instrument or know someone who does, consider donating it to the school so that students who may have financial issues may participate in band.***



**Fine Arts Events
2016--2017 School Year**



Monday, September 12, 2016

Beginning Band Recruitment Night

(General Meeting for all students and parents in grades 5—8 who have never participated in the band program before)

6:30 p.m.

St. Mary Campus Community Room

Tuesday 13, September 13, 2016

Beginning Band Appointments

St. Mary Campus Music Room

3:45—8:30

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

St. Mary/St. Joseph Campus Christmas Concert

St. Joseph Campus Choir and St. Mary/St. William Campus General Music Classes

6:30 P.M. Shattuck Auditorium Carroll University Campus

Dress Rehearsal A.M.

Wednesday, January 18, 2016

St. Joseph Campus Mid-Winter Concert

St. Joseph Campus Bands and St. Mary Campus Cadet Band (5th Grade)

7:00 p.m. Shattuck Auditorium Carroll University Campus

Dress Rehearsal A.M.

Fine Arts Day

Catholic Schools Week

January 29—February 3, 2017

St. Joseph Campus

March 25, 2017

WSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival

Tri—M Festival Mid-April

Optional for St. Joseph Campus Band/Choir

All Day Events

Waukesha West High School,

Pius X High School

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

St. Joseph Campus Spring Concert

7th/8th Grade Jazz Band, Jazz Combo, Selected vocal/instrumental soloists/ensembles St. Mary Campus Cadet Band

7:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal in A.M.

St. Joseph Campus Gym

Thursday, May 25, 2017

St. Joseph Campus Spring Concert

6th—8th Grade Bands and Choir

7:00 P.M. Dress Rehearsal in A.M.

Shattuck Auditorium Carroll University Campus

Other possible Events: Jazz Ensemble Community performance(s) and/or small ensemble group performances, 8th Grade Graduation music performance (June 1).

Unless otherwise indicated, all of these performances are mandatory. More information regarding definite times and places for all Fine Arts events can be found in the Waukesha Catholic Campus Connection.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS SLIP TO INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE POLICIES AND CONTENTS WITHIN THE WUAKESHA CATHOLIC BAND MANUAL. (This booklet is available for viewing on-line at www.waukeshacatholic.org)

Parent's Signature

Date

Student's Signature

****Parents: We could use your help! Would you be interested in volunteering to help for various fine arts events throughout the course of the year—such as concerts and the Fine Arts Day during Catholic Schools week? (Refer to page 8 for details.)**

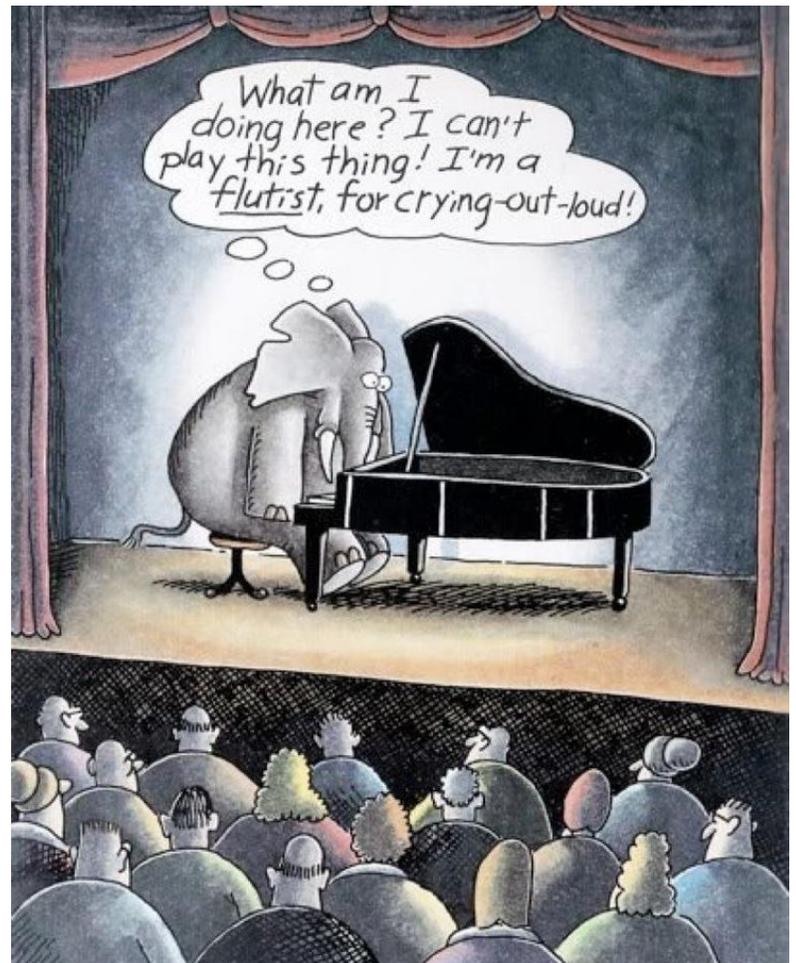
YES

NO

MAYBE

Thank you!!

****Parents,** do you or have you ever played a musical instrument? If yes, what did you play and do you still own the instrument? Thank you for your response!



CAMPUS SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday
7:45		7/8 Jazz Band	8 Jazz Combo		
8:30	St. Joe's LESSONS	St. Joe's LESSONS	St. Joe's LESSONS	St. Joe's LESSONS	SM/SJ Liturgy
9:00					
9:30					
10:00					St. Mary Lessons
10:30					
11:00					
11:30		LUNCH & OPEN GYM		LUNCH & OPEN GYM	
12:00	Lunch		Lunch		11:40 Lunch
12:30		SUPERVISION		SUPERVISION	
1:00	SJ Band CLASSES	St. Joe's LESSONS	SJ Band CLASSES	St. Mary LESSONS	St. Mary Lessons
1:30					
2:00					
2:30					
3:00					
3:25					

Phone numbers: St. Joseph Campus- 896-2930 X340
 email: bvantreeck@waukeshacatholic.org