

WESTLAKE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2014-2015 CONCERT BAND SYLLABUS

Mrs. Carmen Risi, Director

Mrs. Karen Kurtz, Director

CRisi@WestlakeChristian.org

KKurtz@WestlakeChristian.org



Course Description:

Concert Band is for students in grade 6 or higher who are in their third year or more of performance on a band instrument. The prerequisite for this class is successfully completing Intermediate Band or performing an audition for the instructor and being accepted into Concert Band. Students must be able to perform grade level 3 and above band music. String students may be accepted to this program with approval of the director.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: First rehearsal is Tuesday, September 2nd

- Rehearsals will be held Monday through Thursday mornings from 7:30- 8:10 a.m. in the gym. Students must arrive in time to be in their seat—with their instrument assembled, tuned and ready to play by 7:30 a.m.
- 6th-8th grade students will receive a weekly group lesson of 30 minutes. The lesson may be scheduled in the mornings Monday-Thursday or on Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons. It takes approximately 2-3 weeks for the director to set up a consistent lesson schedule for all the students in 6th-8th grade enrolled in band. WCA students are taken out of class for their weekly lesson. Band lessons take place in the band office next to the stage in the gym.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

- **Definition:** To be counted present, students are to be in their seats with instruments assembled and music ready for performance at 7:30 am on band days. The director recommends that students be in the building 10 minutes before rehearsals start for ample time to be prepared. Percussionists are expected to be in the gym by 7:15 to assist in setting up percussion equipment.
- **Concerts:** Attendance at concerts is mandatory except for extreme illness, death in the family or engagements of long standing where the director has been given advance notice in writing – twelve (12) weeks in advance for programs listed on the school & music department calendar, three (3) weeks or more for programs not listed on the school & music department calendar.

Band students must be seated in time for the warm-up and tuning session before performances. Students not arriving in time to be warmed up and tuned with their respective band may not be allowed to perform. Parents anticipating a problem getting their child to the performance area on time need to notify the director so that transportation arrangements can be made in advance.

- **Rehearsals Two Weeks Prior to Concerts:** Students missing rehearsals the week before, or the week of a concert may not be allowed to perform. Students who have been ill or have had a death in the family may be allowed to perform after their readiness to perform has been evaluated by the director. Although it may be difficult, vacation times should not be scheduled during concert times if a student expects to be in the school band program.
- **Class and Lesson Attendance:** Attendance at lessons and rehearsals is mandatory. If a student is well enough to be at school, they are expected to participate in band. Exceptions include ear infections, orthodontic and orthopedic work. The parent is to contact the director via e-mail at crisi@westlakechristian.org ; kkurtz@westlakechristian.org for those exceptions.

Note: Please understand that when a student “forgets” or is late on a band day, the absence or tardy affects the entire band or lesson group, as we cannot “make up” rehearsals or lessons. In the case of lessons, the **entire** week’s instruction is missed and this puts the student behind the rest of the band in skills learned. (In the case of excused absence from lessons, the instructor will try to reschedule the lesson on another day in that week if possible.)

PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES:

Practice outside of school instructional time is critical to the growth and success of all music students! Concert Band students in grades 6 - 8 are expected to practice 30 minutes, 4 days per week outside of school and be present at all rehearsals and the group lesson to receive an “A”. These students will find a practice journal inside their lesson book to record daily practice, or be given one to put in their lesson book. Senior high students are on the honor system to practice a sufficient amount of time to achieve proficiency with the music selected for performance.

- Starting with the first lesson, students in grades 6 – 8 will be required to fill out the practice journal in ink and have a parent initial the journal weekly. The director will give a letter grade based on the practice journal **and** attendance at rehearsals. (4 days per week receives an “A”; 3 days per week a “B”, etc.) Factoring into mid-quarter and quarter grades are practice time, unexcused tardies and unexcused or excessive absences. Students will receive a band grade on their report card.
- If a student is ill, out of town, has had dental/orthodontic work and cannot practice, please note that on the practice journal. If a student is having difficulty completing homework or has a large school project (i.e., Science Day) that prevents practice, please contact the director for assistance in temporarily modifying the practice requirements.
- Students occasionally say that they were “too busy” to practice. Often the “too busy” is because a student is involved in many different types of activities outside of school. It is important to remember that regular, consistent practice time is the key to success in any musical endeavor.
- Students not having a practice record two weeks in a row, or lacking a parent’s signature will receive a “Zero” and may not receive a lesson.
- Students practicing two (2) or less times per week will receive a “C” or lower for the week and may not receive a lesson. Students who persist in not practicing may be dropped from the program after a conference with the parent.

MUSIC

Primary Texts Used for Lessons:

- The (Name of Instrument) Student, Level 2 (Intermediate), By Weber/Various Authors, Belwin. Price: approx. \$7.95
- Rubank Intermediate or Advanced Method, Hal Leonard. Price: approx. \$7.00
- Depending on the instrument (particularly French horn & Percussion) and achievement level students may be asked to purchase other instructional books and material.
- Students may also purchase required method books through the director.

Band Music:

Band music is owned by Westlake Christian Academy and handed out to students in preparation for the various concerts throughout the year. As with textbooks in the classroom, students are responsible for keeping school owned music in good condition. If music is lost or damaged there is a replacement fee based on the current replacement price of the music, including shipping.

INSTRUMENTS

Instrument Supplies:

Instructors keep a supply of reeds, oil, grease, and swabs at school and provide them at cost to the students. Prices vary depending upon the instrument. It is recommended that woodwind students keep the cost of one reed in their instrument case for use when a new reed is needed.

Instrument Repairs:

Rented Instruments

- **Store Rentals:** Students renting instruments through Quinlan & Fabish Music or a store chosen by the parent are required to have the instrument maintenance agreement offered by the store during the rental period. This avoids additional cost to the family for service during the rental period and the store will provide a loaner for the student to play on during service.
- **Note:** If the instrument is rented through Quinlan and Fabish Music, the director will contact the store to have the instrument serviced and a loaner provided to the student. Parents who choose to rent through other area music stores must contact their provider for instrument loaners, repair and service.

Privately Owned

- Students having instruments owned by the family will be responsible for having the instrument serviced and also having a loaner instrument provided so that instruction can continue.
- It is recommended that all privately owned woodwind instruments and trombones be serviced at least one time per year, preferably in the summer months when school is not in session. Many woodwinds and trombones require a second servicing, depending on the instrument and its use.

School Owned

- Repair and maintenance of school owned instruments will be handled by the director. Students will be taught basic maintenance procedure of the instrument. Loss or damage above what is considered normal for school use will be the responsibility of the parent.

Insurance:

Privately Owned

- Privately owned instruments must be insured under the parent's homeowner's policy. If your child's instrument is valued over \$300.00, it would be a good idea to check your insurance policy to see how much coverage is offered for musical instruments.
- **Note:** Students "forgetting" privately owned instruments at Westlake overnight, during weekends or on holidays must remember that their instruments are **not covered** by school insurance against damage, theft or fire.
- Any instrument left at school indicates that the student was not able to practice and band grades will be affected. It is important for students to take their instruments HOME at night.

School Owned

- School owned instruments are insured under Westlake's insurance policy. School owned instruments are also expected to go home at night during the student's participation in the band program. To take a school owned instrument home for the summer, the student must be re-enrolled at WCA for the following school year.

CONCERTS: *see Music Department calendar for specific dates*

- Christmastide Concert (evening/December). *Extended rehearsal day before concert.*
- “Pace-Setter’s” Concert at Chain of Lakes Church (daytime/December)
- WCA All-School Christmas Chapel (daytime/December)
- Winter/Pops Concert (evening/February). *Extended rehearsal day before concert.*
- Spring Concert (evening/May). *Extended rehearsal day before concert.*
- WCA High School Graduation (daytime/May). *Extended rehearsal day before event.*

COMPETITIVE EVENTS: *see Music Department calendar for specific dates*

IMEA Junior & Senior Festivals (October auditions, November festivals)

- Selected students, by audition only. Contact the director for details.

Northshore Music Festival @ Northwestern University (March)

- On Saturday, with performance times running throughout the day.
- For students advanced enough and desirous of solo & ensemble competition. Music for students will be chosen either by the director or student’s private instructor. *Additional fees apply for this event.*

BAND FEES:

The price of band fees for full time WCA students and home school students are set by the Board of Trustees annually. There is tuition assistance available for full time WCA students who qualify. Please contact Mrs. Kurtz for further information.

- WCA Students: \$225.00 per year/ \$25 per month (Sept.-May) for the first student in the family. \$180 per year / \$20 per month for every student thereafter.
- Homeschool students: \$675 per year / \$75 per month (Sept. – May) for the first band student in the family. \$612 per year / \$68 per month for every student thereafter.

Band Directors: Mrs. Carmen Risi & Mrs. Karen Kurtz

Email is the best way to contact the directors: CRisi@WestlakeChristian.org; KKurtz@WestlakeChristian.org

Mrs. Kurtz’s school hours:

Mondays	7:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Tuesdays	7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Wednesdays	7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Thursdays	7:00 – 12 noon

WESTLAKE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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WCA BAND PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

STUDENT AGREEMENT:

I agree to support the rules and guidelines presented in the WCA Band Syllabus AND agree to the following rules:

- Attend all scheduled rehearsals and lessons
- Practice faithfully
- Attend all concerts
- Maintain my appearance, as outlined in the WCA Student and Band Syllabus
- Will care for equipment and/or music or will be responsible for repair or replacement

Student Signature

Date

PARENT AGREEMENT:

I have received and agree to support the WCA Band Syllabus with my student. By signing this agreement, I accept ALL the rules and guidelines contained in the syllabus, most specifically the following:

Student attendance at the concert is mandatory for Beginning Band.

- Initial the Home Practice Record to be turned in at each weekly lesson, when my child completes his/her practice, as appropriate for grade/band level per the syllabus.
- Understand because band is a performance-based, graded; curricular class that grades are based on *practice, attendance, performance* of the assigned music, and student's *attitude*.
- Support the Administration and Director by ensuring that my child maintains his/her appearance, as outlined in the WCA Student Syllabus.
- Pay fees for band, music books and instrument supplies in a timely and consistent manner.
- Maintain the appropriate insurance coverage for school and privately owned instruments.

Please share any special information about your child that will help us to better meet his/her needs. This information will be kept confidential. (Feel free to use the reverse of this form.)

Parent Signature

Date