

2024 Marching Falcons Handbook



Service - Respect - Pride - Excellence - Tradition

Mission Statement

The WRHS Performing Art's mission is to provide students with meaningful life experiences through performance and community outreach. When students graduate from the Performing Arts program, whether they continue performance or not, they will carry with them the tradition of WRHS Performing Arts: serving their community, respect for those they interact with, pride for anything they do, and the desire to strive for excellence.

Goals and Vision

West Rowan Performing Arts will strive to achieve excellence both on and off the floor as performers and representatives of the performing arts and of West Rowan High School. The ensemble's goal is to leave rehearsal each day better than they started so that at any performance, the Performing Arts Program, West Rowan High School, and the community will have a product that they can take pride in.

Behavior Policy

The Performing Arts are a visual representation of West Rowan High School, which means the members of the ensemble should hold themselves to a high standard. The policies of West Rowan High School and Rowan Salisbury Schools will be upheld alongside guidelines specific to the Performing Arts and will be dealt with as outlined in the Rowan Salisbury Schools Code of Conduct and this handbook. Any violation of the behavior policies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and could result in removal from performances, parades, concerts, and/or the band program itself.

If a student is given Out of School Suspension (OSS) or In School Suspension (ISS), depending on the severity of the offense, the student could be removed from the group or suspended for the remainder of the season. This suspension includes all performances and practices. All band staff will communicate to determine agreed-upon consequences. If a student is given OSS or ISS, they are not permitted to return to school property for any reason, no exceptions will be made as the WRHS Performing will honor the decisions made by WRHS Administration.

Bullying is not tolerated in the Marching Falcons. Disrespectful behavior to a Marching Band member, staff member, WRHS student or employee or any person we come in contact with may result in removal from the Marching Falcons.

Inclusivity in Our Ensembles

Diversity in our ensembles means accepting, learning, and valuing differences between members. These differences could include but are not limited to: race, ethnicity, age, religion, disability, gender identity, personality, skillset, and experience. All members are expected to treat each other with respect because we are all a part of one organization. Inclusion means we create an environment where everyone feels safe to create art and be themselves. Discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated and could result in removal from the ensemble.

Communication

All are required to join the Marching Falcons *Band* page. *Band* is an app that students can download on their school iPad. Everything related to marching band will be communicated on this page for students. Each student is required to have at least one parent/guardian join this page. Students should use this page to communicate about anything related to marching band including possible absences.

Part & Equipment Assignment

Marching Falcons Instructional Staff will make informed decisions when it comes to assigning music parts, instruments, and equipment. This is to highlight the strengths of each individual in order to make the group successful as a whole while also encouraging the individual with a challenge. Elements that influence this decision include grade level, years of experience, and knowledge gathered from a student's previous band director.

Practice Expectation

Members are expected to practice at home for at least 10 minutes on rehearsal nights and at least 30 minutes on non-rehearsal nights. It is expected that students come to rehearsal prepared with music and/or choreography learned. Videos may be posted to the *Band* App with the expectation that students review music choreography to be better prepared for future rehearsals so that rehearsals can be efficient and productive for all members. After time has been spent memorizing music or work, students are expected to maintain what has been taught by practicing at home or during Power U. Marching Band runs on a very tight schedule so failure to practice and retain will put the ensemble behind schedule and you will be assigned Power U practice time on Wednesdays.

Materials

The following materials are required for each ensemble member:

- Dark colored pants/shorts
 - Pajama pants and baggy sweatpants are unacceptable
 - Shorts must be at least finger-tip length
- White Shirt/Top
 - We spend most of our time outside, please plan accordingly
 - Shirts without sleeves but be worn but MUST have more than a spaghetti strap and cannot be a tube top
 - Sweatshirts and jackets may be worn when it cools off
 - The shirt fabric must be white, but may have some design on it
- Athletic shoes
 - Tennis shoes must be worn and completely laced up
 - Boots, slip-ons, sandals, heels, and dress shoes are unacceptable - this is to ensure that the student is performing to the best of their ability and is staying safe. Shoes that fall off pose a threat to ALL performers
- Hats & Sunglasses
 - Please bring hats and sunglasses to protect them from the sun and also so that they can see the conductor. The sun will be out and there is almost no shade during band camp; the sun sets in the student's face during after-school practice. There will be sun in the performers' face.
- Water Jug
 - Students are required to purchase a water jug that can hold at least ½ gallon. These gallons can be found at stores like Walmart, Dollar General, or athletic stores. The color does not matter. Students need to label their jugs with their names with permanent markers. These water jugs allow water to stay cold all rehearsals and reduce the number of interruptions for going inside to fill up water bottles.
- Equipment
 - Instruments and all guard equipment will be provided by the student. If a student does not own their own instrument or plays an instrument that has a different version for marching band, it will be provided by the school. Students are responsible for bringing everything they need for rehearsal.

Marching Band Fees

\$175/per student

Marching Band fees are used to offset the cost of the purchase of equipment, the cost of the registration for the competitions, transportation, and uniforms. Upon the conclusion of the season, uniforms and equipment become the property of West Rowan High School Performing Arts.

All payments will be made on the WRHS SchoolCash website (this link will be shared with students via the Band App once registration closes) - if a student needs to make a payment in any other way, they should contact Mrs. Blevins.

Attendance Policy

In order for the entire ensemble to perform its best, it is imperative that every member of our ensemble is present at all rehearsals and shows. This is not optional. There is no bench in Marching Band. Every member has an integral role in the design and quality of the show. Students should be on time for rehearsals and show call times. Students need to let Mrs. Blevins know if they will be tardy.

Students should check the Band App page and the WRHS Band Website to see a schedule for the whole season. Students should check the schedule IMMEDIATELY and let Mrs. Blevins know about any possible missed dates. Students and families should avoid scheduling anything over rehearsals.

If a student knows that they will miss a rehearsal to something unrelated to an emergency, the student will need to inform Mrs. Blevins via Band App message two days prior to the rehearsal that they will miss. If a student misses related to an emergency, they should inform Mrs. Blevins as soon as possible via the Band App. If a student accumulates 2 unexcused absences, the student and their parent will need to meet with the instructional staff for a warning regarding their attendance; if a student goes past 4 unexcused absences, they will be removed from the band. If a student leadership member accumulates 2 unexcused absences, they will be removed from the student leadership team.

Competition dates are MANDATORY events on Saturdays. Rehearsals on the day of a performance may vary depending on performance time and travel schedule - a detailed schedule will be posted to the Band App. Unexcused absences the rehearsal before an event will result to suspension for that event.

Summer Camps

During July, the Marching Falcons have three weeks of camps to prepare us for the fall. These dates are all required. We have our first public performance only a few weeks into the school year. Band camp is the most productive time for all members as we have the full day to work on music, dance, equipment, and marching techniques. Members must be present for their respective camps. These camps happen rain or shine. The Marching Falcons will follow the NC Athletics Association regulations for heat exposure, but practice will not be called off, just moved inside.

Camp Name	Dates & Time	Groups Required
Percussion Camp	July 8th - 12th	All Percussionist
Guard Camp	July 8th - 12th	All Colorguard
Rookie Camp	July 8th - 12th	All 1st year members
Band Camp Week 1	July 15th - 19th	All Members
Band Camp Week 2	July 22nd - 26th	All Members

Afterschool Rehearsal

After-school practices will start on August 13th, 2024

Afterschool rehearsals are required for all members. These are on Tuesdays and Thursday from 4pm - 6pm. These rehearsals happen rain or shine. The Marching Falcons will follow the NC Athletics Association regulations for heat exposure, but practice will not be called off, just moved inside.

Sectionals will run on an "A Week" and "B Week" schedule. Sectionals are small group rehearsals for students. Sectionals will be held on Wednesdays from 3:45pm - 5pm. These are required.

Students that attend WRMS will be able to take a bus directly from WRMS to WRHS on school days. These students will come to the band room and can practice their music.

Students that attend SEMS will have to provide their own transportation.

Off-Campus Performance Procedures

The nature of Marching Band allows for lots of travel and time away from campus. Please read the following rules and guidelines for bus and off-campus behavior:

- Students will check that they have all equipment for the day before departing

- Students will carry themselves in a way that positively reflects the Marching Falcons and students will act in accordance to West Rowan High School policy (see Behavior Policy)
- Students will clean any trash off the bus, stadium bleachers, etc. before departing
- Students will be respectful to other schools, parents, ensemble staff, etc. that they meet at any performance or trip the ensemble takes
- Students will not be permitted to leave an event early unless there is an emergency. If a student must leave early, it must be with the contact listed on their registration or the individual that the student is leaving with has been granted permission by contacting Mrs. Blevins. *If students are being picked up early from a competition, their guardian must meet the band at the bus immediately after the performance.* When that student leaves, they must see Mrs. Blevins with the person that they are leaving with a present a handwritten note that says that follows this format:

“[Student’s first and last name] is leaving the event early with [name of guardian] and WRHS Band is no longer responsible for the student.

[Date and time]

[Guardian’s signature]

- Students are required to stay at events because lots of the learning we do comes from watching other groups perform and we need students to help clean up after events (load the trailer, put away their uniforms, put away their instruments, etc).
- For competitions, starting this year, we will leave immediately after the awards. If students want to stay and watch other bands, they will need to follow the procedures listed above

Social Media Policy

Social media is a big part of our lives and students should conduct themselves on any social media platform in a way that positively reflects West Rowan High School and the West Rowan Performing Arts. The West Rowan Performing Arts will act in accordance with the West Rowan High School policies on social media (see Behavior Policy).

2024 Marching Falcons Schedule

All dates are subject to change. All dates are required; students and families should try to avoid scheduling events that conflict with practices and band events - if it is unavoidable for a student to miss a practice or event, they should notify Mrs. Blevins **immediately**.

Times of events will be made available via the Band App as each date gets closer.

Football games are just listed as games as WRHS has not finalized who we are playing as of creating this schedule

Percussion/Guard/Rookie	July 8th - 12th; 9am - 1pm
Band Camp Week One (All Members)	July 15th - 19th; 8am - 5pm
Band Camp Week Two (All Members)	July 22nd - 26th; 8am - 5pm
Family & Friends Performance	July 26th; 4pm
Football Game	August 23rd
Football Game	August 30th
Football Game	September 6th
Preview Show @ SHS	September 14th
Football Game	September 20th
Football Game	September 27th
Football Game	October 4th
Band Competition	October 5th
Football Game	October 11th
Football Game	October 18th
Band Competition	October 19th
Football Game	October 25th
Band Competition	October 26th
Football Game	November 1st
Veteran's Day Parade	November 11th
Tis the Season Parade	November 27th
Cleveland Christmas Parade	December 7th

All dates are subject to change

Approved by Marching Falcons Staff on 4/11/24