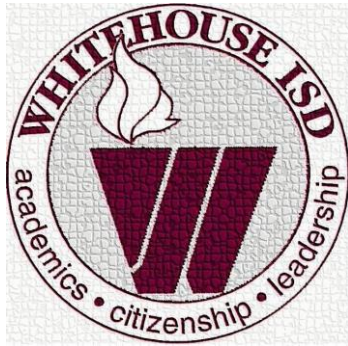


Whitehouse High School Wildcat Band



HANDBOOK

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Edited by Sara Crabtree c/o 2023

2022-2023 Whitehouse High School Band Staff

Director of Bands - Tom Mensch
J.H. Head Director - John Gaertner

H.S. Assistant Director - Nick Hardy
J.H. Assistant Director - Christopher Huffty
H.S. Assistant Director - Wade Russell
H.S. Associate Director - Daniel Southerland
Holloway Head Director - Christina Thomas
Majorette Instructor - Mackenzie Burlingame

2022-2023 Wildcat Marching Band Student Leaders

Drum Majors: Head Drum Major- Quinton Newell, Assisted by- Leiaj Alamzan, Carl Antonio and Karen Bryan

President: Eva Hamlett

Secretaries: Sara Crabtree and Makenzie Mburugu

Librarians: Katy Dieter and Jojo Owens

Historians: Abigail Gates and Victoria Moran

Ucrew Captain: Skye Alejandre

Loading Crew Captain: Jasmine Smith

Section Leadership-

Majorettes: Section Leader- Haley Wilson, Squad Leaders- Haley Wheeler and Chloe Rothrock

Flute: Section Leader- Camilla Willis, Squad Leaders- Avery Winfield, Katelyn Wyatt, and Sadie Mills

Clarinet: Section Leader- Stacey Edmondson, Squad Leaders- Ja'Kayla Wells, Eva Hamlett, and Sara Crabtree

Bass Clarinet: Section Leader-Trinity Roberts, Squad Leader- Addison Nelson

Saxophones: Section Leader- Nathan Marta, Squad Leaders- Jordan Craft and Tucker Martin

Trumpets: Section Leader- Elijah Gray, Squad Leaders- Jojo Owens, Hannah Luman, and Arianna Clark

Horns: Section Leader- Victoria Moran, Squad Leaders- Makenzie Mburugu and Jerry Carter

Trombones: Section Leader- Logan Owens, Squad Leaders- Caleb Murrah and Ty Wood

Euphoniums: Section Leader- Aaron Vickers, Squad Leader- Kameron Cooksy

Tubas: Section Leader- David Jennings, Squad Leader- Cameron Clark

Percussion: Section Leader- Isabele Ohlson, Squad Leaders- Logan Stone, Sophie Christopher, Luke Wood, and Sophie Milan

It is the student's responsibility to read, comprehend, and abide by the rules contained within the 2022-2023 Wildcat Band Handbook.

PREFACE

The purpose of this handbook is to provide information about the band program at Whitehouse High School. It will be of value to all members of the program and their families if proper attention is given. The handbook contains a wealth of information to help you understand what it means to be a member of the Wildcat Band. It is designed to help you become more familiar with the program as it is today and also the direction of the Whitehouse Band program for years to come.

PHILOSOPHY OF MUSIC EDUCATION

As educators, we believe it is our responsibility to help students become the best version of themselves possible; to reach their potential in everything they do. We are training the future of our nation and we want to give them the tools they need to succeed in every part of their lives.

Music is our passion, and we believe it is an excellent tool for teaching our students valuable life lessons. A few of our students will go on to become professional musicians, but most will not.

The daily pursuit of musical excellence will, however, prepare all students for life after school. Participation in our band program will teach the students: Duty, Honor, Loyalty, Respect, Accountability, Team-Work, Perseverance, Diligence, Time Management, and Self-Respect, just to name a few. All of these attributes are vital to becoming successful professionals, good citizens, and loving family members as they mature into adulthood. We use music to better the lives of our students while making a positive impact on the world around us!

AUTHORIZATION FORMS

Medical Authorization and Consent and Understanding forms must be filled out and returned to the band director by the pre-set deadline. These forms will be available at the designated Band Registration days and should be completed at the conclusion of the individual registration.

ATTITUDE AND DISCIPLINE

Because of the nature of all group activities, discipline must be consistent and fair. Our goal is to promote a positive learning environment for every student, regardless of ability level or experience. Band students and parents must be willing to accept the ideals, principles, and rules of the organization. Because the band is constantly under public scrutiny, we must always be aware of the importance of proper behavior. The student must remember that he/she represents the organization, school, and community at every performance or public appearance. Any misconduct casts a negative reflection on our school and community and may well undo the good works of hundreds of loyal students.

RULES OF CONDUCT

As a member of the Wildcat Band, you are a part of one of the school's most important organizations. Therefore, the success of the band will depend on the cooperation and positive attitude of each and every member. The guidelines outlined in the following pages are simple and easy to follow. In keeping these rules, you are meeting an obligation that will help make our band efficient, safe, and successful.

Each band member should carefully read and adhere to the following:

- Respect for all band staff, parents, students, and help will be given at all times.
- Any behavior that causes a disruption or interferes with the education process will not be tolerated. Appropriate discipline will be issued, at the director's discretion, for inappropriate behavior.
- Be prepared for rehearsal. Prepare your music ahead of time. Practice is a must. Have all necessary materials: instrument, music, reeds, mutes, **PENCIL**, valve oil, sticks, mallets, etc.
- Rehearsal time is at a premium. Please be ready to begin rehearsals at the appointed time. Early is on time; on time is late.
- Chronically poor attendance will be sufficient grounds to be removed from a specific performance, drill assignment, concert band, or band program. A part of your grade is based on daily work. If you are not here, you cannot receive a grade. Earning a P.E. credit waiver is contingent on successfully participating in the marching band. Attendance is required.
- No food, drink, candy or gum in the band hall.
- Please ask all non-band members to remain outside. We have many valuable instruments in the band hall, as well as expensive personal items. Keep your band hall as safe as possible!
- The band hall is open to students whenever a director is on campus. We want you to be at home in our facilities. The director's offices, however, are a place to conduct business. Please, do not enter without permission.
- The band slots are for instruments and music only. Keep them clean. You may leave your books in the band hall during rehearsal, both in class and after school. No books, clothing, or water bottles will be left in the band hall overnight.
- Your instruments are very expensive. Please treat all instruments with tremendous respect. Also, do not touch any instrument that does not belong to you.
- Equipment that is removed from the band hall without authorization will be treated as stolen property and the proper action will be taken to report the theft.
- Possession, sale or use of narcotics, drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other controlled substances while under

the supervision of the band program, will be a referral to the administration, and is considered **grounds for immediate removal from the program**. Also, **any band student that is suspended or expelled from campus due to drug or alcohol possession may be immediately removed from the band program**.

- Possession of any weapons, dangerous instruments or objects that could be reasonably considered a weapon, will be a referral to the administration and could be **grounds for immediate removal from the program**.
- Each of us must be respectful of our facilities. Destruction, defacement, and other acts of vandalism of school equipment will be a referral to the administration and could be **grounds for immediate removal from the program**.

BAND REHEARSAL RULES

1. No gum, candy, food, or drink in the band hall at any time.
2. No horseplay at any time.
3. Get a drink of water and go to the bathroom before rehearsal begins.
4. Check your instrument before rehearsal and get it fixed at that time.
5. Get necessary supplies (reed, valve oil, etc.) before time for rehearsal to begin.
6. Get all notes signed before rehearsal or wait until after rehearsal.
7. **BE IN YOUR CHAIR WITH HORN, AND EVERYTHING YOU NEED; MUSIC, PENCIL, GOOD REED, ETC. AT THE SCHEDULED REHEARSAL TIME.**
8. Do not get up out of your chair for any reason after rehearsal begins unless it is an emergency and you have asked for and gotten permission.
9. Do not use cellphones during rehearsal. If you must use one, wait until after rehearsal.
10. If your instrument will not work during rehearsal, wait until after rehearsal to get it fixed. Just sit and finger the part, and listen to instructions.
11. When the director stops the band, it is to give instruction for the benefit of the band. It is not for talking or discussion.
12. Do not talk during rehearsal for any reason, except to ask the director about the music or about some instructions that have been given.
13. Most importantly, give the director your total attention at all times.

Methods of discipline and consequences may include one or more of the following:

- 1) Immediate corrective action
- 3) Parent phone call, minor disciplinary action (detention, band hall clean up, etc.)
- 4) Parent conference at school
- 5) Removal from group activities
- 6) Administrative involvement
- 7) Removal from program

The directors will attempt to keep parents informed of any disciplinary action concerning their child. Minor infractions may not require parental involvement.

Marching Band

PHYSICALS

All students are required by UIL to have a physical and turn in the appropriate form to participate in the band. The form can be found at <https://www.uil texas.org/files/athletics/forms/PrePhysForm17-18.pdf>

Every member of the Whitehouse High School Band will be expected to participate in the marching band. The marching band will participate in all Whitehouse High School Varsity football games, pep rallies, specified band competitions, parades, and any other scheduled events.

All marching band students are expected to attend the summer band rehearsals. These are very important practices, where we will learn music, develop marching fundamentals, and learn drill. Understand that these rehearsals are **mandatory**, so please schedule your summer plans around this time.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is required at all rehearsals. During football season, marching rehearsals will be held:

Monday-Friday **7:40-8:35 am**

Monday Evening **6:30-8:30 pm**

Missing rehearsals diminishes the opportunity for the band to perform at the level of our capability.

Everyone must attend all rehearsals for us to reach our potential. All doctor appointments, hair appointments, personal business, tutorials, etc. should be made in the afternoons if possible.

Please refer to the following definitions:

Excused Absence- an absence due to illness or family emergency. Timely communication with a Band Director via parent phone call or email is required.

Unexcused Absence- an absence that has NOT been recorded with the school or does NOT have proper communication (note, a phone call or email) from a parent/guardian, teacher, or doctor.

Excused Tardy- a tardy that has a note from a parent/guardian, teacher, or doctor with a signed name, date, and phone number. A parent phone call or email will also be sufficient documentation.

Unexcused Tardy- a tardy that does NOT have proper communication (note, a phone call or email) from a parent/guardian, teacher, or doctor.

Proper Communication- parent/guardian, teacher, or doctor with a signed name, date, and phone number, phone call or email.

Performance- an event that has been on the band calendar (concerts, games, contests, parades, etc), or an event that has been posted and discussed by the directors

Students that are absent from school will be expected to provide documentation to a band director for any before/after school event that the student may miss.

(Ex. Marching band rehearsals, sectionals, concerts, pep rallies).

It is preferable that this communication happens before the missed event.

FOOTBALL GAMES

For all games, the band will meet in the High School Band Hall. Attendance will be taken at that time.

Also at that time, the section leaders will conduct a brief inspection of the uniform and materials. All uniform parts must be present at inspection. If a student has discrepancies, an appropriate disciplinary action will be enforced. Following inspection, the students will load the bus by grade. Students will ride on their assigned bus only. Upon arriving at our destination, all students must remain in their seats until directed to do otherwise. After leaving the bus, students must get their instruments and immediately seek the Drum Majors and line up in block formation. **NO ONE WILL PLAY WITHOUT INSTRUCTION FROM A BAND DIRECTOR.** The percussion section will be allowed to play cadences and street beats throughout the game, with director approval. Students must be prepared at all times to play the *Fight Song* and stand tunes. In order to assure this, everyone must remain in their assigned place. Football games are fun, but we must always remember that the band is constantly in the public eye. Your behavior in the stands can never reflect negatively on the program, school, or yourselves.

CONCERT ENSEMBLES

Students in the band program will be placed in a concert ensemble by audition.

The following are the ensembles and the student expectations and responsibilities.

Wind Ensemble

- Memorized performance of all marching band contest music
- Participation in marching band
- Prepare and audition for All- Region Band
- Prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of nine weeks performance objectives

Symphonic Winds

- Memorized performance of all marching band contest music
- Participation in marching band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and audition for All-Region Band
- Prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of nine weeks performance objectives

Symphonic Band

- Memorized performance of all marching band contest music
- Participation in marching band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and audition for All-Region Band
- Prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of nine weeks performance objectives

Concert Band

- Memorized performance of all marching band contest music
- Participation in marching band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and audition for All-Region Band
- Students are encouraged to prepare and perform a solo or ensemble for Solo & Ensemble Contest
- Performance of concert music as assigned by director
- Attend all scheduled sectionals, rehearsals, concerts, and performances
- Prepare and pass-off of nine weeks performance objectives

For UIL marching performances, students will wear their marching uniform (white pants), white marching shoes and tall, white socks. For all concerts including UIL Concert and Sightreading, students are to wear all black long sleeve shirts and black pants, or an all black dress with the length below the knee. Any questions, ask a director before you buy.

APPLIED MUSIC

Students enrolled in our 3rd Period, Applied Music course must be approved by Mr. Mensch and will be held to a high standard of daily practice and continued pursuit of musical excellence. All Applied Music students will be required to:

- Audition for All-Region/All-State Band
- Participate in Solo/Ensemble

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The Jazz Program offers a wide opportunity to the most advanced players in our program to study various genres of music. The Jazz Ensemble will focus on Big Band ensemble techniques and styles. Rock and Blues will also be studied. This ensemble will be filled by audition only. Members of the Jazz Ensemble must also participate in one of the other band classes. There will be exceptions granted for guitar, bass guitar, and piano if necessary.

ELIGIBILITY

Adherence to the UIL No Pass / No Play rule will be closely monitored. On a nine-week cycle, eligibility will be determined every three weeks. As per UIL rules, even though we are on a nine-week cycle, eligibility can be lost after the first six-weeks is completed. This only applies for the first nine-week grading cycle. It is imperative that every student remains diligent in their studies. **YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY TMEA or UIL PERFORMANCES or AUDITIONS IF YOU HAVE FAILED A CLASS.** Any fund-raiser money raised will be forfeited to the band activity fund, as directed by law, if you are unable to attend because of a loss of eligibility. Please pass your classes!

BAND GRADING PROCEDURE

- An assignment that is turned in ON OR BEFORE the due date, with a passing attempt will be considered a 100.
- An assignment that is turned in ON OR BEFORE the due date, but not a passing attempt will be considered a 50. (In the case of an attempt lacking significant preparation, a 25 may be the assigned grade). A 100 can be earned upon satisfactory completion within the six week grading period. It is the director's discretion as to what is considered satisfactory or not a passing attempt.
- An assignment that has been submitted AFTER the due date, with a passing attempt, will be considered a 70.
- An assignment that has been submitted AFTER the due date, but not a passing attempt will be considered a 50. (In the case of an attempt lacking significant preparation, a 25 may be the assigned grade). A 70 can be earned upon satisfactory completion within the six-week grading period. It is the director's discretion as to what is considered satisfactory or not a passing attempt.
- An assignment that has not been submitted will receive a 0, until the assignment has been attempted or completed.

SCHOOL INSTRUMENTS AND EQUIPMENT

The Whitehouse band program owns a limited number of the larger and/or more expensive instruments. These instruments are assigned to the students on the basis of need. Instruments furnished by the school include: piccolo, oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, french horn, euphonium, bass trombone, tuba, and concert and marching percussion. It is the responsibility of the student to return the instrument in as good a condition as when it was issued. Failure to return equipment

as requested will be treated as theft. Removal of unassigned instruments from school premises without the approval of the director is theft of school property and will be reported to the police. Please report any damage or necessary repair immediately to the band director, regardless of the cause. Unnecessary and expensive maintenance can be avoided by making sure the instrument is cleaned regularly. Failure to properly care for school instruments will void the privilege of using them.

CARE OF EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE ACCESSORIES

All band members are responsible for the repair or replacement of all school issued equipment damaged due to misuse or neglect.

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF STANDARD EQUIPMENT FOR EACH INSTRUMENT:

Flute	Rotor oil
Swab	French Horn cont. Tuning slide grease
Silver cloth	
Tuning rod	Trombone
Key Oil	Brass Mouthpiece Brush
Bb Clarinet	Wire Snake
Swab	Slide Oil
Bore oil	Tuning Slide Grease
Reed guard with reeds	Baritone
Cork grease	Brass Mouthpiece Brush
Saxophone	Wire Snake
Swab	Valve Oil
Cork grease	Tuning Slide Grease
Reed guard with reeds	Tuba
Trumpet	Brass Mouthpiece Brush
Brass mouthpiece brush	Wire Snake
Wire snake	Valve Oil
Valve oil	Tuning Slide Grease
Tuning slide grease	Percussion
French Horn	Sticks and mallets
Brass mouthpiece brush	Mallet Bag
Wire snake	Drum Key

UNIFORMS

Uniforms will be issued only to those members meeting the criteria set by the directors. Abuse of and/or failure to obey these requirements will result in the student being required to turn in the uniform. Any damage other than normal wear, or loss of uniform parts will be charged to the students. Students will be responsible for the full cost of any damaged item. Below is the cost per uniform item.

Bib Pants- \$43.00

Jacket- \$135.00

Hat- \$28.00

Citation Cords - \$20/set

Cross Belt - \$60

Breastplate - \$45

Plume- \$14.00

If a student fails to return a uniform, he/she will be responsible for the full cost of the uniform. Uniforms will be issued during summer band. Band students must furnish their own set of white shoes, tall white marching socks, and a band shirt. (Shoes and t-shirts will be ordered during registration.)

BAND TRIPS

- All band trips will have received prior approval of the school administration.
- The bus will leave on time unless unavoidably delayed. It is the responsibility of the student to be on time.
- One or more adult chaperones will be on each bus.
- Bus changes will be allowed with director approval only.
- Buses are to be treated with care and all trash must be placed in the receptacle provided. Keep the bus clean.
- No one will leave the group for any reason without director approval. Anyone leaving with approval

must travel in groups of at least 3.

- An itinerary will be provided for every trip. Please be prepared to have your parents ready to pick you up at the appropriate time.
- Smoking, drinking, drug use, or the possession of such material will not be tolerated. Violators will follow the district discipline policy, and will be sent home and may be grounds for immediate removal from the band program.
- Public displays of affection will be minimal and appropriate.
- Students will travel to and from a band commitment as a group on the transportation provided. Under extenuating circumstances, exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Students can only be released to their own parents or guardians. Written requests must be approved and filed with a band director before the band leaves Whitehouse High School.
- When traveling on a bus, do not apply any aerosol/spray/fragranced product. Some people are sensitive to strong aromas especially in closed spaces. These products include: hair spray, hand lotion, cologne, perfume, deodorant, baby powder, etc.
- There will be no shouting, singing, clapping, etc., or any other loud noises that might distract the bus driver, chaperones, or other students.
- Electronic devices may be used only with headphones. Content on devices must be appropriate.
- Everyone must remain seated, facing forward while the bus is in motion.
- All students will use appropriate, non-offensive language.

These guidelines are designed to allow everyone the same opportunity to have a safe and enjoyable travel experience.

Disciplinary Actions for Band Trips

- Students may be re-assigned a seat on a bus.
- Students may be asked to ride another bus.
- Students may be restricted from traveling with the band.
- Students may be sent home at personal expense.

PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE

The W.I.S.D. dress code will be strictly adhered to at all times. The personal appearance of the individual is important. In no way is this program trying to suppress the individuality of the members. However, all audience focus must be on the group, not the individual. Therefore, when in uniform, the following guidelines will be exacted:

- No jewelry; watches, rings, large earrings, body piercing, and/or necklaces.
- All band members (male and female) will wear their hair off the collar. Hair will be worn pulled back in ponytails or wear hair in a braid. All hair will be worn inside the hat while it is on your head.
- Band members may not have any hair color that violates district policy.
- Only very light make-up will be appropriate. Glitter, stickers, face paint, etc. are discouraged.
- Majorette make-up will be determined by the director.
- When the uniform is designated to be worn, it is to be worn with respect and in its entirety. Jackets and hats may be removed only with the director's permission.
- Only designated food is allowed to be consumed while in uniform.

BAND ORGANIZATION

Administration: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principals

Band Directors: Head Director, Assistant Directors, Majorette Sponsor, Clinicians, Student Observers

Student Leaders:

Drum Majors

- Responsibilities of the Drum Majors shall be, but are not limited to:
 - Oversee and assist all members of leadership with marching instruction
 - Ensure that all student leaders are executing their responsibilities at a superior level
 - Attend a Drum Major camp in the summer
 - Work closely with the Band President to help plan all social functions
 - Assist other student leaders in their responsibilities as needed
 - Communicate with band staff and parents regularly
 - Maintain a high level of musicianship on their instrument.
 - Other duties as assigned.

Drum Majors are selected by a committee of judges and the Whitehouse Band staff through a tryout process.

Section Leaders

- Assist in instruction of marching and music to their designated section members
 - Ensure that all section members are executing all marching and music excellently
 - Attend leadership training and all meetings
 - Lead designated squad leaders in all instruction
 - Communicate with drum majors regularly
- Other duties as assigned.

Squad Leaders

- Assist Section Leaders in their duties
- Other duties as assigned.

President

- Organize events during summer band and the school year.
- Student advocate
- Develop a mentoring program for freshman, assigning big brothers and sisters
- Oversee other officers
- Other duties as assigned.

Secretary

- Take attendance
- Sectional records
- Help process forms
- Help keep track of weekly pass offs
- Other duties as assigned.

Librarian

- Copy music
- Organize and distribute Region Music
- Scan music as needed
- Keep track of new music forms
- Other duties as assigned.

Historian

- Monday weekly update
- Interview students during the week
- Facebook and Instagram updates
- Collect all pictures and videos
- Other duties as assigned.

Uniform Crew Captain

- Manage the uniforms of the band program in all areas such as cleaning, racking, storing, and issuing.
 - Help maintain a thorough inventory of all uniform related items.
 - Establish a uniform crew to manage the uniform area.
 - Insure proper care and storage of all uniforms.
 - Administrate the issuing of all uniform related items.

Loading Crew Captain-

- Assist Band Directors in moving, packing, and/or loading all equipment needed for rehearsals and performances.
 - Prepare for full-band rehearsals and ensure all needed equipment is in place and in good working condition. (i.e. yardline markers, speakers, etc.)

All student leaders must maintain eligibility in order to retain office. Elected officers will meet all specified responsibilities and assist the directors as needed. Appointed officers and section leaders will be responsible for the musical and marching performances of their sections and will assist the directors as requested. All student leaders will attend a two-day mini-camp with the directors prior to summer band. The purpose of this will be to set goals, agendas, discuss marching techniques, and other objectives as

needed. Any student leader failing to meet the duties of their position can be placed on probation or replaced. These students also are expected to audition for All Region Band.

BAND LETTER JACKET REQUIREMENTS

To receive a letter jacket in band, a student must be enrolled all 4 years of their high school career. If a student moves into the Whitehouse District, proof must be given that they were enrolled in band from their previous school district and that will count toward their 4-year requirement. A student is only allowed 1 letter jacket during their 4 years of high school according to UIL rules. Students can receive their jacket earlier by tracking earned points and returning the application to the Director of Bands. All juniors will automatically receive their jacket at the beginning of their Senior year. In order to receive a jacket, a student must accrue 30 points. **Students must maintain their enrollment in band for their entire high school career or will need to forfeit the jacket or pay back the band program \$50.**

Point system for Lettermans 30 points to earn Jacket

Each semester you automatically receive 5 points so that, by the end of your Junior year, you will automatically receive your jacket.

2 points if you make Jazz All Region, 2 points if you make Freshman all Region, 2 points if you make all Region Band, 2 points if you make all Region Orchestra, 5 points each if you make area jazz, band, and/or orchestra, 20 points if you made the All State Band, 1 point for 1st division on solo, 1 point for 1st division on Ensemble, 2 points for each ensemble that you qualified for State Solo and Ensemble, 4 points for each solo that you qualify with for State Solo and Ensemble, 2 points if you become Squad leader or officer or majorette, 10 points if you become Drum Major

Applications for Letterman Jackets can be turned in on the 3rd Monday of December, and/or the last Friday of April.