

Welcome to the 2021 Spring Band Semester!

Congratulations- you made it through the Covid marching season!

We usually have several concert events in the spring. Again this semester in the parent guide, events we would have in a typical year will be presented along with the Covid-modified schedule. In a normal year, rehearsals involve some after school time, and *all instruments would have sectionals every week unless otherwise notified*. Times are usually assigned by your director and can be before or after school. *Sectionals are not happening this year*. Remember to check your [band calendar](#) for updates!

Remember- I am here for any questions you have. If I do not know the answer, I will try to find out for you.

Julie Pitner- Freshman Band Rep: freshmanrep@westwoodband.org

Bands are as follows:

Wind Ensemble- Mr. Turpin- Varsity

Wind Symphony- Mrs. Dacy- Non-varsity

Symphonic- Mr. Winters- Non-varsity

Concert- Mr. Turpin- Non-varsity

Color Guard- Mr. Josey for Varsity and JV

This year, any after school rehearsals will be announced in Band Notes each week.

Color Guard Spring Semester: Color Guard participates in their own spring semester separate from the band schedule. They have their own performances, competitions, and rehearsal times. Those are included in this document.

Varsity Guard: Rehearsals Tuesday/Thursday: 6:00-8:30 plus some weekend camps

JV Guard: Rehearsals Friday: 5:00-7:30 plus some weekend camps

January - TCGC Show- This was the Texas Color Guard Circuit competition held at Westwood the past two Januaries. It lasted all day long. The Westwood Band and Color Guard hosted the competition and needed many, many volunteers- parents and students. *Next year, we will likely host this show again. Please consider signing up to be a lead or a volunteer next year!*

Symphonic Camp is the first event that typically comes up in the spring semester for the band. *There is no Symphonic Camp this year.* This is held in early February. Students are expected to be available for rehearsal after school on Friday and all day on Saturday. No school classes are missed for Symphonic Camp. There is a concert on Saturday evening at the conclusion of the rehearsals at the RRISD PAC. Symphonic Camp is a time for intensive rehearsal to further music skills and technique with expert clinicians who come and work with the bands and then conduct them in concert.

UIL Solo and Ensemble is usually held in **February**. (*There is no UIL Solo and Ensemble this year, but there is a Westwood Solo and Ensemble. Information is later in this document.*) This is an opportunity for your student to play his/her/their solo in front of a judge. The judge gives a rating and a critique to each student. If the student plays a Class I solo from memory and receives a First Division (a "1"), the student is eligible to play the solo again at a state level solo and ensemble competition later in the year. *UIL Solo and Ensemble is **not required** of the students.* It is voluntary. No accompanist will be provided. Students must find their own. Private lesson teachers are often helpful with this.

Pre-UIL Concerts for orchestra: If your student's band is also playing with one of the full orchestras, the pre-UIL concert is required and is typically held in **February** at the RRISD PAC. *There is no Pre-UIL orchestra concert scheduled at this time for this year.*

Orchestra UIL Performances: March would typically bring UIL Evaluations for full orchestra. *This year, band will not be involved with Orchestra UIL Performances.* Students usually miss some class time. The orchestra is bussed to the school where the evaluations are taking place and play 3 concert pieces before three judges and given a rating. They are also evaluated and given a rating on a piece they will sightread. Playtimes are announced close to the day of the evaluations. *Parents are encouraged to go and support their students and directors as they play and sightread.*

March: Mulch Day! One of our largest fundraisers is selling mulch. We made over \$30k last year! All students are asked to volunteer for a shift, and as many parents as possible are asked to volunteer as well. This is a huge undertaking, and we need all hands on deck! *This year, the mulch sale has been canceled.*

April - Usually, the bands also hold a **pre-UIL concert** as the full orchestras do. At this time, no pre-UIL concerts are scheduled.

UIL Evaluations: April 14th-15th: *This year, only two ensembles will perform. The event will be at Georgetown High School.* Typically, there is a day for non-varsity bands and a day for varsity. Non-varsity bands include **Wind Symphony** (Dacy), **Symphonic Band** (Winters), and **Concert Band** (Turpin). Varsity Band is the Wind Ensemble (Turpin). As the orchestras did, the bands miss some class time and will play their 3 concert pieces before judges and are given a rating. They are also evaluated and given a rating on a piece that they sightread before judges. Playtimes are announced close to performance dates. *Parents are encouraged to go and support their students and directors as they play and sightread.* Students go only one of the days listed, and which day they will go will be announced later.

April 30th -May 1st - Marching Camp for current 8th and 9th graders. To prepare for summer band camp, we will have a preliminary day to work with current 8th and 9th graders on marching skills. *This camp is happening this year!*

Band Banquet- May- *This year, we hope to hold some sort of live event, possibly outside.* Usually, the band celebrates the year at a semi-formal event. We eat dinner, hand out awards, and honor each senior. A slide show presentation ends the celebration. Parents are welcome to attend in addition to students!

Percussion Ensemble Concert- May Details TBA. Usually, percussion gives a May concert.

Westwood Solo and Ensemble Competition- May 6th. The Westwood Band has its own solo and ensemble competition typically held at the end of March. *This year it will be held in May.* **This is required for all students!** Usually, an accompanist is provided for your student- no need to hire one. ***This year, students will use an accompaniment from their online music platform.*** (Usually, you will have already paid for the accompanist with your band fees.) Students play their solos in front of a judge and are evaluated and given a rating. *This year solos will be recorded and submitted by May 6th.* **Usually the top 10 soloists** are chosen and play again in **April.** This year, the top two may perform at the spring concert. (Editor's Note: They were absolutely amazing the year before last!).

Full Band Mini Camp- May 14th-15th This camp is for the full band (9th-11th grades) plus current 8th graders. *We are planning on having this camp this year!* We will have a marching clinic and get fitted for uniforms, shoes, t-shirts, etc. Usually, at the end of the day we have an exhibition of what was learned. All current band members attend. Plan for the students to be there all day long.

Spring Concert- May 21st Time and location TBA. (Typically, it is at the RRISD PAC.) *This year, we hope to hold a live, Outdoor Pops Performance along with a virtual experience for those doing virtual only participation.*

Calendar:

Feb. 5th: 5:00-6:30 First Leadership Clinic

Feb. 6th: 10:00-5:00 Varsity Color Guard camp

Feb. 20th: 10:00-4:00 JV Color Guard camp

Mar. 8th -12th: End of Marking Period Performances- REQUIRED for all students

Mar. 12th: Audition Music for next year's band placements is posted

Mar. 13th: TCGC Color Guard Competition for Varsity and JV

Mar. 15th: 11:00am-9:00pm Modern Market Spirit Day! Come eat and support the band! Tell them you are from the Westwood Warrior Band!

Mar. 27th: TCGC Color Guard Competition for Varsity and JV

Mar. 29th: 5:00-6:30 Color Guard New Member Clinic

Apr. 5th: 5:00-6:30 Color Guard New Member Clinic
Apr. 10th: TCGC Color Guard Competition for Varsity and JV
Apr. 12th: 5:00-6:30 Color Guard New Member Clinic
Apr. 19th-23rd: Band Placement Auditions for fall (REQUIRED for all 8th-11th Graders)
Apr. 19th: 5:00-6:30 Color Guard New Member Clinic
Apr. 26th: 5:00-6:30 Color Guard New Member Clinic
Apr. 14th-15th: Band UIL Evaluations- Optional for students who choose to participate
Apr. 30th-May 1st: Mini Camp for current 8th and 9th graders and Full Color Guard Camp

May ? : Band Banquet

May 6th: Westwood Band Solo and Ensemble Competition- REQUIRED for all students

May 14th-15th: Full Band and Color Guard Mini Camp! REQUIRED for all students 9th-11th
graders and current 8th graders

May 21st: Spring Concert