

## *Alpharetta High School Wind Ensemble Contract*

**CONGRATULATIONS!** You have been selected by audition to be a member of the AHS WIND ENSEMBLE (AWE). This elite ensemble is recognized around the state of GA and country as one of the premier high school instrumental ensembles. As a member, you are expected to commit yourself to the same traditions of excellence that have been established by those who have gone before you.

**Membership in the AWE is not to be taken lightly. It is absolutely a privilege - not a right.** Membership is based on ability, skill level and desire, *not age*. We have three concert ensembles at AHS, AWE is not for everyone. The AWE is an unusual combination of curricular *and* co-curricular. There are high performance expectations, academic expectations, behavioral expectations, and growth and maturity expectations. The AWE is a nationally-recognized, elite music organization, and as such, each individual member is expected to contribute maximum efforts for the betterment of the ensemble. The more you give the more you get; and the more you get, the more you have to give! Like any successful organization, if members are more inclined to give than take, there is always more available for each one to have. In other words, you will get from this organization what you put into it.

As our school continues its path toward embracing the International Baccalaureate program, we expect to maintain the rigor in the AWE so that it will be a seamless transition into the IB Music curriculum. There is a high expectation for AWE members to be self-disciplined (practice/prepare PRIOR to rehearsal), industrious (if you have a problem, seek a solution), creative (think outside of the box), and positive (encourage each other). Our tradition of excellence has to be re-established each year. It only takes one generation to destroy what it took many to build. Your school-wide attendance, academic and citizenship record will play a significant role in your success in the AWE. Therefore, it is possible to be dismissed from the AWE as a result of irresponsibility in other classes. In addition, AWE members are expected to provide leadership in everything the ensemble does (including travel and payment of required fees). This includes performances as well as non-performance activities, including but not limited to fund-raising events, social events, and volunteer opportunities. Finally, *if you have been responsible and considerate*, you may count on an open mind and a ready-ear to hear your special needs and circumstances should one arise.

### **AWE members who ARE Marching Band members:**

In addition to fulfilling all marching band rehearsal, performance, and other obligations:

1. You are *strongly encouraged* to take private lessons on a regular basis. We can help you secure a teacher if you do not already have one.
2. **You must maintain a Smart Music account.** WE literature may be assigned at any time and must be submitted for a grade. In the event that the music is not available on Smart Music, video camera pass offs may be used for a grade.
3. You are *strongly encouraged* to prepare and take *all auditions* including Fulton County Honor Band, All State Band, and District Honor Band (same as All State).

4. You must keep up with the rehearsal / performance schedule. Knowing the calendar is YOUR responsibility. You simply cannot miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance. Wind Ensemble is our premier ensemble and will perform more frequently than other ensembles at AHS.

### **AWE members who are non-Marchers:**

Because you are not with the Marching Band on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, you will be required to do the following:

1. ***You are strongly encouraged to take private lessons.*** You are playing about 12 fewer hours per week than AWE members who are marching. Your progress is expected and essential to the success of the AWE. We can help you secure a teacher if you do not already have one.
2. **You must maintain a Smart Music account.** WE literature will be assigned at any time and must be submitted for a grade. In the event that the music is not available on Smart Music, video camera pass offs may be used for a grade.
3. ***You are required to prepare and take all auditions*** including Fulton County Honor Band, All State Band, and District Honor Band (same as All State). **This is not optional.** You are responsible for knowing when each audition takes place (see website calendar) and plan/prepare accordingly. Since you are not marching, you need to be musically challenged.
5. You must keep up with the rehearsal / performance schedule. Knowing the calendar is YOUR responsibility. You simply cannot miss a scheduled rehearsal or performance. Wind Ensemble is our premier ensemble and will perform more frequently than other ensembles at AHS.

Remember, we have no benchwarmers in the AWE - ONLY A FIRST STRING TEAM. If you do not want to pay the price of membership on the first team, you have no right to the thrill of accomplishment, which occurs through the combined efforts of each member. If you disagree with this philosophy, that's O.K; you do not HAVE to be in Wind Ensemble. Do not expect to be a member of the AWE unless you can agree with the stipulations in advance.

### **REHEARSALS / SECTIONALS / PERFORMANCES**

Rehearsal schedules are always set in advance. There are approx. 10 Thursday after-school rehearsals beginning after football season. You cannot show up late and will not be excused prior to the end of the rehearsal for part-time jobs, non-emergency medical appointments, homework, club meetings, etc. Please be sure to plan around rehearsals - ***plan your schedule in advance.*** Exceptions will be determined by the Band Director. ***Every*** member is needed at ***every*** rehearsal. Remember, if we can get along without you in rehearsal/performance, we can get along without you PERIOD. The point is – we want you to be COMMITTED.

The rehearsal and performance schedule is on our website; updates are done on a regular basis, so frequent checks are wise. As a member of the AWE it is your responsibility to keep up with what is posted on this schedule. BE RESPONSIBLE – watch the calendar!

**PARENTS**

Parents, please be active participants. Our Wind Ensemble is truly one of the premier high school bands in our state. We are well respected and work hard to maintain this reputation. Your involvement with volunteer opportunities including fundraising events is a vital component to the success of our program. Please be involved. In the end, it's our students (your child) that will benefit!

**Final Step:** Please sign and return the bottom portion of this page as an acknowledgement of the expectations and requirements for the Alpharetta High School Wind Ensemble. Keep in mind that membership in the AWE is optional; we are happy to move you to another ensemble that does not require the same commitment.

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***Alpharetta High School Wind Ensemble Contract Signature Page***

My signature below attests to the fact I have read and agree to the content of the Alpharetta High School Wind Ensemble (AWE) Contract. This is ***in addition to the online Band Handbook signature page.*** I understand that membership in the AWE is optional, and my signed commitment to the Wind Ensemble is acknowledgement that I accept the terms and conditions for membership.

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ parent cell phone \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**PRINT STUDENT NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures**

PARENT(S) \_\_\_\_\_ STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent email:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Please email the completed and signed contract to: [walsh@fultonschools.org](mailto:walsh@fultonschools.org)

Or drop in the mail to:  
Alpharetta High School WE  
c/o Mike Walsh  
3595 Webb Bridge Road  
Alpharetta, GA 30005