

## 2016-2017 BVW Band Audition Information

All 2016-2017 BVW students who have enrolled in band will complete a short audition so that they can be placed in ensemble that will best meet their needs. It is the band class they will be enrolled in for the entire 2016-2017 school year. Below is the information regarding this audition. ALL students are receiving this handout and the music on the same day to ensure equal opportunity for preparation.

There are 2 sets of audition materials. Students need only prepare one. PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT TWO RECORDINGS. ALL PERCUSSIONISTS will prepare and record SET 1.

**SET 1:** Prepare SET 1 if you would like to be considered for Symphonic Wind Ensemble ("SWE"). This ensemble is open to 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades and is the top ensemble at West. They perform advanced repertoire year round and have occasional playing and written assignments. Students in this ensemble are expected to practice outside of class and participation in private lessons is strongly encouraged. ALL members of this ensemble are expected to audition for Sousa Band (freshmen) or KMEA region and all state (soph-senior). SWE meets first block year round.

**SET 2:** Prepare SET 2 if you would like to be considered for Symphonic Band or Concert Band. These ensembles are open to 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades. Symphonic band is the second ensemble here at West and performs moderate to advanced literature. Symphonic band meets 2<sup>nd</sup> block year round. Concert Band is the third ensemble at West and offers the widest variety of opportunity for band students. Upper classmen who have 3<sup>rd</sup> block open in their schedule can choose to learn a secondary instrument. Due to the band program having many talented musicians, it is common for freshman to play in concert band for a year or two to prepare them for one of the upper level ensembles. Concert band meets 3<sup>rd</sup> block year round.

**REGARDLESS OF WHAT ENSEMBLE YOU MAKE, THE DIRECTORS AT WEST WILL WORK HARD FOR YOU EVERYDAY! EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT IN THE BAND FAMILY!**

It is our goal to provide EVERY band student at West with a quality education and plenty of performance opportunities. Placing students in the appropriate ensemble helps us ensure that students will be surrounded by other musicians that are playing at a similar level, which allows us to better tailor instruction and literature choice for each class.

Steps for submitting the audition:

1. Decide which set to prepare. If you wish to be considered for SWE-go for it! You will be considered for Symphonic Band if you do not make SWE. If the music is prepared well, it gives you a better chance of making an upper ensemble. If you think the music is too hard and you would rather play set 2 and play it well-that is fine, too! Do what is best for YOU.
2. Prepare the music by practicing with a metronome, taking the music to your private lessons, asking your director for help, finding a buddy to practice with. DO NOT wait until the last minute. The feeling of unpreparedness is not a fun one. The etudes are short-just try for a measure or two a day and you'll be ready!
3. Sign for Charms and make sure your info is in the system. The link is at the top of the back of this page. ALL recordings will be submitted via Charms. INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE!
4. The week before the audition is due, check your computer or mobile device to make sure you have a plan for recording and that everything works. If you wait until the night before and nothing works, you will cause yourself unnecessary stress!
5. Set aside plenty of time to record-that way if you want to try it more than once, there is time. You can record as many times as you like...as long as you only submit one recording! The key is to have a plan.

\*Submitting can begin as soon as you are prepared on the etude. DO NOT SUBMIT LATE!

**ALL AUDITION RECORDINGS ARE DUE MAY 6TH**

## How to Register for Charms

Charms is the organizational system we use to send band emails, newsletters, organize fundraising and finances, and keep track of our calendar. You MUST sign up for Charms to be in band.

1. Click this link (or copy/paste it into your browser):  
<https://www.charmsoffice.com/charms/selfregister.asp?s=BVWHSBand>
2. Click on NEW Students Click Here!
3. Charms will prompt you to enter personal information – this is for the STUDENT. For student ID, enter your BVID (lunch number). Make sure names, addresses, and phone numbers are correct. Make sure the email you enter is one you check regularly!
4. AFTER you create your student's account, click ADD NEW ADULT to add at LEAST one parent/adult to the account. You should enter this adult's email AND phone number – this is how all of our communication is done!

## Recording Playing Tests in Charms

Make sure you read these instructions carefully to help you decide which option to use. Ask Mr. Stuever if you have any questions!

### Computer Instructions:

1. Go to the Charms Website: [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com)
2. Click: ENTER and then on Parents/Students/Members.
3. Enter School Code: BVWHSBand
4. In the Student Area Password box, enter your BVID number
5. Click: ENTER
6. Charms may prompt you to create a new username and password that is not your BVID number. Create these and remember them – I cannot retrieve them for you!
7. Select the Recording Studio button on the lower left.
8. Make sure you allow Charms to use your microphone! (You may get a pop-up asking).
9. Click the green Assignments button on the right hand side of the screen. Select the 2016-2017 Ensemble Auditions Assignment.
10. You may have to enable Java to use the recording studio. Follow any instructions given on how to make the application work on your computer.
11. When ready, click on the round red record button. When finished, click on the stop button.
12. Charms will let you have up to six takes before you have to save/submit any. Take as many tries as you want and listen to each before you save!
13. Once you've decided which take to submit, click on it and then click on Save Take X to upload this file as your audition.

You can also record via another program and then use the green Upload Existing mp3 File button on the right side to upload that file. Just make sure all recordings are unedited!

### Mobile App Instructions:

1. Make sure you've downloaded the correct app! In the app store, it's the version called "Charms Blue – Student App," NOT Charms Mobile. The app exists for iPhone and Android, but I'm not sure if it works for Windows phones.
2. Open the app and enter the school code (BVWHSBand) and your BVID number to log in.
3. Charms may prompt you to create a new username and password that is not your BVID number. Create these and remember them – I cannot retrieve them for you!
4. Once logged in, click on the Recording Studio button. You may have to click on the options button on the upper right hand side of the screen.
5. At the bottom of the Recording Studio, click on the second icon (Assignments). Click on the red circle next to the 2016-2017 Ensemble Auditions Assignment.
6. Instructions will appear on how to record. It's very easy – hit the red button and it will count you down to record! Once you're done recording, hit the stop button. You can then listen to your recording before you submit it.
7. If you like this recording, hit the check mark to submit it to the assignment. If you want another try, push the red record button in the upper right hand corner to record again.
8. Once you've submitted your recording, you're done!