



# ***BVWEST BANDS***

Parent & Student Handbook

**2021 - 2022**

Ryan Ramsey  
Assistant Director of Bands  
[raramsey@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:raramsey@bluevalleyk12.org)

Justin W. Love  
Director of Bands  
[jwlove02@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:jwlove02@bluevalleyk12.org)

Johnathon Westcott  
Percussion Instructor  
[jwestcott@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:jwestcott@bluevalleyk12.org)

Lindsay Gamble  
Pleasant Ridge Middle School  
[EGamble@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:EGamble@bluevalleyk12.org)

16200 Antioch Rd.  
Overland Park, KS 66085  
[www.bvwestband.com](http://www.bvwestband.com)

Bethany Starks  
Lakewood Middle School  
[BStarks@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:BStarks@bluevalleyk12.org)



[BVW Jaguar Bands](#)



[BVW Band](#)



[Blue Valley West Bands](#)



[BVWestbands@gmail.com](mailto:BVWestbands@gmail.com)

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Updated August, 2021



# Welcome!

Welcome to the Blue Valley West Bands! You have chosen to join a musical organization with a distinguished tradition of musical excellence. Our accomplishments stem from our continued focus on making ourselves better musicians, teachers, leaders, and individuals each day. You have also chosen to join a group which prides itself on developing a strong sense of family. Our shared experiences allow us to build special connections unique to participation in a school music ensemble. Our program provides opportunities for everyone to participate and to excel!

The purpose of this handbook is to ensure that everyone associated with the Blue Valley West Bands understands our philosophy and expectations. Every student, teacher, and parent that works with our program has unique talents to share, and by working towards common goals we can accomplish far more together than we can apart. We are thrilled that you have joined the West Band Program and look forward to another great year of making music and memories!



## Section 1: What We Stand For

### A. Mission

To provide comprehensive learning experiences that enable and encourage students' musical development; enrich our school community; and allow opportunities for personal growth and exploration.

### B. Core Values

<b>Family</b>	<b>Pride</b>	<b>Grit</b>	<b>Excellence</b>
<i>Embracing every individual in our shared goals and experiences.</i>	<i>Living our values with passion and integrity.</i>	<i>Confronting challenges with determination and resilience</i>	<i>Striving consistently to become better in all we do.</i>

### C. Curriculum Standards

The music education curriculum in Blue Valley is based upon the National Core Music Standards adopted by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME.) While not every student endeavors to become a professional performer, the skills and lessons learned through the Artistic Process can be applied to a variety of disciplines and careers. The components of the Artistic Process are:

**Creating  
Responding**

**Performing  
Connecting**

To support these curricular outcomes, the Blue Valley School District provides students opportunities through a comprehensive program of classes and co-curricular music opportunities at the high school level. Curriculum documents and course objectives can be accessed through the Blue Valley Schools website at: <https://www.bluevalleyk12.org/Page/34442>



## Section 2: What We Expect

### A. Expectations

Members of the Blue Valley West Bands demonstrate our values and work towards our mission by being:

#### ***Punctual***

♪ *To be early is to be on time; to be on time is to be late; to be late is to be early for the next rehearsal! Plan accordingly!*

#### ***Prepared***

♪ *Have your instrument, music, pencil, equipment, and supplies ready before every rehearsal and performance begins.*

♪ *The more you put in, the more you get out. Time spent practicing on your own enables all to achieve more.*

#### ***Present***

♪ *Focus on the task at hand, not on distractions – be in the moment*

♪ *Listen to and follow instructions the first time they are given.*

♪ *When you talk you take away the ability of others to listen and learn - Music is an art created on a canvas of silence.*

#### ***Purposeful***

♪ *Always work in a forward direction*

♪ *Never waste a rep – practice and perform with intent!*

♪ *Find something to improve each and every time we rehearse – “Do something better!”*

#### ***Proud***

♪ *Carry yourself in a professional manner and you will be treated as such.*

♪ *Saying “please and thank you” and showing good manners go a long way!*

♪ *Do your part to keep the band room neat and clean – pick up trash, put things away, and keep all food outside.*

♪ *Keep your instrument in good working order. Leave all other instruments and equipment alone.*

♪ *“It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation, and only one bad one to lose it.” – Benjamin Franklin*

**Abide by all applicable policies of Blue Valley West High School and Blue Valley USD #229.**

### B. Consequences and Rewards

Should a band member have difficulty meeting the above expectations, the following actions may be taken:

♪ Redirection of verbal reminder.

♪ Private conference between the student and director.

♪ Conference with student, director, and parents to discuss behaviors and expectations.

♪ Suspension from a performance or special activity.

♪ Referral to their Principal for appropriate consequences.

♪ Other steps as outlined by policies of Blue Valley West High School and Blue Valley USD #229.

Following our expectations in all rehearsals, performances, and events enables us **ALL** to reach our highest potential!

### C. Food For Thought

Excellence in any field is the result of hard work and dedication. Failure requires an equal amount of lack of effort and apathy. The unique atmosphere of a music program is that students have the opportunity to push themselves to whatever level they choose. At the same time, the overall musical level of the band is dependent upon the efforts of every single member. As human beings, there is always something we can learn or do better than we already are. Every time we rehearse or perform, strive to play or do something better than you did the previous rehearsal or performance! Hence the phrase: ***“Do Something Better!”***

**Next Section**



## Section 3: Grades

### A. Grading Categories

In each band course, students will participate in a variety of assignments and assessments to help guide their musical learning and development. Band class activities will fall into one of several categories:

- ♪ **Musical Engagement:** Participation in music learning activities including rehearsals and sectionals, both in and out of class. As band is a cooperative learning environment, attendance is an essential part of both individual and ensemble musical progress. Students may make-up missed rehearsals by submitting recordings for evaluation and /or attending a help session during AST or JAG. Please see the **Attendance Policy** for more details.
- ♪ **Musical Development:** Students demonstrate progress in their musicianship through playing assignments and quarterly playing projects. Playing assignments may include scales, technical exercises, or excerpts from concert music. Projects might include preparation for honor band auditions, solo performances, or small ensemble performances.
- ♪ **Musical Enrichment:** Students further their musical knowledge and skill through activities such as listening logs, video critiques, theory lessons, composition projects, etc.
- ♪ **Musical Performance:** Students participate in a variety of performance opportunities throughout the year, and attendance at assigned performances is required of all band students. Please see the **Attendance Policy** for more details.

### B. Grading Rubric

Grades are earned each term based upon the following rubric.

% Points Earned	Musical Engagement 300 points	Musical Development 200 points	Musical Enrichment 100 points	Musical Performance 400 points
100%	Attend and engage in all rehearsal activities and consistently model program expectations.  Satisfactorily complete make-up assignments for any absence notified in a timely manner.	Complete all playing assignments and / or projects and consistently demonstrate positive effort and improvement on assignments.	Complete all assigned enrichment activities with appropriate attention to detail.	Perform at all assigned performance events and consistently model program expectations.  Satisfactorily complete make-up assignment for any performance absence notified in a timely manner.
90%	-20% for each rehearsal absence not notified in a timely manner or incomplete make-up assignment.  Inconsistent modeling of program expectations.	Incomplete or missing assignments - points are distributed amongst the assignments given throughout the term.	Incomplete or missing assignments - points are distributed amongst the assignments given throughout the term.	-50% for performance conflicts not notified in a timely manner and / or incomplete make-up assignments.
80%				
70%				
60%				
50%				
40%				
30%				
20%				
10%				
0%				

## Section 4: General Policies

### A. Attendance Policy

Band is a co-curricular academic class, meaning that all class activities contribute to learning, whether they occur during or outside of the school day. ALL students play a crucial role in each ensemble's musical success, therefore attendance at ALL rehearsals and performances is required and factors into each student's grade. At the same time, we recognize and appreciate that students also have commitments to a wide range of personal, scholastic, religious, and community teams, organizations, and events. This means that from time to time schedule conflicts with rehearsals and performances may arise.

**Timely communication** is key to working through potential schedule conflicts. By providing timely notification, students and instructors can either find a solution to the conflict and / or develop alternative plans for the event. Last minute communication of conflicts negatively impacts the learning and performance experience for the student and the rest of the ensemble. Therefore, the following expectations apply for notification of potential schedule conflicts.

- ♪ **Illness or Emergency:** During the school day please notify the school office. For after-school performances or rehearsals please email or call the band office directly.
- ♪ **School day / in-class rehearsals:** A courtesy email or verbal reminder to your teacher a few days in advance of the absence is expected and appreciated. (*Examples – game, field trip, appointment, etc.*)
- ♪ **Before / After school rehearsals:** Submit an [Attendance Form](#) via the band website at least **one week** in advance.
- ♪ **Performances (any time):** Submit an [Attendance Form](#) via the band website a minimum of **two weeks** in advance.

A make-up assignment will be provided for any rehearsal or performance absence so long as the schedule conflict was communicated in a timely manner. No make-up assignment will be provided for absences without timely communication.

### B. School Activities /Athletics / Programs...BAND AND!!!

Students are **strongly encouraged** to take advantage of the many academic and athletic opportunities offered at Blue Valley West! Many band members participate in multiple activities and sports. Students involved in activities and athletics must be diligent about balancing rehearsals, practices, games, performances, and homework, but with some careful planning it is very manageable.

In the rare event that a performance conflict arises between school activities, sponsors will try to work out a solution that allows a **student to participate in both events**. Again, the key is **timely communication**. The sooner a conflict is brought to everyone's attention, the easier it usually is to find a positive solution. During the fall marching band season, students will work out a regular schedule with coaches and directors to handle overlaps between practices, games, and evening rehearsals. Those students will not need to fill out an Attendance Form unless there is an additional conflict.

### C. Outside of Class Rehearsals

To offer the range of musical opportunities and experiences our students and deserve and expect, some of our classes and extra-curricular ensembles also have rehearsal expectations beyond the school day. A detailed schedule of rehearsals will always be available on the band calendar. These typically include:

- ♪ **Marching Band:** During the marching band season (typically August through the end of October), Marching Band rehearsals run from **6:00 – 9:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays**.
- ♪ **Jaguar Percussion Group:** Typically rehearses one to two evenings a week during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- ♪ **Winter Guard:** Typically rehearses Tuesday and Thursday evenings from November through early April.
- ♪ **Rehearsals / Sectionals:** Throughout the year additional chamber ensembles and / or sectionals may be scheduled before or after school. Additional rehearsals for marching, jazz, and / or concert bands may also be scheduled due to unique performance events.

## D. Marching Band / Summer Rehearsals / Band Camp

All band students at Blue Valley West are members of the Red & Silver Brigade, our marching band. To prepare physically and musically for the marching season, there will be a series of rehearsals and camps throughout the summer. Dates and hours vary depending upon facility availability however the schedule is usually available by January each year. A significant amount of instruction occurs during these camps. Students who miss large portions of camp or who have consistent rehearsal conflicts may be assigned an alternate performance spot for the halftime / competitive marching show.

## E. Schedules

The Blue Valley West Bands maintain a Google Calendar which is also synced into the Band App and the Band Website. Please refer to dates, times, and information about band performances and events on our Google Calendar. You can subscribe to the calendar so that it sends information directly to your phone, computer, or other mobile device. The calendar ID is [bvwestbands@gmail.com](mailto:bvwestbands@gmail.com).

## F. Eligibility

- ♪ **KSHSAA Requirements:** KSHSAA (Kansas State High School Activities Association) requires that band members pass 5 classes in the preceding semester to participate in music competitions and performances away from school. Students failing to meet semester eligibility may still perform in home concerts and athletic support performances.
- ♪ **Grades:** Students must be diligent in maintaining their grades in all courses. Students who have difficulty maintaining passing grades in other classes may be prohibited from participating in certain rehearsals, performances and / or special events until their grades improve.

## G. Academic Make-up Work

Students may occasionally miss other classes for performances occur during the school day. Students are responsible for completing any coursework missed during that time.

## H. Instruments and Equipment

Students who primarily play flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, or trombone must provide their own instrument. Percussionists must provide their own sticks, mallets, and stick bags. A full list of required percussion supplies will be provided by our percussion instructor. Students who play oboe, bassoon, tenor sax, baritone sax, horn, baritone / euphonium, or tuba may be issued a school-owned instrument.

Students using a school-owned instrument will be responsible for regular maintenance of the instrument and charged for any damage or repairs beyond normal wear and tear.

Students are required to provide all sticks, mallets, valve oil, grease, reeds, and other essential supplies. These can be obtained through local music stores and / or via the internet. Students are strongly encouraged to provide their own mouthpieces throughout their band experience. Directors will gladly provide information and guidance as needed for students and parents to purchase supplies.

## I. Music

Students are responsible for the condition of any music and folders issued to them. Students will be required to pay for any missing or damaged music at the conclusion of the school year. Replacement costs vary and are depend on the item and cost from the manufacturer or publisher.

## J. Forms

Before participating in any band activities, there are several medical, transportation, and liability forms required by the Blue Valley West Athletics and Activities Departments. These will be distributed in the spring and collected/checked at our annual Forms Fest event near the end of May.

## **K. Band Lockers and Cabinets**

Lockers are used only for the storage of instruments and music during the school day. Lockers must be kept clean and neat at all times. Instruments must be stored in their case while in the locker. Students who fail to follow locker expectations may lose the privilege of using a locker.

## **L. Food and Drink**

**Absolutely NO food, gum, candy, or drink (except water)** is to be brought into the band room except for specially designated events or during JAG time as outlined below.

## **M. JAG / AST Time**

Students may use JAG and AST Time to practice, work with a director, or hold student run sectionals. Students wishing to come to the band room for JAG Time must follow all procedures. Students are expected to be engaged in practice or working on academic assignments for the duration of JAG Time.

Students may come to the band room during JAG Time at the times designated on the room schedule. Directors may occasionally hold meetings, sectionals, or special ensemble rehearsals during JAG Time. Students may eat lunch in the band office or band hallway.

## **N. Transportation**

Bus transportation is generally provided to all performances away from Blue Valley West. Students will have assigned buses for all trips. Students must use the transportation provided, unless prior permission has been given and the student's parents have signed the appropriate transportation release form. Parent chaperones will supervise each bus. Students should be dropped off before and picked-up after all events in a timely manner. Event schedules are always communicated via the **Band App**.

## **O. Trips**

On occasion ensembles from Blue Valley West are selected to perform at State, Regional, and / or National events. The costs to attend these events are generally shared between the school district and the band program and its students and families.

To participate in any trip performance, students must be in good standing with the school and district.

## **P. Drug, Alcohol, and Conduct Policy**

The teachers and administrators of Blue Valley West High School strive to maintain a safe and secure environment for all students. Therefore the use, possession, and distribution of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, E-Cigs, fireworks, and weapons by students is prohibited by both state law and school district policy. Students who bring or use such items to band rehearsals, performances, or other events will face the appropriate legal and school imposed consequences. Band students may face additional sanctions including possible suspension of performance privileges or expulsion from the band program.

Students involved in school athletics and academic activities also carry a responsibility to represent their school and community in a positive manner. Band students who engage in illicit activities or demonstrate conduct grossly inconsistent with the expectations and values of the band program may face consequences as outlined above regardless of whether the actions occurred at or outside of school. The safety and welfare of all band students, parent volunteers, teachers, and / or staff is always our primary concern.



## Section 5: Uniforms

Each band ensemble has a different set of uniform requirements. Some uniform parts are provided by the school and other parts by the student. It is each student's responsibility to ensure that the uniform is kept clean and worn properly.

Wearing a school uniform is both a **privilege** and **responsibility**. We will ALL be in uniform or out of uniform together. Do not remove, unbutton, or unzip any portion of your uniform while in public unless the whole band has permission to do so. When in uniform, you are to be careful with any food or drink you are allowed to have.

Marching Bands	Concert Ensembles & Jaguar Percussion Group	Jazz Bands	Pep Band
Uniform Coat Uniform Shirt / Insert Bibbers Shako (hat) Plume Black Calf-Length Socks * Black marching shoes * Black Compression Gear * Black gloves *	Black button-down shirt or dress with full-length sleeves * Black dress pants long skirt * Black socks or hose * Black dress shoes * <i>Black from neck to toe and            neck to wrist</i>	BVW Jazz Polo * Black dress pants * Black socks or hose * Black dress shoes * Colored tie (jazz) *	Pep Band Shirt * Jeans *

\* = item(s) to be provided by the student

## Section 6: Fees / Fair Share / Fundraisers

There are certain costs associated with participating in and operating an active and successful high school band program. These may include uniform components, meals, transportation, lodging, entry fees, and supplemental instruction, and trips that students participate in during their time in the Blue Valley West Bands. Our Blue Valley West Band Boosters collect a Fair Share Payment from each band member to assist with the total costs of operating the Blue Valley West Band program. All band members also have several required uniform items to purchase or replace each year. The Fair Share may change from year to year and is set in the spring by the directors and Band Booster Executive Board. Families sign a financial contract with an attached payment plan for the Fair Share.

**No student will be turned away from the band program for the inability to pay fees.** Students with financial concerns are welcome to visit confidentially with a director at any time. The Band Boosters provide fundraisers year-round to help families offset the cost of their band fee. Many families utilize these, and some even pay their entire fee through various forms of fundraising. Information on fundraising activities and opportunities are provided by the Band Boosters. An important point to note is that per IRS regulations, fundraising earnings do remain with the Band Boosters. When a student graduates or exits the band program, any money earned through fundraisers will remain in the organization's general fund.

## Section 7: Performing Ensembles

Enrollment in the Blue Valley West Band Program is open to any student who successfully completes the previous year of band, or by permission of the directors. Students without prior band experience should visit with a member of our Performing Arts Faculty to review music course options if they would like to add music to their schedule. Each spring, ALL current band students participate in a **placement process** that considers student effort; achievement of essential skills and concepts; and performance quality of selected musical etudes. The goal of this process is to place each student in the appropriate ensemble that provides them with an appropriate balance of musical challenge and enjoyment. Students with questions about their potential placement should visit with a director.

The Blue Valley West Band Program consists of several different co-curricular and extra-curricular ensembles:

### A. Concert Band

The Concert Band is a year-long ensemble course open by placement audition to all woodwind, brass, and percussion students in grades 9-12. Students work on music fundamentals and expanding their musical knowledge and skill through performance of intermediate level literature. During the Fall, Concert Band students perform as part of the Red and Silver Marching Band at all home football games, parades, and 2-3 competitions. Concert Band also performs at 3 - 4 concerts and in an adjudicated music festival each year. Concert Band members are welcome to participate in all aspects of the band program.

### B. Symphonic Band

The Symphonic Band is a year-long ensemble course open by placement audition to all woodwind, brass, and percussion students in grades 9-12. Symphonic band is the second level of band, and students will work on further development of their individual musical skills while rehearsing and performing advanced band literature. During the Fall, Symphonic Band students perform as part of the Red and Silver Marching Band at all home football games, parades, and 2-3 competitions. Symphonic Band also performs at several concerts and the KSHSAA State Music Festival each spring. Symphonic Band has also traveled to regional music festivals and performed by invitation at the Kansas Music Educators Association State In-Service Workshop.

### C. Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is the most select band ensemble at Blue Valley West and consists of approximately 45 – 50 of the most advanced woodwind, brass and percussion students in grades 9-12. Placement is by audition and enrollment is for a full year. Wind Ensemble focuses on the performance of advanced and professional level band literature. During the Fall, Wind Ensemble students perform as part of the Red and Silver Marching Band at all home football games, parades, and 2-3 competitions. The Wind Ensemble also performs at several concerts and at the KSHSAA State Music Festival each spring. The Wind Ensemble has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kansas Music Educators Association State In-Service Workshop, and at the Music for All National Concert Festival.

### D. Jazz Ensembles

Students in the Blue Valley West Bands have the opportunity to participate in both co-curricular and extra-curricular Jazz Ensembles. Enrollment is open to students who are also enrolled in another band, choir, or orchestra course. Placement is by audition. Students focus on performing a range of traditional and contemporary jazz repertoire while developing a range of stylistic performance techniques and learning how to improvise. The number of jazz ensembles varies each year depending on student interest, schedule availability, and instructor availability.

♪ **Jazz Lab** is an after-school activity open to any student interested in further developing their jazz techniques. Rehearsals are largely student run and focus on combo performance and improvisation.



## **F. “The Red & Silver Brigade” – The Blue Valley West Marching Band**

All students in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble combine each fall to create the Red & Silver Brigade. The Red & Silver Brigade has earned numerous accolades, including being a 2-time Kansas Bandmasters Association State Champion and participant in Bands of America Regional and National Marching Competitions. In addition to class time rehearsals, students also participate in a mandatory band camp near the end of July. During the marching season (August – late October) rehearsals run Tuesdays and Thursdays (6-9 PM.) No audition is required.

## **G. Jaguar Percussion Group**

Percussion students have the opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular ensemble focused on further development of percussion performance skills and percussion ensemble repertoire. Rehearsals are 1 -2 nights per week beginning in January and continue through the Spring. The Jaguar Percussion Group (JPG) performs at several concerts as well as Regional and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals each year and hosts an area percussion festival each Spring. The Jaguar Percussion Group has performed at the Kansas Music Educators Association State In-Service Workshop and at other Regional and National events.

## **H. Color Guard**

The Color Guard is the visual component of the Red & Silver Brigade in the fall. Any student at Blue Valley West is welcome to participate – no prior experience is necessary. Students enroll in a Band Course in the fall to get Fine Arts course credit for their participation. Training sessions are held each spring.

## **I. Winter Guard**

Winter Guard is an extra-curricular extension of the Color Guard Experience. Students continue rehearsing throughout the Winter and Spring and prepare a unique show to participate in the Mid-Continent Color Guard Association competitive circuit where they have achieved considerable success.

## **J. Basketball Pep Band**

During basketball season students may participate in the pep band. The pep band performs for select home basketball games and post-season tournament games. Participation counts towards a varsity letter.

## **K. Pit Orchestra**

The Pit Orchestra provides the music for the annual school musical. Rehearsals are held after-school and on some evenings beginning about 1 ½ months prior to the musical and run through the final performance. Interested woodwind, brass, string, and percussion students should look for information in the fall.

## **L. Chamber Ensembles**

Each year woodwind, brass, and percussion students create different small ensembles and chamber groups for community performances and to participate in the KSHSAA Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Students should visit with their director in November to begin preparations for these events.



## **M. Orchestra Winds**

On occasion the band and orchestra programs will collaborate to offer a full orchestra experience. Rehearsal and performance schedules will vary depending upon the literature programmed and availability.

## **N. Music Theory / Honors Music Theory**

These courses are offered for students interested in expanding their understanding of music, and possibly considering studying music at the collegiate level. Enrollment is open to any Blue Valley West Student, although it is strongly recommended to take the class as a junior or senior. Students learn the building blocks of music and develop a deeper understanding of musical notation, melodic, and harmonic structures. Students who take the Honors Level analyze and compose music using common practice period techniques. Music Theory is a semester-long course, and Honors Music Theory is a year-long course.



## Section 8: Other Musical Opportunities

For students who wish to challenge themselves beyond their band class experience, a wealth of music experiences can be found both at school and beyond. Interested students should speak with their director about these opportunities.

- ♪ **Private Lessons:** All students can benefit greatly from specialized one on one instruction on their instrument. Blue Valley West maintains a list of area professionals who offer instruction on all wind and percussion instruments. The list is always available on via Canvas and in the Band App.
- ♪ **KMEA All-District and All-State Bands:** Each fall students in grades 9-12 can audition for the **KMEA East Central All-District** and **KMEA All-State Bands**. District auditions are held in November and the band performs in December. All-State Auditions are held in January and the All-State Ensembles perform in February in Wichita. Information can be found here:
  - **ECKMEA District Band:** <https://eckmea.org/?section=hsband>
  - **KMEA All-State Band:** <https://ksmea.org/hsband/excerpts/>
- ♪ **NAfME All-National Honor Band / Jazz Band / Orchestra:** Students selected to an All-State Ensemble are eligible to audition.
  - <https://nafme.org/programs/all-national-honor-ensembles/>
- ♪ **Kansas John Philip Sousa Honor Band:** A state-wide honor band for students in grades 7-9. Taped auditions are due in October. The Sousa Band performs at the University of Kansas in January.
  - <http://ks-sousahonorband.org/>
- ♪ **Music for All Honor Band / Jazz Band / Orchestra of America:** A national level honor ensemble that meets and performs at the Music for All National Festival in March. Auditions occur in the fall. There is a significant cost to participate. Interested students should visit with a director.
  - <https://www.musicforall.org/what-we-do/honor-ensembles>
- ♪ **Prairie Winds Festival / UMKC Midwest Honor Band / K-State Concert Band Clinic:** Honor Band experiences hosted by local Universities each January and February. See your director for additional information.
  - **Prairie Winds Festival:** <https://music.ku.edu/band/prairie>
  - **UMKC Honor Band:** <https://info.umkc.edu/cmda-mhbo/>
  - **K-State Concert Band Clinic:** <https://www.k-state.edu/band/festivals/cbc.html>
- ♪ **Fountain City Youth Brass Academy:** Students have the chance to rehearse and perform in a traditional European style Brass Band. Instruction comes from members of the internationally acclaimed Fountain City Brass Band.
  - <https://fcbb.net/fcyba/>
- ♪ **Tri-M Music Honor Society:** Each fall students in grades 9-12 can audition for the **KMEA All-District** and **All-State Bands**. District auditions
  - <http://www.music honors.com/>
- ♪ **Summer Music Camps:** Students can participate in summer music experiences across the country. Below are links to two very popular options:
  - <https://camp.musicforall.org/>
  - <https://music.ku.edu/mmc>
- ♪ **Drum Corps International:** Marching music's Major League. Students compete for the world championship in highly intricate shows while receiving world class instruction in musical performance. Auditions are usually held in November.
  - <https://www.dci.org/>

## Section 9: Lettering & Awards

### A. Varsity Letters

Students who go above and beyond the basic expectations of the band program have the opportunity to receive additional recognition of their effort and accomplishments by receiving a Varsity Letter.

♪ **Eligibility Criteria: To be considered** for a Varsity Letter, students must first meet the following eligibility conditions.

- Have no **unexcused** absences from any performance.
- Have had no major discipline problems in band.
- Earned an **“A”** in all band classes.

♪ **Award Criteria:** Students who meet the eligibility conditions must participate in one of the additional activities listed below:

*Attend all required Pep band Games (Red / Silver Band)  
Audition for ECKMEA All-District Band  
Take a solo or ensemble to KSHSAA Regional Festival*

*Jazz Band  
Winter Guard  
Volunteer for Band Program Service  
Community Music Ensemble*

### B. Specialty Awards

At the end of the year students may receive additional recognition for special accomplishments or extraordinary service to the Band Program.

## Section 10: Communication

We use several methods to facilitate communication between parents, students, volunteers, and teachers.

♪ **BAND App:** The Band App is a powerful communication platform that we use to send announcements, handouts, and other information to band students and parents. Instructions for sign-up are provided through Canvas and Email.

♪ **Sunday Email:** Each week, usually Sunday afternoon, an email is sent out with details about upcoming schedules.

♪ **Canvas:** All Band Students are expected to interact with Canvas as part of our classes as they are in all other subject areas. Resources, including this handbook, are readily available at all times.

♪ **Website:** [www.bvwestband.com](http://www.bvwestband.com)

♪ **Social Media:** the Blue Valley West Bands maintain several social media accounts including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. See the front page of the handbook for more details.

## Section 11: Parent Opportunities

Our Band Program relies on the generous gifts of time and resources that our parents and families provide to ensure our students have an exceptional experience as members of the Blue Valley West Bands. In turn, parents also have the opportunity to experience their student's journey through band and high school from a unique perspective.

All parents are automatically members of the Blue Valley West Band Boosters. The BVWBB coordinate parent volunteers, materials, and fundraisers to help support the students in the band program. BVWBBB is a Kansas Not For Profit Corporation and has a set of officers, bylaws, and conducts regular meetings. BVWBB holds elections in the spring and also seeks out volunteers to serve as coordinators of various projects.