

BVW Band Ensemble Placement Hearings 2021 – 2022 School Year



All students enrolling in **band** at **Blue Valley West** for the **2021-2022** school year must complete an **Ensemble Placement Hearing**. This process places students in a curricular ensemble that provides an appropriate balance of musical challenge and enjoyment.

The Band Faculty consider several criteria when making each student's **initial** placement recommendation.

1. Current Band Director's evaluation of student's musical progress, rehearsal skills, attendance, attitude, and effort.
2. Student's musical development as documented through regularly assigned playing assessments in band class.
3. Technical and musical skills as demonstrated through performance of the ensemble placement material.
4. Maintaining properly balanced instrumentation in each ensemble to ensure a quality musical experience for all students

Students with scheduling or placement questions should visit with their director well before the hearing due date. **Final** placements are subject to student and building class schedules as determined in August.

Ensemble Placement Evaluation Material

Woodwind & Brass

Part A – Chromatic Scale.

Option 1: perform a 2-octave chromatic scale **OR**

Option 2: play an extended range chromatic scale

Note: *To be considered for placement in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble, students must perform Option 2.*

Part B – Technical Etude. Perform at a tempo that allows you to exaggerate all the details – notes, rhythms, articulations, and dynamics.

Part C – Lyrical Etude. Show off your tone and the dynamic contrast in this exercise.

Percussion

Part A – Mallet Etude. Please perform on marimba or xylophone. Play at a tempo that allows you to play musically as well as accurately.

Part B – Snare Etude. Perform with accurate sticking and dynamic contrast. Play at a tempo that allows you to play all the details clearly.

Part C – Timpani Etude. Please tune the drums carefully before performing. A schedule of times will be posted to provide students practice and recording opportunities.

Placement Hearing Submission

Current Blue Valley West Band Students (Grades 9 – 11)

- Record yourself performing each part of the placement material.
- Make sure you are in full view in the video so that directors can evaluate posture, hand position, and embouchure / sticking.
- Submit each video to the corresponding assignment in Canvas **by 3:00 PM on Friday, April 9.**

Current 8th Grade Band Students

- Placements will be performed for the high school directors between **April 1 and April 9** during your regular band class or after school.
- Virtual students will perform via Zoom or may schedule an appointment with the directors.
- Specific dates and times will be scheduled after Spring Break.
- Live hearings provide an opportunity for 8th grade students and directors to ask and answer questions as needed.

Tips & Suggestions

- Practice early and often! Careful preparation will **always** shine through in a performance!
- Musicality is **far** more important than speed!
- Do **your** best! Not every musician is at the same point in their development. Play what you can play well and give your best effort on the things you may not yet be ready to do.
- When recording, never aim your bell directly at the camera. Turn slightly to the side to get your best tone.
- Give yourself time to record each part more than once. Watch and listen for your best overall performance, and don't try to reach perfection.

Questions?

Please contact Mr. Love, Mr. Ramsey, or Mr. Westcott directly if you have questions or need assistance with the submission process.

Mr. Love: jwlove02@bluevalleyk12.org

Mr. Ramsey: raramsey@bluevalleyk12.org

Mr. Westcott: jwestcott@bluevalleyk12.org

Below is information about the different curricular ensembles offered at Blue Valley West. You can also find additional information on the band website, www.bvwestband.com

Band Ensembles at Blue Valley West

Concert Band is the 3rd ensemble at West and meets year-round. Most students enter the BVW Band program as members of Concert Band. Students continue developing fundamental skills while performing a wide range of music at several concerts and in an adjudicated music festival. Students may explore additional optional opportunities such as private lessons, honor band auditions, solo and ensemble festival, basketball pep band, and jazz band.

Symphonic Band is the 2nd ensemble at West and meets year-round. Students further refine their fundamental skills while performing intermediate and advanced level repertoire at several concerts. Symphonic Band performs at the KSHSAA State Festival each Spring. Symphonic Band students are encouraged to pursue additional opportunities such as private lessons, honor band auditions, solo and ensemble festival, basketball pep band, and jazz band.

Wind Ensemble is the top concert ensemble made up of the most advanced Wind and Percussion students at Blue Valley West and also meets year-round. Wind Ensemble performs advanced level repertoire at several concerts and special events. Wind Ensemble also participates in the KSHSAA State Festival each Spring and has also been invited to perform at State and National band festivals. Wind Ensemble students are strongly encouraged to take private lessons and expected to audition for honor bands. Wind Ensemble members also frequently take advantage of opportunities such as solo and ensemble festivals, basketball pep band, and jazz band.

Special Notes:

- During 1st Quarter of the Fall Semester, all students in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band combine to form the Blue Valley West Marching Band and perform at football games and 2-3 marching festivals.
- During Fall, all percussion students enroll in the same class to focus on further development of their performance skills in both concert and marching percussion. Students participate in concerts with their respective ensembles.