

Symphonic Band | 2017-2018

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Greetings!

Welcome to the 2017-2018 iteration of the Blue Valley West Symphonic Band. This group is assembled to make music and grow as people, and we will be doing just that in a variety of ways all year long.

Attendance (as in, be here)

This ensemble is the best team there is. Therefore, you are expected to be at all rehearsals and performances. These events are required, unless a specific, written (digital is fine, see the band website for the absence form) note is provided. Communicate ahead of time and we can work things out. Unexcused absences will result in a loss of points and could result in removal from the ensemble.

Rehearsals

Each rehearsal, students are expected to be in their seats with all materials and music ready to go at the beginning of class. This does NOT mean walking to your locker when the bell rings, or finding a stand when the bell rings, or turning in a form when the bell rings. Your class begins the school day except for Friday's - get to school early! There is no reason you shouldn't be here 15 minutes early, giving yourself plenty of time to get situated, find that perfect stand, and begin individual warm up. If we must spend an inordinate amount of time taking care of your personal practice during class time, that isn't fair to the rest of the ensemble, and we will never be as good as we should be. Once in awhile (think before big performances), we will have rehearsals before or after school. The same attendance policy applies to these, and students are expected to stay on top of the band calendar.

Performances

There are several public performances throughout the year. As stated above, these are required events. Students will attend the performances listed as part of their letter grade for the course. This includes showing up on time and properly dressed (see dress code).

Performance schedule: ***all listed events are required**

FALL: Sept. 15 ftbl game

Sept 28 ftbl game

Oct. 13 ftbl game

Oct. 19 ftbl game

Oct. 31 Fall concert

Dec. 12 Winter concert

SPRING:

Jan. 18 Soundbite concert

Mar. 1 Spring concert

Mar. 22 West Area Festival

Apr. 18 KSHSSA large group

May 8 Final concert

***Any absence the week of a concert will be unexcused and could possibly result in removal from the performance unless it is an illness. Ex: Dr appointments, college visits. Schedule them another week or part of the day.**

Dress Code: This ensemble wears all black for performances unless specified otherwise. Men are to wear long sleeve collared shirts (they can be rolled up as long as it looks neat) TUCKED IN to black slacks with a black belt. Shoes and socks should be black (some wear their marching shoes). Ties/bow ties are ok but should be black. Ladies can wear pants OR a skirt. Skirts should be AT LEAST knee length and should always be accompanied by black hose/tights. Sleeveless tops are only ok with a cardigan or cover of some sort. Jewelry is ok but should be moderately conservative. The point of this dress code is to take emphasis off the individual and place it on the ensemble as a whole; use this to help determine your attire.

Grades

Grades will be determined using the following categories and weights:

Daily Basics 20% (includes being on time, present, having materials)

Assignments/Chair Tests 30% (there will be 2 assignments each quarter-see below)

Performances 50% (see schedule above)

Assignments: *details for each will be given with at least two weeks to complete the assignment.

1. Chair Test - specific chunk of your performance literature each quarter (Thursdays: 9/7, 11/9, 1/18, 3/29)
2. Individual assessment OR playing test via Charms (details given per assignment)