

Symphonic Band | 2018-2019

Director: Spencer Merryfield
smerryfield02@bluevalleyk12.org

Greetings!

Welcome to the 2018-2019 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 into the band room when the bell rings. I understand that you are coming from another class and it may be far away, but you must do your best to move quickly so we don't waste valuable time at the beginning of class. I will do the very same - I will be traveling back from an elementary school just a few minutes before class starts, and it will force me to be efficient. 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: Aug. 31 game	SPRING: Jan. 24 "Soundbite" concert
Sept. 14 game	Feb. 28 Spring concert
Sept. 27 game	Mar. 21 West Area Festival
Oct. 5 game	Apr. 10 KSHSSA large group contest
Nov. 1st Fall concert	May 7 Final concert
Dec. 12 Winter concert	

GO TO BVWESTBAND.COM TO SEE A FULL CALENDAR, AND CHECK IT OFTEN FOR NEWS AND UPDATES

***Any absence the week of a concert 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 and jackets 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 25% (includes being on time, warmed up, mentally present, having materials)

- No pencil = -1
- No music = -3
- Tardy to start class = -4
- No Instrument = -5

These points are out of 10 total each week

Playing Tests/Projects 25% (Projects will be announced each quarter)

Performances 50% (see schedule above)

Details for each project or playing test will be given with at least two weeks to complete the assignment.