

Welcome to BVW Band!

Mr. Merryfield and I are so happy that you are here! We want this year to be a great experience for you. Below are some guidelines for band at West. If this is your first year, it's important to know there are many things that make high school band different than middle school. We are here to help and make the transition as smooth as possible! Below are some details:

Being in band class at West involves some out of school commitment. This class has the lowest outside of school commitment out of all the band classes. There are 6 concerts per year (one each quarter plus West Area Festival and 8th grade night) and 4 football games (between September 15 and October 19). Here are the dates:

-Friday, August 31st HOME FOOTBALL GAME @ the DAC

3:00pm rehearsal, 4:00pm dinner, 5:30pm depart for game, 10pm estimated arrival back to West

-Friday, September 14th HOME FOOTBALL GAME @ the DAC *HOMECOMING

3:00pm rehearsal, 4:00pm dinner, 5:30pm depart for game, 10pm est. arrival back to West

-Thursday, September 27th HOME FOOTBALL GAME @ the DAC

3:00pm rehearsal, 4:00pm dinner, 5:00pm depart for game, 6:30pm kickoff, 9:30pm back @ West

-Friday, October 4th HOME FOOTBALL GAME @ the DAC

3:00pm rehearsal, 4:00pm dinner, 5:30pm depart for game, 10pm est. arrival back to West

-Thursday, November 1st FALL CONCERT @ WEST PAC

6:30pm call and dress rehearsal, 7pm start time, 8:15pm estimated end time

-Tuesday, December 11th WINTER CONCERT @ WEST PAC

6:30pm call and dress rehearsal, 7pm start time, 8:15pm estimated end time

-Thursday, January 24th 8th GRADE INFO NIGHT @ WEST PAC (we perform with the 8th graders)

6:30pm call, 7pm start, 8pm finish

-Thursday, February 28th SPRING CONCERT @ WEST PAC *Yearbook pic at 6:15pm

6:15pm call and dress rehearsal, 7pm start time, 8:30pm estimated end time

-Thursday, March 21st WEST AREA FESTIVAL @WEST GYM

-Thursday, April 18th CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL @ WEST PAC *during school day

-Tuesday, May 7th FINAL CONCERT @ WEST PAC

6:30pm call and dress rehearsal, 7pm start time, 8:30pm estimated end time

These performances are part of your final grade for each semester. In addition to these performances, you are evaluated on your ability to show up on time and have your materials as well as one playing test per quarter. The playing tests are never in front of the class and students are given several weeks to complete them (via recording). We always practice in class before they are due. If you do your job in class and put forth effort, you should never have to practice at home in order to earn an A. That is how the class is designed. How are you graded, exactly?

25% of your final grade is from something called Daily Basics. This includes arriving to class on time, having your instrument and all your music and in general participating in class.

50% of your final grade is from performances. This includes everything listed above. Missing a performance results in a zero and will do considerable damage to your grade. If you must miss a performance for any reason, communicate with Ms. Lee ASAP. If you have a conflict with another BVW activity or a family emergency, the absence can be excused and you can do a make-up assignment for the grade.

25% of your final grade is from assignments including playing tests (one per quarter) and a few in class written things we do. Let me be clear-if you utilize your class time well, you should be able to earn an A without practice time outside of class. Practicing is encouraged should you want to move up to a higher band next year.

What should you wear to performances?

For football games, we all wear a uniform. They look great in the stands! Underneath the uniform you need compression gear. You should have had this to try on your uniform with this summer. If you did not get fitted for a uniform, that will happen soon. The band uniform stays at school (unless you are wearing it) at all times.

For concerts, we wear all black. Boys should wear black slacks and a black button up, collared shirt. Ties/jackets are optional and should be all black if worn. Ladies can wear a skirt, but it must go past the knee and must be worn with hose or tights-THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS. Tank tops should only be worn if they will be covered with a cardigan or jacket. For all-our goal is to look as professional as possible.

How do we get to and from performances?

For football games-we bus you to and from the DAC (located at BVNW high school). You must ride the bus with the band to and from the game-even if your parents attend.

For concerts-your parents need to bring you and take you home after the conclusion of the performance.

When I have a question I should...

Check the band website: www.bvwestband.com OR Email Ms. Lee or Mr. Merryfield!

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