

# **BLUE VALLEY NORTHWEST BAND PROGRAM**



## **BAND HANDBOOK 2018-2019**

Adam Lundine – Director of Bands  
[ahlundine@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:ahlundine@bluevalleyk12.org)

Melissa Askren – Assistant Director of Bands  
[maskren@bluevalleyk12.org](mailto:maskren@bluevalleyk12.org)

Website address: [www.bvnwband.com](http://www.bvnwband.com)

The Blue Valley Northwest Band Program is committed to musical excellence, personal growth, team building and instilling musicianship that lasts a lifetime.

## ENSEMBLES

- **Freshman Band:** This group is a concert band that meets first semester only. During second semester, these students will be in the ensembles they auditioned for last spring: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band. Members of Freshman Band are eligible to participate in the Basketball Pep Band (Dawghouse Band), Musical Pit Orchestra, and Solo/Small Ensemble Festivals in the spring. All freshmen are eligible to submit audition tapes for the John Philip Sousa Junior Honor Band.
- **Fall Concert Band:** This group is a concert band that meets first semester only. During second semester, these students will be in the ensembles they auditioned for last spring: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band. Members of Fall Concert Band are eligible to participate in the Basketball Pep Band (Dawghouse Band), Musical Pit Orchestra, and Solo/Small Ensemble Festivals, and may audition for the District Honor Band (District Honor Band grades 10-12 only).
- **Marching Band, Grades 10-12 (and selected 9<sup>th</sup> graders):** This group performs at football games, parades and marching festivals/contests. It is the most visible music group in the school.
- **Wind Ensemble – Spring Semester:** This is our top performing concert ensemble in the spring semester as determined by a recorded concert band audition the previous spring. All band students are eligible for this ensemble. This ensemble performs at school concerts and the State Large Ensemble Festival in April. Members of this ensemble are eligible to participate in the Basketball Pep Band (Dawghouse Band), Musical Pit, Solo/Small Ensemble Festival, and may audition for the District Honor Band (District Honor Band grades 10-12 only).
- **Wind Symphony– Spring Semester:** This is our second performing concert ensemble in the spring semester as determined by a recorded concert band audition the previous spring. All band students are eligible for this ensemble. This ensemble performs at school concerts and the State Large Ensemble Festival in April. Members of this ensemble are eligible to participate in the Basketball Pep Band (Dawghouse Band), Musical Pit, Solo/Small Ensemble Festival, and may audition for the District Honor Band (District Honor Band grades 10-12 only).
- **Symphonic Band- Spring Semester:** This is our third performing concert ensemble in the spring semester as determined by a recorded concert band audition the previous spring. All band students are eligible for this ensemble. This ensemble performs at school concerts and a local large group ensemble festival in April. Members of this ensemble are eligible to participate in Basketball Pep Band (Dawghouse Band), Musical Pit, Solo/Small Ensemble Festival, and may audition for the District Honor Band (District Honor Band grades 10-12 only).
- **Concert Band – Spring Semester:** This is our fourth performing concert ensemble in the spring semester as determined by a recorded concert band audition the previous spring. All band students are eligible for this ensemble. This ensemble performs at school concerts and a local large group ensemble festival in April. Members of this ensemble are eligible to participate in the Basketball Pep Band (Dawghouse Band), Musical Pit, Solo/Small Ensemble Festival, and may audition for the District Honor Band (District Honor Band grades 10-12 only).
- **Big Dog Jazz Band:** This is our top performing jazz ensemble as determined by an audition the previous spring. Enrollment is limited by size and instrumentation. The Big Dog Jazz Band performs at school concerts, jazz festivals and numerous community and school functions throughout the year.

- **Musical Pit Orchestra:** This ensemble plays the entire musical book for Northwest's musical theater production. Selection is by audition only. All rehearsals occur after school. Instrumentation will vary due to the requirements of the musical. Open to all grades.
- **Basketball Pep Band (Dawghouse Band)** During basketball season, the Dawghouse Band plays at boys and girls home games. Rehearsals will begin after marching season. All band students, grades 9-12, are eligible and welcome to participate in Dawghouse Band.

## **MARCHING BAND**

Marching Band begins before school even starts! Watch the band website and summer newsletter for the dates and times for Marching Band Camp.

### **REHEARSALS AND PRACTICES**

**Extra Rehearsal Time Outside of School Day:** During marching season, full band rehearsal will begin promptly at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and continue through first hour. These extra times are required and part of your grade in band.

### **SECTIONALS**

A sectional is an extra rehearsal called for by either the section leader or one of the band directors. Any time a sectional is called, it is required that all section members attend. Sectionals are used to improve the overall quality of the section. No band can be truly outstanding without sectional work.

## **SPRING SEMESTER ENSEMBLES**

During the spring semester, our concert ensembles are: Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band, and Concert Band. ALL members of our band program will be in one of these ensembles during the spring semester. Remember that band is a full year program and a full year commitment.

Placement in these ensembles is determined the previous spring by means of a RECORDED CONCERT BAND AUDITION. The material for these auditions and very specific instructions are posted during the spring semester.

## UNIFORMS

Wearing of the complete uniform is an important part of our performance. It will be part of your grade.

### MARCHING BAND

Uniforms are issued in August. A complete uniform consists of: band jacket, black pants, shako (hat), plume, black marching shoes, long black socks, and black gloves. Tuba Section will receive a black beret instead of a shako. Black band shoes will be purchased during marching camp if you do not already own these. Cost for shoes is approximately \$36.00. One pair of black gloves is provided to each band member. If gloves are lost, they will cost \$5.00 to replace. Care and storage of both black shoes and gloves are the responsibility of the student. Marchers will provide their own black calf-length socks. Members wearing a shako hat will wear a feathered plume during games, parades, and competitions only. Plumes are issued before half time performances and are collected after half time performances and are not stored by the students. Proper handling and storage of uniforms will be discussed at the beginning of the season.

### CONCERT ENSEMBLES: (Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band/Concert Band/Freshman Band, Percussion Ensemble)

- Our concert dress is ALL black and should be purchased and maintained by each individual band member. Concert dress consists of:
  - Men –
    - Black, long-sleeved dress shirt with black buttons (tucked in)
    - Black dress slacks
    - Black belt
    - Black dress shoes and black socks
  - Ladies –
    - Black dress shirt or blouse with dress slacks or skirt OR black dress
    - If dress or skirt is above knee length, black tights or leggings should be worn underneath.
    - black dress shoes (no flip flops)
    - Any accessories should be limited to silver, gold, or black.
- Concert dress should align with BVNW's school dress code.
- Students who are not wearing appropriate concert dress will not receive full points for the performance.

### CARE AND CLEANING OF UNIFORMS

**Marching Band uniforms cost \$600.00 each and must last for another 12 years!** Each student is responsible for the general care of the uniform. Please remember to carefully hang your uniform after each performance and return it to the uniform storage racks. A portion of your band fees will be used for the dry cleaning of the marching band uniform. Improper care of the band uniform will result in loss of performance points.

### BAND T-SHIRT

Each marching band student will receive a band t-shirt. These t-shirts are to be worn as our uniform when it may be too hot to use the full marching uniform. Also, these t-shirts are to be worn under the marching uniform. If we take our jackets off during a football game or festival because of heat, we will still have a uniform look that shows our pride. Most importantly, the t-shirts will protect our band uniforms from sweat. Keep your shirt and mark your name on the inside. Replacement t-shirts cost \$5.

## IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION

### GRADING

Semester grades will be computed as follows:

- Weekly rehearsal points – 5 points per rehearsal
  - Students must be on time, with all required materials and contribute positively to the rehearsal
- Performance – 100 points each
  - In order to receive full points, students must:
    - be on time and have the full appropriate uniform
    - care for the uniform appropriately
    - exhibit appropriate behavior
    - contribute positively to the performance
- Tests, quizzes, and assignments (playing or written) – 20-50 points each

### ABSENCES

*An excused absence must always be requested by a parent (not a student) by phone or email. Absences from performances will only be excused under extreme circumstances, and must be requested a minimum of 24 hours before the performance. Please note that work is not an excuse for missing a band rehearsal or performance.*

#### **Absence from Performance:**

Band is a performance-based class. Performances carry great weight in determining grades. Each performance is the culmination of weeks of hard work. Only under the most extreme circumstances will a missed performance be excused. If an **emergency** will keep you from attending a performance, a parent should contact a director **before** the performance. As members of an ensemble, we count on each other. Please consult the band calendar and plan to be at all band performances. A student has the opportunity to complete a make-up assignment worth up to ½ credit. The make-up assignment is posted on our band website and is due within one week of the performance date. Please see the band directors if there are questions.

#### **Absence from Rehearsal:**

For regular school day rehearsals, please follow BVNW's absence policy. If a student must miss a rehearsal outside of the school day, a parent must contact a director by phone or email. An unexcused absence will result in a zero for that rehearsal.

### TARDY POLICY

All students must be at the assigned location, in your seat, with all equipment and music to be considered 'on time' for a rehearsal or performance. Students who are late will lose grade points and be subject to BVNW's tardy policy.

When a student is tardy for a 7:00 am Marching Band rehearsal three times in one season, the student and parents will be informed that the following tardy (the fourth) will result in a 30-minute detention in the band room. The fifth tardy will result in a 60-minute detention and a conference. Subsequent tardies will result in the student's removal from performance.

## SCHOOL-OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The school owns an inventory of certain instruments for student use that can be borrowed from the Blue Valley District. The student is responsible for the care of the instrument. Repair of damage due to misuse will be the student's responsibility. Neck straps, reeds, valve oil, cork grease, and other accessories are also the responsibility of the student.

## BAND FEES

Annual band fees for Freshman Band, Fall Concert Band, and Jazz only students are \$55.00, and band fees for Marching Band are \$225.00. These fees pay for the upkeep of band uniforms, cleaning of uniforms, food and travel expenses, clinicians and many other band expenses. All fees are due by the date of the Band Picnic during band camp, and checks should be made payable to BVNW Band.

## LOCKERS AND LOCKS

Each student will be assigned a band locker and a padlock for the storage of his or her instrument. These lockers and locks are property of BVNW and may be accessed at any time by a band director. Please keep your lockers clean. Do not put food or drink in your band locker at any time. Keep locks locked always, even during rehearsal. Locks cost \$6 to replace. Keep your instrument in its case with latches closed when not in use. Misuse of band lockers will result in loss of grade points and loss of locker privileges.

## BAND RULES

Yes it does 😊

### REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS

- Cell phones or other electronic devices are to be silent and put away. If they are seen or heard, student will be subject to BVNW cell phone policy and consequences.
- Always have a pencil on your music stand.
- Students are not to study or do homework during rehearsals.
- Be on time and have everything you need.
- Leave your instrument case in your band locker.
- Engage, listen, always do your very best.
- Respect every musician in the rehearsal:
  - Directors
  - Students
  - Yourself

### GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- ALL Blue Valley District and Blue Valley Northwest rules and policies apply to the band any time we are together as the BVNW Band, including all trips.
- Take care of our stuff, including instruments, lockers, the band room and other band equipment.
- No food, gum or drink. Bottled water is always acceptable and encouraged.
- In general, **if it will detract from someone else's enjoyment or hurt the quality of our band, don't do it!**

## PRACTICE AND PRIVATE LESSONS

Playing a musical instrument is an extremely difficult skill. All student-musicians are expected to practice outside of regular rehearsals. Private lessons are strongly recommended for all musicians at all levels. Lessons and practice should be viewed not as remediation, but rather a mark of self-discipline and great musicianship.

Students should set aside a block of time to practice their instrument regularly. We recommend 30 minutes, five days per week at a minimum. Each practice session should consist of

1. Warm-up/fundamental tone production (long tones)
2. Technique – lip slurs and scales
3. Sight reading
4. Literature

Students should practice with a metronome.

## EARNING THE SCHOOL'S LETTER IN BAND

Students in band have the opportunity to earn the school's letter (to be worn on a letter jacket). Letters are awarded at the annual Band Gala in May. To read the requirements for earning the school's letter in band, go to the band website: [BVNWBand.com](http://BVNWBand.com) or see the last page in this handbook.

## BAND WAGON

Band Wagon is the official parent support organization for BVNW bands. This is an incredible group of parent volunteers that provides chaperones, support, and financial aid to our program. Every parent is strongly encouraged to become an active member in Band Wagon. Come and join in the fun! As with any great organization, Band Wagon is only as good as the people involved. You are always needed and appreciated. Band Wagon will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the band room, unless otherwise noted.

## WEBSITE & COMMUNICATION

Write it down, check it often. Information on the website includes pictures, schedules, report times, and much more! [www.bvnwband.com](http://www.bvnwband.com)

Additionally, the directors send periodic emails to our band parents and students containing information about upcoming band events. Please provide us with your updated email address and we will do our best to keep you updated on band.

To update your information in our system:

- Go to [www.charmsoffice.com](http://www.charmsoffice.com).
- Click the word "Enter."
- Under "Parents/Students/Members," type in our school code: **bvnwhsband** and click "Enter."
- Enter your (your son's/daughter's) **BVNW student number** for the password. All student account passwords are your student's ID number unless you have changed it. If your password needs to be reset, contact the band directors.
- Hit "Enter."
- Click on "Personal Info."
- Update all contact info, including phone numbers, cell phone numbers and email addresses for students and parents.
- Very important: CLICK "UPDATE" on the upper right corner of the screen!