



Greetings!



**Why are we here?**

# To talk about band, of course!

The Instrumental program at Belleville West currently serves upwards of 175 students across 10 regular ensembles. Those ensembles and the musicians within them perform over 80 performances a year for the community and St. Louis region. Thousands of miles are travelled and over 300,000 people see the West bands perform every year.

Ensembles include Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Marching Band, four Jazz Bands, Basketball Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Color Guard.

You don't know what you are missing until you try it.

## Note:

All musicians in Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Percussion Ensemble, and Color Guard are members of the Marching Maroons and attend summer camp and summer sessions.

These are P.E. waiver classes.

## **Band *is* hard work, but we make it easy, together.**

Band will be one of the many dependable parts of your life. Time spent rehearsing and performing together fosters a strong camaraderie and work ethic among band members and many lifelong friendships are built in the music department. Musicians meet and work with students from all levels and backgrounds. The music department is a wonderful place to immerse oneself in the Belleville West social fabric. We value the fact that our students are involved with multiple activities and welcome new students to explore many curricular and co-curricular opportunities at West. It is possible to participate in many organizations on campus while keeping good grades, and our faculty and staff welcome all students to find what inspires them.

# What do we do over the summer?

Rehearsals before band camp “keep the dust off over instruments” and cover basic fundamentals. We make sure we know all the same material.

At camp, we build a seven to nine minute show that we perform at football games and competitions.

Attendance at our two week camp is imperative. An individual missing a day of camp is equal to missing a week of school.

# First Steps



## **First Steps in the Band Room**

### **Woodwinds & Brass First Year Students/New Student Part Placements:**

**Tuesday, May 26th 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm or Thursday, May 28th 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm.**

**A112, Band Room.**

**(First come, first served. No appointments.)**

### **Percussion Clinics and Part Placements:**

**Tuesday, May 26th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and Thursday, May 28th 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**A113, Band Room.**

# Summer Sessions and Band Camp

## Tuesday Night Rehearsals 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

**2 June, 9 June, 11 June, 16 June, 18 June, 21 July, 23 July**

## West Band Camp

**Monday, July 27th to Friday, July 31st. 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

**Monday, August 3 to Friday, August 7th. 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.**

**Exhibition performance is Friday, August 7th at 7:00 pm.**

# Who Teaches the West Band?

## Staff

Michael Pond-Jones, Director of Instrumental Music

Scott Wilson, Associate Director of Instrumental Music

Robin Bender, Color Guard Director

Lucas Mueller, Color Guard Instructor

Andre Sonner, Percussion Director

Luke Geppert, Percussion Assistant

Marc Moss, Visual Coordinator

Additional Staff To Be Announced

# Pre Camp Checklist

**A Sports Physical or School Physical is on file in the West Nurses' Office by the first day of camp.**

Musicians WILL NOT participate until physical is on file.

**Pre Camp Questionnaire available on [bellevillewestmusic.org](http://bellevillewestmusic.org) is completed.** Very important information is asked in this questionnaire. Musicians WILL NOT participate until a questionnaire is submitted.

**Uniform fitting attended and fees paid.** Fees are extrapolated in the appendix portion of this document. These fees are in addition to those paid to the school.

**Part Placements.** First year students, please pay close attention to your assigned dates. Part placements Take place in the band room, A112.

Additional checkmarks...for your own sanity and safety.

**Master Schedule added to your calendar.** For your scheduling, please add band events to your calendar.

**Complete band camp checklist** in the appendix portion for your safety and organization during camp.

**Instrument Tune-Up.** Make sure your instrument works before we start the main body of camp.

# BUSINESS



# Is Band a Class with a Grade?

.....Yes.

To get 100%.....

1. Be in attendance.
2. Have everything you need.
3. Be respectful.
4. Clearly communicate any deviation of the above per our handbook.
5. Any further questions? Read the handbook.

# JAZZ

We have a large, robust jazz program at Belleville West.

If you are interested in learning and performing jazz, please reach out to MP-J and schedule an audition.

For you audition, please show up with an instrument and a good attitude. That is all you need.

You may audition at your part placement next week!

# Band Fees

**Belleville Township High School District 201** is very supportive of the Music Department and ensures our ability to transport the band, provides insurance to our activities, maintains state-of-the-art facilities for our rehearsals and performances, and employs two full time band directors for our department. District 201 recently committed to a \$25,000.00 a year instrument purchase plan.

The \$30.00 fee paid to District 201 is used to procure some of our band equipment and register for events and competitions.

The **Belleville West Band Parents Association** works in conjunction with District 201 to provide leadership, logistics, and manpower for events and the capital for instructional staff, uniforms, clothing, meals, trailers, instruments, and infrastructure. Managing the Belleville West Band requires hundreds of thousands of dollars and thousands of parent/guardian-donated hours. The fees collected at registration represent a fraction of the necessary funds required to manage instrumental music at Belleville West.

As a point of perspective, the set of uniforms the Band Parents Association purchased cost \$80,000.00 in 2018. The organization also allocated \$20,000.00 towards additional instruction and \$10,000.00 towards instrument procurement last year. The Band Parents Association does its best to mitigate these costs and keep participation as affordable as possible. Our fees represent the lowest band fees among comparably-sized bands in active and prominent band programs.

# Band Fees

## Marching Band Fees

1.) Fee: \$225.00 without shoes. \$270.00 with shoes.

**Early Bird Fee is \$175.00 if paid by 18 June.**

**Early Bird Fee is \$215.00 with new shoes if paid by 18 June.**

**Online payment through Square adds \$0.00 starting fall 2026. Please pay all fees through the Square Account.**

2.) **Marching Band Shoes: \$45.00**

-Returning members may already have shoes. Please check for fit and good condition.



# Belleville West Band Parents Association

The Belleville West Band has a very supportive group of parents and is always welcoming to additional hands, ideas, and leadership.

This group of dedicated individuals meets the second Thursday each month at 7:00 pm in A112. Please join us as we work towards ushering the band towards higher levels of performance and self-actualization.

Volunteer opportunities are regularly posted on Sign Up Genius. [signupgenius.com](http://signupgenius.com). The Boosters will share a link before each event, and may contact you based upon your answers in the pre-camp questionnaire.

Contact:

Rob Stock, president

[bthswestbandparentpresident@gmail.com](mailto:bthswestbandparentpresident@gmail.com)

# Physical

**A Sports Physical or School Physical is on file in the West Nurses' Office by the first day of camp.** Musicians WILL NOT participate until physical is on file.

Many free or reduced cost walk in clinics exist. We can steer you towards those upon request.

# Pre Camp Questionnaire

Pre Camp Questionnaire available on [bellevillewestmusic.org](http://bellevillewestmusic.org) is completed. Very important information is asked in this questionnaire. Musicians WILL NOT participate until a questionnaire is submitted.

## Student Staff

In addition, the band is led by students who have various duties. Each April through May, the Marching Maroons student staff is selected through a multiple step process. Selected students have defined duties within the administration of the band. Position descriptions are listed in the appendix of the handbook.

We take pride in the amount and quality of the student leadership of our band.

### **Drum Majors**

A'Ryah Hoefler  
Isabella Pfeffer  
Colin Kenny

### **Woodwind Captain**

Lillian Hopper

### **Brass Captain**

Reagen James

### **Percussion Captain**

Sam Whitney

### **Assistant to the Director (Captain)**

Koryn Hopper

### **Flute Section Leader**

Aila Bruemmer

### **Clarinet Section Leaders**

Callie Kimball & Maelyn Vogel

### **Saxophone Section Leaders**

Millie Eugea & Maelyn Vogel

### **Trumpet Section Leaders**

Madelyn Averbeck & Reagen James

### **Mellophone Section Leader**

Sam Quirin

### **Low Brass Section Leaders**

Landon Shockley & Zabrien Reynolds

### **Front Ensemble Section Leaders**

Elena Geppert & Julie Stock

### **Battery Section Leader**

Sam Whitney

### **Logistics Leader**

Dalton Vonderheide

### **Social Media, Publications, and Outreach Leader**

Autumn McGuire

### **Musicianship Development Leader**

Adrieon Payne

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

.....Parables? Anecdotes? Soliloquies?

*Let's go look at the band website!*