



Greetings, and Welcome to the 2021 Belleville West Bands!

I sincerely hope all of you are doing well right now. Some of you I have met, others I have not. At this point in the year we begin the transition to a new school year. We are so happy to announce that we anticipate having a normal, predictable year with a good amount of public performances. Thank goodness!

For our first year students, we want you to know that High School is awesome and will be among the most memorable times of your life. Being in our band *is* really easy. 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. Indeed, 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.

#### **IMPORTANT Freshmen/New Student Information:**

For first year students, the band journey begins with a part placement. This process determines the part and instrument each musician will play in the Marching Maroons. Nothing needs to be prepared, but musicians must arrive at the band room with their instruments. Musicians will individually sight read a music excerpt and play scales. If musicians play specialty instruments (ex. tuba, baritone saxophone, tenor saxophone, etcetera), we will issue a school-owned instrument with no further fees at the part placement. Once the part placement is completed, musicians are dismissed. Musicians will perform on a first come, first served basis. Part placement dates are as follows. There are no appointments; please visit when it works best. Returning students do not need to attend a placement.

#### **Freshmen/New Student Part Placements**

**Monday, June 7th or Tuesday June 8th**

**A112 Band Room**

**12:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

#### **IMPORTANT SUMMER DATES**

Add the dates below to your calendar. Camp is the most important part of the year for us---it is where we put the band together and learn to work with each other. Camp attendance is a mandatory class requirement.

**Tuesday Night Rehearsals 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

**15 June, 22 June, 29 June, 13 July, 20 July**

#### **West Band Camp**

**Monday, July 26th to Friday, July 30th. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm**

**Monday, August 2nd to Friday, August 6th. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Exhibition performance is Friday, August 6th at 6:00 pm**

Please visit the band website, [bellevillewestmusic.org](http://bellevillewestmusic.org), for further scheduling and information. Check back periodically for updates. We look forward to working with all of you!

**Call/email me if you have any questions.**

**Michael Pond-Jones**

Director of Instrumental Music

Belleville Township High School West

Office: 618.222.7687 Cell Phone: 217.218.1221 [mpondjones@bths201.org](mailto:mpondjones@bths201.org)