



Greetings, and Welcome to the 2024-2025 Belleville West Bands!

As we prepare for summer, we are hosting an informational meeting about the West Bands. At these meetings, we will discuss the band handbook, our schedule, expectations, and parental involvement in our Booster organization. Much important information is shared at these meetings. We invite both parents/guardians and students of all grade levels. Moreover, it will be wonderful to meet one another and start another exciting year!

If available, please attend one of our informational meetings. Much important information is shared.

Informational Meetings: Tuesday, May 21st and Wednesday, May 22nd at 7:00 pm. A112 Band Room.

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 First Year Student/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 band. 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.

Woodwinds & Brass First Year Students/New Student Part Placements

Tuesday, May 28th 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm or Wednesday, May 29th 1:00 pm to 8:00 pm. A112 Band Room.

Color Guard Clinics: Monday, May 6th - Friday May 10th, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Audition Saturday, May 11th.

Percussion Clinics and Part Placements: Tuesday, May 21st 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Tuesday, May 28th 6:00 pm to 9:00 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 9:00 pm

4 June, 11 June, 18 June, 9 July, 16 July

West Band Camp

Monday, July 22nd to Friday, July 26th. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Monday, July 29th to Friday, August 2nd. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Exhibition performance is Friday, August 2nd at 7:00 pm.

Please visit the band website, 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.**

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