

Westview Hills Middle School Band Handbook Grades 6 - 8



2023 - 2024 School Year

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Westview Hills Bands -- Ensembles and Structure

Cadet Band -- 6th Grade Band Students

Cadet Band is a large ensemble band for 6th grade students. It meets during 6th grade WIN-period every day and is taught by Mrs. Moffett & Mr. Huff.

Blue Band & Gold Band -- 7th & 8th Grade Students

All 7th & 8th grade students have their large ensemble band during 7th/8th grade WIN-period every day. These students are divided into two bands, the “Blue Band,” which is taught by Mr. Huff and the “Gold Band,” which is taught by Mrs. Moffett. Due to the Covid Pandemic students in these two grade levels have been playing their instruments for the same number of years. For this reason this year’s Gold Band and Blue Band are both learning the 3rd-year band curriculum with the Blue Band as a regular 3rd-year band class and the Gold Band as an advanced 3rd-year band class. Next year the bands will return to grade-level based bands.

Small-Group Lessons

All band students have one small-group lesson per-week.

Westview Hills Band Performance Calendar and Other Dates, 2023-2024

Event	Date(s)	Students Involved
Hinsdale South 8th Grader Step-Up Night	September 27	7th & 8th HSHS-bound student
ILMEA Auditions Deadline ONLINE	Audition Deadline October 4	Select Students
DGN Marching Band Night	October 20	7th & 8th DGN-bound students
Hinsdale Central Bandamonium at HCHS	October 20	7th & 8th HCHS-bound students
All Illinois Junior Band (AIJB) Auditions Deadline	Audition Deadline November 3	Select Students
ILMEA Band Performance Location TBA	November 4 All Day	Select Students
Hinsdale South High School 8th Grade Band Festival (Breakfast with the band)	November 29	8th grade Hinsdale south students
Winter Concert #1 at Westview	December 6 6:00 PM 7:30 PM	Blue Band (6:00 PM) and Gold Band (7:30 PM) (7th and 8th grade students)
Winter Concert #2 at Westview	December 7 7:00 PM	6th Grade Band & Jazz Band
All Illinois Junior Band @ University of Illinois	January 19-20	Select Students
Recording Session	February 7 (Wednesday)	Gold Band
Solo and Ensemble Festival at Westview	February 14 3:30 - 9:00 PM	All Westview Band Students
Spaghetti Dinner at Maercker	February 23 4:30 - 8:30 PM	All Band Students
SouthEast DuPage Band Festival	March 9	Blue Band

Prairie State Band Festival At Plainfield East High School	April 12 or 13	Gold Band
Spring Band Concert #1	May 15 7:00 PM	Blue Band
Spring Band Concert #2 and Art Show	May 22 6:00 PM & 7:30 PM	6th Grade Band (6:00 PM) Gold Band (7:30 PM)
Holmes Assembly Concert	May 24 (During the school day)	6th Grade Band

Papa Passero's Nights:

September 13, October 11, November 8, January 10, February 7, March 13, April 10, May 8

Westview Hills Band Grading

Students in band will receive grades for band that are factored into honor roll and overall GPA. Students will be graded on the following criteria every quarter:

- Participation at Westview Hills Band Concerts and Major Performances
- Participation in rehearsals and small group lessons
- Performance aptitude on band music
- Playing Assessments (i.e. scale tests, rhythm tests, etc.)
- Other Written Assignments



Westview Hills Band Rules and Regulations

1. Be RESPECTFUL
2. Be RESPONSIBLE
3. Be SAFE

RESPECT

- One person talks at a time
- Stop at the cut-off!
- Be kind

RESPONSIBILITY

- Always be prepared (instrument, music, etc)
- PENCILS ON STANDS
- Treat equipment/facility/instruments respectfully (NO GUM!)
- ALL instruments home to practice (at least on the weekends at the very least!) -- PRACTICE!

SAFETY

- Help keep the band room organized (no cases or music on the floor)
- Be careful not to leave your instrument on the floor or anyplace else where damage could occur!
- No running, jumping, climbing, throwing
- Keep your instrument case labeled - we will provide you with a luggage tag if you need one

PLEASE CONTACT US AT ANY TIME! -- kmoffett@maercker.org, mhuff@maercker.org

Pull-Out Lesson Guidelines

1. Lessons are part of students' band grade. Students are expected to attend one lesson per-week.
2. Missed lessons are excused for the following reasons:
 - a. Absence from school
 - b. You have below a "C" average in the class your lesson is scheduled for.
 - c. A test or lab is being given that you cannot make up in class your lesson is scheduled for.
3. If you really must miss your lesson, see your lesson teacher to find out if there is another instrument group you can come with that week.
4. ALWAYS check the lesson schedule
5. ALWAYS ask your classroom teacher permission to attend your lesson. It is NOT your classroom teacher's responsibility to remember where you are going, so make sure your teacher knows.
6. Make sure you have made arrangements to get any notes, missed work, or homework assignments from the class you missed during your lesson. Having a band lesson does not give you carte blanche!

Required Materials

Having the right equipment can make a big difference in the success or failure of a music student. Without proper equipment a student cannot play up to his/her potential.

The following is a list of all REQUIRED accessories (as well as some optional ones) that students will need for their instruments:

All Instruments: wire music stand for home practice, metronome/tuner for home practice (device or apps)

FLUTE: cleaning rod, cleaning cloth

OBOE/BASSOON: at least 2 good, broken-in reeds, cleaning swab, cork grease

CLARINET: swab, cork grease, box of reeds (Strength 2.5 for 6th graders and Strength 3 for 7th and 8th graders), reed guards (you should rotate between at least 4 working reeds and change them every 2-3 weeks)

SAXOPHONE: neck strap, swab, cork grease, neck plug, box of reeds (Strength 2.5 for 6th graders and Strength 3 for 7th and 8th graders), reed guards (you should rotate between at least 4 working reeds)

BRASS: Valved Brass (Trumpets, F Horns, Baritones, Tubas) -- valve oil; Trombones -- slide grease or oil, All Brass -- tuning slide grease, cleaning snake, mouthpiece brush

PERCUSSION: bell set and snare drum or practice pad (for home use), size 5B drum sticks, yarn mallets, soft rubber mallets, T1 timpani mallets, stick bag

BOOKS: “Essential Elements 2000 Book 2” (6th Grade Students), “Sound Innovations Book 2” (Blue Band Students) -- These books are charged to students’ Skyward accounts.

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES: straight mute (brass only)

Most music stores rent less expensive models of instruments known as student models. These instruments are made to be relatively inexpensive and relatively durable. They are not necessarily made to play with the best tone quality or to stand up to many years of intense playing. Simply put, they sometimes “wear out” or musicians “grow out” of them as they gain more experience. Rather than go out and purchase an “upgraded” or “intermediate/advanced” model instrument, you can change the sound that your young musician gets (on *most* instruments), simply by changing the mouthpiece and/or reeds. You (and your student) will be surprised at the difference, and at much less of a price tag!

Optional Mouthpiece Upgrades

Clarinets: Vandoren 5rv Lyre mouthpiece, Vandoren Traditional or V12 Reeds

Saxophones (alto & tenor): Selmer C-Star mouthpiece., Vandoren or Hemke Reeds

Trumpets: Bach 5C mouthpiece

Trombones/Baritones: 6.5 AL mouthpiece

Instrument Purchasing Guide

Buying a Band Instrument? ALL INSTRUMENTS ARE NOT CREATED EQUALLY!

please read on...

There has been an unfortunate trend catching on in recent years involving poorly constructed and defective “off brand” instruments being sold on the internet and at well known department and wholesale stores. These instruments often look shiny and new, and they usually come with very attractive hard-shell cases. These “off-brands” typically cost much less than more well-known and reputable brands, so they seem like a good deal. When you get the instrument home it may function properly and might even sound similar to a quality brand, but this usually does not last long. Many of these brands also use nonstandard parts and can not be repaired. PLEASE CONSULT ONE OF THE BAND TEACHERS BEFORE GOING TO AN INTERNET SOURCE OR A NON-MUSIC STORE FOR A BAND INSTRUMENT! The number one priority should be getting an instrument that will function properly and will not hold back your young musician. There are numerous names that off-brands go by, so it is much easier for us to simply list brands you should look for when shopping.

Reputable Manufacturers of Quality Instruments & Band Accessories

Armstrong	Cannonball	Holton	Martin	Selmer
Artley	Conn	Jupiter	Musser	Signet
Bach	Elkhart	Kielworth	Noblet	Vito
Besson	Emerson	King	Olds	Vic Firth
Blessing	Farkas	LA Sax	Omega	Winston (EM)
Buescher	Fox	Larilee	Pearl	Yamaha
Buffet	Gemeinhardt	LeBlanc	Remo	Yanagisawa
Bundy	Getzen	Ludwig	Reynolds	Zildjian

A quality instrument should give you many, many years of service with limited repairs. Two of Mrs. Moffett's personal instruments were manufactured in the 1950's and they still play beautifully today. A quality instrument will last you a lifetime if cared for properly.

Thank you, and if you have any questions regarding band instruments please feel free to contact one of the band teachers at any time. If we do not know the answer to your question we will contact a music dealer and get the answer for you.

Private Lesson Teachers

Flute	Mary Socall Lessons at Hinsdale Central & Students' Homes	marysocall@gmail.com 630-936-6225
	Laurel Tempas	laurel@tempas.org 630-887-8399
	Cate Hummel	630-428-3278
	Carolyn Donnelly	630-244-3723
Oboe	Debbie Stevenson	debstevensonoboe@gmail.com 630.515.1314
	Bob Gordon	rgordon@trendmachinery.com 630-863-5637
	Margie Berger Lessons at Hinsdale Central	margieoboe@gmail.com 708.220.6253
Bassoon	Amy Rhoades	630-353-0574
	Dan D'Andrea	630-322-9187
Clarinet	Samantha Winkler	samanthawinklerclarinet@gmail.com
	Dan Williams	708.308.4302
	Lori Foster	630-226-5562
	Frank Delo Jr.	708-207-3994
	Laurie Beard	630.842.9337 beard.laurie@sbcglobal.net
Saxophone	Patrick Grosser	630-915-4065
	Todd Boyce	773-220-7316
	Chris Greene	847-477-4518
	Dan Moroz	630-936-9954
French Horn	Sarah Younker	Sarah.anne.younker@gmail.com 630-272-1801
	Erin Lano	713-208-0420

	Amanda Karwoski	630-640-1362
Trumpet	Darryl Thompson	312-485-4074
	Tom Tait	tomtait@ameritech.net 630-430-5399
	Joe Loeffler	847-903-4933
Trombone	Josh Torrey	torrey.joshua@gmail.com 518-956-1584
Low Brass	Catie Hickey (Trombone and Baritone)	catiehickey@gmail.com
	Linda Leonard	630-752-9384
	BJ Hardesty	513.571.6723
	Chuck Sloka	312-615-3191
Tuba	Joshua Budziak	630-441-5108
Percussion	Todd Howell	phillylick@hotmail.com
	Joe LaPalomento (Lessons at DGN)	josephlap@hotmail.com
	Bill Zervos	(630) 416-3564 bz1959ws@yahoo.com
	Marty Binder	708-785-9163
	Chris Crisanti	708-387-0616
	Steve Snodgrass	s.snodgrass@att.net 630-379-1059
Guitar/Bass/Piano	Adam Roth	847-259-3104
	Aaron Koppel	312-218-7785
	Mike Plantan	630-887-0203
Piano	Shari Wey	630-435-1410

Music studios to call for lessons:

Luscombe's Music -- Elmhurst -- 630-833-7381

Quinlan & Fabish -- Burr Ridge (www.qandf.com) -- 630-654-4111

Musician's Workshop -- Westmont -- 630-964-1400

Music Makers of Western Springs - 708-246-8222 - info@musicmakerstudio.com

Disclaimer of Liability for Private Lessons:

The individuals listed here are not in any way sponsored by or affiliated with Maercker District 60. Private music teachers are not employees or agents of the School District; no background checks have been made. It is up to the parent or guardian to determine the fitness and skills of the individuals to provide private music lessons. If a parent, guardian, or student experiences injury or any other loss in connection with the services provided by these individuals, neither the parent/guardian, the participant, nor their representative may assert a claim against or recover money from the school district. The term "School District" includes the Board of Education and its' members, employees, and representatives.

Private Lessons -- Questions and Answers

Q Why Should my child take private lessons?

A Playing a musical instrument requires that each student learn many individualized skills. The private teacher can work one-on-one with the student and custom-tailor instruction to each child's strengths, weaknesses, and interests.

Q Does my child have to take private lessons?

A No, band students do not have to take private lessons to be in the band. However, as music educators it is our job to present to you, the parents, the best possible music program that can help your child grow to his/her potential. This is why we recommend that students take private lessons.

Q Can I start my child on private lessons at a later time, after I know he/she will stay in band?

A SURE! Most students do. However, students with private lessons early on achieve the most success because they establish great habits earlier on in their development. Students with private lessons enjoy success and are the least likely to drop band.

Q How long should my child take private lessons?

A Developing musicianship is an on-going process. In order to insure proper development of the student, private lessons should be a continual endeavor, meaning year-round.

Q What can we do if we cannot afford private lessons?

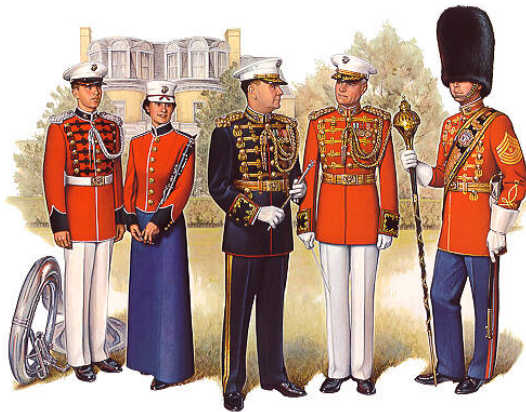
A Playing a musical instrument involves the following expenses: instrument rental, instructional materials, accessories like a music stand, reeds, etc., organizational costs like uniform fees, summer band fees, etc., private lessons. Private lessons is a way to help maximize these expenses and your child's musical potential.

Q Will music training be of lasting value to my child?

A Definitely yes! After the school years have passed, they can derive satisfaction from music all through life. Many adults enjoy playing in community bands at the adult level.

Band Uniform – Polo Shirts

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



* Every band member is issued a Band Polo Shirt. These shirts are charged to students' Skyward accounts. These shirts should last students all three years at Westview. Students will wear these polo shirts with black pants, black shoes, and black socks at their band performances.

Westview Hills Jazz Band

When: Jazz Band will rehearse every Tuesday after school from 2:40 - 4:00 PM

Who: Jazz Band is open to any member of the 7th & 8th Grade Band on a regular band instrument. Other musicians in 7th & 8th grade (i.e. keyboardists, guitarists, bassists) or 6th graders may set up an appointment with Mrs. Moffett to audition.

Performances: The Westview Jazz Band will perform at least three concerts this year.

How to sign up: Jazz Band information packets and permission slips are available from Mrs. Moffett. There is no fee for being in Jazz Band.

When: Jazz Band Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, September 26th

Time: From 2:35 – 4:00 PM

How: Please return the *Jazz Band Registration Form* below to Mrs. Moffett by Monday, September 25th; If you cannot attend an after-school rehearsal on a Tuesday, make sure you inform Mrs. Moffett. Unexcused absences from Jazz Band rehearsals can result in the student not being eligible to perform with the Jazz Band at the concert (absence from school is of course excused).

Jazz Band Registration Form

Name: _____

Instrument: _____

(to be played in Jazz Band)

Parent Signature: _____

Known Rehearsal Conflicts: _____

SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

Some band instruments are either very expensive to purchase or rare and not always necessary for an individual to own. For this reason Westview Hills does own a limited supply of instruments that are available from the band department. These instruments include bass clarinet, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, baritone horn, and tuba. There are only a limited number of these instruments available, but there are usually enough to accommodate all of the students needing them. The school provides percussion instruments for the percussionists, however, those students will need a “bell kit” and drum pad for practice at home. In order to be issued a school owned instrument, the parent and student must sign the “Instrument Contract” below acknowledging that they take full responsibility for the instrument. The student is responsible for normal maintenance of his/her instrument and/or any damage to the instrument during the year. The student must provide reeds, oils, and other accessories just as students who own their own instruments would provide. **No student should use anyone else’s school-owned instrument except when given permission by one of the directors (this includes non-percussionists using percussion equipment).** The student should keep his/her instrument in good condition at all times. Keep it clean, inside and out; valves and slides working; mouthpiece clean, etc. Keep a supply of valve or slide oil, extra reeds, swabs, and whatever else you might need available. (see Band Handbook section labeled Required Materials)

Westview Hills Instrument Contract -- 2023-2024 School Year

I, (student) _____ will be using the following Westview Hills-owned instrument for the 2023-2024 school year:

Instrument Type _____ Make _____

Model _____ Serial Number _____

I have read and I agree to the above guidelines for caring for this instrument.

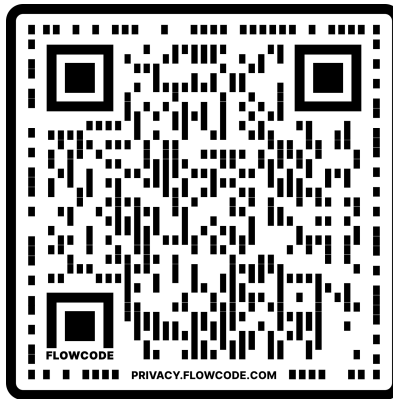
Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

* If you do not own an instrument, but play on a school-owned instrument only, your Skyward Account will be charged a \$75.00 yearly fee for the use of this instrument.

The full Westview Hills Middle Band Handbook can be found at the following link:

<https://tinyurl.com/wvband2024>



This link is being emailed home on August 24, 2023 via Skyward.

Westview Hills Middle School Band Contract

2023-2024 School Year

I have read and accept the band calendar, grading policies, rules and regulations, pull-out lesson guidelines, and all other items included in this handbook. I understand that by signing this contract I am making a commitment to myself and to the Westview Hills Band for the 2023-2024 school year.

Student Name _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO MRS. MOFFETT or MR. HUFF by September 1