

SHAWNEE MISSION WEST

BAND DEPARTMENT

BAND HANDBOOK 2018-2019

Bill Thomas – Director of Bands
913-993-7852
billthomas@smsd.org

Kevin Hupe – Assistant Director of Bands
913-993-8067
kevinhupe@smsd.org

Website address: www.bandaides.org

ALL THOSE BANDS!!!!!!!

Concert Bands – The foundation of our program

- **Concert Band:** This group is a concert band that meets Block 7. The Concert Band performs at school concerts most likely combined with members of the Symphonic Band. Members of Concert Band are eligible to participate in the Basketball Pep Band, Musical Pit Orchestra, and Solo/Small Ensemble Festival.
- **Symphonic Band:** Students in grades 9-12 selected for this band through the audition process in October will perform at all school concerts, the Chili Supper in February, and the State Large Group Festival in April.
- **Wind Ensemble:** This band is made up of a selected group of students. Personnel for this group will be determined by audition in October. All band students in grades 9-12 who were in the marching band are eligible for this ensemble. This ensemble performs at all school concerts, the Chili Supper in February, the SMSD Band Festival and State Large Group Festival in April.

Athletic Bands – The most visible of our Bands

- **Marching Band, Grades (9 by audition) 10-12:** This group performs at football games, parades and marching festivals/contests. It is the most visible music group in the school and brings a great deal of pride to the music department, school and community. It does require some rehearsals outside of school time as well as some weekend performances. After football season the band will divide into the Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble.
- **Pep Band**
The Pep Bands are open to anyone grades 9-12 who would like to participate. During football season we may meet at some away games to play music, make some noise and support our team. During basketball season, the Pep Bands play for several boys and girls home games. The rehearsal and performance schedules will be posted as the season nears in the end of October.

Jazz Bands – Our uniquely American musical art form

- **Overland Express:** This is the school's top performing jazz band. This band is made up of students selected the previous spring from an audition process. Enrollment is limited. Overland Express performs at numerous community and school functions throughout the year.
- **Jazz Lab:** This band has an open enrollment policy for students who play jazz instruments (within the director's discretion). Students in grades 9-12 may participate. Extensive study of jazz history, improvisation, and understanding jazz styles is the focus of this course.

Other Ensembles – Pit Orchestra, Full Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble...

- Percussion Ensemble: This group is mandatory for all 9-12 grade marching percussion students during marching season. They meet on Monday or Tuesday evenings from 6:00p.m. until 9:00p.m. After marching season, the rehearsals will be from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m. The group will then work on various world drumming techniques, novelty percussion and standard percussion ensembles. Later in the year they will produce a full-length concert and perform in venues throughout the community.
- More information on these and other groups will be posted as the opportunities arise. Membership will vary but numerous opportunities exist to perform if you have the desire.

OTHER PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES

Honor Bands

There are numerous other performance opportunities in the KC metro area outside the bands at West. Some are school related, and some are just local groups. Take a look at some of these.

Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) District Honor Band and District Honor Jazz Ensemble. These groups are only open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. These groups audition in November to form a band that meets once in December to practice and perform a concert. If you are accepted to either of these groups, you may then audition for the All-State KMEA Honor Band or Jazz Ensemble in January. The concert for those selected from that audition will take place in Wichita, KS in late February. The list of audition materials can be found at www.ksmea.org and www.neksmea.org.

Freshman may participate in separate freshman-level honor groups such as the...

John Philip Sousa Honor Band. This ensemble is located in Lawrence, KS and audition music is published in August. A recording must be submitted by early October. If selected this performance takes place in late January.

NEKSMEA Freshman Honor Band is held at Blue Valley H.S. Auditions are by recommendation of the director only. It is important to communicate your previous accomplishments, years of lessons etc. to the directors so that an appropriate recommendation may be submitted on your behalf. **Any** freshman who may be interested should let the directors know in early September.

Local honor ensembles include the Kansas City Youth Brass Band and the KC Youth Orchestra and the KC Youth Jazz Orchestras. Details about auditions come out early in the year so be sure and ask if you are interested. There are also various college recruiting honor bands in the spring that are open to upperclassmen. These are usually open to students who are considering attending the hosting university when they go to college. KU, K-State, UMKC, Baker University and more offer such ensembles.

Solo and Ensembles

A way for students to excel individually or in small groups is through participation in the Solo and Small Ensemble Festival in the spring. Anyone 9-12 may participate in these events. It is a natural outgrowth of private lessons. In fact, anyone who studies privately SHOULD participate with a solo that they have been working on. A solo should probably be chosen prior to Christmas Break. You will need to provide your own accompanist to play the piano part. The directors can help in this process. NO copied music is allowed. Students, and accompanist must play from original, purchased music. The judge must also have an original part to critique from.

Ensembles can be made up of 3 to 24 players, but most often consist of three, four or five people. These are often friends who like to hang out together and have a great deal of fun playing their instruments. Examples of this could be: a flute trio, clarinet quartet (2 soprano, 1 alto, 1 bass), brass quintet (2 trumpets, F-horn, trombone, tuba), percussion ensemble (3 keyboards, snare, aux percussion), etc. There are many options for groupings. Again, the directors can help finding an appropriate group and even music.

We will host a recital night at West prior to going to the regional festival. Those who receive a "I" rating (Excellent) at regionals are then eligible to perform at the state Solo and Ensemble Festival. More information about solo and ensemble festival will be sent out in November or can be found on the Band-Aides web site.

MARCHING BAND (9-12)

Marching Band begins before school even starts! Watch the Band-Aides website and summer director's letters for the dates and times for Marching Camp.

REHEARSALS AND PRACTICES

Morning Rehearsals: During marching season, full band rehearsal will begin promptly @ 7:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday and continue through first block.

Tuesday Evening Rehearsals: During marching season, the marching band will have rehearsals from 6-8pm on Tuesday.

Percussion sectionals: Percussion rehearsals are normally scheduled for every Monday OR Tuesday night during marching season. It is expected that all batterie and pit percussion students will be in regular attendance at these rehearsals. Failure to do so will result in loss of grade points and/or removal from the program. After regular marching season, attendance becomes optional (although highly encouraged) and becomes open to the freshmen class if not already involved.

Seminar: Seminar time first and foremost is to be used for your personal academic needs, but after those needs have been met, it can also be used for practice, sectionals, student staff meetings, etc. Please notify the directors if you are not assigned to the band room for seminar and would like to use the time for band related activities.

SECTIONALS

A sectional is an extra rehearsal called for by either the section leader or one of the band directors. When a sectional is called, it is required that all section members attend. **Grade points will be awarded!** There will be 4-5 required sectionals throughout the marching season. Sectionals are used to improve the overall quality of the section. Memory, dynamics, pitch, etc., should be the goals of your sectionals. These rehearsals can provide

section unity both musically and socially. No band can be truly outstanding without sectional work. Section leaders are to take it upon themselves to develop a regular sectional routine that fits the schedules of the section's members.

Marching Band Uniform Information:

Wearing of the complete uniform is an important part of our performance and will be part of your grade!

MARCHING BAND

Uniforms are issued during the marching camp in August. A complete uniform consists of: band jacket, black pants, garment bag, and shako (hat). Black shoes and black gloves for ALL marchers will be purchased during camp. Cost for shoes is \$35.00 and gloves will be \$5.00. Students are responsible to pay for both black shoes and gloves prior to the first performance, in addition to the regular band fees. **BLACK OVER-THE-ANKLE SOCKS** are required to be worn with the uniform. For the first home football game you may need black shorts to wear with your socks, shoes and band T-shirt if the weather is hot.

*Tuba Section will receive black berets instead of a shako.

UNIFORM Assignments

Most of the juniors and seniors already know this, but the sophomores and freshmen don't and it's a good review anyway. You have been assigned a uniform that has your name on a label and is kept on the rack by sections behind your section leader's uniform (It should always be there and stored there.) It will be yours for the season. You won't be taking it home, but you are responsible for it in these ways:

1. Every time you wear your uniform, you need to wear soft nylon or cotton-like shorts (NO jeans or any other heavy or rough fabric), your band t-shirt, and your required black socks and shoes. Don't forget your black gloves. You will all be changing together in the band room or in a parking lot in front of everyone. It will be easier if you could just wear the shorts, t-shirt, black socks and shoes to school, since you will ride the bus in uniform.
2. Always make sure your uniform has your neck band and it is snapped in place. When you return from any event you will be taking it out and giving it to your section leader.
3. All hair needs to be in the hat, both male and female, so please bring whatever you need to pin it, or tie it up. It must also be of natural color (non-dyed). You will not be allowed to perform with dyed hair. If they dye were to run when you are sweating, the uniform jacket will cost you \$400!
4. Please be careful to keep your uniform clean by watching where you sit and not eating with your jacket on. You will be taught how to fold the jacket in order to protect it when eating.
5. If you need a repair of ANY kind (dirt or stain, lost buttons or snaps, etc.) please fill out a repair tag and hang your uniform as usual with the repair tag over the hanger on the outside of the bag and HUNG IN THE DESIGNATED LOCATION. It will be repaired, and you will find it again on the rack with your section behind your section leader. If something needs to be fixed while at an event, we always bring a sewing kit – see a uniform mom.
6. After an event, please hang your uniform correctly on the hanger so it doesn't wrinkle.

7. If by some slim chance you forget to wear your black socks or bring your black gloves, it will cost you \$5.00 to purchase them for that performance. If you forget your T-shirt, you will be charged \$10. Invoices will be sent at the end of the season for anyone who has purchased extra gloves, shoes or T-shirts.
8. Uniform Moms will be around at every event. Please ask for assistance. The band room is busy, and we all want things to go smoothly so you can get to where you need to be feeling relaxed and able to have a fun time with your friends.
9. Say THANK YOU to our parent volunteers! We could not survive without our faithful Band-Aides parents. Be KIND, RESPECTFUL, and THANKFUL!

CARE AND CLEANING OF UNIFORMS

Marching Band uniforms cost \$600.00 each and must last for several years! Each student and family is responsible for the general care of the uniform. Please remember to correctly hang your uniform after each performance and return it to the uniform storage room. A portion of your band fees will be used for the dry cleaning of the uniform. If your uniform gets dirty, please contact a director or the Band-Aides West uniform chair. Every student will be shown how to properly hang the uniform. After each performance the uniforms will be inspected by section leaders. If the uniform is found hanging improperly, points will be deducted from that performance grade.

BAND T-SHIRT

Each 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 and also for basketball pep band in the winter. These t-shirts are also to be worn under your 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. Yuk! Keep your shirt. Replacements cost money. Always wear the current year's T-shirt under the uniform and for all pep band performances. During pep band, if you do not wear your band shirt you will not be allowed to perform.

MEALS – food allergies

The band fee pays for several meals for the marching band: most home football games, all competitions, and beginning of the year pictures. Because of that, we need to know if your student has any food allergies. If we know in advance, we can make special accommodations. This can include lactose intolerance, peanut allergies etc. Please email Mr. Thomas or the Tailgate chair so we can take care of our kids!

COLOR GUARD

The color guard, otherwise known as just “the guard” is an audition group of men and women that add color and character to the marching band performance. The auditions take place in the spring, but the guard performs with the marching band in the fall only. We hire a color guard coach who brings drum corps, winter guard and marching band experience to our group. They will be in charge of all things related to the guard from choreography, uniforms,

equipment and more. Each student will pay a color guard fee which helps with purchasing uniform pieces that they will be able to keep such as shoes and unitards. The school and BAW do help with expenses; the fees charged to the students is in addition to what the booster club and school helps with.

CONCERT BANDS

Wind Ensemble / Symphonic Band Placement

Due to the size of the marching band, it is necessary to divide the band for concert season. The **Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band** will meet during **Block 1**.

Mr. Thomas and Mr. Hupe will listen to each student during a LIVE audition to determine placement in the two concert bands. Audition music will consist partly of the District Honor Band audition music, scales and an excerpt of music to be played by the Wind Ensemble. Exact details will be announced in early October.

CONCERT BAND ATTIRE (All Concert Bands)

Black formal dress: Tux coats for men will be provided. They are property of SM West and will be kept in the uniform room. They are hung in numerical order with your name in a window of the bag. They must be placed back in order on the tux coat rack when the concert is completed. The following items are the student's responsibility to purchase.

- Men – Black dress pants, tux coat, dress shoes and socks, white tux shirt with black bow tie and black cummerbund. Tux shirts and bow tie sets can be purchased for between \$40-\$60 from J.C. Penney's, Dillard's or any formal wear shop.
- Women – All black: Long black dress or long black skirt with a black top, or black dress pants with a black top. Dress shoes also to be worn. This is to be FORMAL dress, revealing clothing, casual pants and flip-flops are not acceptable.



Ladies in all bands: It is our goal to achieve a conservative, uniform and formal appearance for our concerts. The audience attention should be drawn to our ensembles, not to individuals. In this spirit, please avoid strapless tops, straps and low necklines. If the dress has straps, a sweater or shrug must be worn. The dress should have sleeves. All skirts and dresses should be mid-calf or longer (2"-4" from the floor at most – see picture). **When you sit in a chair, the dress should cover your knees. No flip-flops.**

The last concert of the year is traditionally in "nice, springy" clothes. No tuxedos, no formal concert black.

Jeans, t-shirts, and tennis shoes are unacceptable for concert dress. If you show up dressed improperly, you will not perform, or you will be asked to go home and change into the correct dress. If you do not perform, you will receive a "0" grade for that performance. **At NO TIME will hair of an un-natural color be allowed.**

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

West is fortunate to have two jazz ensembles within our school schedule. The top band is selected by audition only and is called *Overland Express*. Many of the players in *O.E.* study privately with jazz instructors to improve their “jazz feel” and ability to improvise. This group will perform many times throughout the year beyond just our school concerts. This is a wonderful public relations tool for the band as well as West High School. Students in this ensemble must be reliable and responsible as they will be treated very much as professional musicians. The band in many cases will earn a performance fee which will be put into an account to help pay for special jazz events and clinicians throughout the year. Every three years this group will travel in the U.S. to explore the roots of Jazz as well as attend concerts.

The second ensemble is called the Jazz Lab Band which is open to any instrumentalist who plays saxophone, trumpet, trombone, drum set, bass (upright or electric), electric guitar or piano. There will also be a strong component of listening and improvisation. These two items make all the difference between a small concert band and a Jazz band. This is the training ensemble for *Overland Express*, but it is no slouch of a band. Be ready for some fun and hip jazz music.

The Jazz Bands will host Jazz on the Bridge in March. The bands may also attend jazz festivals in the spring. These may be during the school day or on weekends.

IMPORTANT GENERAL INFORMATION

CAN I BE IN OTHER PROGRAMS AT WEST?

YES! We have chosen to keep our contest involvement lower than at other schools. This is because at SM West our students **CAN BE INVOLVED IN OTHER PROGRAMS** including: debate, cross-country, football, soccer, volleyball, theater, choir and many others. Except for our morning rehearsals, the rest of the day is yours. For instance, we have such a great relationship with Coach Callahan that he will allow most band students on the football team to join us for the half-time performance. Those students are still part of the band for contests and parades, but sometimes do not perform on game nights. You will be **BUSY**, but you will also learn the important lessons of how to budget time and prepare in advance. **WE DO EXPECT STUDENTS TO BE AT PERFORMANCES AND REHEARSALS UNLESS THEY ARE INVOLVED IN ANOTHER SCHOOL EVENT AND CANNOT MAKE IT TO THE REHEARSAL OR PERFORMANCE.** You will get a schedule of all performances and you will be expected at those performances. We are very proud of our band members who have been All-Americans, All-State/District in every sport and activity **AS WELL AS OUR ALL-STATE MUSICIANS!**

ACADEMICS!

The band is a part of the academic program at SM West. Academics are the primary reason you are in high school. You will be graded on performance, personal growth in technical proficiency on your instrument, understanding of music theory/music history and performance within the group. Band is an integral part of the academic program at West. You will find **GREAT SUPPORT** from members of the band community to assist you in your success. You must be prepared to **STUDY** and to **PRACTICE**, but you will find many forms of support as a member of the Bands at West.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL

The school owns an inventory of certain instruments for student use. These can be rented from the Shawnee Mission District for \$60.00 per year. A contract must also be signed and returned. After the contract is signed, the student is responsible for the care of the instrument. Repair of damage due to misuse will be the student's responsibility. The summer rental fee is \$30.00. All percussionists must pay the \$60.00 rental charge each year to use the school instruments. Those that use two instruments due to marching band (French Horn and Mellophone) will only be charged one fee – Thank you Mr. Loe.

- Instrumental Rental Checks should be made to: Shawnee Mission School District.

BAND FEES –

Fees for Marching Band students will be \$60.00; Concert Band (only) fee is \$25. These fees pay for the band t-shirt, meals at designated games and performances, entry fees for contests, cleaning of the uniforms, and transportation. Combination locks are provided for all band lockers. **Students that lose their lock will be charged \$10.00 for a replacement.** Band fees are due on the first day of school.

- Band Fee Checks should be made to: SMW Band.

***If payment of fees is a problem – PLEASE – communicate with the directors. It is our desire that anyone who wants to participate in the SMW Bands has the opportunity. We will make every effort to be flexible so that all students can participate. Any information shared will be held confidential and will only be shared with those who may help with the costs.

COLOR GUARD FEES – Please see the Color Guard Hand Book.

UNIFORM PARTS PURCHASE –

New band members will need to purchase shoes and gloves. Guard members will need gloves, shoes, unitard, warm-up and other miscellaneous parts. Students will be sized and these items will be purchased on your behalf and you will just reimburse the band. Sometimes students will need new shoes or gloves because they lost theirs or out-grew them. See the uniform moms and place your order. If you know you are purchasing new items, there will be an envelope in this packet of information. Fill it out and return it, this serves as a double check for placing your order.

FUND-RAISING

Several times during the school year, the band will run fund-raisers. This money is used to pay for clinicians, equipment and other band needs. Often, monies raised will help offset the costs associated with major trips by being placed into individual student accounts. Please plan for your family to participate in our important fund-raising activities. This would also include: BAW fundraisers which are tied to program support, but we still need parent help. Information for fundraisers will be handed out in class and posted on the web site. At SM West our focus is on playing music, not raising money! However, fundraising is a necessary evil and must continue unless we raise the yearly fees to \$400 a year! That is how important

fundraising is to our program. There are several programs in the metro that have fees of \$600 and UP! Ours is only \$60 - but that takes everyone's help!

Currently the band has a MEGA *Car Wash*, and *Red Wheel* fundraiser every year. BAW has a *Spaghetti Dinner* and *Auction* (this is the biggest fundraiser we do), Mattress Sale and Chili Supper. A few years ago we started a Classic Car Show and are constantly evaluating new ideas especially for trip fundraising. Anytime we sell tickets for the Spaghetti or Chili dinners, please sell to friends, neighbors, co-workers, church acquaintances etc. We are trying to NOT have our parents write the check for everything we do.

LONDON

On London trip years we will give additional fundraising opportunities through selling trash bags, flowers and a few other things. BAW will also set up dining nights at local restaurants in an effort to get people other than you – our parents – to help provide funds to run our program. Often times on the MEGA Car Wash and Red Wheel, we will do a profit sharing model so that the band AND students benefit. In those instances, the band will split the profits 70/30 with the students – the student keeps 70% and band will get 30% of the profit. **We will do that this year with the Car Wash and even allow your profits to be used to pay your band fees.**

We also started soliciting corporate sponsorships two years ago and we have local companies that offer matching grants for volunteer hours that parents give to non-profit organizations. Please ask Mr. Thomas for more details on these two ideas. Last year we raised over \$6,000 in corporate grants. We want more companies involved!

GRADING

Band is a performance-based class; thus performances carry great weight in determining grades. Each performance is the culmination of weeks of hard work. Only under the most extenuating of 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 (if possible). As members of an ensemble we count on each other!

Quarterly Grades will be computed as follows:

- Daily rehearsal points – 5 points each rehearsal
 - Students must be on time, with all required materials and contribute positively to the rehearsal.
- Performances – Participation is expected. Performances are worth 100 points each.
 - Students must be on time and have the full appropriate uniform
 - Students must care for the uniform appropriately
- Tests and quizzes- may be playing or written. Points will be assigned as appropriate

TARDY POLICY

In order to be considered 'on time' for a rehearsal or performance. students must be; at their assigned location, in their proper seat or place in the parade block and have all equipment and music with them. Students that are late will lose their daily rehearsal points and be subject to the Shawnee Mission West tardy policy. During marching season, students will run a lap around the rehearsal field for being tardy. Set those alarms! When a student reaches

3 tardies, they will receive a 30-minute detention in the band room. Students will be able to “redeem” their tardies with band service as determined by the directors. After the second detention from the band, the student will be referred to the office for additional consequences. This has become a problem in the last couple of years. For the benefit and growth of our bands, this policy WILL be enforced!

BAND RULES

Yes, it does. Here's why:

1. ALL Shawnee Mission District and Shawnee Mission West rules and policies apply to the band anytime we are together as the West Band, including all trips.
2. Take care of our stuff, including instruments, lockers, the band room and other band equipment.
3. The band office is for the use of the directors. Please respect that. Please do not ask to store items in the band office, use the refrigerator, make personal copies. With over 150 students in our program, our band office cannot handle these types of requests. Thank you.
4. The Band Room is for band students only. Your friends should wait in the hallway for you.
5. In general, **if it will detract from someone else’s enjoyment or hurt the quality of your band, don’t do it! Use your head.**

BAND LETTER SYSTEM

To earn the school's letter in band is a great accomplishment. Students may check the BAW website for a lettering form outlining the requirements for earning the school's letter. This is to be used as a reference. Points may vary. You may check your progress in Charms throughout the year. Points will be checked and finalized with the students in late April. Under most circumstances, the additional work a student does on behalf of the band that is not part of the educational requirement is rewarded with lettering points. For instance, working a shift for the spaghetti dinner will earn a student points. Working multiple shifts will earn more points. In some cases, there are stipulations to points being awarded, such as Basketball Pep Band. Points will only be awarded if a minimum number of rehearsals AND performances are amassed. Additional points will be awarded if the student attends all rehearsals and performances.

INDIVIDUAL IMPROVEMENT

Everyone joined the band at some point because it looked like fun! I know I did. We hope it continues to be fun and rewarding, providing opportunities for friendships, memories, a sense of belonging and the opportunity to travel both near and far.

With that being said, it is more fun to be a part of a winning team; a group who is excellent in every respect. Everyone wants to be a winner and band students are no different. For our band to excel and to continue to be offered trips to perform internationally then we must have excellence individually. In order to accomplish that, there are several things students can do.

The easiest is **home practice**. Just like math and English classes have homework, so does band. We also have tests only we call them concerts or contests. Our tests take place in front of hundreds even thousands of people. It is important that every member of the band does his

or her homework. An hour or maybe two a week will do wonders! That means taking the music home and practicing those difficult measures until they are correct and cannot be played wrong again. Everyone is EXPECTED to practice their instrument at home regularly.

The next way to improve individually and as a group is to take **private lessons** on your instrument from a specialist on YOUR instrument. The very best musicians take private lessons. People who want to be accepted into the district and state honor bands take private lessons. People who want to earn top ratings at contest with their solo or ensemble take private lessons. That's just the way it is. It is also VERY helpful when auditioning for college scholarships. Private lessons can pay off in thousands of dollars of scholarship money! If you want more information about private lessons, please visit with a director, they can help.

Finally, students can attend a **summer band camp**. We have two very fine camps in the area, one at KU and one at UMKC. Both are staffed with nationally recognized teachers for the week of study. These camps are an intense week of music making both in bands as well as like instrument classes and private lessons. There is also plenty of fun time built into the schedule. Former students who have gone to band camp have developed life-long friendships. SM West Band-Aides will send 5 students to a band camp every summer because we believe so strongly in the value of band camps. Look for more information on the Band~Aides website.

BAND~AIDES WEST

Band~Aides West is the official parent support organization for the West bands. This is an incredible group of parent volunteers that provide chaperones, support, and financial aid to our program. EVERY parent is strongly encouraged to become an active member in BAW. Membership is \$10.00 per year, per family. Come and join in the fun!! Band~Aides West will sponsor the annual bank to school band picnic in August, the Spaghetti Dinner & Auction in October, the Chili Supper in February, and our Band Awards Banquet in May. As with any great organization, BAW is only as good as the people involved. YOU are always needed and appreciated. Band Aides West will meet the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 P.M. in the band room, unless otherwise noted.

Scholarships –

BAW offers 5 scholarships every year and trip years we offer many more to help more students be able to afford the trip. ONLY paid members of BAW may apply. That \$10 fee is a small price to pay for potentially receiving a \$500 scholarship!

Band Picnic

All band students, grades 9-12, are encouraged to attend the Fall Picnic with their families. This is a great opportunity to relax with family and friends AND welcome the incoming freshmen and their families to the West Band Program!

Web Site & Band Communication

Bookmark it, check it often. Our band parents do a fantastic job of keeping us all aware of upcoming band events. Information on the web site includes schedules, report times, driving directions to performance venues, and much more! For any questions you have, check the web site first. The answer is probably found somewhere on the site.

www.bandaides.org – check it often!

CHARMS

We use an online system to help us maintain student data and communicate with both students and parents. It is called Charms. You will find a link on our website. Please log on as soon as possible and look around. This has become a great enhancement to the activities of our band. Parents will be able to track individual student fundraising, update your own contact information, see what instrument, uniform or music your student has checked out, make trip payments and many other details. Since this system is still relatively new, not all features are functional, but these are a few of the potential benefits of the Charms database.

Logging into CHARMS is quite simple. Go to the BAW website and click the link for CHARMS. When the CHARMS website comes up, go to the right side of the page, hover your mouse over the Login tab. In the dropdown, click on the link Parents/Students/Members. In the dialog box that opens, type in SMWestBand. In this area, you can access calendars, handouts and more. In the Student area password, put in your son or daughter's SM West student ID (leaving off the leading zeros. After you have gained access, you may change the password to anything else you want. If you forget your password, just contact a director and they can change it back to the student ID again.

Additionally, the directors send weekly e-mails to our band parents and students of announcements made in class as well as other major upcoming events, reminders and congratulatory notes. This is why we ask for e-mail addresses on our Band Information sheets. Please keep us up to date on your e-mail address and we will do our best to keep you up to date on BAND. We promise no junk or advertisements; just band stuff!

To close, I believe in the old adage:

*The strength of each wolf is the pack
and
The strength of the pack is each wolf.*

The West Bands have enjoyed a rich tradition of excellence in performance by the students, excellence is support of the parents and excellence in leadership from the staff. TOGETHER we – collectively – can continue. We need each other. Without everyone doing their part, students, parents and staff, we are not as strong. The staff has a dream, a vision for the future. Students and parents, we want to work beside you to provide many more years of excellent performances, as well as new awards and accolades for the West students, Bands, and community.

Rules and expectations have been put into place to help build trust, motivation and a desire for greatness through a framework of guidelines and boundaries from which we can all operate and reach for the goal of outstanding musical performances, and awards and recognition, at local, regional, state and national events.

Let the music begin!