

# **GLENBARD WEST**



# **HILLTOPPER BAND**

**Mr. William Ortega, Director**  
**Mr. Jonathan Walsh, Director**

**2019 - 2020**  
**Student/Family Handbook**

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## Welcome Glenbard West Band Members and Parents!

You are about to embark on what we hope will be a memorable and rewarding experience - The Glenbard West Bands.

Our primary goal is to make you a creative, sensitive artist - a musician. You will develop the skills to perform your instrument at the level you decide. As we work toward this goal, you will also develop life skills that will help you become a better person. You will learn about leadership, self-esteem, goal setting, team concepts and compassion.

What you get out of the Band is what you put into it (just like life!) - so get **INVOLVED!** The Glenbard West Bands have a lot of tradition behind them and now it is your turn to keep that tradition.

The handbook that follows is a summary of the band program. Please take a few minutes to go over it. Should you have any questions or suggestions, please give any of us a call at (630) 942-7451.

Looking forward to an exciting and musical year with you,

Jonathan Walsh, Band Director

William Ortega, Band Director

### ONLINE RESOURCES

The Glenbard West Music Department and Association of Music Parents have extensive online resources that will provide everyone with up to the minute information about band, choir, and orchestra happenings. Many schedules and calendars will also be posted there so that students and parents can keep posted and informed throughout the year.

Band – [www.glenbardwestmusic.org](http://www.glenbardwestmusic.org)  
AMP Info - [www.glenbardwestamp.org](http://www.glenbardwestamp.org)  
AMP Volunteer Opportunities - [AMP Volunteer Sign-Up](#)  
Friend us at - [GW AMP Facebook](#)

# **THE GLENBARD WEST BAND PROGRAM**

Membership in the Glenbard West Band is available to any student who is musically qualified and who possesses a desire to IMPROVE and EXCEL. This invitation is a two-way agreement, if you elect to take band, we elect to work with you to improve and excel. The program is based on four levels of performing ensembles.

## **IBAND & CONCERT BAND**

The main thrust of the work done by IBand & Concert Band will be concentrated in the area of improving music fundamentals. Much emphasis will be placed on tone production, listening, intonation, music reading, counting, and ensemble playing. In general, the IBand & Concert Band strive to develop each student's overall musical proficiency and help the student progress in the band program. If students do not improve their music abilities, they will continue to perform with the with these groups for additional semesters.

## **SYMPHONIC BAND**

The Symphonic Band is for top performing band musicians at Glenbard West High School. Private lessons are strongly suggested because few students gain membership in the Symphonic Band without some additional work on their instrument. Advanced musical ability and a positive mental attitude are the prime prerequisites for this organization along with a desire to achieve fine musical results. This group performs the highest caliber of wind music available. Membership is by audition and invitation.

## **MARCHING BAND**

The Glenbard West Hilltopper Marching Band has a long tradition of excellence. The Band has marched in competition throughout the Mid-West as well as performed in England, Orlando, and other cities on a number of occasions. It is not the largest organization at Glenbard West, but also gets more public exposure than any other group in the school. The Glenbard West Hilltopper Marching Band is composed of students in IBand, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band who elect to march during the first semester. The band performs at home football games and various community functions throughout the year.

## **ADDITIONAL PERFORMING OPPORTUNITIES**

Information will be passed out about various community orchestras, youth symphonies, competitions, trip opportunities, and summer camps, as it becomes available. There are many possibilities in this area and all are encouraged to take advantage of any that might fit one's needs and abilities.

## **GLENBARD WEST ENSEMBLE AND SOLO FESTIVALS**

All band students participate in each festival, with the ensemble festival during November and the solo festival in March. All students perform for local music teachers, who are hired as judges, and students are provided verbal and written feedback on their performance.

## **JAZZ BAND**

The Jazz Band at Glenbard West is open to all music students, though membership is restricted to certain instrumentation dictated by the music performed. Students will need to audition for these bands in the fall, usually after the musical in November. These students will perform literature that works in a smaller setting and relies on strong improvisational skills.

## **ORCHESTRA WINDS, BRASS, & PERCUSSION**

Students from the Symphonic Band may be chosen by the directors to play as the wind, brass, and percussion sections of the Glenbard West Full Orchestra. The orchestra performs throughout the year with these sections and plays the highest quality repertoire. Rehearsals for this group take place during school and evening dress rehearsals.

### **PEP BAND**

Pep Band is required for all band students in the Glenbard West Band program. The Pep Band takes an active role in building school spirit and occasionally plays at other school events and pep rallies. Students are divided, based on instrumentation, into two bands that perform at games. If a student cannot perform at a game, there are responsible for finding a sub from one of the other band that are not playing. A sub must play in the same instrument group as the absent performer. Please complete a sub form (located on the website) and turn it into the box.

### **PIT ORCHESTRA**

Each year, Glenbard West High School performs a musical in the month of November. The pit orchestra for each show is comprised of students from various bands that have a high performance standard and a very flexible schedule to rehearse “Broadway” style shows. Students are invited by the director and rehearse mainly after school and late into the evening.

### **DISTRICT 87 HONOR BAND**

Each year, Glenbard West musicians have the opportunity to participate in Honor ensembles that are sponsored by the District. Band participation is based on an audition in January. Members interested in participating in these groups should talk to a director after the first quarter.

### **ILMEA**

The Illinois Music Educators Association is the professional organization formed by band directors across the state and Glenbard West resides in “District IX” which is the DuPage county suburbs. After a school audition, students prepare for the District Audition, which takes place in early October. If students score well, they are selected for the District Festival in November. Based on their seating at the District Festival, students could be selected for the “All-State” bands, which gather in Peoria at the end of January. Being an “All-State” musician is a distinct honor and is reserved for only the best musicians.

### **FIELD TRIPS & TOURS**

Field trips to our sender schools, outside organizations, professional concerts, etc. are a vital part of our program. Students are expected to make sure all classroom obligations are taken care of prior to departure. This year the band and orchestra will be traveling to New York. Anyone interested in this tour should talk to Mr. Walsh.

### **PRIVATE LESSONS**

All band students are encouraged to enroll in weekly private lessons. See Mr. Walsh for a list of private teachers.

# STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

As members of the Glenbard West Band Program, students are expected to adhere to the basic standards of music organizational requirements:

1. Punctuality (remember...*EARLY IS ON TIME - ON TIME IS LATE!*)
2. Individual warm-up and preparation prior to rehearsal
3. Attendance and self-discipline
4. Effort, contribution, and achievement
5. Instrument and proper equipment - instrument, mutes, reeds, mallets and bag, music, pencil, music stand, metronome, and a soft cloth for cleaning the instrument.
6. Take care of your instrument by keeping it clean and storing it in a safe place. Do not allow siblings or friends to play your instrument.
7. Visit the website to organize performance and rehearsal dates on a calendar, and be sure to inform your family of such dates. If conflicts arise, *EARLY COMMUNICATION* with us is expected.
8. Practicing on a daily basis is considered homework for Band. One's level of playing will dictate the total time each day. However, a minimum of 20 minutes a day is required and expected. Students studying privately may need to practice more than 20 minutes.

# PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

The band program at Glenbard West High School is regarded by the administration as a positive learning experience within the total school framework. Discipline and character building play an integral part in this program. It is for this reason that parents **MUST** support their student's efforts and to keep informed of what is happening, enabling them to work with the music department in the best interests of all concerned.

We have found that students who have the support of their parents take an increased interest in music that, thereby, increases their skill. For this reason, it is felt that the success of this program depends on the positive attitude of students **AND** parents.

Scheduling of events is done as far in advance as possible. Needless to say, a band cannot be effective to the student or to the audience without complete participation and meticulous attention to detail, including attendance and punctuality. Any conflict with the band calendar must be brought to the attention of the directors as soon as possible. **Please see the Music Calendar on the website or check Schoology**

**Percussion** students are provided with instruments to use, however Glenbard West requires you to have purchased special equipment that you will need to perform in the Glenbard West Band program. Please go to either Music and Arts in Itasca, or Quinlin & Fabish in Burr Ridge to purchase the items listed below. Other fine online resources for this equipment include the Percussion Source ([www.percussionsource.com](http://www.percussionsource.com)) and Woodwind and Brasswind ([www.wwbw.com](http://www.wwbw.com)). Some might be special orders, which will take time, so place your order as soon as possible.

Innovative Percussion Intermediate Mallet Pack Standard includes...  
(SD sticks, Timp sticks, Marimba Mallets, Soft Xylo Mallets, and stick bag)

in addition to the Mallet Pack, students should also purchase  
Vic Firth "Ralph Hardimon SRH" for Marching Snare Drum  
Malletech BB 34 Becker Blue for Xylo or Vic Firth M132 Rubber for Xylo  
Any type of Metronome – usually small ones work best  
Any type of practice pad – something to hit and not drive your parents crazy

# PRACTICING IS HOMEWORK FOR BAND, AND SHOULD OCCUR ON A DAILY BASIS.

## Grades

Participation in a musical ensemble is a privilege and a responsibility. Preparing music and learning skills for public performance is an exciting opportunity. To do our best as a band there is individual responsibility and group responsibility that will be needed daily in class so that our goals of skill mastery, public performance, and personal appreciation may be achieved. The total points earned for performances, rehearsals, sectionals, and tests determine academic grades. Points will be earned for each activity in Band. Points will be totaled, and students will be graded according to the following scale:

A 90%+,      B 80% - 89%,      C 70% - 79%,      D 60% - 69%,      F 59% or less

**The assignments below translate into the following graded areas (% of total grade)**

Assignments for areas #1- #4 below include but are not limited to:

In Class and Outside of Class Music Playing Tests/Quiz	Post Concert Quizzes
Sight-Reading Factory & Sight-Reading Exams	Memorization Tests (MB)
Solo Night Performance	Ensemble Night Rehearsals / Performance
Required Information/Forms	Rehearsal Behavior

1. **Playing - Ensemble** (15%): Ensemble / Section Blend and Intonation, Balance and Texture, and Vertical Alignment and Pulse
2. **Playing - Literacy** (20%): Rhythm and Note Performance, Music Theory, and Score / Part reading
3. **Playing - Musicality** (20%): Style, Expression, and Historical Performance Practice
4. **Playing - Sound** (20%): Physical Elements, Pitch Awareness, & Instrument Care and Maintenance

Assignments for area #5 below include but are not limited to:

Daily Attendance	Sectional Attendance	Evening Attendance
Concert Attendance	Pep Band Attendance	Solo Night Attendance
Ensemble Night Attendance		

5. **Attendance - Rehearsal & Performance Skills** (20%):  
Performer, Audience, and Rehearsal Responsibilities. Performer response to conducting and individuality accountability and role.

Assignments for the area #6 below include but are not limited to:

Concert Program Attendance	Rehearsal/Concert/Semester Critiques	Video Assignments
Listening Critiques		

6. **Consume, Listen, & Reflect** (5%): Lifelong Music Involvement, Music Evaluation, and Aesthetic Experience

## **PERFORMANCES, REHEARSALS, AND ATTENDANCE**

Attendance at all scheduled programs, concerts, evening rehearsals, and sectionals are mandatory. If a student has an excused absence due to a death in the family or illness, s/he will be exempt from the event. If a student misses a performance or rehearsal for any other reason, the director must be **notified a week in advance and in writing (email is acceptable)** and a judgment will be made whether full or partial credit may be given, and whether make-up privileges may be permitted. An alternative written assignment may be used to make-up an absence, but music is unique in that rehearsal and performance situations cannot be recreated.

Students are expected to be in the Band Room when the bell rings and in their seats ready to tune or out the door moving to the field in two minutes after the bell sounds.

**Unexcused absences to class will result in no make-up privileges for that day and a 45 minute detention after school.**

## **SCHOOL EQUIPMENT**

### **MUSIC**

Each student will be issued a band folder and music for daily use and practice. It is each student's responsibility to keep music marked and in good condition. A replacement fee will be charged for a lost or damaged folder. In some cases, a student may need to share with another student. In these cases, the students should feel free to come into the band office and copy any piece so that practice can occur at home. Everyone should have their own copy of the piece to help prepare for performance.

### **SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS**

School owned instruments used by students will be checked out according to the policy of the Glenbard West Music Department. After instruments are assigned, students will be responsible for any repair costs for damage done while the instrument is in the possession of the student. All instruments are issued in good playing condition. It is the student's responsibility to notify Mr. Walsh or Mr. Ortega immediately if repair work is required. Students are expected to treat the instrument and case with care and to keep it in good repair. Failure to do so will result in loss of the use of a school instrument.

### **CARE OF THE INSTRUMENT**

Never try to repair the instrument at home. If something breaks, take it to a reputable repair shop. If it is a school instrument, contact Mr. Walsh or Mr. Ortega at school.

Keep the instrument away from extreme heat and cold. Do not leave the instrument in a parked car in extreme temperatures.

Keep the instrument in the case when not in use, and be sure to latch the case.

### **LOCKERS**

Students will be assigned a band locker so that the instrument may be secured in a locker in the Band Room. Students must purchase a lock to store their instruments. Combinations will be kept by Mr. Walsh should an emergency arise. Percussionist will also be responsible to cover all mallet instruments and put away other pieces of percussion so that we can avoid unnecessary damage to these expensive pieces of equipment.

### **UNIFORMS**

Symphonic Band members are required to purchase their own tuxedo and black floor length dress to match current orchestra members. Dresses and tuxedos will be purchased through the least inexpensive vendor possible. A special handout will be sent home concerning the uniform cost. If a student's uniform no longer fits, AMP is coordinating a uniform exchange program. Please contact Mr. Walsh if you need to change due to outgrowing a dress or tux.

# AWARDS

At the conclusion of the year, band members vote for the band awards listed below. Award winners' names are engraved on plaques and displayed throughout the Band Room hallways. It is possible for one person to win more than one award. Voting for awards will occur just prior to the Music Awards Ceremony in the Spring. Only students enrolled in Band for the full year are eligible.

## **Most Valuable Player Award:**

*This self-explanatory award can go to any individual who has shown him/herself to be an exemplary member of each Band – Marching Band, IBand, Concert Band, & Symphonic Band.*

## **Most Improved:**

*This award is for the one who has demonstrated considerable improvement.*

## **Rookie Of The Year:**

*This award is for the most outstanding freshman member of Band and includes a \$50.00 U.S. Savings Bond.*

## **Outstanding Senior:**

*This award recognizes the outstanding senior member of Band and includes a \$500.00 cash award.*

## **Louis Armstrong Jazz Award:**

*This award is given to the jazz student who has shown him/herself to be best jazz player in the entire jazz program. The award is voted upon by the students in Jazz Band and Jazz Orchestra.*

## **Jazz Artist of the Year:**

*The award is given to the students with the best jazz improvisation skills. The award is voted upon by the students in Jazz Band and Jazz Orchestra.*

## THANK YOU TO AMP AND FOR FUNDING OUR AWARDS

### ACTIVITY POINTS

Activity points are awarded based upon participation in all aspects of the band program. Students must be enrolled in band to earn points. At the beginning of each quarter, students received an activity points form and have begun filling it out. The levels are:

75 - 149	Numeral
150 - 249	Letter
250 - 349	Medal of Honor
350+	Court Musician

## **Association of Music Parents (AMP.)**

Student participation in the music program is a rewarding and memorable experience. There are many exciting volunteer opportunities for members throughout the year. A.M.P works with the music directors, to enrich the music program beyond the level possible under the school budget. This assistance includes scholarships to students wishing to continue their music education by attending summer music camps, private study, and/or higher education upon graduation, awards and recognition, uniforms and liaisons with the Glenbard West Boosters and the District 41 Music Education Foundation. The Association membership also assists with concerts, performance tours, and, as they arise, other department-sponsored events. In addition to the monthly board meetings, there are two general meetings of the full parent membership: a Music Parents' Night in August and at the Music Awards Night in May. The general membership is encouraged to attend the monthly board meetings at 7:00PM in the band room or choir room. Some fundraisers in the past have included the Floral Symphony, the Christmas Greens Sale, Barone's Gift Certificates, Football Concession Stand, and others.

### **FUNDRAISING**

All fundraisers will be available to all Band members. **PROFITS** from individually tracked fundraisers will go into students' personal accounts set up by AMP. These are great opportunities to earn money for future tours, as well as private lessons, uniform purchases, band camp fees, etc.

AMP Info - [www.glenbardwestamp.org](http://www.glenbardwestamp.org)

AMP Volunteer Opportunities - [AMP Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Friend us at - [GW AMP Facebook](#)