

FACTS* ABOUT THE NWHS BAND PROGRAM: BAND CLASSES

(*Gleaned from parents experienced with the program.)

1. There are currently two (2) levels of concert band classes which each earn one credit/year toward graduation. These are weighted as a college prep course ("A" equals 4.0). Students may opt to take Symphonic Band or be placed into Wind Ensemble as an honors level course ("A" equals 5.0) twice during their high school career. This option entails additional work as required by the band director. Jazz band members earn one credit for each year of participation and the class is weighted as a college prep course.
2. Band class students are required to attend and perform in all concerts and remain until all bands have performed.
3. Concert Dress:
 - A. For females: a solid black outfit. If it is a skirt, the hem must come BELOW the knee when you are sitting. Black socks and black shoes or hose and black shoes should be worn.
 - For males: Black pants and a white long-sleeve oxford shirt and tie. Black socks and black shoes should be worn.
 - B. Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band students are assigned a formal dress (females) or tux (males) for their concert performances. There is a rental fee assessed for the formal wear unless you are in marching band/colorguard in which case you have paid this as part of your fairshare. Students are responsible for keeping these items clean and in good repair. Males must also purchase their own tux shirt and ladies must purchase the top of the dress (Booster members handle the ordering process). Uniform care sheets are sent home with the students. Additional copies can be obtained from the Band Booster's competition support chairperson.
4. Additional Time Commitments:
 - A. All concert bands travel to the Central District Music Festival sometime during the second week of March. Adult chaperones are needed. This festival runs through the school day and into the evening.
 - B. The band director may occasionally schedule an after school or evening rehearsal prior to a concert.
 - C. Underclassmen perform at graduation at the Coliseum for the graduating class – this is the final exam for Band.
 - D. Jazz band is traditionally held during "zero period." This is an optional period held before the official school day begins and gives students an opportunity to take 7 classes during the school year. Freshmen are allowed to audition for this group! .
 - E. The jazz band participates in various concerts/jazz festivals/competitions/fundraisers throughout the school year but particularly during the spring semester. These events occur during school days, weekday evenings, and weekends. Students participating in jazz band must make this time commitment to the group.
5. Jazz band auditions are held early in the school year. Students should watch for the audition sign-up list in the band room within the first two weeks of school.

Of course, parents should encourage their students to practice their instruments routinely and master their assigned music. Private lessons are helpful and strongly encouraged.

Communication is essential.

Contact the Band Boosters with mailing or email address changes that occur during the school year at www.nwvikingband.org or secretary@nwvikingband.org.