

2017 - 2018
WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND

“The Magic of Motown”



MRS. FARMER

TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT
WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL
10575 William St. Taylor, Michigan 48180
West Phone: (313) 295-5783
Fax: (313) 291-2203

Dear Band Parents,

I hope all of you had a restful and fun summer. I am looking forward to this year in band at West. This year our bands will include a Concert Band, Varsity Bands, Cadet Band, Jazz Band, and a combined Marching Band. Last year our bands did well in a regional band competition. We plan on entering the band competition again this year and I'm expecting great things from the bands at West. We also plan on enjoying our day of fun at Cedar Point.

Please take some time to read through this packet of band information with your child and **return the signed sheet (next page) to me tomorrow**. On page three of this packet there is a list of all the major **concert and competition dates for the entire school year**. Your child is a part of a performing group and they will be expected to be at each concert. It counts for a major part of their grade in band. Make sure to add these dates to your family calendar or post the sheet at your home.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to keeping correspondence with you throughout the year, and I would appreciate any help you might offer to the band program. You and your child are an important and valued member of this program. I look forward to working with the students this year and hope to see you at one of our band events. Thank you for making an investment in your child's future.

Sincerely,

Joann Farmer (joann.farmer@taylorschools.net)
Band Director,
West Middle School

P.S. Here are some of the ways you can help your child be more successful in band.

Visit our West Website for band info **west.taylorschools.net/**

Help your 8th grader by visiting the Truman
Band Website

Attend a high school, college, or professional instrumental concert with your child.

Help them be prepared for class. Set a specific practice time and place at home.

Listen to them practice and encourage them. *Post the band calendar at home.*

Make sure they get what they need for their *band uniform* and that they attend each performance.

Visit a local music store for private music lessons, music supplies, and fun music books.

**WEST MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND
2017-2018**

What to Look Forward to this Year in Band

- Five Great Bands- Cadet Band, Concert Band, Varsity Band, Marching Band, and Jazz Band
- Kennedy Football Game- 8th graders perform-**Friday, Sept. 22nd**
- Kennedy Homecoming Parade - 8th graders march behind Kennedy Marching Band
- Jazz Band Performs at Marshall Music **Thursday, Nov. 30th, 6:00pm.**
- Christmas Concert – **Wed. December 13th, 5:30 p.m. Combined Cadet Band & Choir
7:00 Varsity and Concert Bands**
- School Christmas Concert- Band performs for West students
- MSBOA solo and ensemble- 7th/ 8th gr. Students perform solo or duet/trio for rating **Feb 10th**
- Spring Concert **Wed. Feb. 28th, 5:30 p.m. West Gym Cadet Band & Choir
7:00pm Varsity and Concert Bands**
- MSBOA Band Festival - Bands perform for musical judges for rating **Fri. March 2**
- March at Taylor Little League, South **April 21st, Marching Band**
- March at RELAY for LIFE at Taylor Heritage Park **May 19th, Marching Band**
- Farewell Concert **Wed. May 30th, 5:30 p.m. Cadet Band & Choir
7:00 pm Marching Band**
- Trip to **Cedar Point (June 7th)**
- School Assemblies throughout the year – Band performs for pep, award, & special events
(Please mark dates in calendar. Dates may be subject to change.)

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO HAVE WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

Concert Band- instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 2, signed parent/teacher/student agreement
Varsity Band- instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1 & 2, signed parent/teacher/student agreement
Cadet Band – instrument, Essential Elements 2000 Book 1, signed parent/teacher/student agreement
Students who play reed instruments should have at least two reeds at all times.
Brass players should have their own valve or slide oil at all times.

-----cut here and save top half-----Please put Concert dates in your calendar-----

Parent/Teacher/Student Agreement

I have read and understand the West Middle School Band "Keys to Success" and "Grading Policy" forms, and I wish to be a dedicated member and supporter of the West Middle School Band Program.

Parent Signature _____ Address _____

Student Signature _____ Phone # _____

Parent's Email address _____

Print Student Name _____ Band Number _____

Comments or Questions _____

***Please fill out this form and return it to Mrs. Farmer.
This is your ticket to join the West band program.***

West Band "Keys to Success"

You are joining a class like none other. Band is not only a class. It is a team and a family. Like any other team we will be working together, learning together, performing together, competing together, and traveling together. It is important that everyone has a sense of belonging and tries their hardest to give their best for the sake of the entire band. Along with this great opportunity comes added responsibility and expectations for excellence.

Expectations

- Come prepared every day with your instrument, necessary items (reeds, drum sticks, mouthpiece) and your own music. (West Band Folder & Method Book)
- Come to class early so you can get your instrument, music, and stand ready. Warm up your instrument quietly and wait for the director to start rehearsal.
- Absolutely No gum, food, or drink will be allowed in the band room.
- Handle instruments with extreme care and respect. Use of drum equipment, stereo, piano, and other students' instruments is prohibited.
- Absolutely no horse play will be allowed in any part of the band room.
- Attend sectional rehearsals

Student Responsibilities

- Be prepared to participate and work every day. Your instrument, a positive attitude, music, and a pencil are your tools. **BRING THEM EVERY DAY.**
- Caring for your instrument and music is your job. Instruments may be stored in the instrument room or designated area at the student's own risk. Your name should be clearly marked on the outside of your case. The instrument room will be monitored during the day and locked after school. However, the school will not be responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen items.
- Music slots and music folders will be given to students. Sheet music will be provided for all students.
- It is your responsibility to learn your music. You will need to take your instrument and music home to practice until you have successfully learned your music. All students should take their instrument home at least two times each week and should be practicing an average of **90 minutes each week**. Students may pick their instrument up at the end of the school day before they go home.
- Students will pay attention and NOT talk while the Band Director is speaking or working with other groups of students.
- Students will attend each concert and wear the proper band uniform for all concerts and performances.

Band uniform

Black dress pants, West Band Polo shirt, Black dress shoes/ socks

Note: jeans or tennis shoes will not be allowed

West Band Grading Policy

NO-Instrument Policy for Band (20% of grade)

Each time a student forgets his/her instrument he/she will receive a N.P. (No-Play) They will be given a penalty writing assignment to work on during the class period.

NO-Music Policy for Band (20% of grade)

Each time a student forgets or loses their music he/she will receive a N.M. Students should always write their name and band number on top of their music. If they lose their music they should check the lost - and - found music box and their music slot before asking for new copies of the music. A students' grade will also be lowered each time their music is found left out after class.

Playing TESTS (20% of grade)

Tests will be given during sectional time or during the band class. Students may retake a test one time to get a better grade. This can be done any day within the test week or on the make-up day. A schedule of all test dates will be provided to the student at the beginning of each semester.

Counting TESTS (20% of grade)

Counting tests will be given every other Monday. These tests can not be retaken. If a student is absent on a test day they may take the test on the scheduled make up day.

Practice Weekends (20% of grade)

Students must take their instrument home every weekend to practice.

CHAIR PLACEMENTS (no points)

Chair placements will be given occasionally to order a section. Each student will play the selection of music and the band director will determine the chair placement based on the students performance. Chair placements only determine where a student sits within the section, and do not affect his/her grade.

BAND CONCERTS and COMPETITIONS AFTER SCHOOL HOURS (50% of student's grade)

Concerts and Band Competitions are what we work toward in band class. It is very important that every student be present at these concerts. Students will be given at least one month notice of the time and location of the concert so that parents may arrange for the transportation of the student to and from the concert. We encourage parents to support their child by attending each concert. If people miss a band competition it could hurt the entire bands chance of getting a high rating.

FAILURE TO ATTEND THE SCHEDULED CONCERT or COMPETITION

It is impossible to make up a missed concert/competition. Should a parent have a reason to appeal the student's failure to attend a concert, this excuse will be provided to the band director in writing for review with the school principal. The review may result in one of the following: 1) the student may be excused from the concert and evaluated on their ability to play the concert music, or 2) the student will not be excused from the concert and will lose 50% of their grade for the marking period. It would help the process if the principal and band director were given written notice before the concert. Should the student be allowed to play the concert music for a grade, they will do so by making a cassette tape recording of the music on their own time at home, and then submit the tape to the band director before the end of the marking period. Failure to do so will result in the letter grade of E. A student may be asked not to attend a concert by the Principal or the Band Director because of improper conduct or lack of effort. Students must be in proper band uniform for all performance.

2017- 2018 West Band Test Schedule

Sept. 11	Band Rental Night, 6:00pm
Sep. 8	Pretest
Sep 25 – 29	Beginning of the year chair placements – TBA
Mon. Sep. 25	Counting Test #1
Mon. Oct. 2	Playing Test #1 (Ab Concert Scale) 8th- 171
Mon. Oct. 9	Counting Test #2
Mon. Oct. 30	Playing Test #2 (Bb Concert Scale) 8th- 159
Nov. 6 - 10	Chair placements on Scales/ Band music
Mon. Nov. 13	Counting Test #3
Nov. 21, 22	Exams – End Trimester 1 (pretest TRI 2)
Tues. Jan. 16	Playing Test #3 (Eb Concert Scale) 8th- 163
Jan. 22 - 26	Chair placements on Scales/ Band music
Mon. Jan 29	Counting Test #4
Mon. Feb. 5	Playing Test #4 (F Concert scale) 8th- 167
March 7, 8	Exams – End Trimester 2 (pretest TRI 3)
April 9-12	Chair placements on Scales/ Band music
Mon. April 16	Counting Test #5
Mon. April 23	Playing Test #5 (C Concert scale) 8th- 175
Mon. May 1	Counting Test #6
Mon. June 5	Playing Test #6 (G Concert scale) 8th – 185
June 13, 14,15	Exams – End Trimester 3

West Bands 2017-2018 Concert Dates

September 11, 2017..... Rental Night, West Middle School Cafeteria	6:00pm
September 21, 2017..... Turn Off the Violence	4:00-5:00pm (Concert Band Only)
October 6, 2017 Kennedy Homecoming Parade/Game	4:30pm (Concert Band Only)
November 2017..... West/Kennedy Music Day Concert	TBD
November 13, 2017..... Optional Fundraiser for Cedar Point	Class
November 18, 2017..... Wyandotte Christmas Parade	TBD (Concert Band Only)
December 13, 2017..... Christmas Concert, West Gym	Day Concert
December 13, 2016..... Evening Christmas Concert, West Gym 7:00pm	Cadet Band & Chorus 5:30pm Concert & Varsity Bands
February 10, 2018..... Optional Solo and Ensemble, Livonia Franklin High School	Times will be assigned (Varsity & Concert Bands)
February, 28, 2018..... Spring Band Concert	Cadet Band & Chorus 5:30pm Concert & Varsity Bands 7:00pm
March 2, 2018..... Band Festival,	TBD Varsity & Concert Bands
April 21, 2018..... Taylor South Little League Parade	10:30am (Varsity and Concert Band)
May 19, 2018..... Taylor Relay For Life	TBD (Varsity and Concert Band)
May 30, 2018..... Farewell Concert	Cadet Band & Chorus 5:30pm Concert & Varsity Bands 7:00pm
June 7, 2018..... Cedar Point	8:00am

**West BAND Polo Shirt
ORDER FORM**

BAND UNIFORM

Pants - Black dress pants with black belt

Shoes - Black dress shoes (no tennis shoes or boots) with black socks or neutral hose

Shirt - West Band polo shirt (Embroidered Cardinal)

To: Band Parents

From: Mrs. Farmer

We have an excellent Band this year and we are currently preparing for many upcoming concerts including our Christmas Concert, Solo and Ensemble, Band Festival competitions, school concerts, and parades. We want to sound good, but along with that we also want to look sharp. Please help your child prepare for our upcoming concerts by making sure they have the proper pants, shoes, and shirt for their uniform.

The official West Band Polo may be purchased by filling out the order form at the bottom of this page along with cash or checks made out to West. (cash only after October) Your child will soon be fitted for the proper size polo shirt and will be given their uniform shirt as soon as they arrive.

All Varsity and Concert Band percussion students must pay a \$20.00 percussion rental/usage fee to help cover operational expenses of the equipment. All 6th grade percussion students must pay a \$10.00 fee.

This Uniform Shirt will be used for.....

Every Performance for both their 6th, 7th and 8th Grade years in band.

(cut here)

Child's Name _____

Hour _____

6th Grade Uniform Fee = \$20.00

7th Grade Uniform Fee = \$20.00 (includes marching band, competition) \$30.00 if you need a polo shirt.

8th Grade Uniform Fee = \$35.00 (includes vest and competition) \$45.00 if you need a marching band shirt.

Checks should be made out to "West"

Please return this order form with your payment.

Thank You.