

Freshman Parent Handbook For Band Participation at Shawnee Mission West



AKA

“Everything you ever wanted to know about band, but were afraid to ask and your child will never tell you!”

Developed by parents - for parents

What are the band activities my 9th grader and I should participate in and what do we do?

(See attached Calendar for important dates;
check the website for updates at www.bandaides.org)

General Information for Parents of 9th Graders

1. Join Band-Aides - it's only \$5.00 per family and the information and friendships (not to mention the food) help make the high school transition easier.
2. Attend as many concerts, fundraising events, ballgames, activities, and Band-Aides meetings as you possible can - getting to know other parents makes such a difference in the comfort level for both you and your student and creates a sense of belonging in this very large high school environment.
3. Band-Aides sponsors two major fundraisers during the year - The Spaghetti Dinner which includes the Silent and Live Auctions in the fall and the Chili Supper in late January or February. Please support these events by helping your student sell tickets to friends and family, returning the money by the deadline, providing an auction item for the Spaghetti Dinner - from either a business you know or something that you make or a service you provide. Other ways to get involved include signing up to help set up, clean up, serving line, drinks, etc., and by attending and participating. All of the money raised as these events goes back to the students through the band program and helps defray our costs as parents.
4. Check the web site - www.bandaides.org - frequently. It contains a wealth of information as well as really cool pictures of our events.
5. Purchase Band-Aides spirit wear and wear it with pride to the events.
6. If you have questions, contact any of the executive board members. They will be glad to answer your questions.
Co-Presidents - Jim and Nancy Allen, 492-5563, president@bandaides.org
Co-Vice Presidents - Chuck and Kristie Mehrer 888.6820, vpres@bandaides.org
Secretary - Dana Podrebarac, 438-9008 secretary@bandaides.org
Co-Treasurers - Jim and Kathy Ingram 492-8736, treasurer@bandaides.org
Past Presidents - Pete and Sheri Resa 492-8786 pastpres@bandaides.org
7. The Louie Louie Band is a group of West students who support our community by marching in the Lenexa 4th of July Community Days Parade in July. 9th graders are invited to participate in these marching opportunities if they would like to. This is a not mandatory SM West sanctioned marching event.
8. Participate and enjoy all of the activities your child is involved in at Shawnee Mission West High School. Being involved and feeling that you belong will make your high school experience great. The four years fly by very quickly!

9. Students will be issued a locker to keep their instrument in during school. The lockers are located in the band room. The student will be checked out a key. If it is lost a \$5 fee will be charged for replacement.

10. There will be a folder coming home at the beginning of school that will have several forms in it requiring your signature. Please read throughout the documentation and fill out the forms. Have your son or daughter help you. This information is used as the staff sends out mailings and weekly emails containing current event reminders, schedules, contact names and numbers as well as accolades of jobs well done by the students. Without travel forms and band fees being paid, your student WILL NOT be allowed to travel and perform with the band. Please return the forms and fees as soon as possible. Take note of who checks are to be made out to. SM West, Band-Aides, or Shawnee Mission School District.

11. Every student is expected to practice at home on a weekly basis. The students are busy and may not be able to practice every night, but a regular week should include an hour to an hour and a half of solid practice. Band is just like math or English - they all have homework. It is just known as practice. Work on those difficult measures and fix them then you are done. Every student has music they can take home and work on.

12. Private lessons are not just for people who are having difficulty. Private lessons are for anyone who wants to improve! Students who want to play in the SM West Wind Ensemble or OE probably need to take lessons on their instrument from a highly qualified specialist on their instrument. Please ask the director for help in finding a good instructor.

13. Sometimes it is difficult to find time in the student's schedule for everything they want to take. PLEASE - look carefully every year to make sure they are on track. West has had several students graduate with honors, be in the top 10% of their class and still take band every year, and even Jazz Band. IT CAN BE DONE. Sometimes a few classes have to be taken in the summer, but honestly sometimes they are easier in the summer. Please don't let your son or daughter miss out on memories and college scholarships because they couldn't schedule band their senior year!

Now let's look through the year and see what each month holds for fun and excitement in the wonderful world of the West Pride Bands!

August

There is a Band-Aides meeting in August in the band room. Check the web site for day and time.

Be sure to attend the Picnic in the Park. If your student is in sports, just get there as quickly as you can. You bring a food or beverage item as assigned by the starting letter of your last name. Dress is very casual. Bring lawn chairs and the whole family. See the picnic flyer on the website (www.bandaides.org).

Check your freshman band packet or website for documentation needed to earn a school letter jacket numeral.

September

Check the web site for the September Band-Aides meeting.

Attend and enjoy the pre-game and halftime shows at the football games. Look for the Band-Aides West banner; introduce yourself to the other parents, and enjoy the show. You won't want to miss the October 19th football game ...it ends with the West Pride flashlight show!

Watch for information about "Adopt-a-Frosh". Members of the marching band "adopt" freshmen and those students ride the band busses and sit with the marching band during the football game.

October

Band-Aides meeting in October in the band room. Check the web site for other information.

Spaghetti Dinner with the Silent and Live Auctions is one of our BIGGEST fundraisers of the year. You will need to provide either 1 cake or 2 pies that you will take to West in the afternoon. Your student and you can sign up to help with set up, serving, clean up, activities, etc. Your student can earn points toward their letter jacket numerals (see the letter requirements on the website) for helping at these events. Make sure your student sells the tickets they receive for the event and returns the unsold tickets and money by the due date. It is very important for the tickets and money to be returned at the stated time.

This month is your student's first concert performance. It is in the SMW Auditorium for Freshman Band and the Jazz Bands. The directors will give you specific times to arrive and dress, but normally concert dress is shirt, tie, and dress pants for guys and dresses or skirts (knee length or longer) and a nice blouse for girls. No flip flops! The complete concert dress code can be found in the Band Handbook which is also on the website.

November

Band-Aides meeting in November - check the web site.

Fundraiser - The band program generally has a fundraiser in November. Your student can earn points toward their letter jacket numerals (see the letter requirements on the website) for helping distribute the items purchased.

Pep band rehearsals start this month for basketball pep band. All 9th graders are welcome to participate in pep band, and it is another way for students to earn points toward their letter jacket numerals. Students will be assigned to either the gold or black pep band and will play half the games. Basketball pep band practices are at 7:00 a.m. in the morning, usually 2 mornings a week for 3 weeks and students need to be at each practice in order to participate. Students get a West band shirt to wear to pep band games.

December

NO BAND-AIDES MEETING is scheduled in December. Meetings will resume in January. The Winter Concert is in the auditorium, featuring Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Freshman Band, Overland Express, and Jazz Lab. Students should refer to the "Uniform" section of the band handbook, which is on the website, for concert dress guidelines. This is a wonderful concert - a great opportunity for all parents to hear the awesome music of the Shawnee Mission West Band Program! Our students' work so hard preparing for these performances and they really do appreciate having their families cheering for them.

January

Band-Aides meeting this month. Check the website for the date. January has several pep band performances. Come to the basketball games and hear the pep band rock the house!

February

Band-Aides meeting in February in the band room. Check the web site. The KSHAA Regional Solo Piano Festival is usually held the first part of February at Baker University in Baldwin City, Ks. Students perform before a judge for a rating. A "1" rating entitles the student to perform at the State Piano Festival at Wichita State University, usually two weeks later. Music must be memorized to be eligible for a "1" rating and all performers must present an original copy of the music for the judge. Freshmen can participate in this activity.

Chili Supper is another major fundraiser. Sign up to help serve, etc. Your student will earn points for helping. Make sure your student sells the tickets they receive for the event and return the unsold tickets and money by the due date. It is very important for the tickets and money to be returned at the stated time. In addition to all bands performing at this event, the parents can participate in the "world renowned" Thundering Herd Band. Information for this event will be available as the event nears.

March

There is a Band-Aides meeting in March. Check the web site for time and date. The Freshman Band often attends an out-of-district festival in the spring. The Directors will provide information on this as soon as it is available.

Often in March, our basketball team has made it to the state tournament in Emporia, and the pep band has gone to play. It's a fun time and we might get to ride on great busses!

April

Band-Aides meeting in April in the band room. Check the web site.

This month has District Solo, Small Ensemble, and Large Ensemble competition. 9th graders can sign up to do a solo performance or put together an ensemble such as trio, quartet or quintet to prepare a piece for judging. As with all music competitions, only original music may be used for a performance and the judge must also have an original copy of the music. If the ensemble or solo gets a "1" rating at Regionals, they perform at the State competition at Emporia State University. Also, if your student plays a solo, they must have two original copies of their music - one for them and one for the judge. Both Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band play for ratings at the Large Ensemble Festival, but 9th grade band does not.

The West Area Band Festival- West Area is for 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, Wind Ensemble, and Overland Express only. Even though 9th graders do not play at West Area, set-up is the day before, and your student can again earn points for helping with set up.

Jazz on the Bridge is at SMW on the bridge. Good food, great jazz from Jazz Lab and Overland Express, as well as other jazz bands and the infamous Alumni OE band, make this a great evening.

May

Take a deep breath - the year is quickly coming to an end! The last Band-Aides meeting of the year is in May. Check the web site for this information.

Your child's final concert is the Spring Concert on the Lawn. This concert is for all groups and is played on the lawn behind West. Inclement weather can force this concert inside; the Directors will make those announcements as needed. Dress for this concert is a little more relaxed for the students, and very casual for the parents. Again, bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy the evening.

The 2nd big event this month is the Band Banquet. This is our evening to celebrate the students' many accomplishments during the year and to recognize our senior class. You purchase tickets for this event for your family only - this is NOT a fundraiser. The banquet has a catered meal and a great evening of recognition, culminating in the slide show - a pictorial documentation of the year. What a beautiful evening this is. Dress is more "church clothes" for everyone.

The last event of the year is graduation. The 10th and 11th grade band students play at graduation. This is a required performance.

You are joining a wonderful family that has a lot of fun together through enjoying activities with our kids. We get to go places and see amazing sights due to the band activities. Be a part of something wonderful with your son or daughter. You will not regret it - we promise!