

Name of Course: Concert Band with Competitive Marching Band

Course Number: 001175 - 001176
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Course

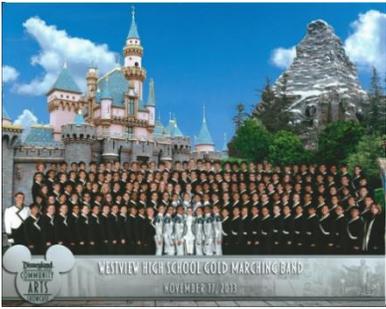
Description

Band With Competitive Marching is a yearlong performance class. Students are required to participate in all band activities. Marching Band activities begin with Band Camp (before school starts) and include Field w Competitions, Football Games, after school and evening rehearsals. The Marching Band season concludes in November. Once Term I is over students are placed into one of three band groups (Freshman Band, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble) based upon ability and instrumentation needs. Concert activities are concerts, festivals, as well as solo and ensemble festival. Please see syllabus for information on the attendance policy. These performance groups depend on all of its members to be at all rehearsals and performances.

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic technical skills as well as advanced interpretive/expression skills on wind or percussion instruments through the refinement and performance of high school band literature. Emphasis will be placed on the development of skills in interpretation of notation and expressive markings, individual and ensemble performance, and critical listening.

Students receive 5 credits of PE and 15 credits of Fine Arts. This course may be used to meet the UC/CSU "F" requirement and PUSD Fine Arts requirement.

Photo Gallery

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| Marching Band Performing at Disneyland | Marching Band at Field Show Competition | Section features at Winter and Spring Shows |
|  |  |  |
| Concert Band at Festival | Marching Band Yearbook Photo | Wind Ensemble at Festival |

What If I'm Not Good Enough? (Course Expectations)

Band with Competitive Marching is a course open to all students. If you are a beginner and interested in joining our program, please contact one of the directors and we can give you information on how you can join. Modified music and/or expectations can be issued to students who need assistance. While we are open to all students, there is an audition process for Competitive Marching Band. Auditions are usually in May. Students who do not make it through the first audition will be given an opportunity to reaudition in June. We offer a workshop prior to the auditions. Approximately 90% of the students pass the first audition. Most pass the retake audition. Students who do not pass the Competitive Marching Band audition are welcome to join our Non Competitive Marching Band.

Homework

Band with Competitive Marching has different seasons: Marching (through November), Winter (through January), Festival (through April) and Spring (through June). Each season has different repertoire, requirements and expectations. Students are expected to come to all rehearsals prepared with music learned (some memorization is required). In order to have music prepared students need to practice outside of school. The amount of time required is individual (based on student needs).

Course Statistics and Data

| Year | Quarter/Term | Period | Class Size | # of Students 80% or higher | # of Failing Students | Ave Grade % (Grade) |
|-----------|--------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 2013-2014 | Term I | Concert Band (MB) | 119 | 99.16 | 0 | 3.58 |
| 2013-2014 | Term I | Comp Marching Band | 119 | 98.85 | 0 | 3.94 |
| 2013-2014 | Quarter 3 | Concert Band P2,4 | 111 | 94.59 | 1 | 3.77 |
| 2013-2014 | Quarter 4 | Concert Band P2,4 | 110 | 94.59 | 1 | 3.77 |
| 2013-2014 | Quarter 3 | Wind Ensemble | 50 | 100 | 0 | 3.96 |
| 2013-2014 | Quarter 4 | Wind Ensemble | 50 | 100 | 0 | 3.98 |
| 2014-2015 | Term I | Concert Band | 140 | 97.14 | 0 | 3.84 |
| 2014-2015 | Term I | Comp Marching Band | 140 | 100 | 0 | 3.97 |

What are the time commitments?

Band with Competitive Marching time commitments vary with the seasons. Marching Season (before school through November) is the most time intensive commitment season. It is important that each member understands the expectations and is able to commit to the group. When students are absent from rehearsals it impacts the whole group. Students guide off of each other and there are no "second strings" or "understudies". A complete list of rehearsals and performances will be available at the end of the school year. Families should use the current year list as a guide when deciding if this is the course for them. (We have an option - Band With Non Competitive Marching for those families who cannot make the time commitment. To view our schedule - visit <http://westviewgold.org/calendar>

The other seasons have their time commitments after school rehearsals, evening and weekend performances. Although there are fewer time commitments, it is important that our members are able to make the commitment necessary - participation is a factor in Academic Grades.

Parent Responsibilities

- Student attendance is important – don't allow students to miss school
- Students should practice as often as possible. Have your musician play for you occasionally. Encourage excellence from them!
- Avoid overloading your musician with too many extra activities. Their performance will suffer overall.
- Become involved with your child's music-related activities. Volunteering is a great way to be involved. Extra help is always needed!
 - To Sign Up - <http://westviewgold.org/pages/volunteers>
- Attend events and make positive and encouraging comments about performances. Our attitudes reflect on our kids, which in turns affects their performance.
- Encourage good sportsmanship toward each other and to our competitors at all times.
- Assist your child with scheduling commitments and avoiding conflicts. Careful planning is a must.
 - Should your child have conflicts request to be excused by the director as soon as possible.
 - To excuse multiple conflicts:
 - Print out the Calendar
 - Mark any conflicts
 - Have your child meet with the director to request permission to be excused (only the director may excuse the student)
- Join Booster Membership or Band Dads and receive a free Booster/Band Dad shirt.
 - To join Band Dads - http://westviewgold.org/pages/band_dads
 - To be a Booster Member - [http://westviewgold.org/pages/boosters_members\(1\)](http://westviewgold.org/pages/boosters_members(1))

Student Testimonials

Band is more than just a class. Marching band and concert band both take a certain level of commitment and drive than most other classes offered in high school. It is no walk in the park, because if it was the respect for the program would not be the same. I have been in band for both years of my high school career, as I am a sophomore now, and I have loved every minute of it, both Marching season and Concert season.

Marching season starts in August and ends in November. For many of us, the end of Marching season is somewhat of a bittersweet moment. While our months of tiring practice are over, we lose a bit of the community that comes with Marching season. United in struggles, the band becomes a community throughout your four months together, and the end of the season means the end of that specific community. Marching season gives way to concert season, which admittedly builds communities of its own.

These past two years I have also participated in Wind Ensemble, which has been the highlight of my high school years so far. While the music may be challenging at times, the opportunity to work with fantastic musicians has given me the chance to learn and progress my musicality far more in two years than I could have imagined. Starkly different from Marching season, Wind Ensemble has greatly helped me grow as a musician.

So whether it be Marching out on the field, practicing with a concert band, getting pumped with the pep band, or carefully tuning with an orchestra, Band is certainly a commitment well worth it.

- Scott Frost, Class of 2017

I am currently a Junior in the Westview Gold program and have been in competitive marching band since my freshman year as well as wind ensemble since my sophomore year. My three years in this program have been nothing short of extraordinary. Coming into high school, I was skeptical of joining band

because of the level of musicianship I witnessed throughout my brother's high school career. I didn't think I was going to be able to adapt to the high standard the program sets on all of its members. After much reasoning from my brother, I was convinced to join Westview Gold and devote my time to becoming a better musician during marching season as well as concert season. During marching season, competitive marching band practices for and competes at schools in the Southern California area. At these competitions, we are adjudicated by judges that critique our field show. Concert season is focused solely on the music without marching however we still perform at festivals. As the first day of band camp approached I felt nervous but excited at the same time. When I stepped into the band room I was greeted by multiple students in the program and felt an overwhelming sense of welcoming. From that moment I realized that these members were going to be like family to me. I developed such strong relationships over the years in the program and have many more to make. People whom I have encountered not only nurtured me in music but in my other school subjects as well. I urge anyone who has even a slight inclination to join the band program and grow your musical abilities.

- Kevin Salazar, Class of 2017

When filling out course request forms, the gravity of what you're doing- mapping out your future- becomes very apparent. It's a terrifying feeling to lock in your courses, and even now as a junior, still is for me. But for all three of my years at Westview, I've entered Competitive Marching Band linked with Concert Band with confidence. During the fall season, I am in the competitive marching band, which is a huge time commitment because of rehearsal outside of school hours as well as tournaments. However, competitive marching band isn't just a big time commitment- in fact, the larger commitment the group requires of its members is personal commitment to the entire group and the show you're all working at putting together. It may seem like a lot, and it is. But for those students who are truly invested and are willing to make the commitment, competitive marching band is an incredible experience which teaches discipline, teamwork, and the value and benefits of hard work while helping students improve musically. It also provides a basis for strong friendships to be formed spanning all four grades; band does become a second family for its members. During second term, after marching season is over, concert season begins. I am in Wind Ensemble, the highest level wind concert band at Westview. All the values we learned during marching season to help us grow as both people and musicians come into play again during concert season. Because there is no longer the marching aspect, more time can be spent on purely musical aspects. The time commitment outside of school is less rehearsal-wise, but manifests itself as practice time put into the pieces selected for concerts and festivals.

Band is something that becomes a huge part of your life, something that may not seem a good thing for some, but that ultimately is a wonderful thing. Becoming invested in the program is something that I will never regret. I get to work with many really talented students who push me to be a better musician and person and get to play under the direction of Ms. Webb and Mr. Greenberg who also push us to become better and strive for excellence. Band is something to be very proud of. It's not just notes on a page, it's not just the individual, it's a group, everyone contributing, helping each other, challenging each other, putting together a show or a concert that not only entertains but impresses.

- Hannah Oikawa, Class of 2016

I am in 12th grade and have been in Westview GOLD for all four years of high school. As part of the Competitive Marching Band, I have had the opportunity to come together every year with over 100 other people to create and perfect a unique work of art called a field show. Field shows are a combination of both individual effort and teamwork, athleticism and artistry, and rehearsing and performing them creates a camaraderie between students that I haven't felt anywhere else. All of us contribute an equal amount to our improvement and success; there are no star performers or benchwarmers at a Field Tournament. Being part of Competitive requires and improves upon your dedication, responsibility, and integrity. I have learned to dedicate my time and contribute my full effort in order to benefit a group that I care about. I started out as a shy freshman who did not know anyone at Westview, having come from Black Mountain. By the end of Band Camp I had made new friends, and I wasn't scared about school starting. Over the course of four years my passion for Marching Band has grown immensely, bringing my confidence and leadership skills along with it. Now as a senior, I serve on the Executive Board and as Section Leader over 31 clarinets. During marching season, I worked every day to be an example to them of enthusiasm and dedication. My main goal is to teach them to love the program as much as I do and to show that by working hard to improve it.

I have made many close friends through the Band program, mostly due to the amount of time we spend together, both rehearsing and having fun at events. The people in Competitive are extremely accepting and friendly, and Band has become a second family for almost all of us.

Marching season is my favorite, due to the amount of time I spend with my friends and the pride and satisfaction that come from striving to create a perfect field show. However, other parts of the year are also fun and rewarding. I really like the Winter and Spring Shows because they provide me with an opportunity to entertain friends and family in an unusual and individual way. Wearing shades and headbands while rocking out to "Eye of the Tiger" on the clarinet is very different from performing in a traditional concert.

In between the two shows is Festival Season. We all get the chance to improve ourselves musically by preparing challenging pieces for performance, both individually and within our different ensembles (Concert Bands and Wind Ensemble). Performing solos has helped me to grow more confident on my clarinet and really see the benefits of individual practice. I enjoy my Wind Ensemble class because I love the feeling of creating art on a daily basis as we dig into the pieces and work to play them beautifully. . Band has made my high school experience not only more enjoyable, but also more meaningful. I really appreciate the chance to take a break from normal schoolwork and classes every day in order to make music, pursuing one of my passions and forming genuine connections to other people as we work toward a common goal. I believe that this has significantly cut down on my stress level and created balance in my life that has helped me succeed in all areas. It has also helped me develop as a person, teaching me to genuinely devote myself to things that I love, and to work hard not only for my own sake but also for the benefit of others. Overall, I think Competitive is a great option for anyone who loves music and is willing to put in the effort to achieve amazing results.

- Jenna Groesbeck, Class of 2015

Hey I'm Ben and I've been playing the Trombone for five years. To me, being part of the marching band and wind ensemble was the smartest decision of my life, but no matter if you are in competitive or not, or no matter what band Westview Gold is worth it. More than 100 percent. I have become such a better musician because of band, but also I have the honor of knowing all these incredible people, and even calling them my friends. Some people say band is easy, and doesn't count as a class. That is wrong. Band is work. Hard work. But also lots of fun. And since it's so fun and interesting it doesn't feel like work at all. Because of band I have a place in my life and people in my life that I can go to to hang out, play my instrument, talk about anything, support one another, do great fundraisers, learn some new things, and most importantly, make memories that I'm sure will be the highlight of my run through High School. I'm just a Sophomore. I have plenty of more time before I graduate. But any little thing about the transition to High School that might've been the slightest bit daunting? By the end of day one, I knew that wasn't going to be a problem. But really, my favorite part of band is the moments. Now that may sound weird but it's true. The moment of stepping on the field to perform your show. The moment of playing pep tunes at the football games. The moment when you get new music for concert season. The moment when you are all dressed up and play your first note at the Poway Festival. And then when you walk into a room and the adjudicator is sitting there and you get ready to play your Solo for Solo and Ensemble Festival. Band is a commitment. Band is hard work. Band is fun. To me the word "Band" isn't a class where you make good sounds with your mouth out of a thingy. Band is a group of people who get together because of their love for music, vowing to be better musicians and people, and together they have a great time doing incredible things and learning.

- Ben Seckington, Class of 2017

Marching a show, playing an instrument, and being aware of one's surroundings is not an easy task, but is not a task that should hold anyone back from enrolling in Competitive Marching Band. Excellent teaching staff and a large network of support from section-mates and upperclassmen create a safe and fun learning environment. I have marched at various performance venues, including Disneyland because of my participation in Competitive Ensemble, all of which have been important experiences in my life. I have experienced the exhilarating feeling of performing in front of large crowds. Competitive band consists of a 150-person family pouring 15 weeks of hard work and continuous dedication into one singular goal. In the end, one really does learn how rewarding and special this art can be.

Through my involvement in Wind Ensemble, I have been able to perform in Carnegie Hall, which, of all the many performances in my lifetime, is probably ranked in the top 2. I have performed top level literature, many of which I know universities perform all the time.

In a program of 200+ students, it is easy to get lost and feel insignificant. That is not the case in the world of band, as it is evident that every person plays a role, both on the field and on the stage. In marching a show, one person's absence is very obviously visible even from an untrained eye. In a concert setting, every voice must be heard to create a cohesive ensemble sound. Everyone contributes to this program and as a result, everyone benefits.

Westview GOLD strives for perfection in our performances. While a 90% is considered an A in a class, and typically a good grade, if an ensemble were to perform with 90% of the notes correct, it would sound awful. There is no close enough in music and a higher level of excellence is instilled in the program's students.

The band is made up of exceptional students who share a passion for music. Our students are also involved in other clubs and activities and even more excel in the extremely competitive academic environment that Westview has to offer. More than that, the people that make up this band are my best friends--people that have defined my high school experience. Over the past four years, I have made countless memories in the band room, on the field, and during performances. The band room is my home; the band my family.

- Karina Lin, Class of 2015