



Advice from current Band Students

Work with your Mr. Delson and your counselor, they will find a way to fit Band in your schedule. Also remember that Band shouldn't be a stressor, its actually a great break from typical academics and gives you time to explore music if you are passionate about it.

Having a balanced schedule and enjoying a class where you can just vibe with others and do something you love is really important. Someone might be we worried about college, but when it comes down to it having something on your transcript such as Jazz/symphonic is something that schools can see and recognize that you have been playing for years. It shows you don't give up on something very easily.

When I was first making my schedule I thought I wouldn't be able to take a lot of things because of Band, but I was still able to take everything I wanted.

Being involved with music has been the most consistent joy of my life. I play a lot outside of school, and I like having music as a designated part of my day. Jazz has been my second favorite genre for years now, and I owe that to jazz Band.

I'm always really worried about being in a class in which I wouldn't know anybody. In seventh and tenth grade, I had always had my brother there for me, but he had his own friends to hang out with. Nevertheless, everyone in Band is really interactive and chill to be in class with. It really helps to be surrounded by people who are a lot better than you.

Band in high school has always been one of my favorite classes! Don't be afraid to put yourself out there! I first made friends with people in my section, and then I branched out and talked to others.

Being in Band in high school is one of the best decisions I ever made. It has helped me focus better in my academic classes, and I became close friends with the other people in it.

Don't let the fact that you want to take the most academically rigorous courses possible turn you away from doing Band. It is possible to take all the courses you want to take and do Band, especially in sophomore year. At least try it out in sophomore year because its really a great experience.

If you truly love playing your instrument, no matter what schedule you may have, always advocate for yourself to have a Band class. AB scheduling likes to work against you, but do not let that stop you from doing something you enjoy. I worked to keep Band in my day all three years, and I am so glad that I did.

One of the best things you can do to enhance your Band experience is to participate in at least one other music group other than your jazz/symphonic/concert ensemble. Whether that is the marching Band, Jazz 2, a flute/sax/brass quartet, or whatever the group is, you will have so much fun and it will also make you enjoy the Band class itself more because you will feel more involved in music and gain depth as a musician.

You don't need to take multiple APs your sophomore year. Don't sign up for two when you haven't experienced the load of one.

It's possible to take both Band and orchestra or choir! And since the select groups for Band are during the school day, they won't overlap with your other after school rehearsals.

One piece of advice I have is that if you are unsure about joining Band, definitely join! I met some awesome friends and it fit in perfectly, even with my busy schedule.

Looking from the outside it seems very ambitious however, once you get to know everyone everyone you see Band more than activity over being a grade and a creditworthy class.

Enjoy the music. I highly recommend being open-minded and embracing the songs that Mr. Delson chooses. Playing music you enjoy means you will play better and you will be more attentive to your director.

Reflections from current Band Parents and Students

The West Band and the music programs at Lenape and West have helped my kid in so many important ways:

- 1. Self confidence*
- 2. Self reliance (learning to ask for rides, learning to offer rides)*
- 3. Self discipline (the practices can be challenging at first)*
- 4. Forming meaningful relationships across school boundaries and developing a strong social safety net and belonging while transitioning from middle to high school.*
- 5. Musically, my kid has found his voice. Every other program he is in has seen improved performance based on his participation in marching Band!*
- 6. We moved here in the middle of middle school. Marching Band and the music programs at Lenape and West have made it possible for my son to feel like he is a part of his class, instead of the new kid.*
- 7. Imagine the best coach any of your kids have ever had. That is Mr. Delson and his team. These kids form strong bonds.*
- 8. You will figure out a way. We have kids in travel sports. This is a different commitment and totally manageable. The parents are great, and we work together in a way I've never experienced in travel sports. I was not a Band kid (my school didn't offer it). This is an athletic activity, a discipline activity, a social activity, and a music activity. And once they put that uniform and plume on, they carry so much pride and confidence. Have your kid give it a try. We did and we are so glad we did! His siblings love to watch him!*

To see her leadership, her enthusiasm to try new instruments while keeping a smile and working so hard. It amazes me watching these kids pull it all together..from marching to learning music, to feet work. It doesn't matter what grade you are in– they all come together as a Marching Band family and it is great to see. It was after my daughter first season and I went to the banquet you could feel the fun, the love, the laughter and joy these kids had for the Band and each other. As a parent I am proud of the Marching Bucks and so happy my daughter is part of the program.

As a freshman, this was my son's first year doing marching Band. He was reluctant at first, not knowing many people in the Band, but that feeling quickly subsided as all of the marching Band participants are a tight group of young adults and everyone seemed to get along and have a good time. Marching Band is a lot of work. However, he seemed to love the challenge and only wanted to practice harder to be as good as he could for the program. An unexpected result of being part of the marching Band is that our son is not nervous at all about moving up to 10th grade and moving to West as he made many friends in classes ahead of him.

As a 10th grader we have noticed that his upperclassmen friends have shared information with him about classes, teachers, and standardized tests (PSAT or AP) Being a high school student / parent was new to all of us and the information was helpful. My experience was similar. While volunteering with other Band parents I was able to ask questions about things that were unfamiliar to me.

Band at West has really had a positive impact on my life. It has given a place where I am able to express myself musically and grow not only as a musician but also as a person. It has let me make some of my closest friends and give us a place to do what we all love together: music.

The CB West Marching Band has been an amazing experience for our ninth grade daughter. The instruction from both color guard and drum line has just been above and beyond our expectations. We can't thank them enough for their intense dedication and hard work. They are truly inspirational teachers and musicians! Our daughter has made wonderful friendships and has gained confidence as a person and musician which we have the CB West Marching Band to thank!

As the parent of a 9th grader in the CB West Marching Band, I can happily say that the last year has had immeasurable benefits for my son. He has grown not just musically, but socially as well. Mr. Delson and his staff are welcoming and encouraging to all the students. They want the marching Band to be a positive experience for everyone involved. They are also flexible and understanding with students' and families' busy schedules. There are even opportunities for students to expand their musical knowledge by trying new instruments. After just a short time rehearsing with the West Band, my son's middle school director was impressed by the rapid increase in his abilities. Additionally, he has made friends with several upperclassmen and women and spent enough time in the halls of CB West that when he starts attending classes there in the fall it will already feel like a home away from home. Having a child in Marching Band can be a great experience for the whole family. There is an active Band Parents Association that is welcoming and friendly. They have volunteering options that are fun and give you the opportunity to work with a wonderful group of students. I would encourage any student to give marching Band at CB West a try.

The West Band program helped shape me into the person I am today. I developed a passion for music in this Band and pursued Music outside of just here at West I loved it so much. The friends and teachers you will meet in this group are unparalleled anywhere else and will give you connections to people before many of your peers even have a chance to meet people in high school.

From my daughter's experience, (Band) has been the highlight of her high school career. It has improved her self esteem, created fantastic friendships, and made a musician out of her which we hope continues through college and her adult life.

Our son has benefited from his participation in the marching Band program in many ways. As you might expect, I saw astounding growth in his playing and musicianship which was the result of his participation as a 9th grade student.

Marching Band made our son's transition into West seamless. He felt as if he was already a member of the West student body. He began his 10th grade year knowing the campus as well as knowing many students.

Band has developed me into the person that I am today. I've learned the values of resilience, perseverance, independence and leadership through the experiences I have been exposed to, both good and bad. It has also increased my playing ability by making me realize the importance of repeated practicing of good quality. . My belief is that goals can only be achieved when every member has the right mindset in order to improve.

Being a part of the West Band has opened up so many opportunities and teaches you an endless amount of lessons. You develop a strong work ethic through playing difficult pieces that force you to practice at home and become a better musician. By the end of even just one year you've excelled significantly. I found my passion through hours of marching Band rehearsals freshman year, since then I've been able to grow and focus towards my one new goal for the next few years at West. I owe everything that I've achieved and everything I know to the amazing staff; I can honestly say I wouldn't be who I am today without their guidance and teaching.

Throughout my time as a CBW Band member, I found myself enjoying all 3 years! I learned how to improve my playing, whether it was sight-reading, skills, or tone. I felt like band was a nice way to start my morning because it's always been a calm and relaxed environment; everyone is so welcoming and kind to each other, and I recommend continuing! I know you upcoming West students may be concerned about whether or not you can take AP classes with band, but you certainly can!! I did, and many of my fellow classmates did. I found it important to be well-rounded throughout my time in high school, and when it came time to apply for colleges I found it to be very beneficial, since many colleges look for well-rounded applicants. Also, the opportunities you get in band are awesome; you get to go on so many trips and perform in so many places; I loved going on the D.C. and Boston trips! Band is definitely on my list of things I will miss when I graduate—the memories and friends I've made here are priceless. I hope that you will choose to continue and learn to love and embrace music as I have learned. Good luck future CBW band students! :)