BAND PROGRAM

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Stevenson High School Band Program! Inside this booklet, you will find information about our curricular ensembles, co-curricular ensembles, private lesson opportunities, leadership opportunities, registering for band and more. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

We look forward to having you become a part of our band family!

Band Team

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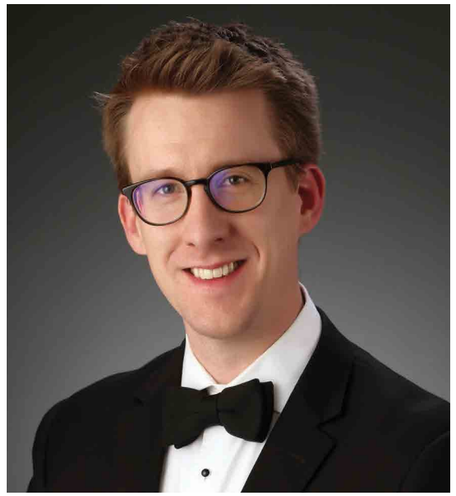

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Additional Marching Band Staff

Marching Percussion–Drumline
Zack Marks
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Marching Percussion–Frontline
Kevin Ray
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Color Guard
Michael Tseitlin
mtseitlin@d125.org

Small Ensemble Directors

Flute Choir
Hideko Amando
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Clarinet Ensemble
Claire Werling
cwerling@d125.org

Double Reed Ensemble
Jennifer Speer
jspeer@d125.org

Saxophone Ensemble
Mark Hiebert
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Brass Choir
Kendra Gohr
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Percussion Ensemble
Zack Marks
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Stevenson High School Band Mission and Vision

D125 Band Vision

The Stevenson High School Band Program seeks to nurture individual and collective student growth through a culture of interdependent music learning. The experiences we design are rooted in values that will benefit students not only in their high school careers, but also throughout their college careers, professional careers and most importantly, their lifetimes. These values are listed below.

D125 Band Values

Integrity

We strive to model intentionality with our individual actions so that we can be ready to contribute fully to the ensemble or group.

Excellence

We seek to empower students to follow their musical curiosities by providing them with the systems and strategies needed to pursue their goals.

Family

We aspire to foster an environment of connection, safety and belonging that cultivates lasting and meaningful relationships.

D125 Music Consortium Mission

Our PreK-12 Consortium Music Mission is to provide an essential experience to all students through the study and performance of music that is purposeful, enduring and joyful.

D125 Music Consortium Vision

The Music Artistic Processes are: ***Creating, Responding, Connecting and Performing.*** Students will explore music as a whole body, mind and soul experience that provides: an intellectual pursuit that uniquely develops the full capacity of the brain, music literacy, opportunities to expand creative potential connections across history, cultures and other areas of study, a place of belonging and community, joy and accomplishment.

Ensembles

Curricular Ensembles

Band Courses

Freshman Band
Full-Year Course
MUS101/MUS102

Symphonic Band
Full-Year Course
MUS121/MUS122

Wind Symphony
Full-Year Course
MUS131/MUS132

Wind Ensemble
Full-Year Course
MUS141/MUS142

Our Curricular Ensembles are the cornerstone of the multifaceted Stevenson High School Band Program. Our courses include four separate performance levels (Freshman Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble) which perform music spanning in complexity from the early high school level to the collegiate level. We approach Band as a living tradition, offering our students musical opportunities that are engaging, accessible, inclusive and challenging. These experiences connect students to themselves, to each other, and the broader world of what is possible through music, creativity and community.

Each band is an accredited class that meets everyday during the school day. Yearly performances vary for each ensemble with a total of three curricular concerts for the Freshman Bands, four for the Symphonic Bands and five for Wind Symphony and Wind Ensemble.

All incoming freshmen are placed in the Freshman Band for their initial year in the program. Rising band students in grades 10-12 are assigned to an ensemble based on a performance assessment in the spring of each school year.

Co-Curricular Ensembles

Marching Band

The Marching Band is the largest co-curricular ensemble in our program. It is one of our most fun groups to be part of and is a favorite of many of our students! The season begins with Band Camp, which typically takes place during the week between Summer School Session II and the start of the next school year. The time commitment then drops to approximately once to twice a week through the end of October. **Students must be enrolled in a band class in order to participate.**

The Marching Band performs at all home football games and other community events including the Buffalo Grove Days Parade and Pep Rallies. Those who elect to participate are also eligible to receive a one semester P.E. waiver for the fall semester. Please see the “Band and Your Four-Year Plan” section on page 8 for more information.

The Drumline and Frontline are the two percussion sections in the Marching Band. Audition information for these sections will be made available to all percussion students in the spring of each year. Non-percussionists are not eligible to be on the Drumline or Frontline.

“Band is an amazing opportunity to improve as a musician and make a ton of friends.”

—CURRENT STEVENSON BAND STUDENT

Ensembles

Co-Curricular Ensembles

Color Guard and Winter Guard

Band students may also be interested in being part of the Color Guard! The Color Guard performs with the Marching Band during the fall season. Students may also choose to continue throughout the year as part of the Winter Guard, a competitive indoor group. Color Guard and Winter Guard are open to all students who are interested and may be a great fit for those with a dance background! No prior experience is necessary. Please contact Color Guard Sponsor Michael Tseitlin for more information (mtseitlin@d125.org).

Pep Band

Pep Band is a co-curricular ensemble that performs at 10 varsity boys and girls home basketball games each season. These performances are high energy and a ton of fun! Students are able to create their own performance schedule and choose five+ games out of the scholed 10 that they would like to participate in. Performances are typically on Tuesday, Friday or Saturday nights. There is only one rehearsal for this group at the beginning of the season. Come join the party! **Students must be enrolled in a band class in order to participate.**

Jazz Bands

The Jazz program at Stevenson High School consists of four co-curricular groups with two big bands, a jazz combo, and Jazz Workshop. Placement in a jazz group is determined by an audition at the beginning of the school year. Any instrument can be played in Jazz Workshop, our ensemble focused on learning the basics of improvising, composing and arranging, but all other groups use traditional jazz instrumentation. All jazz groups have regular performances at school and in the community throughout the year.

Wind and Brass players must be enrolled in a band class in order to participate. Rhythm Section positions (bass, guitar, piano and drum set) are open to all students.

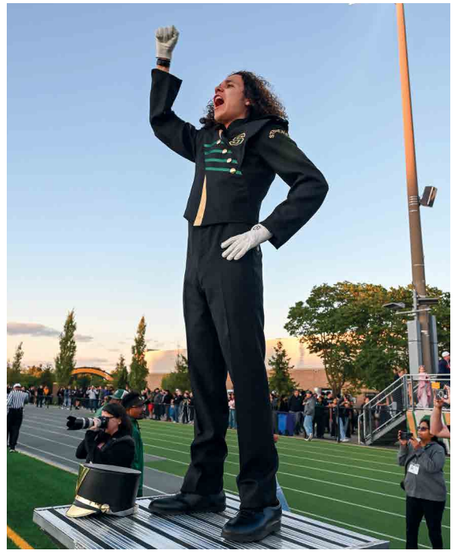
Small Ensembles

Our Small Ensembles include Flute Choir, Double Reed Ensemble, Clarinet Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Brass Choir and Percussion Ensemble. Each group meets between one to two times per week before or after school from September-April. These groups are led by professional specialists in each respective instrument and are a great musical and social opportunity for students! **Students must be enrolled in a band class in order to participate.**

Additional Opportunities

Student Leadership Positions

We are proud to say that the Stevenson High School Band is first and foremost a student organization. Students in the Band program are given multiple formal opportunities to take personal ownership and to develop their leadership skills. The Band Executive Board, the core of our student leadership team, consists of students who are elected by their peers to plan important band events and serve as their representatives with the directors. There are also a variety of additional positions through Marching Band, Jazz Band and the Small Ensembles. Band student leaders have the opportunity to be part of leadership training at the start of each year and receive extensive mentoring and guidance from the directors throughout the year.



"Band is encouraging. It provides opportunities to develop both as a musician and person by teaching skills like listening, patience, and adaptability in a safe environment."

—CURRENT STEVENSON BAND STUDENT

Private Lessons (PREP)

It is highly recommended that all band students sign up for private music lessons. Lessons are offered on a weekly basis and can be scheduled during students' band class, before school, after school or during other free periods. For more information, please visit the D125 PREP Private Lesson website at www.d125.org/prep.

Private Lesson Instructors

Bassoon
Jennifer Speer

Clarinet/Saxophone
Andy Carpenter
Claire Werling

Euphonium/Tuba
Kendra Gohr

Flute
Hideko Amano

French Horn
Emma Sepmeier

Jazz Bass
Sam Peters

Oboe
Julie Koscinski

Percussion
Zack Marks
Kevin Ray

Trombone
Colleen Bayoneto

Trumpet
Josh Jern

Band and Your Four-Year Plan

No matter what your academic and co-curricular goals may be, there are many ways to fit Band in your schedule for all four years of your high school career! Check out these example schedules to see some of the ways that our students have achieved this, all while remaining involved in clubs, sports and maintaining a commitment to academics.

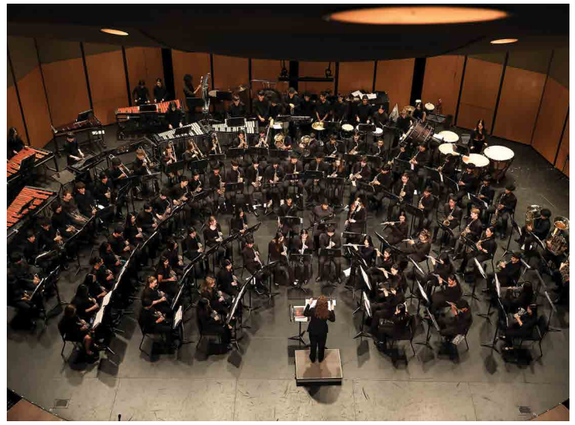
Freshman Year Schedule Examples

Options A and B reflect the use of a P.E. waiver, which is available for all Marching Band members every first semester in the years that they participate.

Options A and C include the two semester World History* course that must be taken prior to junior year. Alternatively, Option D assumes the student takes World History during freshman or sophomore summer school.

Option A		Option B		Option C		Option D	
Course	**Credits**	**Course**	**Credits**	**Course**	**Credits**	**Course**	**Credits**
English	2	English	2	English	2	English	2
Mathematics	2	Mathematics	2	Mathematics	2	Mathematics	2
Science	2	Science	2	Science	2	Science	2
Elective or Study Hall (Semester 1)	0-1	Elective or Study Hall (Semester 1)	0-1	P.E.	2	P.E.	2
P.E. (Semester 2)	1	P.E. (Semester 2)	1	Band	2	Band	2
Band	2	Band	2	World History*	2	Elective A	2
Elective	2	Elective A	2	Elective or Study Hall	0-2	Elective B or Study Hall	0-2
World History*	2	Elective B	2	(Lunch/Advisory)		(Lunch/Advisory)	
(Lunch/Advisory)		(Lunch/Advisory)					

Other schedule configurations exist, so students are encouraged to use the Four-Year Course Plan worksheet to review their options.



"Band is a way for me to excel in something I've been committed to for a long time and make relationships with people that share their love of music with me."

— CURRENT STEVENSON STUDENT

Stevenson Band Alumni: *Where are They Now?*

View Four Sample Schedules from Band Alumni

Sample Four-Year Plan

Participation in band is beneficial at any level, but students will experience the greatest impact when they are involved all four years. Band can fit not only into a freshman schedule, but it can also be maintained consistently throughout high school without conflicting with graduation requirements, or college and career goals. For more information, check out the QR code links above.

Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
First Semester	**First Semester**	**First Semester**	**First Semester**
Study Hall	AP Computer Science	Junior English	AP U.S. Government
Computer Programming	Spanish 3-4	AP Comparative Government & Politics	Wind Ensemble
Freshman English	Marketing	AP Physics 1	World Literature
Spanish 2-3	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	AP Statistics
Lunch/Advisory	Lunch	AP Spanish Language and Culture	AP Macroeconomics
Biology	Precalculus	AP Calculus AB	Lunch/FMP Leader
Freshman Band	Chemistry	AP U.S. History	AP Biology
Geometry	Sophomore English		
Second Semester	**Second Semester**	**Second Semester**	**Second Semester**
Choice P.E.	AP Computer Science	Junior English	Food Preparation
Introduction to Business	Spanish 3-4	Choice P.E.	Wind Ensemble
Freshman English	Health Education	AP Physics 1	World Literature
Spanish 2-3	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	AP Statistics
Lunch/Advisory	Lunch	AP Spanish Language and Culture	AP Macroeconomics
Biology	Precalculus	AP Calculus AB	Lunch/FMP Leader
Freshman Band	Chemistry	AP U.S. History	AP Biology
Geometry	Sophomore English		

This student also took World History in summer school before their freshman year and Geometry in summer school before their sophomore year. Driver Education was taken off campus.

Quick Tips

P.E. Waiver

Students who participate in Marching Band may waive the P.E. requirement for the fall semester of that school year.

Scheduling World History

World History may be taken during sophomore year or during summer school before or after freshman year, making up to 30 semester credits available for electives.

Summer School

Many band students take advantage of Stevenson's summer school offerings to make room for more electives during the regular school year. For more information, review the sample schedule shared above.

Credit

All band courses earn regular credit that is counted in the students grade point average (GPA). Seniors who have been in the Band program for three years may receive accelerated-level credit if they are in Wind Ensemble during their senior year.

Grade Point Waiver

Students may take advantage of the Grade Point Waiver option. See the Coursebook for more information: www.d125.org/academics/coursebook.

Travel Opportunities

Did you know?

94% of our Band students participate in Stevenson clubs, outside of the Stevenson Band Program

80% of our Band students have participated in Stevenson's Marching Band

72% of our Band students serve on leadership teams or an eBoard of a club outside of the Stevenson Band Program

50% of our Band students have participated in Stevenson's Pep Band

40% of our Band students are also involved in Athletics

25% of our Band students have participated in Stevenson's Jazz Program

25% of our Band students have participated in Stevenson's Small Ensembles

—DATA COLLECTED FALL 2025

A highlight for many band students in their four-year experience with us is our travel opportunities. The Stevenson High School Band travels to Orlando, Florida every four years. This includes a recording workshop with Disney musicians and a performance in a Magic Kingdom Parade.

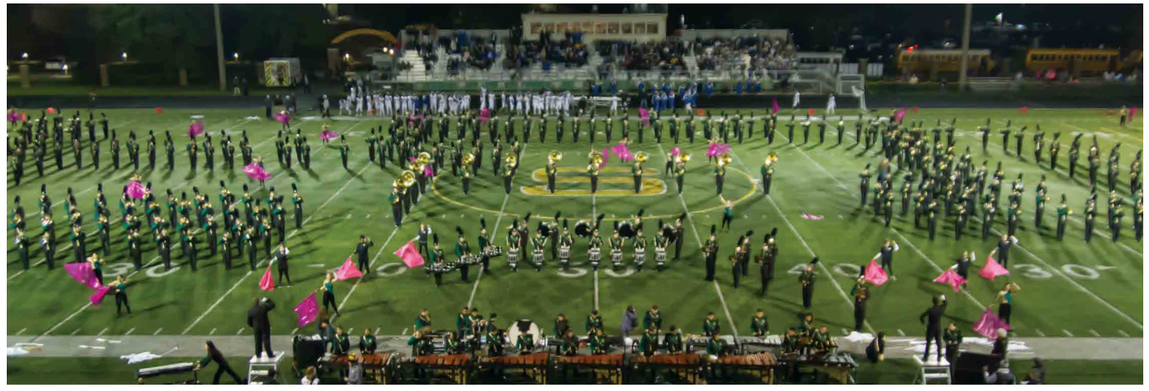
Additional local and regional trips—including Chicago and Nashville—will be offered during each of the other three years that students are in our program. Fundraising opportunities are available to help students and families reach their travel goals.

Stevenson Band Parents' Organization (BPO)

The Stevenson High School Band Parents Organization (BPO) provides additional support for the many activities and events that are part of the Stevenson Band Program. The organization is far-reaching and assists with a variety of things such as:

- Organizing student celebrations
- Volunteering at football games
- Facilitating uniform fittings
- Photographing events and performances
- Chaperoning trips
- Fundraising and more.

With 300+ students in band every year, there are a lot of ways to help. We encourage all parents to get involved!



We have many volunteer opportunities and can help match your skill set to an appropriate role. Please contact our BPO Parent President (shsbpopres@gmail.com) for more information about how to get involved.

Stevenson's Volunteer Policy

Please note that Stevenson district policy requires that all volunteers complete a background check through the Stevenson District Office every four years. Information and background check forms can be found at: www.d125.org/parents/volunteer-at-shs.

"Band is a place to not only play some great songs, but connect with people you otherwise would've never even thought about talking to. It's also a good opportunity to lead those who need help, and gain help yourself, along with furthering your own musical skills."

— CURRENT STEVENSON STUDENT

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847-415-4000

Band

STEVENSON HIGH SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

"Band is a place to be accepted for who you are and who you want to become." —CURRENT STEVENSON BAND STUDENT

Stevenson Band Mailing List:

All band members and parents should subscribe to the Stevenson Band email list.

To subscribe, please send an email to: shs_band+subscribe@d125.org.

Write "subscribe" in the subject line, and write "subscribe" in the email body.

Stay Connected

Fine Arts: @SHS_FineArts

Fine Arts Webpage: www.d125.org/arts

Fine Arts: @shs_finearts
Band: @stevenson.band
Band Parents Organization: @shs_bpo

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@StevensonFineArts