WVHS Band Audition Procedures

All students who will be attending Waubonsie Valley next year will take their audition at Waubonsie Valley on the specified requirements listed below. There is a lot of information regarding the process for auditions, so please read the information below carefully!

All audition materials can be downloaded from www.wvhsmusic.org

Auditions for Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony

- The Wind Symphony/Wind Ensemble audition is for students who want to audition for the Wind Symphony or Wind Ensemble. These are the top two bands in the high school program and are open to students in grades 9-12.
- The auditions will be held on **Monday, January 30, 2017 from 3:30-6:30pm at WVHS.** ***Any current 8th grade students auditioning will be scheduled between 4-6:30pm.
- The **wind auditions** will consist of the high school IMEA scale sheet, the IMEA etudes, and sightreading. The scale sheet must be prepared in its entirety. Students are only required to prepare the bracketed sections of the etudes.
- The **percussion auditions** will consist of the high school IMEA etudes and sightreading. Students are only required to prepare the bracketed sections of the etudes.
- Current 8th grade students must play their audition music for their middle school band director before they will be permitted to take this audition at the high school.
- Students who take this audition and are not selected to the Wind Symphony or Wind Ensemble will be placed into the appropriate band based on their performance; they will not take another audition for a different band.

Current Eighth Graders

- All current eighth grade band students (soon to be ninth grade students) should register for Concert Band when signing up for classes. There is no audition to be placed in Concert Band.
- Eighth grade band students interested in Wind Symphony or Wind Ensemble must complete the above process for auditions, and if they place into one of those classes, the WVHS staff will make sure that it is changed in their schedule. Please note that all 8th graders must play the audition materials for their middle school band director before signing up for an audition.

About Auditions…

Auditions are used to evaluate an individual student's readiness to participate in more advanced bands at Waubonsie Valley. Like many high schools, the WV band program consists of auditioned and non-auditioned bands that together create a "tiered" program. Bands are grouped according to ability levels to better serve the needs of all students. Currently, the bands at Waubonsie are tiered according to the following model:

Performance Level	***Course***
Most Advanced	Wind Ensemble (9 -12)
	Wind Symphony (9 -12)
Advanced (Not currently offered at WVHS)	Concert Winds (9)
	Symphonic Winds (10-12)
Intermediate (non-auditioned)	Symphonic Band (10 -12)
	Concert Band (9)

Students must complete an audition if they wish to be considered for the following bands: Wind Ensemble or Wind Symphony. Any student who does not want to audition for Wind Ensemble or Wind Symphony can simply enroll in Concert Band (9th grade) or Symphonic Band (grades 10-12).

In some cases, callbacks may be necessary to determine final placement. Make-up auditions will only be held for students with an excused illness on the day of auditions. Make-up auditions should be scheduled as soon as possible following the student's absence.

please continue…

Frequently Asked Questions:

How are students evaluated?
The audition process consists of three parts: scales, etudes, and sight-reading. The WV band staff has developed an audition rubric that considers several areas of musical achievement. All students will be evaluated using this rubric.

If my student is in an upper ensemble this year, are they guaranteed a spot in an upper ensemble next year?
Because ability levels are very diverse and change from year to year, students are expected to re-earn their membership in all of our bands. Placement in a particular band does not guarantee placement in the same band (or higher) the following year.

If I complete an audition, will I automatically be placed in an auditioned band?
Students will be placed in the band that most appropriately matches their ability level. Therefore, completing an audition does not guarantee a student placement in an auditioned band. On the basis of the strength of an individual's audition, he or she might be recommended to enroll in Concert Band or Symphonic Band. Students cannot be assured placement in an auditioned band solely on the basis of completing an audition.

How many students will be accepted into each band?
A good band sound is a direct result of proper instrumentation. In general, the top ensembles are filled according to the following number of players:

Flutes: 4-6	Trumpets: 5-6
Oboes: 2-3	Trombones: 3-5
Bassoons: 2	Euphoniums: 2
Clarinets: 5-9	Tubas: 2
Saxophones: 2 alto, 1 tenor, 1 bari	Percussion: 5-6
French Horns: 4-6	
	Total: 41-50 students

The band directors reserve the right to determine the instrumentation of their ensembles based upon the overall ability levels of the student performers. Typically, the instrumentation of each ensemble fluctuates slightly from year to year.

Will the parents or students have access to the judge's ratings?
The band staff does not distribute or post the judge's ratings for two main reasons:

1. out of respect for the wide diversity of ability levels throughout the program
2. to protect the integrity of the audition process. We do not wish to create an environment in which students compare their results.

Students receive ample feedback about their individual playing as a result of their daily participation in band class and weekly completion of technique classes.

The band staff would like to emphasize that the audition process is meant to connect students with the ensemble that most appropriately serves their musical needs for the coming year.
The most important outcome of auditions is that we all continue to make music together!