
OLATHE NORTHWEST

HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

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Dear Future Raven,

The Raven Pride Band program has a proud tradition of excellence which includes performing for and serving the community of Olathe Northwest High School. We can't wait to welcome **you** as one of our newest members! Our school has several different course offerings for our band students, and it is my hope that this packet will help you choose the one best for you. As a member of the largest student group at Northwest, and one of the largest band programs in the Midwest, our students enjoy a variety of exciting and rewarding musical experiences. Our great school often refers to its band program as "the heart of ONW". Students from every activity, 21st Century program, athletic club, extracurricular activity, etc.. all have a place in our band family. We're thrilled to help you find your place in our great school.

By playing in high school band, you will continue growing and developing as a musician. The Raven Pride Bands provide many musical opportunities. Members of our program perform at various concerts, music festivals, athletic events, honor bands, and community events each year. In addition to the meaningful musical learning that takes place, students develop strong aptitudes related to collaboration, personal accountability, and strength in leadership. Our members and alumni take away college and career ready skills that serve them very well through scholarships and all sorts of post-secondary ambitions. The Raven Pride Bands constantly aim for the highest levels of excellence in instruction and achievement, both for our ensembles and our individual musicians.

The Olathe Northwest bands are proud to represent our outstanding community both at home and across the country. The Raven Pride bands have performed at Walt Disney World, San Diego, Chicago, New York City, and most recently in 2018 was honored to represent the state of Kansas in the National Memorial Day Parade, Washington DC. We're already looking forward to our next grand adventure and look forward to having you with us! The band will be planning a trip just as soon as the health situation permits us to do so safely, and ALL ONW band students are invited! Lots more to follow. The concert, marching, and jazz bands annually look forward to performing at regional and interstate music festivals where the bands have earned high marks and numerous 1st place and Grand Champion awards.

This packet includes information that will hopefully answer most of your questions regarding the Raven Pride Bands. Please feel free to contact me, I am always happy to answer your questions and help make the transition to high school band as smooth as possible. Band at ONW is an exciting and musically rewarding experience. I look forward to welcoming you into our program where we will continue to build on the great musical tradition that is the Raven Pride Band Program!

All The Best,



Robert M. Davis
Director of Bands
Olathe Northwest High School

Hey Eighth Graders and Families: Next Year...

With high school on the horizon for you and your student, we know you may have several questions. Particularly if you will be attending an academy outside of your high school attendance area next year. KNOW THIS!!! The entire Olathe school district has been named a top performing district for music education many times in recent years! Whether you will be a part of the Eagle, Falcon, Hawk, Owl, or Raven families next year, please remember that there is a place FOR YOU in band!!! Information on programs, audition dates, and contact information are available below. Don't miss out on the terrific musical opportunities that lie ahead. Mr. Coughlin (OS), Ms. Lowman (OW), Mr. McCarty (ON), Mr. Smikahl (OE), Mr. Davis (ONW), and all of the music staff of our district are happy to answer questions and be a help to you and yours through this transition. Regardless which bird you cheer for... GO BAND!!!

Olathe North High School Bands

www.eaglebands.org

Mr. Pat McCarty – Director

pmmccarty@olatheschools.org



Olathe South High School Bands

www.osbands.org

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Olathe East High School Bands

www.oeband.com

Mr. Jeff Smikahl – Director

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Olathe Northwest High School Bands

www.ravenbands.org

Mr. Robert Davis – Director

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Olathe West High School Bands

<https://www.olatheschools.org/Page/2433>

Ms. Carol Lowman – Director

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Frequently Asked Questions about the Raven Pride Bands

What can you tell me about the Raven Pride Bands?

The Raven Bands are the pride of Olathe Northwest High School, and we provide many different musical opportunities for band students. There are several different ensembles and classes:

Concert Band: Open to all Northwest students. No audition is required as long as the student participated in their 8th grade band class. This class is suggested for students who wish to continue their study in music, but would rather not participate in the marching band. During the school year, the concert band will perform at various venues including four home concerts at ONW, two music festivals in the spring, the Six Flags festival of music, and several other extracurricular events students can volunteer to be a part of (basketball pep band, solo & ensemble festival, collegiate and district honor bands, etc..)

Marching Band –The Raven Pride Marching Band is coming off an incredible and school record breaking season, and we are looking forward to welcoming you to be a part of the largest and most popular class taken at ONW. Students in the marching band perform at home football games, The Old Settler’s Parade, and get to travel to several marching festivals and competitions. When the marching season ends in late October, students enrolled in marching band will play in one of three concert groups. These groups include **Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, or The Raven Winds** (The Wind Ensemble and Raven Winds are by audition only, and are the most challenging and select concert groups in the ONW band program).

Wind Ensemble & The Raven Winds: Membership in these groups is by audition in the spring. Both ensembles perform advanced high school and some collegiate level literature. These advanced ensembles perform at school concerts and state music festivals. A spring music retreat to the Lake of the Ozarks is an exciting event that our Northwest students look forward to as members of these ensembles.

Symphonic Band: Any 9 – 12 grade students in Marching Band will be enrolled in the Symphonic Band, unless they audition and earn a spot in the Wind Ensemble or Raven Winds. This concert group performs at school concerts and state music festivals, Six Flags festival of music, and enjoys all the extracurricular opportunities the band program has to offer.

Basketball Pep Band: Band students will have the opportunity to participate in Basketball Pep Band, which performs at select Varsity Girls and Boys home basketball games. The music is fast and loud, and is a lot of fun! The chance to travel to Sub-State and State basketball tournaments as a member of the Pep Band can be a great road trip experience, too!

Jazz Bands: For band students in grades 9-12. In the fall semester, any student can sign up for Jazz Lab (Jazz IV) – no audition required. Membership in Jazz I, II, and III is by audition only (these auditions take place in the Spring for next year). Jazz I is our top group which meets second semester and performs at several competitions throughout the year. All of our jazz bands will perform at several concerts and community events throughout the year. They will also attend at least two to three adjudicated jazz festivals. Students must also be co-enrolled in a full year music class.

Small Ensembles / Solos / Combos / Honor Bands: There are many, many other performance opportunities available to band students throughout the year! I encourage you to check our website to see what you might be interested in! www.ravenbands.org .

Do I have to audition to join the band?

Auditions are only required for the Wind Ensemble, Raven Winds, Jazz Ensemble I, II, & III and for 9th graders who choose to audition for the Marching Band. Otherwise, any student who has experience playing an instrument may join the band program. Students without playing experience should first visit with the ONW directors. Percussionists audition for part placement within the marching band in May **after completing the concert component successfully.**

Incoming 9th grade students who want to be considered for the marching band and / or Jazz I, II, and III are asked to perform an audition. As you are able, please submit an audition or notify us of your intent to audition prior to Spring Break. It’s been an atypical year to say the least! We are happy to provide multiple options for you to audition. **You may submit a video via e-mail, schedule a Zoom virtual audition, schedule an in-person audition at Olathe Northwest in the band room, or anything that you feel works best for you!** Music and instructions for the audition are available on our website or from your music teacher. Use this music as you feel it is appropriate for you. Alternate literature and accommodations will of course be accepted. Whatever allows you to show us your best work is just fine. **Send recordings, schedule Zoom or live auditions, and ask any questions by e-mailing Mr. Davis. Address is rdavisonw@olatheschools.org .**

Visit our website for a quick link to the music and other info at www.ravenbands.org .

For questions or assistance with the auditions, please contact Mr. Davis: rdavisonw@olatheschools.org
or by calling Olathe Northwest at 913-780-7150.

When does band rehearse?

Band is a regular class during the day. Marching Band rehearses from 7 AM through 1st hour in the fall until the season ends in October. During the winter and spring, Jazz Band and drumline may have special rehearsals at 7 AM. Concert Band rehearses during the day all year and typically doesn't have extra practices outside of the school day.

Freshmen who are placed in the marching band **do not** take 2 credits of band. They will enroll in the marching band option instead of concert band for semester 1, and symphonic band or wind ensemble for semester 2 (two ½ credits). After marching season, these students will then stay in Symphonic Band OR play in the advanced ensembles if they've earned a spot through their auditions.

When does Marching Band start?

Marching band students get a jump start on the show and literature for the season over the summer. These dates are **required** for all students who wish to participate in marching band. The dates for camps in 2021 are:

- **Full Band Camp (All Marching Band Students) is June 7th – 9th & July 26th – August 5th.** (8 - 4) no weekends
- **Percussion students will also have percussion camp from July 19th – 23rd (8:00am-4:00pm).**
- **In addition, we will host two HIGHLY RECOMMENDED "mini-camps" on July 6th and 7th, from 8am – 12:30pm.** We spend two hours outside learning marching fundamentals, and then inside working on music. Students can come to one or both sessions. More details will be provided before the end of the school year.

Full Band Camp runs from **8 AM to 4:00 PM** with a lunch break. All students will receive a detailed schedule and music in late May. *Please note that Aug.5th is reserved as a flex day! A parent performance will take place that evening. **All band students will need to bring a lunch as there are not very many places to eat close to ONW, and no transportation is being provided to and from lunch.***

Is there a Fee?

There will be a band fee to cover the expenses that the band program needs to be successful. Fees vary depending upon which band you are enrolled in. More information on fees will come out later this spring. Assistance will be provided to families that have a need. Don't hesitate to visit with Mr. Davis if ever a financial assistance need should arise.

Can I do band and athletics / academic activities?

YES!!! ONW Raven Pride Band members participate in every single athletic sport and academic activity offered at Olathe Northwest. The band directors, coaches, and sponsors work together carefully to enable students to participate in multiple activities. Members of dance team, football, scholars bowl, basketball, volleyball, Engineering, E-Comm, track, cross country, art honor society... all make up the membership of our band program! At ONW, you can do band **AND**...!

What about Honors / AP courses and 21st Century Academies?

Again, **YES!!!** Many of the students in the ONW Pride Bands are enrolled in 21st Century academies. Nearly all of the students in band have enrolled in at least one Advanced Placement course. The key is careful scheduling! Included in this packet is a sample 4-year schedule that includes band. We have also provided sample schedules that include participation in our E-Communications or Engineering academies. Students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to visit with their parents, the band directors, their counselor, and / or special program director to make sure they develop a plan of courses to get into all of the classes that they want! View the attached 4 year schedules to help jump start those conversations and see how your schedule might look.

What about trips?

There are many opportunities for trips in band, including Concert Band travel to festivals in regional destinations such as Branson and St. Louis, Jazz trips to competitions nationwide, and overnight Pep Band trips to the state basketball tournament in Wichita. All Band students in the Olathe School District are also provided the opportunity to travel and perform away from home on an extended trip. The Olathe Northwest Band has proudly represented our school and state in performances and competitions from coast to coast. The Raven Band students have traveled to Washington D.C., San Diego, Chicago, Walt Disney World Orlando, and most recently were selected to represent the state of Kansas in the 2018 National Memorial Day Parade – Washington D.C.! We're already looking forward to our next big adventure, hope you are too! **YOU'RE INVITED!!!** Much more to follow.

What if I have more questions?

Contact Mr. Davis at:

Office Phone: 913-780-7150

Cell Phone: 913-963-6524

Email: rdavisonw@olatheschools.org

Visit the band website: ravenbands.org

How Can I Fit Band into 4 Years of High School?

All High School Students in Olathe USD #233 must complete 24 credits for graduation. Students have 28 course options over their 4 years of high school to fulfill those credits (7 hours per day x 4 years). Credits are broken down as follows...

English – 4 Credits Required Applied Communication / Language – 1 Credit Required (2 Credits Recommended)

Math – 3 Credits Required (4 Credits Recommended) Science – 3 Credits Required (4 Credits Recommended)

Technology – 1 Credit Required Social Science – 3 Credits Required Fine Arts – 1 Credit Required

Practical and Consumer Studies – 1 Credit Required Health and Wellness – 1 Credit Required

Individual Focus / Electives – 6 Credits Required (10 Credits Available)

Sample Four Year Schedule

Class	9th	10th	11th	12th
1	Band	Band	Band	Band
2	English	English	English	English
3	Math	Math	Math	Math
4	Science	Science	Science	Science
5	World History	Social Science / Elective	American History	Government / Technology
6	Elective	PE / Health	Technology / Elective	Elective
7	Foreign Language	Foreign Language	Practical and Consumer Studies	Elective

- ♪ **Band fulfills the Fine Arts Requirement** as well as 3 required electives.
- ♪ Students wanting to take Jazz Band can count that course as part of their elective choices.
- ♪ This sample schedule includes additional credits in Math, Science, and Foreign Language. These are not required, but are STRONGLY recommended for college bound students and those seeking scholarship opportunities. They would count as elective choices.
- ♪ Driver's Ed fulfills ½ credit of the Practical and Consumer Studies requirement. Taking this course in the summer would free up ½ of an additional elective credit.
- ♪ Note for the schedules which follow (next page)! 21st Century Programs substitute some of their program requirements for electives and / or other required categories on this schedule. With careful planning, it is entirely possible to participate in band for 4 years as well as complete the requirements of a 21st Century Program. Some students in these programs choose to take advantage of the eLearning options available in USD 233. eLearning courses allow students to complete graduation requirements and create additional elective spaces in their schedules. See your counselor for more details.
- ♪ Honors, Pre-AP, AP, and College Now level courses can be substituted in any of the spots above where offered, such as English, Math, Science, and Social Science. Students participating in special programs such as AVID can also still satisfy their graduation requirements and take band. Courses like AVID fulfill various graduation requirements – see the Program Planning Guide for additional information.
- ♪ **Plan ahead!** The most important key to fitting band in is to carefully look at your 4-year schedule **before** enrolling for 9th grade. This will help students be sure to get their required courses in as well as plan for band and other elective areas of interest. If you need help, please visit with your band director and counselor. They will be happy to work with you!

Engineering Academy Sample 4 Year Schedule WITH BAND!

Class	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1	<i>Band</i>	<i>Band</i>	<i>Band</i>	<i>Band</i>
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	English	English	AE Math	English
4	Science	Science	English	Science
5	AE Design/AE Tech	Cad I/Cad II	Science	Intern, Sr. Experience/ Capstone
6	PE/Health	Prac/Consumer Studies	Cad III/Programming	Materials Science/Elective
7	World History	Applied Communications	American History (or AP Hist)	Gov/Social Science

E-Communications Academy Sample 4 Year Schedule WITH BAND!

Class	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
1	<i>Band</i>	<i>Band</i>	<i>Band</i>	<i>Band</i>
2	Math	Math	Math	Math
3	English	English	English	English
4	Elective (or Foreign Lang)	Science	Science	Science
5	Explore 9	EComm elective	Essentials I	Studio I
6	PE/Health	EComm elective	Essentials II	Studio II
7	World History	Elective (or Foreign Lang)	American History (or AP Hist)	Gov/Social Science

