

**WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL**

Department of Bands

**Blackhawk Marching Band  
2017-2018 Handbook**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
I.	<b>Mission Statements</b>	2-3
II.	<b>Overview of the West Aurora Bands</b>	3
III.	<b>Marching Band Staff</b>	3
IV.	<b>Student Leadership</b>	4-5
V.	<b>Attendance/Rehearsal Department</b>	5-6
VI.	<b>Uniforms, Equipment and Music</b>	6-8
VII.	<b>Gameday and Other Performance Information</b>	8-9
VIII.	<b>Code of Conduct</b>	9-11
IX.	<b>Marching Terminology</b>	11-12
X.	<b>Our Mascot, School Songs, and Fight Songs</b>	12-13
	<b>STUDENT &amp; PARENT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT</b>	14
	<b>SEASON PERMISSION SLIP</b>	15

### I. MISSION STATEMENTS

#### WEST AURORA DEPARTMENT OF BANDS

Welcome to the West Aurora High School Department of Bands! Our program features 7 concert ensembles, 4 jazz bands, the Blackhawk Marching Band, and the Blackhawk Basketball Pep Bands. Our mission is to promote musical appreciation, knowledge, and participation through the study and performance of quality instrumental repertoire. The performance-based classes and ensembles in our program feature unique content that offers unparalleled aesthetic experiences, rigorous performance demands, and are worthy of academic study. Participation in these courses and ensembles is the best and most direct way to experience the art of music making, one that will assist students in developing a greater understanding of themselves and humanity. The Band Faculty and Staff of West Aurora High School welcomes you to our family!

#### WEST AURORA BLACKHAWK MARCHING BAND

The West Aurora Blackhawk Marching Band, a group of dedicated marching musicians, has a long and rich history of performance excellence. As a member of this organization, it is your responsibility to carry on the proud tradition of excellence that has been handed down by former members for generations. It is up to you to maintain a positive atmosphere grounded in productivity, cooperation and spirit!

The Blackhawk Marching Band, a vital ensemble within the Department of Visual and Performing Arts, offers an exciting opportunity for qualified instrumentalists and colorguard specialists. The music, drills, and routines for our halftime shows are designed for the **highest possible entertainment value**. As a non-competitive high school band, we play a vital public relations role in the West Aurora community and our **mission is to entertain, support and educate**. In addition to football games, the Blackhawk Band will perform for occasional pep rallies, parades, concerts, and other special engagements.

This handbook is designed for each member of the Blackhawk Marching Band. As a member, *it is your responsibility to know all of the policies and procedures contained in this manual*. **You are an indispensable member of an outstanding organization**. Everything you do in rehearsal and performance has a direct impact on the success of this organization. With membership comes the expectation that you will make a **COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE!** Welcome to our family – Your 2017-2018 Blackhawk Marching Band!

*“A Tradition of Excellence is never inherited; it is earned!”*

## II. AN OVERVIEW OF THE WEST AURORA BANDS

West Aurora High School enrolls over 3,700 students and is part of School District 129, one that serves students from Aurora, the Village of North Aurora, Montgomery, and Sugar Grove Township. The district employs eleven full-time instrumental music educators who serve ten elementary schools, four middle schools, and one high school in an effort to ensure consistent instruction and a smooth progression from the 5<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The West Aurora High School Department of Bands has a long and distinguished history of performance excellence that began in the fall of 1919. The program boasts 14 ensembles including 7 wind bands, 4 jazz bands, and 3 athletic bands – the Blackhawk Marching Band and the Blackhawk Basketball Pep Bands. The band program at West High enrolls over 490 students and has been called a beacon of the district as it is an integral part of the Aurora community.

The Wind Symphony, the top ensemble at West High, features the finest wind and percussion performers. It has performed at the Illinois Music Educators Conference (2011 and 2000) and as a demonstration ensemble at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. The band has also been a regular participant in many concert band festivals including the University of Illinois SuperState Concert Band Festival (2016, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2009, and 2008, and 2002) and the Bands of America Concert Band Festival (2001). In addition to four annual concerts, the Wind Symphony performs for an elaborate Veteran's Day ceremony and a Winter Concert with the Choir Department.

The heart of the high school band program is the concert ensembles, and the WAHS program includes six additional ensembles – Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, Concert Band, and two Freshman Bands. Each school day features seven periods of concert ensemble instruction.

The Blackhawk Marching Band, an extracurricular ensemble, boasts over 295 members and is a mainstay at many town festivals and parades such as the Marengo Settlers' Days, Sycamore Pumpkin Festival, Grundy County Corn Festival, and local parades for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July in Aurora. Our non-competitive marching band performs for all home football games and prides itself on being a spirited ensemble that supports its school and community. The band has performed at the Walt Disney Magic Music Days in Orlando (2014, 2010, 2006, 2002), the National Independence Day Parade in Washington, DC (2012, 2005, and 2000), and the Indianapolis 500 Parade (2017, 2001) among many others. The Department also includes a basketball band that performs at all boys' home basketball games, select girls' basketball games, and pep rallies.

The Jazz Program at West High has been highly visible and greatly successful for a long period of time. The Jazz Ensemble, the top jazz band, has been a regular at area jazz events including the Purdue University Jazz Festival and was the first high school band invited to perform at the Chicago Jazz Festival (2006). Our jazz program features four auditioned jazz bands that meet during the students' lunch period, with an additional band that meet before school at the conclusion of the marching band season in a "jazz for all" format.

The West Aurora High School Bands are supported by an outstanding Band Booster organization and are fortunate to have both building and central administration that recognize the value of instrumental music education as part of a comprehensive and enriching curriculum.

## III. MARCHING BAND STAFF

Dr. Rod Schueller – Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands  
 Mr. John Sierakowski – Associate Director of Bands, Associate Director of Athletic Bands  
 Ms. Patty Sampson – Associate Director of Bands, Assistant Director of Athletic Bands  
 Mr. Jeff Kissel – Coordinator of Marching Percussion  
 Ms. Johnni Zabka – Colorguard Coordinator  
 Ms. Morgan Lanahan – Visual and Field Coordinator

## IV. STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leadership, a group consisting of Drum Majors, Section Leaders Rank Leaders, and Colorguard Captains, has been selected based upon exemplary skills in marching, musicianship, and leadership. These individuals are responsible for running sectionals, distributing music and drill charts/coordinate sheets, taking attendance, and assisting with any questions or problems that arise within their ranks. The student leadership will also assist when the band travels by making sure their sections have all necessary equipment, assisting with loading and unloading of busses and the equipment truck, and being all-around swell people who

know a whole heck of a lot about the Blackhawk Marching Band. These dedicated, experienced, and talented individuals will lead the rank-and-file of the Blackhawk Band. ***Please give them the necessary respect to provide a good working environment.*** No marching band can function at a high level without effective student leaders.

ALL student leadership candidates MUST maintain a "C" average on the most recent interim progress report or report card, complete an application showing interest in being selected for a student leadership position, have marched successfully for at least one season in the Blackhawk Marching Band, and have auditioned for placement in a WAHS concert ensemble for 2017-2018 (colorguard is the lone exception). The completion of an application does not ensure your selection for a student leadership position.

### Drum Majors

Drum Majors are the student directors of the band and are the highest ranking officer on the band field and in the rehearsal hall. They assist the directors in teaching and correcting marching and music performance, student-related issues, and perform other responsibilities delegated by the band staff. When multiple drum majors are selected, they share responsibilities of conducting and of representing the band in official student capacities and will do so at the discretion of the staff. Newly selected Drum Majors are **REQUIRED** to attend a Drum Major Camp (Smith-Walbridge) and all events scheduled for the Blackhawk Marching Band. The band staff reserves the right to select any number of Drum Majors, including one, for any given season.

### Section Leaders

Section Leaders are the "directors" of their section. They take attendance, conduct section rehearsals, and maintain discipline within the section. High levels of leadership, musicianship, and marching ability are needed when serving in these positions, although candidates will have differing skill sets. Section leaders should plan their rehearsals so that new music and difficult passages can be mastered. The section leader is appointed by the band staff after a review of all applications.

### Color Guard Captains

The Color Guard Captains are in charge of their section and ensures everyone in the section has the equipment they need to be successful at any given moment. Captains may also assist in choreography for their section at the discretion of the Colorguard Coordinator. The Color Guard Captains are equal to section leaders and must keep discipline within their sections and take attendance. The newly selected Color Guard Captains must attend a leadership camp.

### Blackhawk Marching Band Section Leader & Colorguard Captain Expectations

1. Take attendance!!! This is a critically important task!
2. Learn the names of ALL members of your section
3. Design section T-shirts that meet the approval of the band staff
4. Learn and teach all music, including the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> parts
5. Take initiative and lead your section – your role is to make the job easier for the directors
6. Keep your section ON-TASK to ensure productive rehearsals
7. Report to the band office 25 minutes before each rehearsal to get the rehearsal schedule
8. Learn and Teach Drill.
9. Promote section unity! Plan sectionals and social gatherings outside of school.
10. Help preserve our BMB traditions and start some new traditions along the way

### Blackhawk Marching Band Drum Major Expectations

1. Ensure accurate attendance is submitted. (Section leaders take attendance)
2. Conducting music as assigned at rehearsals and performances
3. Field setup for both rehearsals and performances. Recruit students to help.
4. Copy and distribute music
5. Serve as rehearsal monitors – attitude, morale and productivity
6. Learn and Teach Drill
7. Set a positive example through preparation – be a role model
8. Teach beginning and remedial marching
9. Bring Medical Kit to rehearsals

10. Assist in sectionals as needed
11. Report concerns to directors
12. Help preserve our BMB traditions and start some new traditions along the way
13. Promote band unity. Encourage sectionals and organize social gatherings.
14. Prepare a binder with scores and drill for study – bring to all rehearsals and performances

## V. ATTENDANCE POLICY

During the school year, rehearsals occur Mondays and Thursdays from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please come prepared for the weather. Members must attend *all* rehearsals and performances – including both the Spring Mini-Camp and Fall Preseason Camp! Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every rehearsal and performance. Tardy students must check in with their Section Leader and/or Drum Major to ensure they are not marked absent for the entire rehearsal. Please know tardiness is unprofessional and three tardies equal 1 (ONE) unexcused absence, regardless of reason. West Aurora High School Activities, the Department of Bands, and the WAHS Band Boosters will not be responsible for payment refunds toward travel or membership due to attendance issues. Please see below for more clarity concerning excused and unexcused absences. Students can only miss a performance for a sporting event if it is a varsity match or a single elimination tournament. A form on Google Docs is in place on our website and is the only means of documenting absences. This document must be completed before August Preseason Camp and will be available after to be edited due to changes related to try outs for fall sports.

### Examples of Excused Absences

*Personal illness, college visits (rehearsal only), special West Aurora High School events, emergencies with documentation. Other absences may be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.*

### Examples of Unexcused Absences

*Work or work related, vacation, birthdays, college visits on performance days, lack of transportation, homework, homebound punishment, school club or activity, outside activities*

**Excused absences** - Requests for an excused absence can only be approved by band faculty/staff via email or written note from a parent or guardian. Requests should be submitted no later than one week before the expected absence unless an emergency arises.

**Unexcused absences** – Band faculty will track unexcused absences. See Mr. Sierakowski if you have concerns.

**2 Unexcused Rehearsal Absences – Loss of Marching Band Letter or Chevron**

**3 Unexcused Rehearsal Absences – LOSS OF TRAVEL PRIVILEGES WITH THE BLACKHAWK BAND**

**4 Unexcused Rehearsal Absences – Removal from the ensemble**

**1 Unexcused PERFORMANCE Absence – Loss of Marching Band Letter or Chevron**

**2 Unexcused PERFORMANCE Absences – Removal from the ensemble**

**\*\* Any combination of three (3) of the above will result in removal from the ensemble. \*\* The Director reserves the right to remove any member of the ensemble for egregious behavior.**

**Marching Band Letters and Chevrons will be awarded after the Memorial Day Parade.**

### Rehearsal Department

A “spirit of cooperation” is the motto of our rehearsals. It is important to remember that we are all working toward ONE goal. You will not be forced to stand at attention for hours nor do we tolerate total anarchy. You will be treated as young adults as long as your actions reflect those of a productive music ensemble. In any indoor music rehearsal, no talking is allowed when the podium is occupied. Outside, you will always be given time to discuss drill maneuvers before moving on to more material. Our rules are simple:

1. **BE ON TIME.** Rehearsals and performances start at a specific time. As the old saying goes, “Early is on time...on time is late!”

2. PAY ATTENTION & STAY FOCUSED. Listen to student leaders and staff. They have only the best in mind for the group and do not like to repeat instructions and information. Please keep talking to a *bare minimum*.
3. STAY IN POSITION. After a drill maneuver is made, please stay in your position in order for corrections to be made. When we get to a set, please stay put.
4. PLAY AND MARCH TO THE BEST OF YOUR ABILITY. Give it everything you've got. You will only get back what you give.

In order to run an organized and efficient rehearsal, please follow the established hierarchy with any questions or problems that may arise:



Music, Coordinate Sheets, and Drill Charts

You are responsible for the music and coordinate sheets issued to you. You must have all materials with you at every rehearsal, including a pencil. Only Band Staff, Drum Majors, Section Leaders, and Colorguard Captains will be issued drill charts. Section Leaders will likely collect coordinate sheets at the conclusion of each rehearsal so they are not lost.

**VI. UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT, AND MUSIC**

Uniform Issue and Return

Uniforms will be fitted/issued during Preseason Camp in August. You are to report at your designated time for fitting. All wind and percussion players must have black Velocity marching shoes and solid black over-the-calf socks to wear with the uniform. Please treat your NEW uniform WITH RESPECT and as though it is your own. You will be responsible for any damage or excessive wear to your uniform.

When you are issued your uniform, you are to immediately place it the special uniform hanger and place it in the designated spot in your uniform locker. Please handle your uniform with care and pride. When we travel, your uniform must be inside the garment bag and your hat must be placed in your hatbox. No exceptions. Travel to local performances is often done in full uniform.

Uniform Care

Proper care of the Blackhawk Band uniform is YOUR responsibility. Uniforms are to be placed neatly on a hanger and hung up in your locker when not being worn. Each uniform part is identified with a number and you must keep track of all parts. Loss or damage of items will produce a fine for replacement. Marching band uniforms are a major investment for our district and we must get the most out of them. ***We have new uniforms for 2017-2018 – TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR UNIFORM!!***

The Band Booster Uniform Committee will dictate and complete all alterations to the uniform.

All uniforms were cleaned prior to issue. ***Please take pride in your appearance, as it is an important part of our overall performance.***

Proper Wearing of the Uniform

The way you wear your uniform says a lot about your sense of pride as a member of the Blackhawk Marching Band. We all wear the uniform the same way - that is why it is called a uniform. Average bands are sloppy; the Blackhawk Band is not. *Should your uniform no longer fit you properly, please notify one of the Directors.*

Trouser length will be at the top of the shoes and will remain constant. The uniform features bib pants that allow for easy length adjustments. Shoes are to be polished and laces must be clean.

When in public, you are to wear the uniform COMPLETELY! If your coat is on, it must be fastened and closed. All parts of the uniform must be worn. The complete uniform is to be worn throughout all performances unless the Director of the Blackhawk Band specifies otherwise. We will all take off our shakos and/or unzip or remove coats at the same time. Blackhawk Band t-shirts are worn underneath the uniform AT ALL TIMES in case coats are removed. Further, we do not sit on the ground in uniform.

Jewelry is not to be worn with the uniform. People with pierced ears are to wear posts (studs) only. Any neck jewelry that is visible when the uniform is fastened is not allowed. Rings are not to be worn while in uniform. Watches may be worn provided the uniform sleeve always hides them. No face painting is allowed. Sunglasses are not to be worn while in uniform. The shako hat is to be worn down (two fingers width between the nose and brim) with the chinstrap down.

**HAIR LENGTH:** Any member whose hair touches the top of the uniform collar must either wear it up under the hat or have it cut. No exceptions. Moustaches and beards must be trimmed and neat in appearance. Sideburns cannot go below an imaginary line from the bottom of the earlobe to the corner of the mouth.

Our Drum Majors and Section Leaders will conduct a uniform inspection prior to each performance. They have been given the responsibility and authority to make any member of their section alter their uniform if it is not being worn correctly.

As a uniformed member of the Blackhawk Marching Band, you represent our ensemble at all times. There is absolutely NO swearing, public displays of affection, or any other action that would reflect negatively on our ensemble and Department. Always conduct yourself with class, dignity, and professionalism.

Required Uniform Accessories

1. Black Velocity marching shoes
2. Solid black over-the-calf socks
3. White gloves (all winds)
4. Blackhawk Band T-shirt
5. Garment Bag

Equipment

1. School-owned instrument availability and acquisition procedures will be discussed during Mini-Camp.
2. Immediately report any damage, no matter how minor, to a director who will handle the matter from that point. Please treat this instrument with the great care and respect to ensure it works well for you and future students.
3. All instruments must be stored properly in their case when not in use. Keep keys and valves well-oiled, slides greased and pads in good condition. Maintenance is your responsibility.
4. The marching band staff reserves the right to deny students the ability to participate or perform if their instrument is not in good working condition or in proper playing condition.

Percussionists

1. Percussionists are assigned an instrument after mini-camp auditions
2. Students must supply all sticks or mallets during auditions. Mallets and Sticks for the season will be issued after mini-camp auditions have occurred.
3. Although heads often break in marching band, **any damage that results from abuse or misuse of the percussion equipment will be the responsibility of the abuser.**

Colorguard

1. All necessary equipment will be issued to each member of the colorguard
2. Every member is responsible for his/her own equipment
3. Fines will be assessed if equipment is not returned or returned in poor condition
4. Please do NOT iron flags
5. Flags will be inspected prior to every performance and must be kept neat and clean

Music

The BMB staff is responsible for the processing, sorting, distribution, collection, and filing of all music for the BMB. Student leaders will assist in distribution and will assist members with lost music. Music for the entire season will be distributed during Mini-Camp.

**VII. GAMEDAY AND OTHER PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**Gameday Performances

The Blackhawk Marching Band will present three performances at every home football game. Each of these performances has a specific function:

Pregame Show

The Pregame Show is a performance given on the field prior to the start of each game. This traditional show is designed as a salute and tribute to both West Aurora High School and our country. The Pregame Show will remain the same for each home football game.

Halftime Show

The Halftime Show is our premiere performance at football games – designed as a showcase of the Blackhawk Marching Band. A typical halftime show will include three to four musical selections and will revolve around a central theme. Our shows are designed with the goal of how to best entertain our audience, mainly comprised of West High community members, football fans, and students.

Postgame Concert – The Fifth Quarter

At the conclusion of every game, the Blackhawk Marching Band will present a brief concert from our seats in the stadium. Each postgame concert will draw upon halftime music, school songs, and other selections. At the conclusion of this concert, announcements are given and members return to the building to neatly return their uniforms to their locker. *All Blackhawk Band members stay for the entire game.* Remember: We are always on-stage when in uniform!

Remember, from the warm-up period to dismissal following our postgame concert, the Blackhawk Marching Band is on-stage. Take pride in your organization by acting accordingly.

In The Stands

The seats for the Blackhawk Marching Band are the same as they have always been and we will make it a point to sit in our seats prior to the first game. Sections will sit together and the following is a list of general rules:

1. No visits by friends, relatives, etc. while in the stands. Our full attention should be placed on the game. Band members and invited guests (pre-approved by the director) are the only persons allowed in the band seating area during the game.
2. Everyone participates in playing/cheering from the stands. Support your Blackhawks!! You must have your stands music memorized. We are spirit leaders! Have fun and support the team by playing well, cheering hard, and giving the team the best possible support. **WE ARE THE SOUNDTRACK FOR THE GAME.** No other entity can have the impact we can have in creating atmosphere. We only play as a group and only play what is on the page. This is NOT the time to be on your phone.
3. Be aware of your surroundings. Students and other fans will be seated in close proximity to the band. Do NOT provoke any fights – keep your cool. Do NOT try to handle a potential security problem on your own. Contact staff or stadium security.
4. Trips to the restroom must be kept to a BARE minimum. Check with Section Leaders or Drum Majors prior to leaving. Trips should be kept to a maximum of five minutes. Water will be provided by Band Boosters. **NO FOOD OR OTHER DRINK IS ALLOWED.**



5. Please make every effort to get to your seat as soon as possible after the conclusion of our pregame and halftime shows. We want to be ready to play shortly after action begins.
6. Exit from our seats will be approximately five minutes prior to the end of the half. We will dress prior to exit – in other words, complete our uniform. Please stay out of the way of football players and officials prior to halftime. As soon as the half is over, move to your spot quickly and await the signal to enter the field.
7. Above all, remember that we are the largest and most visible support group in Blackhawk Stadium on gameday. Bring positive attention to the band by playing all of the stands music well, cheering hard and having a good time. No foul or abusive language is permitted. Football fans want to see high school students having a good time and doing their best to help their team win! Did I mention that WE ARE THE SOUNDTRACK FOR THE GAME?!

### Gameday Operations

1. The BMB performs at all home football games. Special instructions for each performance will be delivered in rehearsal.
2. Gameday will consist of the same series of events:
  - Pre-game warm-up music rehearsal at 6:00pm. at either The Band Yard or the Red Fieldhouse. First game warm up rehearsal will start at 5:30 p.m. *Dress is: Red BMB t-shirt, non-bulky shorts, calf-high plain black socks, marching band shoes.*
  - At the end of rehearsal, members take instruments to appropriate storage areas and dress in full uniform. Keep a close eye on all uniform parts and remember your uniform numbers. You are responsible for lost or stolen parts.
  - Members report to Blue Fieldhouse at approximately 6:40 p.m. to stage for rehearsal with the Varsity Poms. Rehearsal with them takes approximately 10 minutes.
  - Optional (After rehearsal with Varsity Poms): **Section bonding time** – students can participate in section run games, cheers, or extra rehearsal on music. No running or horse play in this time.
  - After rehearsal, the drumline leaves the Blue Fieldhouse to perform the *ROLL ON, BLACKHAWKS* vamp as the Varsity Blackhawks enter the field. The drumline can then set up stadium stands in the seats (designated to the band).
  - Pregame starts immediately after teams clear the field and the clock reads 0:00.
  - **All Cheerleaders and Poms who are members of the BMB MUST march pregame and halftime.** See: *In The Stands* section on previous page
3. Rehearsal and Performance Hints
  - Eat a good meal before ALL rehearsals and performances.
  - Hydrate yourself before and after rehearsals and performances.
  - Stretch and warm-up musically before rehearsal and performances.
4. Emergency Medical Procedures: Medical forms will be collected from each member by band staff for the purposes of treating medical conditions during rehearsals and performances. This information is kept confidential.

### Travel

Blackhawk Marching Band travel is done by school or charter bus. Departure time is very real – we will not wait for you, so be on time! Missing the bus for a performance is not an excuse from the performance. Please do not request to travel to a performance on your own as it creates liability issues. If a trip requires you to miss classes, arrangements will be made with WAHS staff and administration. It is your responsibility to make up any missed work. Other details, including conduct, will be addressed prior to travel.

## VIII. BLACKHAWK MARCHING BAND CODE OF CONDUCT

*It is important to note that all rules and policies contained in the West Aurora High School Student Handbook and WAHS Bands Handbook apply to the Blackhawk Marching Band. As such, conduct by any member that is detrimental to the Blackhawk Marching Band, or is in violation of the policies of the ensemble, will result in removing the member in question from the band should band faculty deem it necessary.*

**STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

West Aurora High School believes strongly in the value of extra-curricular activities. One of the most valuable outcomes is the mental, physical, and social development of the students who represent West Aurora High School through the participation in athletics and activities. Participation in the Blackhawk Marching Band is a privilege and exemplary behavior is emphasized throughout the program. It is important to have good representatives who engage in healthy behaviors. Therefore, the following Code of Conduct shall be enforced to assist in this effort.

**APPLICATION**

As members of the Blackhawk Marching Band, students accept the responsibility of serving as ambassadors of West Aurora High School and its community. Participation carries increased expectations beyond those applicable in the daily classroom situation. This Code of Conduct is considered to be in effect throughout the marching band season which may extend through multiple months.

- This Code shall apply to all students in the Blackhawk Marching Band.
- Violations are accumulated throughout a student's attendance at West Aurora High School.
- Students who violate the Code must serve penalties as outlined and/or complete prescribed programs outlined by the directors before re-entry into extra-curricular activities is granted.
- When suspended from an extra-curricular activity, students must nevertheless practice and follow all rules and regulations for the /activity.
- If a student is dismissed from the Blackhawk Marching Band or quits during the period of their suspension for a Code violation, the suspension for the Code violation will continue to the next marching season.
- Failure to sign the Code of Conduct does not exclude a student from being held accountable for the rules and regulations of this policy. This will be completed in the marching band online registration.

**VIOLATIONS**

Any of the following acts shall be a violation of this code:

1. Possession or use of tobacco products.
2. Possession or use of illegal drugs/supplements
3. Students shall not possess, actively seek, solicit, or be under the influence of tobacco, alcohol, other illegal drugs, look-alike drugs, or possess drug-related paraphernalia.
4. Students shall not attend or host a party primarily attended by students or for the benefit of students at which alcohol, tobacco or any controlled substances are provided or at which the use of any such substances is permitted.
5. Theft, possession of stolen property, or destruction of property
6. Hazing (*as defined by the student handbook of West Aurora High School*)
7. Criminal acts or serious acts determined by the marching band directors.

**CONSEQUENCES**

The following consequences are guidelines followed by the directors, Director of Activities, Assistant Principal for Student Services, or the Administration. Should such person or persons determine that the violation or violations committed are sufficiently serious to warrant such, any step may be omitted and any more serious consequence, up to and including permanent removal from athletics/activities, may be imposed.

**First Offense:**

The student shall lose eligibility for the next interscholastic/public event or performance and decisions will be made for future performances by the marching band directors. This penalty is reversible when the student completes an approved assistance program such as a substance abuse prevention program, anger management, or other approved program or counseling. Approval must be given in advance by the marching band directors.

**Second Offense:**

The student shall lose eligibility for the remainder of the marching band season, beginning on the date the student was notified that he/she was in violation of the Code of Conduct.

Third Offense:

The student shall be permanently suspended from participation in athletics/activities for the remainder of his/her high school career.

**FIRST OFFENSE VOLUNTARY ADMISSION CLAUSE**

In the absence of verifiable evidence or before just cause suspicion of any violation, the student may voluntarily admit in writing the infraction to the marching band directors. Voluntary admissions are not acceptable in circumstances of a pending police report, however. The intent of the voluntary admission clause is to allow a student-athlete an opportunity to seek assistance for an ongoing problem. Participation will be uninterrupted when it can be verified that the student has enrolled in and is actively participating in a school recognized and approved substance abuse program. The student must complete the program. The voluntary admission clause can only be applied for a first violation and only once.

**REVIEW PROCESS**

If a marching band member has been found in violation of the Code of Conduct and a consequence has been imposed, the student may request the consequence be reviewed. Written notice must be given to the marching band directors within five days of notice that a violation occurred. The consequence will be reviewed by the marching band staff and Director of Activities. The decision of this panel will be final.

**REINSTATEMENT**

Any student who was removed from the Blackhawk Marching Band in one season may apply for reinstatement during any subsequent season. The request for reinstatement will be reviewed by marching band faculty and staff and a decision will be made in a timely manner. All decisions are final.

**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY**

Any student who transfers to West Aurora High School should contact the marching band director to determine his/her eligibility for marching band.

**IX. MARCHING TERMINOLOGY**

The following terms and abbreviations will be used in day-to-day rehearsals. Please familiarize yourself with these terms so we may optimize our rehearsal time. Some terms may be unfamiliar or different than what you have come to know.

**FALL IN:** Take up position in a given formation

**STAND BY:** Being alert for instructions.

**ATTENTION:** Attitude of readiness for action or receiving instructions. Toes apart as defined, and heels together with no talking or movement.

**CALL TO:** Instruction for Drum Majors to call the band to attention

**BODYLINE:** Alignment of the heels, knees, hips, shoulders, and ear.

**TIGHT GM's** (squeeze the grape): Tighten gluteus maximus while marching for better posture.

**SET:** When this command is given, immediately bring yourself to attention.

**FREEZE:** Hold – absolute immobility regardless of position.

**PARADE REST:** Relaxed position of readiness. Also known as *at ease*.

**HORNS UP/DOWN:** Maneuver to bring instruments to playing or rest position.

**10 DEGREES:** Refers to normal playing angle of the instrument - 10° *above* parallel.

**PLANT:** An absolute cessation of marching, usually with the left foot. Can sometimes be exaggerated.

**LMT or MT:** Low Mark Time or Mark Time

**SKI-LINE:** Feet are parallel with each other while marking time or marching, never crossing.

**8 TO 5:** Refers to eight 22.5-inch steps per five yards. Standard stride.

**6 TO 5:** Refers to six 30-inch steps per five yards. Military stride.

**DIRECT TO POSITION (DTP):** Marching a straight-line path from a charted point to the next successive charted point within a given number of counts. This is an 8 to 5 maneuver.

**FLOAT/ADJUSTED STEP:** Marching from one charted point to the next successive charted point using an adjusted step size, or any size other than 8 to 5.

**INBOARD:** Movement toward the 50-yard line.

**OUTBOARD:** Movement away from the 50-yard line.

**SIDE 1:** To the conductor's left.

**SIDE 2:** To the conductor's right.

**RANK:** Three or more band members side by side. (horizontal)

**FILE:** Not fewer than three band members behind each other. (vertical)

**INTERVAL:** Distance between members in a given form.

**SLIDE:** Technique of marching in any direction other than directly toward the audience with the upper body turned toward the audience. Employed for sound purposes.

**PIVOT:** Axis, or point of revolving. (This can be a person, a point on the field, or one of your feet.)

**FLANK:** 90° turns pivoting on the right foot.

**MARK TIME:** Maintaining steady rhythm with the heels of the feet with no forward motion.

**FOLLOW-THE-LEADER (FTL):** Marching directly behind the person in front of you.

**DIRECTION OF TRAVEL (D.O.T.):** Horns follow the direction of travel – not a slide. (Also called Horn In Move)

**CARRIAGE:** Bearing or posture – with pride! *Like a Blackhawk!*

**COVER:** To correct alignment in files, front-to-back.

**DRESS:** To correct alignment in ranks, side-to-side in direction of movement.

**FOCALIZING:** To correct alignment in arcs or circles. Turning in to the form and adjusting on the focal point of the formation.

**FUNDAMENTAL BLOCK:** Members assigned to a position by rank and file.

**PARADE BLOCK:** Formation used for parade marching. Generally seven files wide for the Blackhawk Band with upperclassmen and Section Leaders used as right and left guides.

**RIGHT/LEFT GUIDE:** Member at the extreme right or left of rank. Used as a point of reference.

**RECOVER:** The concept of recovery from error. The ability to smoothly correct a mistake.

**CHECK IT:** Look with your eyes only, and know how to correct the form.

**ADJUST:** This command is given after 'Check it.' Move to your charted spot.

**HUDDLE!!!!!!:** Command used to signal the band to converge for announcements and dismissal.

## X. OUR MASCOT, SCHOOL SONGS, AND FIGHT SONGS

CHIEF BLACK HAWK - Chief Black Hawk has been the mascot of West High since 1936. While many Native American mascots have vanished from schools and sports teams across the country in recent years, West Aurora High School celebrates and honors Chief Black Hawk, who has been the school's mascot since 1905 when it was located on Blackhawk Street in Aurora. The class of 1958 commissioned a statue of Chief Black Hawk as a gift to the school and it now has a permanent home in our school's library. One of Chief Black Hawk's direct descendants, George Thurmond, spoke to the West Aurora community and described Chief Black Hawk "was a fierce warrior, strong leader, and a man who loved his people. He was also the first Native American to tell his story in an autobiography." The West Aurora High School Blackhawk Marching Band has an inspiring role model who provides motivation to perform at our best as we strive to represent our department, school, district, and community in the most professional way.

### Roll-on, Blackhawks! (1940)

Composed and written by Sten G. Halfvarson (1915-2003)

Roll-on, you Blackhawks, roll,  
 Roll-on, you Blackhawks, roll.  
 There's a fight in that line,  
 That back field is fine,  
 So roll, Blackhawks, roll.  
 Wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo!  
 Fight on, Aurora fight,  
 West High will win tonight.  
 Wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo, wo!

Let ring of victory cry,  
and lift our banner high.  
Roll-on, you Blackhawks, roll,  
Roll-on, you Blackhawks, roll,  
The Blue and Red  
still wave overhead.  
So roll, Blackhawks, roll.

**West Aurora High School Alma Mater (1954)**

Composed and written by Sten G. Halfvarson (1915-2003)

Red and Blue we'll love thee ever,  
proudly do we share thy fame.  
Loyalty we pledge forever  
to our noble Blackhawk name.  
Alma mater, Alma mater,  
faithful Hearts we offer thee.  
As we join to sing thy praises  
now and thru all years to be.

**Patriotic Medley (1976)**

Arranged by Cliff Colnot

The Blackhawk Marching Band has been playing *Patriotic Medley* since 1976. *Patriotic Medley* was originally written for a half-time performance by Cliff Colnot, who is now Director of Orchestras and Conductor of the Wind Ensemble at DePaul University. The arrangement contains the tunes *When Johnny Comes Marching Home*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and the final strain of the Sousa's *Stars & Stripes Forever*. Although now omitted, the original arrangement also contains Elton John's *Philadelphia Freedom*.

**West Aurora High School Blackhawk Fanfare (2013)**

Composed by Alan J. Greener (b. 1962)

*The Blackhawk Fanfare* was composed in the summer of 2013 by Alan J. Greener for the West Aurora Blackhawk Marching Band. It incorporates elements of *Roll On, Blackhawks* as well as the West Aurora *Alma Mater*. Additionally, the five-note WGN television and radio motive can be heard near the end of the fanfare as a homage to West Aurora High School alumnus Tom Skilling. The fanfare is used to open the Blackhawk Band's pregame shows for Friday night football.

## **BLACKHAWK MARCHING BAND HANDBOOK AGREEMENT**

The signatures below acknowledge that we have received the official 2017-2018 WAHS Blackhawk Marching Band Handbook, understand the policies contained within, and agree to the terms set forth by these policies. I further understand the West Aurora High School Administration supports the stated policies and procedures. Any questions or concerns should first be directed to band faculty.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT STUDENT NAME

**WEST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**PARENT PERMISSION FORM - FIELD TRIPS**

**ORGANIZATION: West Aurora Bands - BLACKHAWK MARCHING BAND**

**FIELD TRIPS/OFF CAMPUS PERFORMANCES:      2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR**

I give my consent for \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_ to accompany the **Blackhawk Marching Band** on Out-of-School Field Trips and Off-Campus Performances during the 2017-2018 season under the supervision of **Dr. Rodney C. Schueller, John Sierakowski, and Patty Sampson**. It is understood that school authorities will take all reasonable precautions regarding student's safety and welfare but will accept no responsibility. Each student is responsible for his/her conduct while representing West Aurora High School. Inappropriate behavior by any student could result in suspension from the activity as well as other penalties deemed necessary by school officials. Unless indicated below, all students must accompany the group on school provided transportation to and from the event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_