

# CHERRY HILL HIGH SCHOOL WEST

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

*Jim Mark, Director - [JMark@chclc.org](mailto:JMark@chclc.org)*

*[www.chwestinstrumentalmusic.com](http://www.chwestinstrumentalmusic.com)*

Dear 8th Grade Band Parents/Guardians,

We hope your student will continue participating in band in high school! Below is a description of the ensembles offered at West as sent by Mr. Mark (West band director). Most of these ensembles are curricular courses that meet Monday through- Friday and count towards GPA! Your student's guidance counselor will be meeting with them in January to give them more information as well as their course selection sheet. Please contact me or Mr. Mark ([jmark@chclc.org](mailto:jmark@chclc.org)) with any questions or concerns you may have!

SYMPHONIC BAND - This is a graded, curricular course that meets Monday through Friday. Students receive 5 credits that count towards graduation. This is running as a second Jazz Band called "LAB BAND". Students that wish to audition for one of the Jazz Ensembles will audition in late January and then be placed accordingly in either the Jazz Ensemble or the Lab Band. A minimum required score must be obtained to be in the Lab Band. Should a student not achieve the required score they would then be able to still schedule the Wind Ensemble class.

WIND ENSEMBLE - This is a graded, curricular course that meets Monday through Friday. Students receive 5 credits that count towards graduation. All WIND, BRASS, and PERCUSSION players that are not auditioning for one of the jazz ensembles will schedule this group. This band explores various styles of concert band literature and a few times a year combines with the String Orchestra in the concerts to perform both classical and pop literature. The band performs 4 concerts each year and participates in an out of state music festival/competition each spring (Virginia Beach, Boston, Toronto etc.).

JAZZ ENSEMBLE - This is a graded, curricular course that meets Monday through Friday. Students receive 5 credits that count towards graduation. This group is selected through auditions held each January/February and is open to all saxes, trumpets, trombones, percussionists, piano, guitar, and bass players. Students selected for Jazz Ensemble are encouraged to schedule either the Lab Band (Symphonic Band) or Wind Ensemble as well if their schedule allows. Students selected for this course must sign up for "Research in Music" on their course selection sheet. Any incoming student can audition on the above instruments can audition for this group and if they do not have

a successful audition they then will be placed in the Symphonic Band class, which is the Lab Band (Jazz Ens #2).

MARCHING BAND - The WEST MARCHING BAND is back and in full force as we continue to push and grow towards once again becoming a successful competitive entity. The Marching Band performs at all home football games (Friday nights) as well as in local competitions. The group will start with a mini basic marching camp and informational meeting in June and will begin rehearsing once a week starting in late July/early August. A 2 week band camp takes place in late August to prepare for the September performances and the beginning of the competitive season. Rehearsals are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings once the school year begins. This is an extra-curricular group and does not need to be registered for on the course selection sheet. We are looking to get AS MANY PLAYERS as possible into this group. Percussionists (as well as Color Guard) will be doing rehearsals over the winter months and will perform together at the West Pops Concert in May.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE - A great group for percussionists lead by former Carusi teacher Mr. Miller! The group will work towards preparing for the next Marching Band season as well as performing at the West Spring Pops Concert. This group meets weekly starting in January usually. This is an extra-curricular group and does not need to be registered for on the course selection sheet.

Please contact Mr. Mark at [jmark@chclc.org](mailto:jmark@chclc.org) or visit [www.chwestinstrumentalmusic.com](http://www.chwestinstrumentalmusic.com) with any questions or concerns. Thank you!