

Oswego High School BANDS

PRIDE	DEDICATION	EXCELLENCE	LOYALTY	PRIDE	DEDICATION	EXCELLENCE	LOYALTY
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Welcome, Future OHS Band Members and Parents!

Congratulations! Next fall you'll become an Oswego High School Panther! With the COVID-19 pandemic, we understand there are many different challenges our families are facing. Even though we're still working through remote learning for the end of the current school year, the OHS Band Department wanted to say "Welcome to the family!" and answer any questions you may have.

Participation in music is a recognized predictor and indicator of student success in and after high school. As a member of the OHS Band Program, you will rub elbows on a daily basis with other students passionate about success, both academically and artistically. Simply put, you will be joining a family that values excellence as a standard operating procedure, and that pursues excellence with passion, no matter what the endeavor. In the last four years, almost half of the Top 10% of the graduating seniors participated in one of the performing ensembles at OHS. What does that mean? It means because your student participates in music, they have a much better chance at doing well in school, period.

There are two, equal-ability curricular freshmen bands at OHS, Concert Band and Chamber Winds. Both groups usually perform the same music. The curricular ensembles are the heart of our band program, where students hone their music making skills every day, in addition to preparing the literature you'll hear on our four home concerts.

In addition to the wide variety of classes that OHS offers, you'll also have the opportunity to participate in a large number of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities at the high school. As a freshman, you'll have the opportunity to participate in our large volunteer marching band, one of our three jazz ensembles, and pep band. You are free to do as many or as few of these as you want.

We can't wait to meet all of you and begin our musical journey together!

Celebrations of Success

We are so proud of all of our students in the OHS Band Program! Check out some of our recent achievements!

Curricular Ensembles

- *National Concert Band Festival (2015, 2019)
- *National Chamber Music Festival (2016, 2018)
- *Superstate Band Festival (selected 2014-Present)
- *ILMEA All State Ensemble Performances (2014, 2018)
- * 20 students selected SPC Conference Honor Band (2019)
- * 16 students selected to IMEA All District Ensembles (2019)
- * 6 students selected to IMEA All State (2019)
- *4 home concerts, including Crystals Holiday Concerts each year

Jazz Ensembles

- *ILMEA All State Jazz Performance (2013, 2019)
- *North Shore Jazz Fest: Jazz 1 Grand Champions and 1st place in division, Combo 1 3rd place, Orange Jazz Ensemble 3 3rd place, 2 Outstanding Soloist Awards, all 3 jazz bands Division 1 ratings (2020)
- *Rolling Meadows Jazz Fest: Combo 1 1st place in Combo Division, 3 Outstanding Soloist Awards (2020)
- *Jazz in the Chi Festival: 4 Outstanding Soloists in both Combo and Big Band room (2020)
- *Jazz Ensemble 1 chosen to open up for Elmhurst Jazz Festival (2019)
- *Annual performances at the Jazz Showcase-Chicago
- *Annual performances at the Purdue Jazz Festival

Panther Marching Band

- *Grand Champions and music, general effect, percussion caption winners at Romeoville Competition (2018)
- *1st place prelims music caption winners, 4th place overall in finals at Downers Grove Competition (2019)
- *2nd place prelims, 3 place finals Downers Grove Competition (2017)
- *4th place Naperville Central Marching Classic (2019)
- *4-5 Home football games yearly
- *Crosstown performances
- *Pep rallies, Pantherfest, Panther Preview
- *Prairiefest, Memorial Day, Homecoming Parades

Performance Locations Outside of the Chicagoland Area

- *Orlando/Disney
- *New York
- *New Orleans
- *Washington DC
- *University of Illinois
- *Northern Illinois University
- *Purdue University
- *Ball State University

Frequently Asked Questions

Is Chamber Winds better than Concert Band? No, both bands are equal-ability freshmen bands, with different names. A few years back, we did stagger the bands by ability, but that is no longer the case.

How do I juggle band with my classes and sports? The best and brightest students at OHS (all AP and Honors classes) find a way to be in band all four years, and be successful. While all students are expected to practice, the curricular bands have practically no extra rehearsals until you get into Wind Symphony. Being in sports won't be an issue unless you are a part of the extra-curricular bands (marching, jazz, pep), and even then, we can usually work it out.

Should I be a part of the Panther Marching Band? Um, YES!!!! There are so many benefits, both musical and non-musical, that a student gains from participating in Marching Band. At OHS, we have a volunteer marching band that rehearses twice a week during the fall. This is a fabulous social and musical organization for incoming freshmen to be a part of during their transition to high school. Now is the time to join this competitive organization. Registration for the 2020-2021 season is happening now and is open through May 8th. You can also go to www.ohsband.org, click on the "Bands" tab, then "Marching Band" to sign up.

What's the deal with jazz band? Jazz is a big deal at OHS. We have three full jazz ensembles. The second week of school we will have a jazz workshop, where new students get the opportunity to get the music and work on some potential trouble spots, as well as work on improvisation. Auditions are the following week; all students are placed in a band, with the best students placed into Jazz 1. Only the top jazz band starts right away, and only on a limited basis. Jazz Ensembles 2 and 3, into which most freshmen are usually placed, don't start until after marching season is over, in late-October.

I'm a parent...how do I get involved? There is so much going on with our bands, we just couldn't function without our incredible Band Boosters!!! They help us with fundraising for things the school can't afford (trips, equipment, etc.), but at least as important is volunteering their time. Booster meetings are usually the first Monday of the month once the school year starts. If every parent volunteers at just one event, we would have plenty for the entire year!!!

What do I do if I have more questions? If you have any other questions at all, feel free to contact one of the directors, or access information from our website, www.ohsband.org. Don't forget to check us out on [facebook](#), [instagram](#) and [twitter](#) as well!

We look forward to meeting everyone and can't wait for the next chapter of the OHS Band Program to begin! Feel free to email us with questions at any time! Stay safe!

Musically,

Stephanie San Roman, Director of Bands

Kevin Schoenbach, Assoc. Director of Bands