

Dear 8th Grade Band Students & Parents,

As you prepare to end your middle school experience, I want to take this opportunity to invite you to continue in Band in high school. As you will soon find out, there are many interests that will compete for your time in high school. Through the years, our Band Program at Buffalo Grove High School has grown and developed into a wonderful organization. Our Symphonic Band has performed at the All-State Music Festival in Peoria, Illinois, and has performed 9 successful concert tours to Europe. The plan is to continue this opportunity for our band students. These are but a few of the opportunities that make our program special.

With graduation requirements as high as they are in our school district, along with the required curriculum for all freshman students, it is more important than ever to carefully select your elective classes. By choosing to continue in band, you will not only continue in a familiar course of study, but you will fulfill the District 214 Fine Arts graduation requirement. By choosing an elective that fulfills a graduation requirement, you have the opportunity to experience our program in a very familiar setting with friends and students like you. When you enroll for classes, you will follow a model similar to what I have designed for you here:

These classes will be required for all freshman students.

These are the remaining options for most band freshmen.

Class 1	Math	Class 7	Concert Band
Class 2	Science	Class 8	Elective (Foreign Language for most)
Class 3	Social Studies		
Class 4	English		
Class 5	PE		
Class 6	Lunch / Advisor	- Lunch is scheduled during a class period.	

When you enroll for band, you are to request "Concert Band". Band meets one period a day during the school day for credit (which is computed into your grade point average). There are very few after-school rehearsals, and students who are in other BG activities that conflict with these rehearsals are excused from the band commitment on that day. No matter what you may have heard, please be aware that **YOU CAN BE IN ANY ACTIVITY, SPORT, OR CLASS AND STILL BE IN BAND**. As a matter of fact, I encourage all students who have an interest in other activities to join them. We can work out most conflicts. **More than 75% of all band students participate in other sports and activities**. With our enrollments increasing we might form a Freshman Band next year. The decision to do so will be made after enrollments are complete and we see if having a Freshman Band would be viable. It is very important if you think you want to continue in band, you indicate so immediately. With tight staffing at our school, last year students that did not enroll for band and then changed their minds and wanted to do so later had difficulty. To avoid this, sign-up right away!

After the pre-enrollment procedures are over, further information will be sent in the mail. Students in our Concert and Symphonic Bands participate in the marching band. A marching band camp is held in the summer so that we can learn our show and get concert season started early. Most conflicts with marching band are with varsity level sports. Freshman teams rarely conflict with marching band. Details concerning the Summer Marching Camp will be out before Spring Break. For those interested in Jazz Band, it is a course that meets 2-3 days a week during non-school time. Membership in our band program is a pre-requisite for participation in the jazz band (except for bass, guitar, and piano players). Students are selected for this by audition in the fall.

We are an active Band Program. You are truly fortunate to live in a community where such wonderful choices are available. I encourage you to give band a try. No matter how well you play, **we want you to be a part of our program**. If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call at BG (847/718-4159) or e-mail at ed.jacobi@d214.org. Also, please visit our band web site at www.bgband.org. I look forward to meeting, and welcoming, you to Buffalo Grove High School!

Sincerely,

Edward R. Jacobi, Jr., Director
Buffalo Grove High School Band
ed.jacobi@d214.org - www.bgband.org