



**Bands**  
**NORMAL WEST**

***Freshman Orientation  
for the Class of 2014  
Wednesday, January 6, 2010***

*The information in this brochure will provide answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about participation and enrollment in the Normal West Band Program. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us using the information below:*

***Ms. Lisa Preston, Director of Bands***  
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***Mr. Ryan Budzinski, Director of Bands***  
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***[www.normalwestbands.org](http://www.normalwestbands.org)***

## *The Normal West Bands...*

*have established a strong tradition of high achievement and excellence. Normal West High School is home to four concert bands, three jazz bands, a competitive marching band, a basketball pep band, orchestra winds, musical pit orchestra, color guard, and a number of smaller ensembles such as flute choir, clarinet choir, brass choir, and percussion ensemble.*

## *Recent Achievements...*

*The Bands' resumes include performances at prestigious events throughout the country. The Wind Ensemble has been selected to perform at the IMEA All-State Convention and the Los Angeles, CA International Music Festival in the Walt Disney Concert Hall in 2010. Other recent highlights include the following:*

### ***The Normal West Wind Ensemble has performed at:***

- ♪ Orchestra Hall at Symphony Center (Home of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra)*
- ♪ Carnegie Hall, New York, NY*
- ♪ The University of Illinois Superstate Festival, Champaign, IL*
- ♪ The Illinois State University Twin City Band Festival, Normal, IL*
- ♪ The Western Illinois University Showcase of Bands, Macomb, IL*
- ♪ The Southern Illinois University BiState Festival, Edwardsville, IL*
- ♪ Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Convention, Peoria, IL*
- ♪ Disney World and Universal Studios, Orlando, FL*
- ♪ The Capitol Building and Lincoln Monument, Washington, DC*
- ♪ Norwegian Cruise Lines, Nassau, Bahamas*

### ***The Normal West Bands have also performed at:***

- ♪ IHSA State Contests*
- ♪ Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL*
- ♪ Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL*
- ♪ Bradley University, Peoria, IL*
- ♪ VanderCook College of Music, Chicago, IL*
- ♪ Cedar Point Amusement Park, Sandusky, OH*
- ♪ Six Flags Great America, Gurnee, IL*
- ♪ Six Flags St. Louis, MO*
- ♪ Heritage Festival – Medieval Times, Schaumburg, IL*
- ♪ Hersey, Plainfield, and Lemont HS Festivals, IL*

# Concert Bands



*The 2009-2010 Normal West High School Wind Ensemble*

*Four concert band classes meet daily at Normal West High School. They include Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band, and Concert Winds. When enrolling in band, freshman students sign up for Concert Winds. Each student will play an entry audition to determine their skill level for seating and part assignments\*. (When auditioning, students play scales and band music or solo/ensemble music.) The audition process does not “cut” students from the program. Auditions will take place at PJHS and KJHS, and students from other schools can email or call to arrange an audition time at NCWHS.*

*All NCWHS concert bands perform at concerts, contests, and festivals. Grades for these classes are based on skill-level playing tests, participation in class, and participation at performances. You DO NOT have to participate in marching band to join these ensembles.*

*\*In some cases outstanding auditions may result in the student being advanced to Symphonic Winds or Wind Ensemble.*

# Marching Band and Color Guard



*The 2009 Normal West High School Marching Band*

*Marching Band and Color Guard are EXTRA-CURRICULAR organizations at NCWHS. Participation in marching band is not required to enroll in a band class. Marching band members must be enrolled in a music class in order to participate (with the exception of color guard members.) There is no audition to join marching band. We ask that you commit to the schedule of rehearsals and performances in order to join. Performances include competitions, parades, home football games, and other public performances throughout the summer and fall.*



## **The typical marching band summer schedule includes:**

- ♪ "Rookie Camp" in June: three morning rehearsals for new marching band/color guard members
- ♪ Tuesday and Thursday evening rehearsals. (These rehearsals are flexible with regard to vacations, etc.) Specific dates will be available this spring.
- ♪ Mandatory two week Band Camp in late July and/or early August: includes rehearsals at Normal West to learn the competitive field show.

### ***The Normal West Marching Band's achievements include:***

- ♪ *The 2009 State Award for Best Music Performance in Class 5A*
- ♪ *The 2008 Class 4A State Championship*
- ♪ *Multiple appearances in State Finals*
- ♪ *The 2008 Greater St. Louis Class Championship, MO*
- ♪ *Two appearances in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl Festivities, Phoenix, AZ*
- ♪ *Two-time Finalist at the Fiesta Bowl National Band Championships, AZ*
- ♪ *Bands of America Regional Finalist and Regional Class Champion*
- ♪ *Bands of America Grand National Championships Semi-Finalist*
- ♪ *Performances in the Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, IN, the RCA Dome, Indianapolis, IN, the Edward Jones Dome, St. Louis, MO, the University of Phoenix Stadium, Phoenix, AZ, the U.S. Cellular Coliseum, Bloomington, IL, and the Illinois State Fair Parade, Springfield, IL*

*If you play oboe, bassoon, or another instrument that is not typically found in marching band, other options are available. Some students pick up a different instrument (often flute or mellophone), audition for the color guard, or play in the drum line or pit. We would be glad to answer questions and help you make this decision!*

*In their junior and senior years, marching band members are exempt from PE classes during the fall semester, affording them the opportunity to take a single semester course offering or study hall in the place of PE.*

*We hope you will consider joining this outstanding, hard-working, and dedicated group of musicians. We are known throughout the state and Midwest as one of the “top” marching organizations. Look for additional information soon!*



## ***Jazz Bands***

*Jazz Band Auditions take place in November. They place jazz students in one of three skill-based ensembles (Jazz Band I, Jazz Kats, and Jazz Lab Band). With the exception of pianists, bass, and guitar players, jazz members must be enrolled in a band class. These groups rehearse outside of the school day and perform at concerts and festivals throughout the year. They also host an annual Jazz Night at NCWHS.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***Can I be in band and sports?***

*Yes. The four concert bands are a class (much like at CJHS, KJHS, and PJHS.) The bulk of your time for these ensembles takes place during the school day. Performances are scheduled in advance so you can check your athletic schedule. If we are aware of a conflict in advance, we work with the athlete, coach, and parent to resolve the conflict. Every NCWHS athletic team has been represented in our Wind Ensemble and other band classes in the past.*

## ***Can I be in marching band and a sport?***

*Yes. We have had almost every varsity sport represented in the marching band throughout past seasons (including varsity football, cheerleading, and poms!) It will mean that the student learns to be organized and very diligent while learning to manage their time effectively. We also work through conflicts as they arise. (We have even had parents car pool from athletic events to marching band events.)*

## ***Do I need a study hall?***

*NCWHS does not require students to take a study hall. Many valedictorians and National Merit Scholars have played in band. These individuals in addition to many of their peers did not take a study hall. Each student must decide how much time his/her homework will take when considering this question. Our past experiences indicate*

*that students who are involved in extracurricular activities learn how to manage their time more efficiently. Many of our marching band students achieve higher GPAs during the marching season because their time management skills are put to good use. We encourage students to PARTICIPATE in extra activities during their time at Normal West. It makes them feel a part of the “school community” and allows them to explore interests that may become important in later years. We have had MANY students receive music scholarships to EVERY major university in the area. We have also had graduates as far away as The University of North Texas and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Outside of majoring in music, the bulk of the Wind Ensemble students major in math, science, and computer-based areas.*

### ***Can I participate in other activities?***

*Many of the NCWHS band students have outside interests. Our students are involved in almost every club and organization in the school. They are also active in church and community organizations. We have had students enroll in choir or orchestra in addition to band. We strongly encourage students to be involved in their school and community. Involvement promotes the development of social skills, and it gives students direction and helps them acclimate to high school. Involvement also helps parents keep track of their son/daughter’s location and makes it more likely for students to make good decisions.*



For additional information,  
visit us on the web at  
[www.normalwestbands.org](http://www.normalwestbands.org)

**Announcements**  
**Happy New Year!**  
The first Monday night Wind Ensemble rehearsal is on Monday, January 4, 2010 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.  
**The First [Pep Band](#) Game is Friday, January 8 - Call time is 6:00 PM. All Band members invited! Sign up in the band hallway!**  
There will be a Jazz Parent Meeting on Thursday, January 14 at 7:00 PM. We ask that one parent from each jazz family attend.  
The Wind Ensemble All-State Preview Performance will take place on Monday, January 25 at 7:00 PM in the NCWHS Auditorium.  
[Ensemble Pages](#) have been updated with second semester performance dates and repertoire.  
[Carl's Pro Band E-Newsletter](#) | [Artist Series Poster](#)  
[Order Wildcat Earrings!](#)

**Upcoming Events**  
**Monday, January 4**  
Institute Day  
Wind Ensemble Rehearsal 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
**Tuesday, January 5**  
School Resumes  
Jazz Lab Band 2:45 to 3:30 PM  
Jazz Band I and Jazz Kats 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
**Wednesday, January 6**  
Class of 2014 Freshman Orientation at NCWHS  
**Thursday, January 7**  
Jazz Lab Band 2:45 to 3:30 PM  
Jazz Band I and Jazz Kats 6:00 to 8:30 PM  
**Friday, January 8**  
First Pep Band Game  
Men vs. United Township  
Call Time - 6 PM in Band Room  
All Band members invited!  
**Saturday, January 9**

or contact us at

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