

Warren Consolidated Schools
Sterling Heights High School

Sterling Bands

Program Overview

(updated April 2026)



Mr. Anthony V. Imbrunone, Director of Bands
12901 15 Mile Road, Sterling Heights MI 48312
(586) 825-2700 Ext. 14221
aimbrunone@wcskids.net
shhsbands.org

Target Audience:

- Sterling Heights High School Parents & Students
- WCS Middle Schools: Carleton/ Grissom/ Beer/ Carter
- Elementary: Holden/ Jefferson/ Susick/ Willow Woods

Dear Parents,

Thank you for learning more about the Sterling Heights High School Band Program! Your child's involvement in band provides opportunities to flourish in a positive, caring, and supportive environment. Band is a place to learn new skills, build confidence, make new friends, and have fun!

This handbook is intended to give you information about the opportunities that the band program at Sterling Heights High School can provide your student.

I look forward to working with your children in the coming years!

Sincerely,

Mr. Imbrunone, Director

Fellow Parents,

The Sterling Heights Band Boosters have a long, proud tradition of providing support to the students of the Sterling Heights High School Band under the direction of Mr. Imbrunone. Our volunteers provide fundraising opportunities, student guidance, and camaraderie among parents throughout the year.

If you have a student in the Sterling Heights High School Band program, YOU ARE A Band Booster! I encourage you to get involved with our group. There will be countless opportunities to make a difference and share in a terrific adventure!

Sterling Heights High School Band Boosters

- *The Sterling Heights High School Band consistently earns the highest marks at all MSBOA Festivals.*
- *Participating in High School band classes does not interfere with other after-school activities like athletics.*
- *Participating in High School band does not interfere with college prep classes. Being in Band **does** meet the Fine Arts requirement for High School graduation in Michigan.*
- *The Sterling Heights High School Band has traveled and performed in many places including New York, Boston, Detroit, and Disney World!*
- *Our Band Booster organization raises funds for the students involved with the Instrumental Music Program. These fundraisers help to support the students' overall Instrumental Music experience.*
- *The Marching Stallions have performed in the Thanksgiving Day Parade on multiple occasions!*
- *The Sterling Heights High School Jazz Band has performed at the Detroit Jazz Festival.*
- *"The nation's top business executives agree that arts education programs can help repair weaknesses in American education and better prepare workers in the 21st century."*

(Business Week Magazine)

STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

COURSE OFFERINGS

CADET BAND (VPA)

COURSE ID: HS5105/HS5106

(WCS High School Course Description Guide)

Cadet band is available as an introductory band to train students for the technical and musical demands of the other performing bands. Students in this band will focus on the fundamentals of performance, such as developing a characteristic tone, rhythm and counting, music reading ability, interpretation skills, and overall musicality. Throughout the school year, various performance opportunities will be made available and/or required.

(SHHS Additional Information)

Cadet Band is primarily 9th grade band students. All 9th grade band students will take Cadet Band. Additionally, a few 10th graders each year are also in Cadet due to scheduling or other reasons. Cadet is also open to 11th and 12th grade band students who wish to take a second band class. Cadet Band is the place where our new students really begin to bond as a graduating class. With our students coming from primarily 2 middle schools, this aspect of band is very important.

CONCERT BAND (VPA)

COURSE ID: HS5101/HS5102

(WCS High School Course Description Guide)

This instrumental music ensemble performs a wide variety of genre and emphasizes the continued development of musical performance skills. Throughout the school year, various performance opportunities will be made available and/or are required.

(SHHS Additional Information)

Concert Band is primarily 10th grade band students. Additionally, some 11th and 12th grade band students are also in Concert Band due to scheduling or other reasons. Because the pacing is faster than Cadet Band and the musical literature is at a higher level, students must audition to be in this ensemble.

SYMPHONIC BAND (VPA)

COURSE ID: HS5111/HS5112

(WCS High School Course Description Guide)

This instrumental music ensemble performs an array of advanced instrumental music literature. Throughout the school year, various performance opportunities will be made available and/or are required.

(SHHS Additional Information)

Symphonic Band is the most advanced concert ensemble at Sterling Heights High School. Primarily 11th and 12th grade band students are in this class with the occasional 10th grade band student. Because the level of literature in this class and the very fast pacing, students must audition to be accepted into this class.

**All classes require membership by audition only.
Attendance at all performances is required.**

STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

COURSE OFFERINGS

JAZZ BAND (VPA)

COURSE ID: HS5121/HS5122

(WCS High School Course Description Guide)

This unique instrumental music ensemble performs a wide variety of jazz, rock, blues, and other types of music utilizing the jazz/rock band instrumentation. Instrumentation includes trumpet, trombone, saxophone, drums, piano, guitar, and bass.

(SHHS Additional Information)

Jazz Band is primarily 11th and 12th grade band students wishing to learn about jazz music. Occasionally we have a few 10th grade band students as well. Students who elect Jazz Band in their schedule are also in a concert ensemble. In Jazz Band we learn how to perform in various jazz styles, including swing, blues, bebop, funk, rock, and more. We also learn basic jazz theory as well as the history of jazz, particularly how it relates to the history of the United States. Students must audition to be accepted into this ensemble.

**All classes require membership by audition only.
Attendance at all performances is required.**

MARCHING BAND (co-curricular)

The Marching Band is made up of 9th - 12th grade band students from our 3 concert ensembles. Colorguard members do not need to be in a band class. Marching Band students are required to attend two weeks of band camp as well as once a week evening rehearsals during the fall. Also required to be at all performances.

Although Marching Band is not a class, students who successfully complete two seasons of marching band are able to waive the ½ credit Physical Education requirement! Full participation at every performance and rehearsal is required for eligibility.

Did you know? In addition to in-school band meeting the Visual, Performing, & Applied Arts (VPA) graduation requirement, further band classes may be used towards other graduation requirements.

STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

COURSE OFFERINGS: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Students that attend Warren Consolidated Schools, and specifically Sterling Heights High School, are fortunate to have many different options and learning pathways to explore their interests and prepare for their lives beyond high school.

**Band can be part of the curriculum all throughout
Middle and High School for all students.**

We believe strongly in giving students that wish to participate in Instrumental Music the opportunity to do so while also working collaboratively to meet every student's other academic interests and needs.

Scheduling Considerations for Band Students

- Band will fulfil any of the 4.5 credits of required electives.
- One full year of band will fulfill the Visual, Performing, & Applied Arts (VPA) requirement.
- Completing two seasons of marching band will fulfill the Physical Education requirement.
- Students may also test out of taking a language. (See next page)
- A second full year of band could fulfil a part of the World Language requirement; however this is not always advisable.

Important note: Some, but not all, universities require at least two years of the same world language for admission. It is advisable to explore the requirements of any college or university you plan on applying to in advance of completing your high school schedules.

**Always consult with your school counselor
to ensure you are on track to meet graduation requirements.**

The schedules that follow are simplified for clarity.

7th-12th
Graders



DO YOU SPEAK ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

You can earn up to
2.0 credits of World
Language *without*
taking Spanish!

Option 1: Submit documentation of attending
school abroad in any grade K-12

Option 2: Take the Avant STAMP 4S test
(in grades 7 - 12).

AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGES:

ARABIC
CHALDEAN
FRENCH
GERMAN
HEBREW
HINDI
ITALIAN

JAPANESE
KOREAN
MANDARIN
POLISH
PORTUGUESE
RUSSIAN
SPANISH

SEE YOUR COUNSELOR FOR MORE DETAILS!

STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM
COURSE OFFERINGS: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Example 4 Year Plan for Traditional Student

9th Grade – Semester 1	9th Grade – Semester 2
English 9	English 9
Algebra 1	Algebra 1
Earth Science	Earth Science
American History	American History
Spanish 1	Spanish 1
Band (VPA)	Band (VPA)

10th Grade – Semester 1	10th Grade – Semester 2
English 10	English 10
Geometry	Geometry
Biology	Biology
World History	World History
Spanish 2*	Spanish 2*
Band	Band

11th Grade – Semester 1	11th Grade – Semester 2
English 11	English 11
Algebra 2	Algebra 2
Chemistry, Physical Science, or Physics	Chemistry, Physical Science, or Physics
American Government	Economics
Band	Band
Elective	Elective

12th Grade – Semester 1	12th Grade – Semester 2
English 12	English 12
Math Related*	Math Related*
Health*	Physical Education#
Band	Band
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

* Contact your school counselor to discuss possible options for earning credit for these courses.

Completing two seasons of marching band will fulfill the physical education requirement.

STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM

COURSE OFFERINGS: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Example 4 Year Plan for MMSTC Student

8 th Grade –Semester 1	8 th Grade – Semester 2
Algebra 1	Algebra 1
Spanish 1	Spanish 1

9 th Grade –Semester 1	9 th Grade – Semester 2
English 9	English 9
Spanish 2* or American History	Spanish 2* or American History
Band (VPA)	Band (VPA)
MMSTC Math	MMSTC Math
MMSTC Science	MMSTC Science
MMSTC Elective	MMSTC Elective

10 th Grade – Semester 1	10 th Grade – Semester 2
English 10	English 10
American History or World History	American History or World History
Band	Band
MMSTC Math	MMSTC Math
MMSTC Science	MMSTC Science
MMSTC Elective	MMSTC Elective

11 th Grade – Semester 1	11 th Grade – Semester 2
English 11	English 11
Government	Economics
Band	Band
MMSTC Math	MMSTC Math
MMSTC Science	MMSTC Science
MMSTC Elective	MMSTC Elective

12 th Grade – Semester 1	12 th Grade – Semester 2
English 12	English 12
Health*	Physical Education#
World History* or Band	World History* or Band
MMSTC Math	MMSTC Math
MMSTC Science	MMSTC Science
MMSTC Elective	MMSTC Elective

*Contact your school counselor to discuss possible options for earning credit for these courses.

Completing two seasons of marching band will fulfill the physical education requirement.

STERLING HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL BAND PROGRAM
COURSE OFFERINGS: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

Example 4 Year Plan for CPC Student

9th Grade – Semester 1	9th Grade – Semester 2
English 9	English 9
Algebra 1	Algebra 1
Earth Science	Earth Science
American History	American History
Spanish 1	Spanish 1
Band (VPA)	Band (VPA)

10th Grade – Semester 1	10th Grade – Semester 2
English 10	English 10
Geometry	Geometry
Biology	Biology
World History	World History
Spanish 2*	Spanish 2*
Band	Band

11th Grade – Semester 1	11th Grade – Semester 2
English 11	English 11
Algebra 2	Algebra 2
Chemistry, Physical Science, or Physics	Chemistry, Physical Science, or Physics
CPC	CPC
CPC	CPC
Band	Band

12th Grade – Semester 1	12th Grade – Semester 2
English 12	English 12
Government	Economics
Math Related* or Band	Math Related* or Band
Health* or Band	Physical Education# or Band
CPC	CPC
CPC	CPC

*Contact your school counselor to discuss possible options for earning credit for these courses.
 # Completing two seasons of marching band will fulfill the physical education requirement.