

## High School Band

These two weeks will give you an opportunity to get better at your instrument and to learn your concert music. There are also some other things I would like you to do besides playing your instrument.

- Write a letter to all Jr. High Band students telling them why they should be in the High School Band. What has been your favorite part? How is it different than Jr. High? What was different than you expected? What is the most rewarding part of it?
- Try writing down the melody to a popular song. Print some blank staff paper here: <https://www.blanksheetmusic.net/> Figure out the time signature and the rhythm. Figure out the melody and the key signature. See if you can write them down.
- Pick out the parts of your concert music that need the most work. Write down the sections and what makes them challenging: Fingering/Slide positions, Rhythm, Tempo, Range, etc. Make a plan and work on those parts slowly for accuracy, then speed them up to performance tempo. Record yourself regularly and listen to your recordings for progress. Each Friday, submit a recording that shows me what you have been working on. Friday, 3/20 - something from Spring Dances. Friday, 3/27 - something from Pony Express. They should be at least 12 measures, but do not have to be consecutive. Tell me what you have recorded in a comment.

Look at these performance examples.

Saginaw Valley March: <https://bit.ly/39SyPzP>

Spring Dances: <https://bit.ly/2TT5C2g>

Pony Express: <https://bit.ly/3d4zmRa>

- We can all get better at scales. I have loaded some scale exercises in Google Classroom in the “7 Minute Warmup” post. I have also loaded the ILMEA scales for those who would like to audition for All-District Band next year. If you would like to work on the etudes, I can scan them and send them to you as well. It’s not too early to get started, and we should really have some more students participate in this.
- Download a free tuner app and fill out the tuning tendency chart for your instrument.

- I have added a link to the WIU School of Music YouTube channel. There are several archived performances on there - including the Honor Band that Courtney, Macie, and Molly were in last month.
- I have also provided a link to a Concert Band music playlist on YouTube. We never do enough listening in class, and now is a great time to do some of that. You may be surprised at what you find. You will have to work on your listening and concentration skills, because most of these pieces last several minutes. More sophisticated composers take a while to tell their stories.