

2026 - 2027

Golden West High School
Band & Guard Program



Handbook & Syllabus

Golden West High School Band & Color Guard Syllabus

2026–2027 School Year

Mr. Salazar (Head Band Director)

Mr. Lambert (Assistant Band Director)

Email: osalazar@vusd.org & olambert01@vusd.org

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Descriptions

Color Guard (2nd Period)

The color guard will focus on movement, dance, and equipment work (flag, rifle, sabre) to contribute to the visual performance of the Golden West Trailblazer Band & Guard. Students will develop performance skills, coordination, and artistry, culminating in fall field shows and spring showcases.

Jazz Band (3rd Period)

Students will explore jazz performance through swing, Latin, funk, and rock styles. Emphasis will be placed on improvisation, sight-reading, jazz theory, articulation, and style. Students will perform in school concerts, festivals, and community events.

Wind Ensemble - Honors (4th Period)

The premier concert ensemble at Golden West. During fall, Wind Ensemble members form the competitive marching band, performing field shows and participating in local/regional competitions. In spring, the group transitions to concert repertoire, performing advanced wind literature and participating in CMEA concert festivals.

Advanced Band (5th Period)

This group includes intermediate level band members. Students will learn instrumental fundamentals, music literacy, scales, and ensemble playing. The class prepares students for participation in Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and marching activities. This group does not perform in the marching band field show production, but will have opportunities to play in the stands at football games, and march in the candy cane lane parade.

Advanced Percussion (6th Period)

This class develops percussion technique in both battery and front ensemble. In fall, students perform as the percussion section of the marching band. In spring, percussionists participate in the winter percussion competitive ensemble, and join the Wind Ensemble to study concert percussion repertoire, technique, and ensemble balance.

Placement & Auditions

Advanced Band: Students in this ensemble have experience on their instrument at the intermediate or advanced level but did not receive a director recommendation to move directly into Wind Ensemble after their audition.

Wind Ensemble: Students may be placed into Wind Ensemble through audition and director recommendation.

Wind Ensemble Seating: Chair placement auditions will occur during the year through recorded or live assessments. Students are evaluated fairly using rubrics focused on tone, intonation, rhythm, and expression.

Jazz Band: Instrumentation is limited; auditions are required and will be performed at the beginning of the spring semester.

Expectations

Students will:

- Have music, instrument/equipment, and pencil ready at the start of class/rehearsal.
- Participate in all rehearsals, sectionals, and performances with focus and effort.
- Demonstrate knowledge of music theory, rhythm, and notation through written and playing assessments.
- Develop technical skills appropriate to their instrument/equipment.
- Sight-read regularly and continue scale/rudiment development.
- Respect themselves, peers, directors, and equipment.
- Be active contributors to the success of their ensemble.

Standards Addressed

- **Performing** – Develop technical skill and artistry through consistent rehearsal and public performance.
- **Creating** – Improvise, arrange, or compose short musical/rhythmic ideas individually and within ensembles.
- **Responding** – Analyze, interpret, and evaluate musical works and performances using appropriate vocabulary.
- **Connecting** – Relate musical ideas and works to personal experience, cultural context, and history.

Grading

Grades are based on:

- **Participation & Preparation** – being on time, prepared, and engaged.
- **Rehearsal & Performance Attendance** – concerts, festivals, football games, competitions (performances are treated as exams).

- Musicianship & Improvement – growth in playing/performing ability.
- Written & Playing Quizzes – scales, rudiments, sight-reading, theory, technique.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is essential for the success of each ensemble. Every student is a vital part of the group, and absences affect the entire performance.

- Class Attendance – Students are expected to attend all class periods unless excused through school policy. Unexcused absences or frequent tardies will lower participation grades.
- Rehearsals – All afterschool and evening rehearsals are mandatory. Any conflicts must be communicated to the directors in advance. Missing a rehearsal during the week of a performance (including football games, showcases, or competitions) may result in the student being withheld from that performance if the band director chooses to do so. Absences affect not only the individual student, but the entire ensemble's preparation and safety.
- Performances – Performances are considered major graded assignments. Absences will only be excused in the case of an emergency and must be communicated to the band director as soon as possible. Students who miss rehearsals during the week of a performance may be removed from the field performance and assigned to perform from the sideline or may not perform at all. Final decisions are at the discretion of the band director.

Rehearsal & Performance Schedule

A detailed calendar of rehearsals, football games, competitions, parades, concerts, and festivals is included at the back of this syllabus and posted on our website (gwhsband.org). The schedule will be updated as needed, and students/parents are expected to check regularly for changes.

Make-Up Policy for Missed Performances

If a performance must be missed (emergencies only):

- At the director's discretion, students will complete a performance recording or written project to earn credit for the missed performance.

Travel Policy

The Trailblazer Band & Guard program frequently travels for competitions and festivals.

- Travel is **mandatory** for all members.
- Students must follow all school district guidelines and rules while traveling.
- Parents/guardians must complete and return required permission slips and medical forms before students may travel.

Behavior & Eligibility

Students are representatives of Golden West High School and must uphold the highest standards of behavior.

- All school and VUSD guidelines apply during rehearsals, classes, performances, and trips.
- Students must maintain academic eligibility to participate in performances, as determined by VUSD policy.
- Any violation of school or district conduct rules may result in disciplinary action and loss of participation privileges.

Suggested Materials

- **Instruments**: Provided by the school when available. Students must care for instruments responsibly.
- **Marching Band and Percussion**: Water jug, rehearsal attire (athletic clothing & shoes), sun protection (sunscreen, sunglasses, hats)
- **Color Guard**: Performance gloves, rehearsal attire (athletic clothing & shoes).
- **Jazz Band**: Pencil, Tuner, and Metronome
- **Concert Band & Percussion**: Pencil, Tuner, and Metronome

Lockers will be assigned for secure instrument storage. Students may place locks on their lockers, but the combination must be shared with Mr. Salazar.

Equipment Responsibility

Students using school-provided instruments or color guard equipment must handle them with care and respect.

- A VUSD Instrument Contract must be signed and returned for certain school-provided instruments.
- Students are financially responsible for damage or loss of equipment beyond normal wear.
- Instruments must be stored properly in lockers or assigned storage spaces when not in use.

Financial Responsibilities

Because the budget provided to the marching band by the school does not cover all costs for the fall season, we require that each student participates in our fundraisers throughout the school year (Online Fundraising, Fill The Drum, Car Wash, CSBC Regional Champs, SVWAA Show, Etc.). This money will go towards the field show music, marching drill, band staff, props, instruments and equipment, feeding the students, and much more.

Students will also be expected to pay for their own show shirt (\$20), marching/guard shoes (\$45) if they do not already own a pair, as well as a couple of sets of gloves for band & guard members, or arm bands for percussion members (\$10 per pair). Mr. Salazar will have order forms available for shoes & gloves during the first week of band camp. Payment must be made before the items are handed over to the student. There will occasionally be used marching shoes available for \$20, but you must ask Mr. Salazar and see if there are any available in the desired size.

If there is a financial hardship that is preventing your student from having the required equipment, please contact Mr. Salazar at osalazar@vusd.org. Band should not place a heavy financial burden on any family.

Private Lessons

Private lessons are strongly encouraged to support student growth. Recommendations for teachers are available upon request.

Attire

- **Concerts (All Ensembles)**: Concert-black attire (black dress pants/skirt, black collared dress shirt or dress blouse, black socks/shoes). No colored logos or accent colors.
- **Marching Band & Color Guard**: Band students will be issued the official Golden West Trailblazer Band uniform, provided by the program. Color Guard members may be responsible for an additional fee to cover field show specific uniforms.
- **Winter Percussion & Winter Color Guard**: Students participating in our winter competitive groups may be responsible for an additional fee to cover winter show specific uniforms
 - All uniforms must be kept in excellent condition. At the end of the season, students are required to have their uniform professionally dry-cleaned and submit a receipt as proof before turning it in. We recommend Paragon Cleaners (119 S. Willis St, Visalia, CA 93291).
 - Marching shoes, gloves, arm bands, and show shirts are not provided by the program and must be purchased separately. Order forms will be distributed by Mr. Salazar at the appropriate time.

Communication Platforms

We will use a couple platforms to keep students and parents informed:

1. Website (gwhsband.org) – Program information, schedules, and announcements
2. Band App – Day-to-day rehearsal updates and reminders

📱 QR codes for each platform are provided below for easy access.



Student Band
App Page



Website



Parent Band
App Page



Golden West High School

Marching Band & Color Guard

Fall 2026 Calendar

All performances and rehearsals are mandatory. Absences must be cleared in advance.

June & July

Tuesday, June 30 th	Summer Rehearsal	Check Summer Schedule
Tuesday, July 7 th	Summer Rehearsal	Check Summer Schedule
Tuesday, July 14 th	Summer Rehearsal	Check Summer Schedule
Tuesday, July 21 st	Summer Rehearsal	Check Summer Schedule
July 27th - July 31st	1st Week of Band Camp	9AM-2PM, 6PM-9PM

August

August 3rd - August 6th	2nd Week of Band Camp	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, August 7th	Summer Showcase	6:00 Call Time
Monday, August 10 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Tuesday, August 11 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, August 13th	First Day of School	
Thursday, August 13 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Tuesday, August 18 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, August 20 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Saturday, August 22nd	Fill the Drum Fundraiser	9:00AM - 1:00PM
Tuesday, August 25 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, August 27 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, August 28th	Home Football Game	5:30PM Call Time

September

Tuesday, September 1 st	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, September 3 rd	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Saturday, September 5th	Car Wash Fundraiser	10:00AM - 2:00PM
Tuesday, September 8 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, September 10 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, September 11th	Home Football Game (Homecoming)	5:30PM Call Time
Monday, September 14 th	Band Booster Meeting	7:00PM Start
Tuesday, September 15 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, September 17 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Saturday, September 19th	Fill the Drum Fundraiser	9:00AM - 1:00PM
Tuesday, September 22 nd	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, September 24 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, September 25th	Home Football Game	5:30PM Call Time
Tuesday, September 29 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM

October

Thursday, October 1 st	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Saturday, October 3rd	Saturday Rehearsal	9AM-2PM, 6PM-9PM

Monday, October 5th	Visalia Band Showcase	4:30PM Call Time
Tuesday, October 6 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, October 8 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, October 9th	Home Football Game	5:30PM Call Time
Saturday, October 10th	Visalia Band Invitational	TBD
Tuesday, October 13 th	NO REHEARSAL (Fall Break)	
Thursday, October 15 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, October 16th	Home Football Game (Senior Night)	5:30PM Call Time
Saturday, October 17th	Sierra Cup Classic	TBD
Monday, October 19 th	Band Booster Meeting	7:30PM Start
Tuesday, October 20 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, October 22 nd	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Saturday, October 24th	CSBC Orange Cove	TBD
Monday, October 26 th	1852 Saddle Rivalry Event (Drumline)	6:00PM Call Time
Tuesday, October 27 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, October 29 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, October 30th	Home Football Game (Saddle)	5:30PM Call Time

November

Tuesday, November 3 rd	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, November 5 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, November 6th	Possible Home Football Game (Playoffs)	5:30PM Call Time
Saturday, November 7th	CSBC Frontier	TBD
Monday, November 9 th	Band Booster Meeting	7:30PM Start
Tuesday, November 10 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, November 12 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, November 13th	Possible Home Football Game (Playoffs)	5:30PM Call Time
Saturday, November 14th	CSBC Northern California Division Champs	TBD
Tuesday, November 17 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Thursday, November 19 th	Rehearsal	6:00PM - 9:00PM
Friday, November 20th	Possible Home Football Game (Playoffs)	5:30PM Call Time
Saturday, November 21st	CSBC State Champs Trip	TBD
Sunday, November 21st	CSBC State Champs Trip	TBD
Friday, November 27th	Possible Home Football Game (Finals)	5:30PM Call Time
Monday, November 30th	Candy Cane Lane Parade	TBD

December

TBD	Afterschool Concert Band Rehearsal #1	TBD
TBD	Afterschool Concert Band Rehearsal #2	TBD
TBD	Winter Concert	TBD
Monday, December 14 th	Band Booster Meeting	7:30PM Start

Disclaimer: The events and schedules listed in this calendar are tentative and subject to change. Please note that dates, times, and locations may be modified or canceled. We recommend checking the website (gwhsband.org) for updates regularly to stay informed about any changes. Thank you for your understanding and support!

Student & Parent Acknowledgement

I have read and understood the course content and expectations. I agree to respect others, give my best effort, and complete a full year in the Golden West Band & Guard program.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Student ID#: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Cell Phone: _____

Yes No – I am able to help the Band & Guard program with chaperoning, transportation, or other volunteer duties. (visit vusd.org/volunteer for volunteer application)

By signing, parents consent to their child’s participation and to the use of photos/videos of performances for program promotion and fundraising.



Golden West HS Band & Guard