



August 14, 2017

Welcome to the Ballard High School Theatre Arts Program!

I am excited to have you as a member of the program and look forward to a fantastic 2017-2018 school year. This year you will be challenged and inspired as we create memorable theatrical experiences, pursue artistic endeavors, and form lasting bonds and friendships.

The Ballard High School Theatre Arts Program has gained regional and international acclaim for its outstanding technical elements and inspired performances. The department participates in the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Musical Theatre Awards, having multiple nominations (three BEST OVERALL MUSICAL for *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Urinetown*, and *Children of Eden*) over the past six years and wins in the BEST COSTUME DESIGN (2012, 2014), BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS (2015), and BEST ORCHESTRA (2011) categories. A highlight for the department was our inclusion in the 2013 International Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This particular Fringe festival is the largest and oldest in the world. One of 40 high schools in the festival that included over 1500 different performances, BHS performed *Songs For A New World* during their 2 week visit.

BHS Theater Arts produces three stage productions each year. The fall play was cast last spring and will be Mary Zimmerman's play "Metamorphoses", based on Ovid's fifteen-volume work of transformation myths. It is positioned in and around a large pool on the stage. The musical comedy, "Damn Yankees", is a modern retelling of the Faust legend set during the 1950s in Washington, D.C. The 1955 production was nominated for nine Tony awards. The spring play, "Our Town" is a 1938 metatheatrical three-act play by American playwright Thornton Wilder. It tells the story of the fictional American small town of Grover's Corners between 1901 and 1913 through the everyday lives of its citizens. Listen to the announcements and follow the Performing Arts Booster Club website for audition materials and dates.

The following packet contains many important documents that we kindly request you read, complete, and return at your earliest convenience. Please mark your calendars now with important dates! We are fortunate to have a very supportive parent community – the Performing Arts Booster Club – that provides financial and volunteer assistance to ensure that students receive the richest arts experience possible. Please fill out the volunteer survey and join us in continuing the Ballard Performing Arts tradition of excellence.

Sincerely,

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