



# Ballard High School Band Handbook 2017-2018

September 6, 2017

Dear Band Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Student:

Welcome to another great year of music at Ballard! The Ballard Band program is recognized as one of the finest in the region, state, and nation and I am thrilled to have you be part of it. I am excited to see what this new school year will bring with the addition of many new students and the continued commitment to our tradition of excellence.

Please take a few moments to read through this handbook. It will outline some of the policies and procedures for the program and can serve as a resource for some of your questions. Throughout the year, do not hesitate to contact me with other questions or concerns. I am always willing to work with you to make your student's music education as positive an experience as possible.

After reading through the following pages, please print and sign the acknowledgment form on the last page and have your student return it to me by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, along with any band camp or scholarship forms.

Feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to a great year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael James, Director of Bands  
[mijames@seattleschools.org](mailto:mijames@seattleschools.org) (206) 252-1034

## ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

### Jazz Bands ---

Jazz Band 1 is the premier jazz band at Ballard and has recently emerged onto the Seattle jazz scene as one of the Northwest's top high school jazz bands. Its accomplishments include prestigious invitations to perform at the Essentially Ellington competition in New York (2012), the Swing Central Jazz Festival in Savannah (2014), and the Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey (2015.) The band won 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the Mt. Hood Jazz Festival (2013) and is the only band to have been named an Outstanding Jazz Ensemble for two consecutive years at the UW Jazz Festival (2016 and 2017). Jazz 1 has also performed at Seattle's Earshot Jazz Festival and Starbucks' "Hot Java Cool Jazz" concert.

Jazz Band 2 is comprised of students interested in learning the art of jazz through the study of jazz technique and improvisation. The band plays at all school concerts.

Jazz Band 1 meets daily before school (7:45am) for credit. Jazz Band 2 meets Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays before school (7:45am) for credit. Both Jazz Bands perform annually at Jazz Alley, one of Seattle's most prestigious jazz venues.

*\*Students should also enroll in band, orchestra or choir to play in Jazz Band.*

### Wind Ensemble---

The Wind Ensemble is the school's premier concert band. Membership is by audition only. This ensemble performs the highest level of literature written for the wind band medium by composers such as Grainger, Holst, Ticheli, Bryant, Mackey, and others. Recent honors include an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall in 2017 for the New York International Music Festival where they received a Gold rating for their performance of Leonard Bernstein's "Overture to Candide" and David Maslanka's "Give Us This Day." This year, the Wind Ensemble has been invited to perform on a prestigious concert hour at the WMEA State Music Teacher's Conference in Yakima in February 2018.

All Members of the Wind Ensemble also support the greater school community by performing as part of the award-winning Marching Band at football and basketball games and at parades throughout the Northwest. **Occ Ed Credit can be given to students in their junior and senior years.**

### Symphonic Band ---

The Symphonic Band is comprised of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade band students. Most incoming freshmen are placed into this band. Students in Symphonic Band perform technically and musically challenging repertoire throughout the year. An emphasis on fundamental concepts, including breathing, instrument-specific techniques, and mastery of musical skills, are an important component of this band.

All Members of the Symphonic Band also support the greater school community by performing as part of the award-winning Marching Band at football and basketball games and at parades throughout the Northwest.

### **Marching Band/Pep Band---**

The Award-Winning Ballard High School Marching Band is the largest marching band in all of Seattle Public Schools and is recognized throughout the Northwest and beyond for its excellence in music making and its precision in marching. The band is comprised of all students in the Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Percussion classes. It most recently won 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the 2016 Autumn Leaf Festival Parade in Leavenworth and has won numerous other awards and accolades at parades in Wenatchee, Victoria, Disneyland, and Seattle. The band has also been featured in a local commercial for Bartell Drugs.

The Marching Band performs at home football games and basketball games, 1-2 parades, and at pep assemblies and community events throughout the year. Its highly energetic and entertaining halftime show at the Homecoming football game is not to be missed! **Students can earn PE credit for their participation in the marching band.**

### **Percussion-**

The Percussion class is focused on all aspects of percussion technique and playing. Students will learn various skills on mallet instruments, snare drum, timpani, and all other concert percussion instruments. Students in the Percussion class perform as part of the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble but also through various percussion ensembles. Ballard Percussionists consistently represent the Elliott Bay Region at the State Solo/Ensemble competition and have twice placed in the top 3 at this prestigious event.

All Members of the Percussion class also support the greater school community by performing as the Drumline for the award-winning Marching Band at football and basketball games and at parades throughout the Northwest. **Occ Ed credit can be given to students in their junior and senior years.**

### **Performing Arts Booster Club**

The Performing Arts Booster Club is one of the strongest and most visible parent organizations at Ballard High School. The group assists in fundraising, chaperoning, and much of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into making the Ballard Music Program the best overall program in the Seattle School District. New volunteers are always needed and appreciated! There are several Booster Meetings throughout the school year. Please plan on attending as we need YOUR help in making this incredible program run smoothly. If you have any questions about the Booster Club, please visit our website at [www.ballardperformingarts.org](http://www.ballardperformingarts.org) or contact the Band Rep at [BPABbandrep@gmail.com](mailto:BPABbandrep@gmail.com).

## GRADING POLICY

Daily Points - 10%

Playing Tests – 40%

Participation – 50%

Total 100%

Being in an instrumental ensemble at Ballard High School requires a high degree of commitment. Students are expected to come to rehearsals on time, be prepared with all necessary materials, and be practicing their instrument at home on a regular basis.

### Daily Points

Students must meet all classroom expectations every day in order to earn these points. The music rehearsal must be a safe environment in which all students may learn, and **no student has the right to interfere with another student's music education**. Therefore, the following guidelines must be followed:

- Students will be in their seat with music, instrument, pencil, and necessary supplies when the music rehearsal begins. Students are expected to come to rehearsals with their music practiced and prepared.
- When the director is instructing, students will not play their instrument, talk, or be disruptive.
- Students will show respect to the teacher, other students and their property.
- Food, drink, gum, cell phones, and other electronic devices are not allowed in the music room during rehearsals.

Students must have their instrument and music in class every day to earn these points.

### Playing Tests

In order to assess a student's individual progress, regular playing tests will be given. These tests will often include scales, technical exercises, and excerpts from the music being played in class. Fundamentals such as articulation, technique, tone, intonation, rhythm, phrasing, and musicality will be assessed.

### Participation

As a member of a performing ensemble, it is crucial that students attend all performances, rehearsals, and other events. Each individual is an important part of the music organization and the other students rely on you to contribute to the group. Every performance is not only a vital part of the educational experience, it also a way to showcase our pride in Ballard's highly successful band program. Absences from rehearsals or performances will negatively affect a student's grade.

Students will be expected to wear certain uniforms for certain occasions. It is the student's responsibility to be in the correct uniform for each performance. Not having the complete and proper uniform for a given performance will result in loss of points for the performance, the inability to participate in the performance or both.

Whenever we perform, we represent the music program, the school, and the community. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in the loss of any or all field trips for the rest of the year and the corresponding participation points for each event.

The depth of coverage of material in this course requires active student engagement and participation. The failure to attend class prevents active student engagement. Because active student engagement is a necessary component of this class, attendance, tardiness, and class participation will be considered as a basis for grading in this course.

Attendance and daily points will constitute 10 % of your grade for this course. Doing work for other classes or work not assigned to be done during class, sleeping, social talking, being tardy or leaving class early without an excuse are all circumstances that may result in loss of daily participation points. Students will receive no participation points for days on which they have unexcused absences or do not have their instrument or music in class.

The Daily Points, Playing Tests and Participation points will be weighed accordingly and a final grade given based on the following scale:

93-100% = A	73-76% = C
90-92% = A-	70-72% = C-
87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
83-86% = B	60-66% = D
80-82% = B-	Below 60% = E
77-79% = C+	

- Students who do not consistently meet classroom expectations or receive a C- or lower at the end of a semester may be dropped from the music program.

### **ABSENCES/EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**Should circumstances require that a student miss an event, students must complete an “Excused Absence” form at least two weeks prior to a performance or twenty-four hours before a rehearsal/practice. It is up to the discretion of the Director if points will be able to be made up through completing a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments will be due within 48 hours of the missed activity and will earn a student up to 80% of the points for the missed activity.**

**An unexcused absence from a performance will result in the lowering of a student’s grade by 20%.**

## **CELL PHONES AND OTHER SUCH DEVICES:**

Cell phones and electronic devices are not permitted in the music classroom during rehearsal time. These items will be confiscated, either by the teacher or by building security, should a student choose to bring them to class and the student's daily grade will be negatively affected. If a student refuses to comply with this rule, a phone call will be made home and/or a referral will be sent to the assistant principal. The school is not responsible for loss or theft of these items.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS/FUNDRAISING**

The Ballard Music Department and Performing Arts Boosters take pride in the fact that we offer outstanding and educational musical opportunities including camps, festivals, performance trips, etc. It is our mission that all students be able to attend all events without worry of the financial obligation associated with such activities. We encourage all students to participate in the various fundraising opportunities that are offered throughout the year and to apply for scholarships, when needed. Scholarship forms can be found on the wall of the music room or on our website at [www.ballardperformingarts.org](http://www.ballardperformingarts.org) .

## **FEES/FINES**

The music room is filled with very expensive instruments and equipment. It is each person's responsibility to take care of their own personal instrument as well as the school equipment. Any person found to have damaged or broken any piece of school equipment may be charged the repair/replacement cost of the equipment.

Students renting school instruments must return those instruments in the same condition in which they were received or repair/replacement fees may be applied.

Students will be loaned concert attire for the year to be worn at all performances. A loss of, or damage to, any part of the uniform will result in a fine. Music Department tuxedos are to be worn ONLY at Music Department events.

### **Concert Uniform Replacement Fees Should They Be Lost Or Damaged:**

Skirt - \$43	Tux Jacket - \$215
Concert Top - \$41	Tux Pants- \$120
Dress Bag - \$20	Tux Bag - \$15
Bow Tie - \$6	Dress/Tux Hanger - \$2
Cummerbund - \$15	

NOTE: INSTRUMENTS KEPT IN THE INSTRUMENT STORAGE ROOM ARE NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BALLARD HIGH SCHOOL OR THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT. FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORE STUDENTS WILL BE ISSUED SCHOOL LOCKS TO BE USED ON THE INSTRUMENT LOCKERS TO ASSIST WITH SECURITY. JUNIORS AND SENIORS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN COMBINATION LOCK AND MAKE SURE THAT THE DIRECTOR HAS THE COMBINATION IN CASE OF EMERGENCY. IF THE SCHOOL LOCK IS LOST, A \$5 REPLACEMENT FINE WILL BE ASSESSED.

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I acknowledge that I have read through the 2017-2018 Ballard Band Handbook. I understand that being in the music program at Ballard is a high commitment and I will do my part to make the program a success and continue its tradition of excellence.

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Student Name (Printed) Date

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Student Signature Date

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Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) Date

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date

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Class Period

- This form is worth 25 points.
- It is due Friday, September 8th

- **2017-2018 Band Dates for Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Percussion** (as of 9/6/17)

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- SEPTEMBER

- 8-10 Band Camp
- 11-12 Concert Tux Fittings
- 12 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm, Library
- 16 Husky Band Day, call time 11am, game time 6:30pm, 9pm Estimated Return Time
- 30 Football vs. West Seattle, Call Time 3pm BHS. 5pm Game. 8pm Estimated Return Time

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- OCTOBER

- 10 All- Northwest Honor Band Auditions Due
- 10 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm
- 13 Football Game vs. Cleveland, Call Time 5:45pm, 7:45pm Game, 10:45pm estimated return
- 21 Homecoming Football Game vs. Liberty, Call Time 3pm, 5pm Game, 8:30pm estimated return
- 27 Football Playoff Game at Memorial, exact time TBA
- 28 Edmonds Jazz Symposium at Mountlake Terrace HS, Jazz Band 1, All Day

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- NOVEMBER

- 8 Fall Band Concert, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 14 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm
- 18 Spotlight Gala and Auction (Jazz 1 and 2), Swedish Cultural Center, evening time TBA

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- DECEMBER

- 6 Orchestra Concert and Combined Full Orchestra/Choir Masterwork, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 7 Band Concert and Combined Full Orchestra/Choir Masterwork, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 11 Choir Concert and Combined Full Orchestra/Choir Masterwork, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- TBA Basketball Games

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- JANUARY

- TBA Basketball Games
- 5-6 PLU Honor Band, Selected Band Students
- 9 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 27 UW Jazz Festival (Jazz Band 1), All Day

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- FEBRUARY

- 3 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner, BHS Commons, approx. 5-9pm
- 6 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 10 Elliott Bay Solo/Ensemble at SPU, All Day
- 15-16 Wind Ensemble trip to Yakima to perform at WMEA State Music Teachers Conference
- 16 Wind Ensemble Performance, 10:30am, Yakima Convention Center
- 16-18 All-State Honor Band (Yakima)
- 28 NW Region Band Concert (Wind Ensemble), 7pm, BHS Main Gym

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- MARCH

- 6 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 15-17 "Damn Yankees", 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 22-24 "Damn Yankees", 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 30 Hot Java Cool Jazz, Jazz Band 1, (tentative)

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- APRIL
- 3 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 6-8 Monterey Jazz Festival, Jazz 1, (tentative)
- 19-22 Whistler "Con Brio" Festival, Wind Ensemble
- 25 Jazz Bands 1 and 2 Combo Night, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 27-28 WIAA/WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Ellensburg
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- MAY
- 8 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 17 Ballard Parade, time TBA
- 29 Jazz Alley Performance, Jazz Band 1 and 2
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- JUNE
- 7 Spring Band Concert, 7:30pm, Early Kelly PAC
- TBA Graduation
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