



Ballard High School Band Handbook 2019-2020

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. We have performed at some of the biggest festivals and on some of the most famous stages in the entire country. I am thrilled to have you be part of the program and I look forward to the contributions that everyone will bring. I am excited to see what this new school year will bring as we continue the tradition of excellence that has been established in the Ballard Performing Arts program.

Please take a few moments to read through this handbook. It will outline some of the policies and procedures of the program and can serve as a resource for some of your questions. Throughout the year, do not hesitate to contact me or the Band parent representatives, Patti Kashiwa and Mishelle Jin, with additional questions or concerns throughout the year. I am always willing to work with each of you to make music education as positive and rewarding an experience as possible. Parents, I ask, in return that you work with me in supporting your child's musical growth through routine practice at home and by making all practices, rehearsals, and performances a priority in their schedule.

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 13th, along with any band camp or scholarship forms.

I am looking forward to another great year of high-level music-making!

Sincerely,

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

ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

Jazz Bands ---

Jazz Band 1 is the premier jazz band at Ballard and is one of the Northwest's top high school jazz bands. Its accomplishments include prestigious invitations to perform at the Essentially Ellington competition (2018 where they placed 6th and 2012 where they placed 7th), the Swing Central Jazz Festival in Savannah (2014), and the Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey (2018 and 2015.) The band has won 1st Place at the Bellevue and Mt. Hood Jazz Festivals and is the only band to have been named an Outstanding Jazz Ensemble for three consecutive years at the UW Jazz Festival (2016-2018). Jazz 1 appears regularly at Jazz Alley and in Starbucks' "Hot Java Cool Jazz" concert and has performed at Seattle's Earshot Jazz Festival.

Jazz Band 2 is comprised of students interested in learning the art of jazz through the study of jazz technique and improvisation. The group is comprised of a dedicated group of musicians. The band plays at all school concerts and events and has an annual appearance at Jazz Alley.

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.

**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," and a 2018 Concert Hour performance at the WMEA State Music Teachers Conference where they were the first-ever high school concert band from Seattle invited to perform.

All members of the Wind Ensemble are required to participate in the Elliott Bay Region Solo/Ensemble contest at SPU on February 1st, 2020 as either a soloist or as part of an ensemble. Members of this group 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 ---

Membership in the Symphonic Band is by audition only. There are 9th-12th grade students in this class. 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.

Concert Band ---

Membership in the Concert Band is open to all students in grades 9-12. Students in Concert 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 Concert 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 Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Percussion classes. It most recently won 1st 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, the Leavenworth and Ballard 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 Concert Band, 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 or contact the Band Rep at BPABbandrep@gmail.com.

GRADING POLICY

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 will receive no participation points for days on which they have unexcused absences or do not have their instrument or music in class. They will also lose daily participation points for being tardy or for using their cell phone.

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.

As a general guideline, there are points for every practice and performance. The amount of points vary based on the amount of time and preparation required for each event. Generally, there are two combined rehearsals with percussion prior to every concert. Since percussion students are in a separate class, this is the only way to get all of the students together prior to the performance.

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 Ballard Band program, Ballard High School, and the greater Ballard community. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and may result in the loss of any or all field trips and the corresponding participation points for missed events.

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.

Daily Points, Participation, Performances and Tests/Homework points will accumulate throughout the semester and a final grade will be given based on the following scale:

93-100% = A

90-92% = A-

87-89% = B+

83-86% = B

80-82% = B-

77-79% = C+

73-76% = C

70-72% = C-

67-69% = D+

60-66% = D

Below 60% = E

- 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 may 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:

Studies have shown that the brain can take up to 10 minutes to re-engage after responding to a cell-phone distraction. A ‘ding’ or ‘buzz’ from a phone or the illumination of a screen can distract even the best of students let alone those around him or her. Cell phones, while important tools for communication and even research, offer very little to the classroom setting in a music ensemble. College and professional musicians do not use cell phones during rehearsals and performances. Therefore, cell phones will not be allowed during Ballard band and percussion rehearsals. To help allay the temptation to have a phone on a music stand or to pull one out of a pocket, students will be requested to place their cell phone in the numbered cell phone holder near the front of the room when they enter class. This holder is in plain sight of all students so that they can keep an eye on their phone throughout the class period if they feel the need. After music rehearsal, students can pick up their phones on the way out of class. Occasionally, students may be allowed to keep their cell phones in their bags, out of sight and out of mind.

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 families to participate in the various fundraising opportunities that are offered throughout the year and to apply for scholarships, as needed. Scholarship forms can be found on the wall of the music room or on our website at 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	

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Instrument Lockers are available for student use in the Instrument Storage Room in the Band Room. Please make sure to only take a locker that fits the size of your instrument and, if possible, try to share a locker with another student. It is the individual student's responsibility to provide a lock for their locker and to ensure that their lock is used at all times, even during classtime. Instruments stored in the Instrument Storage Room are not the responsibility of Ballard High School or Seattle Public Schools. Students who use school instruments must keep these instruments locked in their lockers when not in use.

It is strongly encouraged that each student figure out a way to take their instruments home on a regular basis to practice their music and to progress in their playing. Private lessons are also strongly encouraged to help foster the individual growth of each student. Mr. James will be happy to help students find a teacher who is right for them.

Band students **ALWAYS** have homework for band class – to practice!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I acknowledge that I have read through the 2019-2020 Ballard Band Handbook online at www.ballardperformingarts.org under the Band Tab. 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.

Student Name (Printed)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Class

Period

- **This form is due Friday, September 13th and will be a grade in the grade book.**

- **2019-2020 Band Dates for All Bands and Percussion** (as of 9/9/19)

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- SEPTEMBER
- 6-8 Band Camp
- 9-10 Concert Tux Fittings
- 10 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 6:30pm, Library
- 21 Football vs. Rainier Beach, call time 4:00pm, game time 6:00pm, 9:30pm estimated return
- 27 Football vs. Lakeside, call time 5:45pm, game time 7:45pm, 11pm estimated return
- 28 Leavenworth Parade, 7:30am-7pm
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- OCTOBER
- 3 Homecoming Show Practice, 5-7pm, BHS Football Field
- 4 Homecoming Show "Field Trip" and All-Day Rehearsal
- 4 Homecoming Football Game vs. Sealth, Call Time 3:30pm, 5pm Game, 8:30pm estimated return
- 8 All- Northwest Honor Band Auditions Due
- 8 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 6:30pm, Library
- 25 Football Game vs. Bainbridge, Call Time 3:30pm, 5:00pm Game, 8:30pm estimated return
- TBA Football Playoff Games
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- NOVEMBER
- 6 Fall Band Concert (All Bands and Percussion), 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 12 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 6:30pm, Library
- 16 Spotlight Gala and Auction (Jazz 1 and 2 Perform), Swedish Cultural Center, evening time TBA
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- DECEMBER
- 6 Basketball vs. West Seattle, 6:30pm Call Time
- 13 Basketball vs. Holy Names/O'Dea, 6:30pm Call Time
- 17 Winter Band Concert + Masterwork, 7:30pm
- 18 Winter Choir Concert + Masterwork, 7:30pm
- 19 Winter Orchestra Concert + Masterwork, 7:30pm
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- JANUARY
- 8 Pizza and Pep Band Night vs. Lakeside, all band students, 5:30pm Call Time
- 10-11 PLU Honor Band, Selected Band Students
- 17 Basketball vs. Bainbridge, 6:30pm Call Time
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- FEBRUARY
- 1 61st Annual Spaghetti Dinner, BHS Commons, approx. 5-9pm (all groups)
- 1 Elliott Bay Solo/Ensemble at SPU, All Day
- 4 Jazz Bands Concert, 7:30pm
- 7 BB vs. Roosevelt, 6:30pm Call Time
- 14-16 WA All-State Honor Band in Yakima, Selected Students
- 25 NW Region Band Concert (Wind Ensemble), 7pm, BHS Main Gym
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- MARCH
- 19-21 "Xanadu", 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 26-28 "Xanadu", 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 26 Elliott Bay Region HS Band Festival at SPU
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- APRIL
- 3-5 Jazz 1 to Monterey (tentative)
- 9-11 Wind Ensemble to Portland
- 24-25 WIAA/WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Ellensburg
- 29 Jazz Combo Night (Jazz Bands 1 and 2), 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
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- MAY
- 17 Ballard Parade, 12:30pm call time, 2:00pm Parade
- 26 Jazz Alley Performance, Jazz Band 1 and 2, 7:00pm
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- JUNE
- 4 Spring Band Concert (Jazz, Con, Sym, WE, Perc), 7:30pm, Early Kelly PAC
- 17 Graduation, (WE and selected Perc and Sym), 5:30pm, Memorial Stadium
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