



Ballard High School Band Handbook 2024-2025

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, Karen Morse for the concert and marching bands, or Jenn & Larry Fosnick Davis for jazz, with additional questions or concerns throughout the year. I am always happy 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 reach out with any questions regarding any of the material. The performing arts spaces during my high school days were always where I felt most at home and where I could be my most authentic self, both musically and personally. I hope that we can create a similar space here at Ballard and show the students just how rewarding being a member of a musical community like Ballard can be!

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

Sincerely,

Mr. Jay Gillespie, Director of Bands
jrgillespie@seattleschools.org 360-328-0283

ENSEMBLE OFFERINGS

Jazz Bands ---

Ballard Big Band (Jazz 1): The premier jazz band at Ballard and is one of the Northwest's top high school jazz bands. This group is by audition only and limited slots are available. The group focuses on modern and classic big band repertoire as well as placing a strong focus on improvisation. Members from this group also comprise the Jazz Combo and the New Orleans style brass band, Ballard Brass. Brass Band meets every Friday during class and performs regularly.

Ballard Lab Band (Jazz 2): Comprised of students interested in learning the art of jazz through the study of jazz technique and improvisation. For the first year ever, this group will be by audition only and will contain the instrumentation of a classic big band, much like Jazz 1. The group is comprised of a dedicated group of musicians and teaches students the skills expected to enter Ballard Big Band.

Jazz 3: Jazz 3 is open to all students regardless of experience or instrument. This group will focus on the basics of jazz: articulation, swing, improvisation, theory, etc. but will do so in a small jazz combo format. A great opportunity for students to dip their toes in jazz and see what they can expect at higher levels

Jazz Band 1 meets daily before school (7:45am) for credit.

Jazz Band 2 meets M, W, F before school (7:45am) for credit

Jazz Band 3 meets Tu, Th, F 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. Membership in Wind Ensemble is a privilege and not all students will be invited to join.

All members of the Wind Ensemble are required to participate in the Elliott Bay Region Solo/Ensemble contest at SPU in February 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 Marching Band at football games, basketball games, and 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 of the Marching Band at football games, basketball games and 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 Marching Band at football games, basketball games, and parades throughout the Northwest.

Marching Band/Pep Band---

The Ballard High School Marching Band is one of the largest marching bands 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 Concert Band, Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Percussion classes.

The Marching Band performs at home football games and basketball games, a variety of 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.

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

GRADING POLICY

Participating in the musical ensembles at Ballard does entail a level of commitment that is higher than many classes in high school. 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 Practice

It is vital that students play their instruments outside of the classroom. Only through the low-pressure environment provided by individual practice are skills going to be developed and mastered. I understand that most of the band students are exceptionally precocious and involved with many activities, so time is at a premium. **My expectation though is that students practice for 20 minutes daily.** Giving students one grace day each week will make that a total of **2 hours per week.** While I understand that circumstances may preclude students practicing every day and

time may have to be made up, it is much more beneficial to practice a small amount daily than in big chunks irregularly. Not only are we training our mind when we practice, but the physicality of using our mouths and fingers means we are training our muscles as well. Practicing a small amount daily is the best way to achieve the desired results. A practice log will be turned in weekly by students and will be signed by parents verifying practice. Practice logs are expected to be detailed describing what was practiced for how long.

- How and what you practice is just as, or more important as how long you practice. I will be providing students with a general outline of how to structure their practice time. It is a loose outline but will give students some direction on how to make the most of their practice sessions.

Playing Assignments

There will be regular playing assignments which will be submitted through video and/or audio recording on Schoology or done in class in person. These assignments will generally be a specific skill exercise from the Sound Innovations book or a selection from current songs we are playing. Students have a grace period after the due date until the quarter completion to turn in assignments for full credit. Assignments turned in after the quarter will not be accepted unless student has a 504 or IEP accommodation or extenuating circumstance is communicated with Mr. Gillespie.

Playing Tests

In order to assess a student's individual progress, 2 yearly playing tests will be administered. These tests will include 4 individual parts; scales, a prepared piece, sight reading and a short research portion. This assessment will be recorded and turned in on Schoology. Fundamentals such as articulation, technique, tone, intonation, rhythm, phrasing, and musicality will be assessed.

Performances & Rehearsals

- As a member of a performing ensemble, it is crucial that students attend all performances, rehearsals, and other events. Each student 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. Unexcused absences from rehearsals or performances will negatively affect a student's grade.
- As a general guideline, there are points for most after school practices and performances. Usually, 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 the students together prior to the performance. There are also a few practices preceding the homecoming game and the major parades.
- 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.

- Point breakdown:
 - Weekly practice Log – 60 pts
 - Playing Assignments – 50 pts
 - Performances - 100pts
 - Playing tests – 200pts

Weekly practice log, Playing Assignments, Performances and Playing Test points will accumulate throughout the semester and a final grade will be 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+	

ABSENCES/EXCUSED ABSENCES

If you have a sporting event (a game or a meet, practice does not count) during a marching/pep band performance, such as a parade, football game, or basketball game, then you will be excused from the performance if you choose to attend your sporting event. The three yearly concerts in the auditorium are mandatory regardless of sports. *You must let Mr. Gillespie know at least two weeks in advance to be excused from a marching/pep performance for a sporting event.* Other absences are up to the discretion of Mr. Gillespie if they will be excused. If a performance is missed due to an unexcused absence, makeups can be done in the form of a performance of a prepared piece for 75% of the original grade. Rehearsals are excused on a case-by-case basis. Please communicate early and often about potential conflicts.

GENERAL BAND INFORMATION

Rehearsal Etiquette

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:

- Once the bell rings students will have 5 minutes to get their instruments and supplies ready to play. This includes any individual warmups. Rehearsal will start promptly 5 minutes after the bell. The beginning of rehearsal is exceedingly important as it will be devoted to specific skill development and warmups. Missing this portion of rehearsal due to tardiness on a regular basis will significantly impede learning throughout the year.
- 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.
- Standard rehearsal etiquette is extremely important. Students should not be playing or talking after conducting has stopped. This is extremely disruptive to the rehearsal and will not be tolerated.
- 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. **CELL PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING CLASS.** There is a pouch at the entrance of the room where cell phones will be deposited at the beginning of class and retrieved at the conclusion of class.

- I will post a daily itinerary every day on the board in addition to important upcoming dates and pertinent information. Students should refer to that immediately upon entrance to the class.

Sheet Music - Everyone has a sheet music slot and music should be stored there unless bringing home to practice. **YOU SHOULD NEVER HAVE AN ORIGINAL PIECE OF MUSIC.** The copy machine is in the hallway to make a copy of any originals. All music we are playing at any given time is stored in the black bins in the back of the room. If you lose or misplace your music, you can get a copy or make a copy of an original from there. Music needs to be replaced in the appropriate folder in order if copies are made during class.

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 keep their locker locked. 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. **Please close the door of your locker when finished and always put your instrument away in the locker after rehearsal!**

Turning in Permission slips/fees/paperwork – In the back of the band room by the choir room doors is a black mailbox. All permission slips, payments, and other paperwork is to be turned in there. Do not turn these things into Mr. Gillespie!!

Football Games

- The band plays at all home football games, usually 3-4 per season. We wear marching band uniforms and bus to and from the game.
- All football games are at Memorial Stadium, 401 5th Ave N. All students bus to and from the game in uniform.
- Call time for football games is generally 2 hours before the game at the band room. Busses leave promptly 1 hour before game begins.
- During the homecoming football game, the band performs a field show at halftime. The main and only large rehearsal for that halftime show is an all-day rehearsal during school on the day of the game. Participation in that practice is necessary to participate in the halftime show.

Basketball Games

- The band plays for 8 varsity basketball home games in the Ballard gymnasium every season.
- Students are only required to attend 5 of those games. Attending extra games will earn service hours, extra credit, or both.
- Call time for these games is 30 minutes before gametime.
- Black band t-shirts are the required uniform for basketball games.

Parades

- Ballard usually participates in 3-4 parades yearly.
- Ballard marches in their marching band uniforms and call time is dependent on travelling distance.
- Students usually travel to parades by bus (Students walk to the Syttende Mai parade)

Uniforms

- Marching band uniforms are kept at school in the office by the stage. Checking out and checking in these uniforms is well oiled machine. Students are expected to turn in these uniforms hung in a specific fashion and kept very tidy. While wearing the uniforms no saucy foods (ketchup, mustard, spaghetti, etc) are permitted. No make up is permitted. Anything that can stain the uniform is strictly off limits. Each marching band uniform costs over \$500 and represents a huge investment for our program. Damage caused by student carelessness will be covered by the student.
- Concert dress (tuxes and black dresses) will be checked out to students at the beginning of the year and will be kept with students at home. Once the uniform is checked out to you, you are expected to take it home! Students who leave their tux or dress at school will have it locked in the office and charged a \$5 fee to retrieve it. We simply do not have room to store peoples concert attire at school. These uniforms will be turned back in at the end of the year and any damage will be the student's responsibility to pay for.

Section Leaders – Section leaders are your point of contact for most things band related. If they cannot help, they will at least be able to point you in the direction of someone who can. In addition to the marching band section leaders, I will be selecting section leaders in each of the bands. These will be students who show excellent musicianship, leadership skills, rehearsal etiquette, and want take charge of the section. If you are interested in filling this leadership role, please let Mr. Gillespie know as the end of the year approaches.

Private lessons – Private Lessons are strongly encouraged to help foster the individual growth of each student. Private lessons can be offered during class time at the school through some of the professional musicians we partner with in the community. Students simply pop out of their ensemble rehearsal for a lesson once a week. Mr. Gillespie will be happy to help students find a teacher who is right for them this is something that interests them. We also have a limited fund of money to sponsor students who would like to take private lessons if cost is a prohibitive factor. Please do not hesitate to ask Mr. Gillespie if you are interested in private lessons!

Practice Rooms - Practice rooms are available for students to practice in at their convenience. ***There is no food or drink in the practice rooms and they are not a place to hang out with your friends.*** Non-music students are not permitted in the practice rooms. If you would like to use the practice rooms to practice during a class time other than band, please present a pass to Mr. Gillespie from your teacher permitting you to miss their class.

Basic Class Expectations Rundown

- ***The band room is a safe place for everyone. We are supportive of everyone's musicianship regardless of their ability. We always build up, never tear down!!! Mean spirited comments are never tolerated.***
- No cell phones in class! Phones go in the phone home the moment you enter class.
- Be respectful, do not talk over me or your classmates that have the floor.
- **Stop playing when I stop conducting!!!**
- The only musical requirement is that you try your hardest to make the most beautiful music you can.

- **CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF!** Instruments go in lockers when not in use, music in your slot, garbage picked up, etc. Hundreds of students use this space, be courteous of this.

EQUIPMENT & PERSONAL SHEET MUSIC

At Ballard High School, we pride ourselves on being able to offer an instrument to anyone who needs it. While some of our instruments are of very high quality, the nature of instruments being passed down year after year means that they might not always be of the highest quality. If you find that you are wanting to purchase or rent an instrument for your student, I am providing some resources below specific to each instrument. I have compiled this information from professionals in the area to give you some point of reference if you are in the market.

In addition to equipment, I have also included some recommended sheet music and method book resources that students should look into getting. It is always a good idea to have a couple books of your own to practice. Also, if you ever have any question regarding how/where/what to purchase please reach out and if I can't answer your questions, I will point you in the right direction! Ted Brown music and Kennelly Keys are also great resources to try out equipment or finance the purchase of any equipment.

Flute

- Instruments – beginner to intermediate players generally start with closed hole flutes. Most professional flutes have open holes however due to the purer tone and ability to play extended techniques. They take getting used to though so be prepared for a learning curve if switching. They do make plastic plugs that you can the holes with if you want.
 - Beginner – Yamaha, Gemeinhardt, Di Zhou (Di Zhou was the favorite!)
 - Intermediate – Di Zhou, Altus Azumi, Miyazawa
 - Professional – Haynes, Yamaha, Altus Azumi, Gemeinhardt
- Method Books
 - Selected Studies for Flute, H. Voxman
 - Melodious and Progressive Studies for Flute, Cavally
 - Romantic Etudes, E. Koehler

Oboe

- Reeds
 - www.Obonik.com
 - www.Shalitaoboereeds.com
 - www.Pnwreeds.com
- Instruments
 - Beginner - Selmer Bundy, Rosewood, Yamaha
 - Advanced – Fox Renard, Fossati
- Method Books
 - Barrett Oboe Method
 - Gekeler Method for Oboe
 - Melodious Etudes for Oboe, Marcus Bordogni
 - Rubank beginner, intermediate, advanced methods

Clarinet

- Reeds – beginning students should start on 2-2.5 strength. Students should be moving to a 3-3.5 strength by sophomore year.

- Vandoren - Blue Box, V16, 56 Rue Lepic
- Rico - Rico Royal, Mitchell Lurie
- D'Addario - La Voz
- Mouthpieces
 - Vandoren – M13, M15, M30, B45
 - Yamaha – 4C/5C
 - Selmer
- Instruments
 - Beginner – Selmer, Yamaha, Buffet
 - Advanced – Buffet R13
- Method Books
 - Klose Celebrated Method for Clarinet
 - C. Baermann Complete Method for Clarinet
 - Kell 17 Staccato Studies
 - Rose Artistic Studies for Clarinet, edited by David Hite

Saxophone

- Mouthpiece – In general the saxophone mouthpiece is much more important than the instrument itself. Think of the mouthpiece as the fundamental sound and the instrument as a method of amplifying that sound. Most mouthpieces that come with instruments are not very good so investing in a decent mouthpiece is a very good idea. Also, students playing jazz should have a jazz mouthpiece and a classical mouthpiece as they are VERY different. For jazz there is metal and hard rubber mouthpieces. It really just depends on how much edge you are looking for in your sound and what you prefer. I recommend trying mouthpieces before you buy anything.
 - Classical – Selmer S80 or C*, Eugene Rousseau, Yamaha 5C
 - Jazz – Meyer, Otto Link, Jody Jazz, Berg Larsen, Brillhart, Drake, Dukoff
- Ligature – Ligatures are less important than the mouthpiece but can make a difference in your sound depending how they hold the reed on.
 - Vandoren Optimum, Rovner, BG
- Reeds – Reeds can make a huge difference in your sound and are worth experimenting with different kinds and sizes. Young players should start with a strength 2 and eventually move up to a 2.5 or 3.
 - Vandoren (industry standard. Blue box for classical, V16, ZZ, Java for jazz), Rico Royal, Hemke, La Voz
- Instruments
 - Beginner – Selmer Bundy 2, Allora, Yamaha
 - Intermediate – Selmer, Yamaha, Yanigasawa, Cannonball, P.Mauriat
 - Professional – Yamaha Custom Z or EX, Selmer Series II, III or Supreme, Keilworth, Cannonball, Yanigasawa, P. Mauriat
- Method Books
 - Klose 25 daily studies
 - Selected Studies, H. Voxman
 - Jazz – any Lennie Niehaus book
 - Jazz – Charlie Parker Omnibook

Trumpet

- Mouthpieces
 - 5c – Most students
 - 3c, 1.5c, 1c – More advanced students, students with fuller lips

- Shallow “lead” mouthpieces – Only for jazz band lead players
- Instruments
 - All levels – Yamaha, Bach, King
 - Advanced - Adams
- Method Books
 - Arban’s Complete Conservatory Method For Trumpet
 - Allen Vizutti Trumpet Method
 - Most Rubank Books
 - Clark Technical Studies for Trumpet

French Horn – There are single, double and Bb French horns so please consult with a professional before purchasing something to make sure you are getting what you need!

- Mouthpieces
 - Schilke, Osmun, and Houghton Horns, Holton Farkas
- Instruments
 - Beginner – Intermediate - Yamaha 667D, Conn 8D
 - Advanced – Conn, Holton, Jon Packer
- Method Books
 - 335 Selected Melodious Progressive & Technical studies for horn
 - Grand Theoretical and Practical Method for Horn, Joseph Schantl
 - Kopprasch 60 selected studies
 - Franz Complete Method for Horn

Trombone

- Mouthpieces
 - Bach 12C
 - Yamaha YAC
 - Coppergate 5G
- Instruments
 - Conn, Bach, Getzen, King, Edwards, Holton, Courtois
- Method Books
 - Arban Method for Trombone
 - Voxman Selected Studies for Trombone
 - Melodious Etudes for Trombone, Joannes Rochut

Euphonium/Baritone

- Mouthpieces – *Shank size is important!!!* Most student level euphoniums use small shanks while higher level euphoniums use large shanks.
 - Bach 6 ½ AL (Beginning Players)
 - Schilke 51D (Intermediate players)
 - Bach 5G (Intermediate players)
 - Brian Bowman BB1 (Advanced)
 - Dennis Wick SM4U (Advanced)
- Instruments
 - Yamaha YEP-201 (3 valve, standard student horn)
 - Yamaha YEP-321 (4 valve standard student horn)
 - Eastman, John Packer, Jupiter are also decent student models
 - John Packer JP374 or JP274 (Intermediate)
 - Yamaha YEP-642II NEO (Professional)
 - Willson 2900 (Professional)

- Besson Prestige 2052 (Professional)
- Method Books
 - Arban Complete Method Book for Trombone and Euphonium (MUST HAVE!)
 - Melodious Etudes for Trombone, transcribed by Joannes Rochut
 - Voxman Selected Studies for Baritone

Tuba

- Mouthpieces
 - Yamaha 67C
 - Bach 24/AW
 - Dennis Wick 3L
 - Perantucci 84
- Instruments
 - Willson, Yamaha, Miraphone, B&S
- Method Books
 - 43 Bel Canto Studies for Tuba, Marco Bordogni
 - Arban Complete Method for Tuba
 - 70 Studies for Tuba, Vladislav Blazhevich

Percussion

- All percussionists need a practice pad and a set of Vic Firth SD1 sticks