

BALLARD PERFORMING ARTS

Ballard High School Band, Choir, Orchestra and Theatre
Seattle, Washington



August 25, 2021

Welcome Ballard Performing Art Incoming and Returning Students and Families!

We are so excited to meet your new students, see returning students, and start a fantastic 2021-2022 school year. You will be challenged and inspired as we create memorable musical experiences, pursue artistic endeavors, and form lasting bonds and friendships. Ballard Music is an inclusive and diverse program that cultivates community amongst its members. There is a place for everyone, and we're thrilled to welcome you!

Ballard High School Music has earned local, regional and national acclaim for its inspired performances and outstanding ensembles. The top music ensembles have traveled to festivals and competitions across the country and have won multiple awards and recognitions. We are very proud of the collaboration between our ensembles. Each winter we present our annual large combined choral/orchestral work such as Handel's "Messiah," Orff's "Carmina Burana", and Vivaldi's "Gloria." In addition, each year Ballard's Music Department combines with our Theatre Department to produce a professional level musical theatre production which is consistently recognized as one of the best high school musicals in the state.

Our programs at Ballard High School are unique within the Seattle Public Schools. All four of our directors work as a team with our boosters to support all the bands, choirs, orchestras and the theatre department. There are more than 15 groups total under the Ballard Performing Arts umbrella! This year we will continue our ongoing work of decolonization and the building of a culturally responsive, welcoming environment for our community to thrive within. We will endeavor to bring our strengths together as accountability partners to deliver an even more effective and powerful curriculum that serves all our students.

The following packet contains a snapshot of upcoming dates, communication channels, and volunteer opportunities. [The BPA web site](#) will also have updated information as it becomes available. Please mark your calendars now with next year's important dates! We are fortunate to have a very supportive parent community—the Ballard High School Performing Arts Booster Club (BPAB)—that provides financial and volunteer assistance to ensure that students receive the richest arts experience possible. We hope that you join us in any way you can, and help to continue our tradition of innovation and excellence in the Ballard Performing Arts program.

We look forward to an amazing year!

Ms. Elizabeth Fortune
Director of Orchestras
(206) 252-1034

Mr. Jay Gillespie
Director of Bands
(206) 252-1034

Ms. Courtney Rowley
Director of Choirs
(206) 252-1035

efortune@seattleschools.org jrgillespie@seattleschools.org chrowley@seattleschools.org

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Camps

Each fall, Directors and students look forward to our annual camps that bond groups and share knowledge and instruction in an overnight weekend event. Typically, over weekends during the first month of the school year, all students from each musical group (band, choir and orchestra) attend a weekend camp. It is a weekend trip designed to create bonds, learn skills before the start of early fall activities at BHS and have some fun. Due to district mandates, this year's camps will be day camps instead of overnight trips, but they will be packed with fun and learning.

Camp date are as follows (See additional paperwork for camp specifics)

Band camp: September 10-12

Orchestra camp: September 17-19

Choir camp: September 25

Uniform Fittings

Uniform Fittings Start Sept. 1

Everyone in the music program needs to be fitted for uniforms. For concert wear, students can choose from formal dresses or tuxes that the department loans to students for the school year. All band students participate in marching band and must be fitted for marching band uniforms. Fittings will be on the stage in the auditorium.

Volunteers are NEEDED to help with uniform fittings. [Please check the SignUp genius to let us know when you are available to assist.](#) Seniors and Section Leaders are invited to sign up to assist and earn volunteer hours. (Volunteer paperwork must be completed)

Concert Dresses and Marching Band Uniforms

Incoming students:

Before and after school - Sept 7, 8, 9 according to last name.

Last Name Begins A-G - Sept 7 from 8-8:45am or 3:45-5pm

Last Name Begins H-P - Sept 8 from 8-8:45am or 2:30-5pm

Last Name Begins P-Z - Sept 9 from 8-8:45am or 3:45-5pm

Returning Students:

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Juniors and Seniors should come for fittings between 8 and 10:30 a.m. on the first day of school, September 1, to fit your concert wear and marching band uniforms. (School for upperclassmen does not start until 11 am that day)

For students in Link Crew or with other obligations, we will have additional fittings at the following times. All returning students must be refitted by the end of day Sept 3.

Sept 1 - 3:45-5pm

Sept 2 - 8-8:45am and 3:45-5pm

Sept 3 - 8-8:45am and 3:45-5pm

Concert tuxes

Measurements for tuxes will be handled in class after school begins.

Need to Pick up an Instrument?

Do you need an instrument for the school year? Please email directors, and include your first and last name, grade, and the class that you are enrolled in.

Email directors to make arrangements: jrgillespie@seattleschools.org for band and eafortune@seattleschools.org for orchestra

Program Fees

Program Fees help to pay for buses, some trips, uniforms and other supplies that support the students and the program.

1) Annual Fee for the school year (for band, orchestra or choir):

\$155.00

This is paid by all students in band, orchestra or choir, and only one time, if your student is in multiple groups.

2) Additional Class Fees

Jazz I = \$200

Jazz II = \$100

Percussion = \$50

Fiddle = \$200

3) ASB Cards for Band Only

A \$35 fee for an Associated Student Body (ASB) card is required by the school of all marching band students, primarily for entry to the football games. Fee must be paid by October 1. Once all marching band students have purchased their ASB card, the

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Music Department receives a significant allotment of money to help with our expenses. These cards can be purchased in the Activity Center next to the Commons, or via School Pay.

4) Camp Fees

Typically there are some fees associated with the camp. In the past, they have ranged from \$150 to \$180 per student to cover the cost of overnight lodging, meals, and coaches. It will be less this year because we cannot yet do overnight trips, but we still need to cover the costs of coaches, food, and in some cases transportation. Final costs will be calculated and communicated soon.

Pay fees by going to the Payment and Ticket Sale Tab at ballardperformingarts.org and find your group. (Create an account to keep track of payments.)

All Program fees are due September 25, 2021

***** Scholarships Are Available *****

The Music faculty, together with the Ballard High School Performing Arts Booster Club, is committed to providing a high-quality experience for all students who wish to participate in Performing Arts activities regardless of financial circumstances. If you are in need of scholarship assistance, please fill out the Scholarship Form, which will be live on our website (click on the "Payments and Tickets" Tab) after the first day of school. Please contact your group rep if you need assistance (See rep emails at end of this letter). Any student that wants to be in the music program will have assistance if needed.

The boosters also offer several student fundraisers throughout the year to help with costs of trips, etc. These are great because your student can "bank" their earnings and carry it over from year to year to fund their trips.

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Stay Connected: Web Site, Enews, Social Media, REMIND

[Ballard Performing Arts Website](https://www.ballardperformingarts.org/)

This is where you can find out about auditions, contact the board and directors, make payments and donations, buy tickets for performances, FAQs about uniforms and events, music camp and field trip paperwork, links to weekly newsletters and more. You can also stay up to date with any events that have been scheduled by subscribing to our calendar:

<https://www.ballardperformingarts.org/calendar>

Newsletter

If you follow only one communication source, the weekly newsletter is the one, delivered every Tuesday during the school year. Specific and timely information is provided there and updated on the website. Sign up for the newsletter by [using this form](#). You can find the latest copy of the newsletter under the Calendars & Communications Tab at the top, under *Current Newsletter* and archives of [past newsletters](#).

Social Media

Follow our Ballard Performing Arts social media channels:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ballardperformingarts>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BHSMusicDrama>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ballardperformingarts/>

Remind Texts

We use an app called REMIND to keep families and students notified by text of all sorts of information. This easy and convenient app includes event reminders, uniform reminders, notifications about news, locations, arrival/departures. Each fall REMIND codes are updated and distributed to all students and families. [We will also list them on the website the first week of school. Be sure to sign up for the 2021 2022 codes.](#)

Direct Emails

Don't miss an important email for your group--sign up for the student directory. For parents, guardians and students. Students, provide your personal email, not your SPS email. Sign up here: [2021/22 BPAB Request for Contact Information Form](#)

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Volunteer Opportunities

Can you take photos at our concerts? Do you really click with social media and want to contribute to those channels? Would you like to videotape shows? Can you chaperone students on trips or to football games?

There are many moving parts to the BPA program to keep students, events, and fundraising on track and we would love help from parents and guardians to keep the wheels moving. We often send out opportunities by newsletter and use *Sign Up Genius* to recruit volunteers for our annual Dessert Dash, uniform fittings, bake sales, and organizing one-off fundraisers. What is your superpower? Our team can use your talent!

We currently need help with:

Fundraising Chair

Take on one major fundraiser event or effort or at least supervise/be the point person on the leadership team for the main event and other fundraising efforts. No fundraising experience required and lots of guidance is available! Contact Jeannette at bpabpresident@gmail.com for more info.

Spaghetti Dinner Lead

Coordinate and organize the most fun event of the year that involves all the performing arts groups. Work with a friend as a team! Join a group of outstanding parents who procures the food, sells tickets, organizes volunteers, etc. Contact Jeannette at bpabpresident@gmail.com if you're interested.

Grant Writer

Research grants to apply for and write grant proposals for Ballard Performing Arts Boosters Club as assigned by directors. Grant writing experience is a plus but not necessary. Email Jeannette at bpabpresident@gmail.com if you're interested. Contact ballardperformingarts@gmail.com for info.

To volunteer with Seattle Public Schools, [you MUST complete the SPS online process.](#)

PLEASE start this process--or check your volunteer status here--ASAP. We need parents/guardians cleared to help with camps in September. Paperwork needs to be filled out and submitted, along with ID and other requirements such as proof of Covid-19 vaccination. It can take up to two weeks for paperwork to be approved.

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Join the Boosters Group!

BPAB has a terrific group of volunteer parents who work closely with the directors to communicate with families in each performing arts group.

We meet monthly, generally the 2nd Tuesday of the month, to make plans for the program. **The first meeting of the year is Tuesday, September 14, 2021. Board meeting is at 6 p.m. (everyone welcome) and the Parent info meeting is at 7 p.m.** This will be an in-person meeting in the library and a Zoom meeting option; an invitation will be emailed to parents who have signed up for the directory and will be listed on the BPA website calendar. [Follow the calendar for future meeting dates.](#)

If you have questions about your student's specific band, orchestra, choir or theatre group, please feel free to reach out to any of reps listed below:

Band Rep: Carol Cheyne - BPABbandrep@gmail.com

Jazz Band Rep: Mishelle Jin - BPABjazzrep@gmail.com

Choir Rep: Lori & Stuart Onstad - BPABchoirrep@gmail.com

Orchestra Rep: Page Abrahamson - BPABorchestrarep@gmail.com

Theatre Rep: Bonnie Moses - BPABtheatrerep@gmail.com

Or, reach out to the Ballard Performing Arts Board Leadership Team:

Rachel Hart Rios, co-president - ballardperformingarts@gmail.com

Jeannette Chen, co-president - bpabpresident@gmail.com

Carol Cheyne, Band Rep - bpabbandrep@gmail.com

Jill Hansen, administrative assistant and co treasurer - bpabtreasurer@gmail.com

Elizabeth Clyma, secretary - bpabsecretary@gmail.com

Amanda Workman, webmaster - bpabwebsite@gmail.com

We are excited to have you as a member of Ballard Performing Arts! We take great pride in our community, and look forward to welcoming you as a part of it. We look forward to a great year of inspiration!