



Ballard High School Band Handbook 2016-2017

September 13, 2016

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

Welcome to another great year of music at Ballard! We are recognized as one of the finest band programs in the state, region and nation and I am thrilled to welcome you to the Ballard Bands. I am excited to see what this new school year will bring with the addition of many new students and our continued commitment to 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 16th.

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
(206) 252-1034

ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

Jazz Band I --- Advanced Jazz Ensemble, by audition. Numerous competitions, festivals, school concerts and community performances. Meets for credit before school (0 Period), year-long course for Fine Arts Credit. **Students should also enroll in band, orchestra or choir to play in Jazz Band.*

Jazz Band II--- Intermediate level Jazz Band, by audition. Meets Monday through Wednesday as a class before school for credit. Great band for entering freshmen who have some Middle School Jazz Band experience or other students who would like to learn about jazz. **Should also enroll in band, orchestra or choir program to play in Jazz Band**

Wind Ensemble--- Advanced concert band for experienced players. Admission is by audition/permission only. Concerts, Festivals and competitions. Year-long course for Fine Arts Credit. This band attends fall Band Camp, various concert band festivals and various parades throughout the year. Occ Ed Credit can be given to students in their junior and senior years.

Symphonic Band --- A concert band comprised of many freshmen and several upper classmen. Year-long, all grade levels. This band attends fall Band Camp and performs at concerts, festivals and various parades throughout the year.

Marching Band/Pep Band---An energized, music driven group that plays pep band tunes for school events (pep assemblies, football games, basketball games, etc) and parades, and performs a halftime show at Homecoming. The award-winning BHS marching band has a strong tradition of excellence. All students in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Percussion comprise the membership of this group.

Percussion- This course focuses on all aspects of percussion playing, including concert band music, small ensembles and drumline. Students will perform at school concerts as part of the symphonic band, wind ensemble, orchestra, or percussion ensemble. 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. The first meeting is September 13th. If you have any questions about the Booster Club, please visit our website at www.ballardperformingarts.org .

GRADING POLICY

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Daily Points - | 20% |
| Playing Tests – | 40% |
| Participation – | <u>40%</u> |
| 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 music 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 20 % of your grade for this course. Each student is given 5 points for Daily Participation or 25 points per week. 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 your 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 to receive 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 .

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. STUDENTS WILL BE ISSUED SCHOOL LOCKS TO BE USED ON THE INSTRUMENT LOCKERS TO ASSIST WITH SECURITY. IF THE SCHOOL LOCK IS LOST, A \$5 REPLACEMENT FINE WILL BE ASSESSED.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I acknowledge that I have read through the 2016-2017 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.

Student Name (Printed)

Date

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Class

Period

- **This form is worth 25 points.**
- **It is due Friday, September 16th**

• **2016-2017 Band Dates for Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble and Percussion** (as of 9/13/16)

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- SEPTEMBER
- 9-11 Band Camp
- 13 Men's Concert Uniform Fittings
- 13 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 23 Football vs. West Seattle, 7:45pm Game at Memorial, 5:30pm Call Time at BHS (yearbook photo taken)
- 24 Leavenworth Parade, Call Time 7am BHS. 6pm Estimated Return Time
- 28 Marching Band practice, 5-7pm
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- OCTOBER
- 3 All- Northwest Honor Band Auditions Due
- 5 Marching Band practice, 5-7pm
- 7 Homecoming Marching Band Practice during the school day
- 7 Homecoming Football Game vs. Garfield, 5pm Game at Memorial, 3:30pm Call Time
- 11 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 21 or 22 Football Playoff Game at Memorial, exact time TBA
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- NOVEMBER
- 3 Fall Band Concert, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 19 Spotlight Gala and Auction (Jazz 1 and 2, Leif Erikson Lodge), evening time TBA
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- DECEMBER
- 3 Mill Creek Jazz Festival, Jazz 1 and Jazz 2, All Day
- 7 Band Concert and Combined Full Orchestra/Choir Masterwork, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 8 Choir Concert and Combined Full Orchestra/Choir Masterwork, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 9 Orchestra Concert and Combined Full Orchestra/Choir Masterwork, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- TBA Basketball Games
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- JANUARY
- TBA Basketball Games
- 6-7 PLU Honor Band, Selected Band Students
- 10 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
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- FEBRUARY
- 4 Regional Solo/Ensemble at SPU, All Day
- 4 58th Annual Spaghetti Dinner, BHS Commons, 5-8:30pm
- 7 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 17-19 All-Northwest Honor Band (Bellevue)
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- MARCH
- 1 NW Region Band Concert, 7pm, Ballard HS Gym
- 3 Opening Night Gala
- 16-18 "Les Miserables", 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
- 17 Hot Java (tentative), Paramount Theater
- 23-25 "Les Miserables, 7:30pm, Earl Kelly PAC
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- APRIL
- 2 Performing Arts Spaghetti Dinner, BHS Commons, All Music Groups, 5-9pm
- 8-12 Wind Ensemble to New York International Music Festival at Carnegie Hall

- 28-29 WIAA/WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Ellensburg
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- MAY
- 9 Performing Arts Booster Meeting, 7:30pm Library
- 17 Ballard Parade, time TBA
- 30 Jazz Alley Performance, Jazz Band 1 and 2
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- JUNE
- 5 5th Avenue Theater Awards
- 8 Spring Band Concert, 7:30pm, Early Kelly PAC
- 19 Graduation, Memorial Stadium, 5pm
- (Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, and selected Percussionists are to meet there at 4:00pm)
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