



June 7, 2016

Welcome to the Ballard High School Theatre Arts Program!

I am excited to have you as a member of the program and look forward to a fantastic 2016-2017 school year. This year you will be challenged and inspired as we create memorable theatrical experiences, pursue artistic endeavors, and form lasting bonds and friendships.

The Ballard High School Theatre Arts Program has gained regional and international acclaim for its outstanding technical elements and inspired performances. The department participates in the 5th Avenue Musical Theatre Awards, having multiple nominations (three BEST OVERALL MUSICAL for *Bye, Bye Birdie*, *Urinetown*, and *Children of Eden*) over the past six years and wins in the BEST COSTUME DESIGN (2012, 2014), BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS (2015), and BEST ORCHESTRA (2011) categories. A highlight for the department was our inclusion in the 2013 International Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This particular Fringe festival is the largest and oldest in the world. One of 40 high schools in the festival that included over 1500 different performances, BHS performed *Songs For A New World* during their 2 week visit.

BHS Theater Arts produces three stage productions each year typically a comedy in the fall, the winter musical, and a spring drama or Shakespearean piece. The 2016-2017 season will be *The Foreigner* in October, The Tony Award winning musical, *Les Miserables* in March, and the delightful Oscar Wilde comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest* in May. Listen to the announcements and follow the PABC website for audition materials and dates.

The following packet contains many important documents that we kindly request you read, complete, and return at your earliest convenience. Please mark your calendars now with important dates! We are fortunate to have a very supportive parent community – the Performing Arts Booster Club – that provides financial and volunteer assistance to ensure that students receive the richest arts experience possible. Please fill out the volunteer survey and join us in continuing the Ballard Performing Arts tradition of excellence.

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn M. Riley
Director of Theatre
smriley@seattleschools.org
206-252-1036