

# WHITMAN MUSIC



## WINTER WREATH SALE

The wreath fundraiser is great because you can pre-order online, set your shipping date, and it ships anywhere in the contiguous US for one low price. Order before November 10 for free shipping!

**This is a great fundraiser to share with non-local friends and family** who want to support our students or are fans of the winter season! Wreaths are available in generic greens or themed by winter or Christmas.

If we reach our fundraising goal, all classes win a class party!

[Click here to browse the selection!](#)

## PRACTICE LOGS

No Practice Logs the week of Thanksgiving

(Mon 11/20-Sun 11/26)


## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 14 - Pops Concert (Movies) - 6 pm
- November 26 - Ms. Gunn's bday!
- December 6 - Jazz Band at Wheelie Pop - 6 pm
- December 7 - Introductory Ensemble "Informance" - 6 pm
- December 12 - Holiday Concert - 6 pm

## TO-DO

- Share the wreath fundraiser link on social media
- Make sure your student has **all black** concert clothes.
- Check with your student to make sure they have **pencils** in their backpack.

**Brrrrr! It's getting  
COLD outside!**



**Protect your wooden  
instruments from the cold  
by following these tips:**

1. Keep your instrument stored around 60 to 70 degrees
2. Keep your instrument in a room with heat
3. Keep away from outside walls (if possible)
4. Limit time outside
5. Use a humidifier when possible

# INTRODUCTORY ORCHESTRA

This month we started using bows! The students were very excited to start them and the student TAs and I are impressed with how hard they have worked to make sure their bow holds are just right! We are working on arm/elbow motion now for our bow, which will help us keep our bow straight and make a consistent sound on our instrument.

We also started practicing some eighth notes this month and have focused on “synchronized bowing” so we are all going in the same direction at the same time.

Oct 31 we got new seats and were separated into Violin 1 and Violin 2 for our concert in December. We got our first piece of longer sheet music called “Abandoned Funhouse” and started working on measures 33-49, where everyone plays something. We will be learning lots of new symbols as we work through this first song!

# CONCERT ORCHESTRA

This month, Concert Orchestra had some choices to make! We realized we are feeling less prepared for our Nov 14 concert than other groups, and realized it's because of everything we're trying to cram into this combination Intermediate & Advanced-level class. The students in Tri-M got feedback from their classmates and we came to the decision that, after the concert, Fridays will remain Genius Hour but chamber music will be an option of Genius Hour (rather than 2 different days/activities). This will allow students who are enjoying other music-related projects to continue them and students who prefer to just play their instruments to do that as well. It will also give us 3 days of group rehearsals and 1 day of split rehearsals (Ms. Gunn with 17 Chamber Orchestra students, coaches Gerald and Allion with the 15 remaining students).

Which brings me to the opportunity to announce that Concert Orchestra - with its growing numbers - now has a coach on Tuesdays! Our coaches will work with all students not in Chamber Orchestra to build technical skills including expanding note reading and range abilities, adjusting physical bodies (bow hold, posture, wrists, etc), rhythm reading, and more! Coaches will also help with our concert music and help students break down parts.

Right now we have two coming (for the price of one!) but as we get settled, we will typically have just one coach each week to work with this group. Your donations and participation in fundraisers help support the ability to have these coaches and give both groups the opportunity to grow at their level - so thank you!



The United States  
Army Field Band  
& Soldiers' Chorus

The Musical Ambassadors of the Army  
*Washington, DC*



THE  
**ARMY**  
**PRESENTS**  
STAGE AND SCREEN



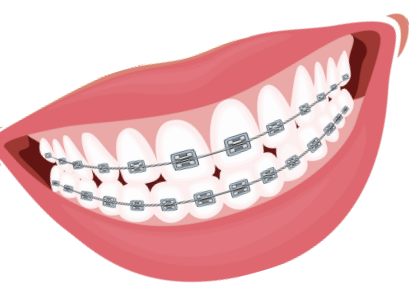
Everett Civic Auditorium  
Everett, Washington  

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November 11, 2023 • 7:00 p.m.

**[Click to view program](#)**

**[Click to reserve tickets](#)**



# Braces & Band

Middle School is a popular time to get braces - but how does it impact playing a band instrument?

## Trumpet

**Challenges:** Pain (most intense for trumpet!)

**Adaptations:** Use more air instead of mouth pressure

**Tips:** Using brace wax or a thin mouth guard. Practice and patience!

[Read More](#)

## Other Brass

**Challenges:** Pain

**Adaptations:** Use more air instead of mouth pressure. Think “mmm” with mouth.

**Tips:** Using brace wax, start with short practice.

[Read More](#)

## Sax & Clarinet

**Challenges:** Excess saliva

**Adaptations:** Draw out condensation from reed by inhaling

**Tips:** Clean the instrument after every use!

[Read More](#)

## Flute

**Challenges:** Significant change in sound, excess saliva

**Adaptations:** Use more air, patience and experiment with embouchure

**Tips:** Clean the instrument after every use!

[Read More](#)

# INTRODUCTORY BAND

This month we had so many coaches start! The following sections have coaches currently. Support schedules are updated throughout the year based on need.

- Flute - Wednesdays, every-other week
- Oboe - Thursdays weekly
- Clarinets - Tuesdays, most weeks (moving to every week by December)
- Saxophones - Mondays, every-other-week
- Trumpets - Tuesdays weekly
- Trombones - Thursdays weekly
- Baritones - Tuesdays weekly (joining trumpets starting next week)

Coaches are the most important in this class, with 47 students, 9 different instruments, and 3 instrument families being learned! The majority of our coach hours are focused on getting these students instrument-specific, small group feedback from the beginning - so thanks to those who have supported us with donations - you make this possible!

We also got our first sheet music for our concert - "Echo Lake" on Oct 30. We will dive deeper into it in November!

# INTERMEDIATE BAND



Intermediate Band has done a lot of work for their Pops Movie concert and are READY TO GO! I'm excited about all the good work the students have put in and it's going to be a really great way to start the concert this year!

We lately have been focused on blend (section and ensemble), balance (of different sections), and tuning. These will be things we continue to focus on likely for the next two months at least.

Our Genius Hr Lite unit is working on our first graded composition project, due Friday, November 17th, and demonstrates their abilities to build chords and create contrasting sections while using chord tones. We will continue composing after that, but shift our focus to things like style to help us create contrasting sections, and melody creation.

There is some coach support for students in this class, but limited. If your student is feeling like they want more support, I highly encourage you to look into private lessons! The current coach schedule includes:

- Flutes - Wednesdays every-other-week through the end of 2023
- Clarinets & Percussion - Tuesdays every week
- Trumpets - Tuesdays every week (prioritizing first year students)

# CONCERT BAND

Concert Band is - as usual - killing it! We are working on bringing up speed on two of our concert songs, but have done a ton of work on nailing the articulations and dynamics which allow us to just focus on the energy and motion behind the works. We also halfway through our in-class book (Superior Bands in Sixteen Weeks) so I joke that we've made it 50% of the way to being superior. Only 8 more weeks to go! :)

We have sight-read through two of our holiday pieces so we're ready to start thinking ahead. Our students playing with Orchestra on Harry Potter for the movie concert will be rehearsing with Orchestra during period 5 (right after our class) on Tuesday, November 7th.

We had FOUR students accepted into Washington Jr. All State Band this year and I'm super proud of these students. All four have a track record of hard work in music over the last two years with me so I'm not surprised they made it - they deserve it! Congrats to Elliott (percussion), Hayden (alto sax), Oliver (trumpet), and Daphne (french horn).

## TRI-M

Tri-M decided that grade checks will happen once a month at the first meeting of the month. Students will just pull up the Source and show Ms. Gunn their grades. Students are expected to maintain an A average in music and B average overall. Students not meeting that goal will do weekly grade check-ins with Ms. Gunn and have a month to improve grades.

We welcomed some new members last week and are hoping more membership applications come back to us soon! If your student is interested in joining Tri-M, they need to meet the grade requirements listed above, be enrolled in a music class for a least one semester, and demonstrate qualities of leadership and responsibility. Have your student ask me about membership if they are interested!

Last month we started our stage crew training. Tri-M students will be responsible for making our movie concert a proper \*production\*! Students are being trained on the spotlight, projections, house and stage lights, fog machine, reading stage setup diagrams, and some of them will learn how to use the new DMX lighting board (which Ms. Gunn is also learning for the first time at home so she can teach the students)! Stage Crew time counts towards the 10 hours of volunteer time required from Tri-M students.

The students have also had ideas about doing something for the ASB Fall Carnival on November 17 and a photo booth fundraiser at the concert Nov 14, but we may not be able to do both without scheduling another meeting since we have no school Nov 10!