

WHITMAN MUSIC



IN-SCHOOL TRIPS

One new thing we're trying out this year is some additional In-School Field Trips. In January, our entire school was visited by the Miho & Diego duo for their "[Musical Trip Around the World.](#)" ([click for info](#)) A big thanks to FOWM for supporting this cultural programming at our school, allowing all students to benefit from their trip here!

We received a small grant from SYSO for their "Endangered Instrument Program" and we will have some in-school field trips for students who play viola, upright bass, and tuba or baritone this month. We are looking to schedule for french horn and bassoon in March to celebrate our small sections!

PRACTICE LOGS

Due February 5 and 12.
No logs over Mid-Winter Break!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our calendar at-a-glance is now on the FOWM page!

www.fowmusic.org

Select "Calendar"

TO-DO

- Make sure your student has **all black** concert clothes.
- Check with your student to make sure they have **pencils** in their backpack.

INTRODUCTORY ORCHESTRA

Upcoming dates:

- Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 pm - Orchestra Concert - arrive between 5:30 and 5:40
- Thursday, March 28 - EBMEA Orchestra Festival (In-School Field Trip at Whitman)

Please make sure your student has all their supplies. This class has the highest number of students losing items and it's the smallest class with only 28 students. They should have:

- Pencils (ideally in their music binder)
- Black binder with orchestra music and practice logs inside
- Essential Elements book
- Rosin
- Cello strap (if a cello player), Shoulder rest (viola and violin players)

January was jam-packed with new skills! We started off with reviewing full bows and our sound has gotten HUGE! We have been practicing our ear training skills to help us tune better and I can already hear improvements. We learned slurs and ties, how to play F-natural and C-natural, and learned all the valid finger placements in first position (chromatic scale).

We are ready for level 1 songs in February!

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Upcoming dates:

- Friday, March 15 - WWU Field trip (all day). We need 1 more chaperone to come with us - please email me if you'd like to come on our fancy coach bus for the day! Please make sure to submit your \$15 payment for lunch or shoot me an email to request financial assistance from Friends of Whitman Music (FOWM).
- Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 pm - Orchestra Concert - arrive between 5:30 and 5:40
- Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00 pm - NW Orchestra Festival (at Whitman) - arrival time TBA

This past month we were able to spend much-needed time **not** worrying about preparing for a concert! We started working on ear training to help improve our tuning - both in tuning our instrument and adjusting intonation during songs. We practiced double stops, started a beginning lesson on vibrato, and put a lot of work into a biting, crisp staccato bow.

We have made a lot of progress as an ensemble in just one month and I'm looking forward to the growth we'll see in our phrasing and expression over the coming month through "Adoration" and our journey into triple and quadruple-stops in "Molly on the Shore."

INTRODUCTORY BAND

Upcoming Concerts

- Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 pm - Band Concert (will be 1-1.5 hours long)

Intro Band has been pushing ahead in our book this month and working on two new songs that we've already got quite a good grasp on. We got our first rhythm packet, had our first scale test, and just upgraded to our first level 1 piece ("A Prehistoric Suite") which is always one of my favorite songs to work on in Introductory Band. It has fun parts and four movements (or short songs within the song) that each tell a different story.

Percussion is moving out to explore drums and auxiliary percussion more like snare drum, bass drum, timpani, maracas, and claves.

In February we'll continue with rhythm but add new warmups and venture into tuning!

INTERMEDIATE BAND

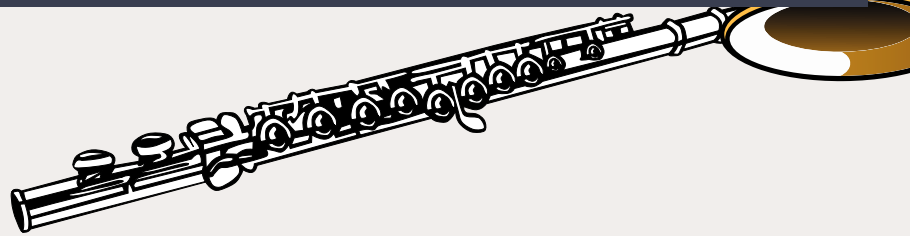
Upcoming Concerts

- Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 pm - Band Concert (will be 1-1.5 hours long)
- Thursday, March 28 - EBMEA Band Festival (In-School field trip at Whitman)

In January we got three new pieces that the students are working through - "Oye Como Va" by Tito Puente, "Down A Country Lane" by Aaron Copland, and "Metropolis" by Mark Williams. We checked in with our range goals to update where we were on our personal charts, performed our first chamber music unit for the class (ungraded!), and are making some big shifts in tone quality that are allowing us to blend more as a unit.

We also upgraded our group by adding 4 new members, who moved up from Introductory Band - 3 of them as 8th graders brave enough to learn a new instrument and adventurous enough to aspire to continuing in high school! We're excited to fill out our sax section and have 3 (THREE!?) french horns now!

The students in this class have not been shy to share some of their opinions on hopes for things like performing more popular music, playing assemblies, and one student will be trying out conducting - so some fun to come in February!



CONCERT BAND

Upcoming Concerts

- Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 pm - Band Concert (will be 1-1.5 hours long)
- Thursday, March 28 - EBMEA Band Festival (In-School field trip at Whitman)

In January we got four new pieces of music and all I can say about this group is truly, wow. This group has really raised the bar for performance in Concert Band as we're exactly halfway through the year and tearing through a grade 4 piece - Tocatta for Band (see more on what that "grade" means below). Ballard High School band teacher Mr. Gillespie stopped by to lead us for a rehearsal and was thoroughly impressed and excited to see so many of our kids were moving up to BHS next year!

Grade 4 Concert Band Music:

Grade 4 is for small colleges, universities and advanced high schools. In this level you will find meters including; $2/4$, $3/4$, $4/4$, c , C , $6/8$, $9/8$. easy changing/asymmetrical meters, as well as $3/8$, $6/8$, $9/8$, asymmetrical ($5/8$, $7/8$), changing meters. All rhythms except complex compound or complex 16th note syncopation. Also be prepared for extremes of ranges in all parts.

TRI-M

Tri-M crushed it in January with their prep and execution of EIM Day! This day went so much more smoothly than last year. A large part of that was the feedback the students who worked it last year provided, proving once again that student voice has a major impact on educational success! All of our coaches said the students were helpful in sectionals and rehearsals, and the Elementary students loved watching our students perform for them during the recital. Way to step up, Tri-M (and non-Tri-M!) kids! You helped inspire the next generation of Whitman musicians!

