

Easton Area High School Instrumental Music Department

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Mr. Christopher Ballentine, *Instrumental Music Director*
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8th Grade Instrumental Music Parent Night

Dear 8th Grade Instrumental Music Families:

Hopefully this letter finds you well & healthy after the holiday season. We are beginning preparations for the 2021 – 2022 school year and are excited to welcome you to our high school instrumental program. We will be holding an informational session for all families of instrumentalists and color guard on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021**. Students are also welcome to attend. This event will be held via [zoom](#) and begin at **7:00 PM**.



The purpose of this meeting is to provide you with information about our high school instrumental program, speak with students in the program and myself, and discuss upcoming events. Important information regarding scheduling for the next school year will also be provided, along with dates for our summer band camp, string camp, and opportunities for our program next year.

It is my hope to provide every student with an academically rigorous, yet supportive environment where all are challenged to reach their potential and continue to develop into successful people. There is a place for every individual in our high school music program, as we have athletes from almost every sport, members of all different clubs, student council members, and so much more. It is because of every individual person that we are strong as a program.

We look forward to meeting you as you prepare for the transition to our high school. If you are not able to attend this meeting, **please let me know beforehand so we may plan accordingly**. My email address and direct phone extension are provided at the top of this page should you have any questions.



Sincerely,

Christopher Ballentine

Quotes from our current Instrumental Music students:

“Through dedication and hard work, band becomes more than an extra curricular. It’s a family dynamic and an unforgettable experience.” - Hannah Slattery & Maggie Scanlon, *clarinets*

“Band at Easton is truly one of the best things to be a part of. You get to experience things like cheering on your football team, performing in front of thousands of people, and most of all, you get to spend time with your friends doing something that you enjoy.”
- Ryan Smith, *trumpet*



“Being in band is more than just playing your instrument. To me, it’s a family who is always there to support you and push you to your full potential.” – Abby Cinoa, *trombone*

“My favorite thing about being in this program is band camp and football season. You never see someone without a smile on their face or not having fun.” - Hailee DiSabatino, *tuba*

“Orchestra is something I enjoy because it lets me play a lot of different and exciting music on an instrument that I enjoy playing. It also allows me to be with friends who have a shared interest with me. I am glad that I joined this group.”

- Emily Pham, *violin & guard*

“Being with a group of people as amazing as the people in the band and orchestra makes a strange place so much better. The family environment that is created is one of the greatest.”

- Antoinette Mitchell, *tuba & bass*





“It’s the best feeling in the world marching into the stadium and hearing hundreds of people cheer for you and your team. It gives me goosebumps.”

-Drew Crossman, *trumpet*

“Band has allowed me to meet some of my best friends and people who’ve impacted my life so much. There’s nothing like a football game with your best friends on a Friday night.”

- Alicia Rodriguez, *drum major & clarinet*

“This is an amazing group of people and we are like a family. There is no other experience like the one I have had.” - Michael Martyak, *perc. & oboe*

“Rather than a normal class, orchestra seems like a family. The older members and leaders are so helpful and talented, and Mr. Ballentine is a phenomenal teacher. Even as a freshman, I can already tell that joining high school orchestra will be one of the best decisions I ever make.”

- Emily Cho, *violin*



“Coming to high school was definitely a challenge since I was so comfortable in middle school, but the amazing music program we have definitely made the transition a lot easier. Being in the music program is definitely a privilege and we are very lucky to be a part of this program. Always remember, you are a part of something better than just a music program – you are a part of an amazing family.” - Andrea Summers, *trumpet*

“Although there can be stressful times during band, the amount of fun and laughs you have makes up for it all. Band gives you the opportunity to make friends you would’ve never met. It is such an amazing feeling to walk down the halls and see so many familiar faces.” – Sara Oligino, *trumpet*



“Being in the band takes a lot of hard work and dedication. It is also a huge honor and gives me immense pride to be a part of such an amazing group.” - Ryan Coulombe, *trumpet*

It’s your turn to be a part of the tradition!

Recordings of our ensembles:

Orchestra:

[Urban Concerto Grosso](#) – Fall (November 2019)

Jazz Ensemble:

[Count Bubba](#) – Steel Stacks (February 2020)

[Big Swing Face](#) – Steel Stacks (February 2020)

Concert Band:

[Ride](#) – rehearsal (March 2020)

[Ghettoblaster](#) – Spring concert (May 2019)



Marching Band:

[Show Ending](#) – October 2019

[6ABC West Chester Parade](#) – December 2019

[Gator Bowl Halftime Performance](#) – January 2020

[Stand Songs](#) – July 2019

