

# Evanston Township High School



## Band Handbook 2022-2023

**Matthew P. Bufis**  
Director of Bands  
Lead Teacher for Fine Arts

**Haley Sullivan**  
Associate Director of Bands

[www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Welcome / Forward .....                          | 2    |
| Philosophy and Goals.....                        | 3    |
| Program Overview .....                           | 3    |
| Program Structure.....                           | 3    |
| Curricular Ensembles .....                       | 4    |
| Grading Policy .....                             | 5    |
| Classroom Guidelines and Expectations .....      | 5    |
| Rehearsal Expectations.....                      | 5    |
| Punctuality .....                                | 5    |
| Auditions.....                                   | 5    |
| Practice.....                                    | 5    |
| Required and Recommended Materials .....         | 6    |
| School Owned Instruments and Equipment.....      | 6    |
| Performances/ Concert Attendance.....            | 7    |
| Performance Attire.....                          | 7    |
| Transportation Policy and Travel.....            | 8    |
| Fundraising .....                                | 8    |
| Extra-Curricular and Special Opportunities ..... | 9-11 |
| Jazz Program.....                                | 9    |
| Honors Recital and Senior Soloists.....          | 10   |
| Solo and Ensemble Festival.....                  | 10   |
| Pit Orchestra .....                              | 10   |
| Basketball Pep Band .....                        | 10   |
| Instrumental Lab Groups.....                     | 10   |
| Student Mentorship Program.....                  | 10   |
| Music Awards.....                                | 10   |
| ILMEA District and State Festival .....          | 11   |
| Northshore Honor Band .....                      | 11   |
| Band Calendar .....                              | 12   |
| Volunteering .....                               | 13   |
| Handbook Contract .....                          | 13   |

## WELCOME/FORWARD

All members of the Evanston Township High School Band Program are given this handbook, which contains important information for all members, including calendars, course descriptions, and grading procedures. Parents and students are asked to familiarize themselves completely with the material. Please keep this handbook easily accessible for quick reference throughout the year. Also, please make note of the Band Program's website: [www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com). On this site, you will find the most current announcements, schedule, and information regarding the Band Program. In addition, make sure all of your information is updated and correct in Home Access Center (HAC), as we generate email lists and contact info based on that program.

If you should have any questions at any time concerning this handbook or your child's involvement in the ETHS Band Program, please contact Mr. Bufis at [bufism@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:bufism@eths.k12.il.us) or (847) 424-7853, Mrs. Sullivan at [sullivans@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:sullivans@eths.k12.il.us) or (847) 424-7869, or our Fine Arts Department Chair, Mr. Gehl at [gehl@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:gehl@eths.k12.il.us) or (847) 424-7130.

We are very excited for the school year to get started and we look forward to working with everyone—Go Kits! Sincerely,

*Matthew P. Bufis*  
Matthew Bufis  
Band Director

*Haley Sullivan*  
Haley Sullivan  
Band Director

# Evanston Township High School Band Program

## PHILOSOPHY AND GOALS OF THE ETHS BAND PROGRAM

The Evanston Township High School Band Program strives to provide a rich and rewarding musical experience for all of its students, and is dedicated to giving students the opportunity to grow musically, socially, and academically. Through musical performance, students will learn how to appreciate and perform music of a variety of styles and levels of difficulty. Through group involvement, students will learn how to work together to achieve common goals, experience group discipline, and respect for fellow students while achieving positions of leadership and responsibility. Through the study of harmony, scales, rhythm, theory, and the mechanics of music, students develop skills that will allow them to truly understand and appreciate the foundations of music.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Evanston Township High School Band Program consists of four curricular Concert Bands, the co-curricular Wildkit Marching Band, and an extensive extra-curricular Jazz Program made up of three Jazz Big Bands and several Jazz Combos. Additionally, our band students hold positions in the Symphony Orchestra, the Pit Orchestra for our annual Spring Musical, YAMOrchestra (the musical accompaniment to our student written/directed theatre production called YAMO), Basketball Pep Band, and various small chamber ensembles.

The ETHS Music Program offers many additional performance opportunities for our instrumentalists such as the annual Honors Recital, auditions for Senior Soloists, and our Solo and Ensemble Festival. Our students also represent ETHS in the District 7 Illinois Music Educators Association Honor Band, Honor Orchestra, and Honor Jazz Bands, many of whom go on to represent us at the annual All-State Conference. Additionally, our students represent ETHS in the Northshore High School Honor Band and the Northshore Concert Band Lifetime of Music program.

Outside of ETHS, our students hold seats in the Merit Academy, Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO), Midwest Young Artists (MYA), Music Institute of Chicago (MIC), and many other fine performing ensembles.

## Program Structure

### Curricular Ensembles

| Marking Quarter 1                | Marking Quarters 2, 3, 4                              |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Period 2<br>Symphonic Band (W/F) | Period 2<br>Symphonic Band (W/F)                      |
| Period 4<br>Symphonic Band (W/F) | Period 4<br>Symphonic Band (W/F)                      |
| Period 6<br>Wind Symphony (W/F)  | Period 6<br>Wind Symphony (W/F)                       |
|                                  | Period 6<br>Symphony Orchestra with Winds/Perc. (W/F) |

### Extra-Curricular Opportunities

| MQ 1  | MQ 2   | MQ 3  | MQ 4   |
|---|--|---|--|
| Marching Band<br>Jazz Program<br>YAMOrchestra<br>Mentorship Program | Jazz Program<br>Pep Band/Winter Drumline<br>Winter Color Guard<br>Mentorship Program | Jazz Program<br>Pep Band/Winter Drumline<br>Winter Color Guard<br>Mentorship Program<br>Honors Recital<br>Musical<br>Flute Choir<br>Solo & Ensemble<br>ILMEA All-State<br>Northshore HB | Jazz Program<br>Mentorship Program<br>Musical            |
| Jazz Auditions<br>ILMEA Auditions                                   | Honors Recital Auditions<br>ILMEA Jazz Festival<br>ILMEA Concert Festival            | Musical Auditions<br>YAMO Board Interviews  | YAMOrchestra Auditions<br>Marching Leadership Interviews |

## ETHS CURRICULAR ENSEMBLES

### **CONCERT BAND PROGRAM**

At Evanston Township High School, the Concert Band Program is the core curricular instrumental music experience for winds and percussion and consists of three concert bands (Symphonic Band I/II and Wind Symphony). In February, sophomores, juniors, and seniors audition to participate in either Symphonic Band or Wind Symphony for the following year. For this year, since we have fewer freshmen than usual due to pandemic attrition, all Freshmen have been placed in our two intermediate Symphonic Bands with upperclassmen.

The concert bands perform every quarter. Students will play a variety of music from classical to popular literature. Emphasis is placed on the development of fundamental skills related to posture, breathing, embouchure, fingerings, counting, music reading, and overall tone production. Regular practice is a must and private instruction is strongly encouraged.

### **ORCHESTRA PROGRAM**

The top wind and percussion instrumentalists in our band program can also garner acceptance into the Symphony Orchestra at ETHS. The fall audition for band ensembles will also serve as the audition for Symphony Orchestra winds and percussion. This group meets two times per week, typically on Wednesdays and Fridays, during period 6 (your band-lunch period). Since this is a scheduled "lunch" period for our top band members, students are given a portion of the passing period plus a portion of their lunch period to provide a 20-25 minute lunch time for these students before participating in rehearsal for 30 minutes.

The ETHS Symphony Orchestra performs on three concerts annually, at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. Students will perform classical literature from various time periods and will accompany student soloists and guest artists annually. For more information on the Symphony Orchestra, contact Mr. Acevedo at [acevedoa@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:acevedoa@eths.k12.il.us)

### **WILDKIT MARCHING BAND PROGRAM**

Evanston Township High School's Wildkit Marching Band Program is a "no experience necessary" group that is open to all students. The Wildkit Marching Band is a synthesis of a traditional collegiate Big-Ten style of marching, which is school spirit and entertainment driven, and a Drum and Bugle Corp style of marching, which emphasizes performance and theatrics. Our Marching Band includes woodwinds and brass, drumline, pit (auxiliary percussion), and color guard (dance, flags, and rifles). In addition to several summer rehearsal obligations in June and August, Marching Band meets daily during Period 6 as well as on Wednesday evenings during marching season. The Wildkit Marching Band performs at ETHS home football games, pep rallies, competitions, NU football games, and hosts District 65 Band Day. Information for Marching Band is available each spring. Go Kits!

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR AND SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES**

For a full listing and description of our extra-curricular and special opportunities within our Band Program, see pages 9-10 of this handbook, as well as our website at [www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com)!

## BAND GRADING POLICY

**The grade for Band is broken down into the following categories:**

- 40% Daily Participation (Class Preparation & Participation) (Wind Symphony – Sectionals)
- 30% Individual Performance Assessments (Playing tests & written tests / assignments)
- 20% Concert Participation & Attendance (arriving on time & staying until conclusion of concert)
  - Students will earn 100 pts per concert. To earn full points, these expectations must be met:
    - Students are in their seats by the time warm up begins (ready to play with instrument, music, etc.)
    - Students are respectful audience members and performers during the concert
    - Students view the rest of the concert until it concludes
  - Students will lose points in these instances:
    - If a student is not present for the entirety of the warmup, they will lose 5pts (5% of grade)
    - If a student misses their warmup completely, they will lose 10 pts (10% of grade)
    - If a student is not a respectful audience member or they leave early from the concert, they are subject to losing points on their concert grade.
- 10% Performance Analysis (Concert Reflections)

**Please Note – Assignment grades will be reduced by the equivalent of one letter grade for every day it is late.**

## CLASSROOM GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS

In accordance with ETHS policy, all rules and regulations described in the ETHS Pilot apply not only to classes held during the school day, but also to all after-school practices, rehearsals, and performances. It is expected that all band members are familiar with, and will follow those guidelines.

## REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:

1. Be in your seat (set-up and ready for rehearsal) before the bell rings and begin to warm-up on your own.
2. Be prepared: Bring your instrument, music, and a pencil. Be ready to play the day's music / exercises.
3. When rehearsal begins, there will be no unnecessary talking or playing. Please be respectful to everyone at all times.
4. No gum, food, soda, snacks, etc. allowed during rehearsal.

## PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is an especially important trait for each member of the band, because band activities involve the coordinated efforts of all its members. In rehearsal, all members must be in attendance to maximize the efficiency of the session.

Productive rehearsals can only begin when everyone is present. Out of common courtesy, you should arrive at non-class rehearsals 15 minutes before it is scheduled to begin to allow for getting equipment ready, warming up, and finding your seat or drill position, etc. For everyday class rehearsals, please plan ahead to not have to stop at your locker before band whenever possible. Many students must travel from the north end of the building to the band room and will not have time to stop for anything. Be in your seat (set-up and ready for rehearsal) by the bell. If you are not ready at this time, you will also be counted tardy. Please refer to the ETHS Pilot for more information regarding the tardy and attendance policy.

## AUDITIONS

Auditions play an important role in the ETHS Band Program. Students are given the chance to perform at their best and earn a position in band that best suits their performance ability. More information about the audition process will be provided to students at the beginning of school; however, evaluation will be based on the following musical factors: tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, note accuracy, articulation, dynamic interpretation, stylistic interpretation, phrasing, intonation, technical facility, and general musicianship.

## PRACTICE

To be successful in any area means to have achieved your greatest potential. Success in music will come only to those who practice regularly, and the band's most successful students are those who practice daily. As with any area of study, independent homework builds essential skills. Students who sign up for band usually want to improve their musical ability and learn more about music in general, and this improvement requires regular practice.

Every student should try to schedule one half hour of solid practice daily, as a minimum. Encourage your student to build practice time into their daily schedules. Students who practice daily find their skills increasing rapidly, with rewarding results. They often view their practice time as enjoyable - not as "work". Students who wait until the last minute to practice do not improve as quickly or at all. We are dedicated to helping you (1) learn how to practice, rehearse, and perform music at a high level; to (2) have a fun and rewarding high school experience; to (3) find out more about your feelings and expressiveness through musical performance; and to (4) promote group awareness and leadership skills through participation in band. In order to get the most out of your band experience, you will need to contribute regularly to the practice of your instrument.

## Evanston Township High School Band Required Materials

Each student is required to have the following equipment for their instrument even if they are using a school instrument:

Flutes: Cleaning/Tuning Rod and a polishing cloth

Oboes/Bassoon: Two good medium cane reeds, a small prescription/pill bottle (to soak reeds), and an instrument swab.

Clarinets, All Saxes: A minimum of four good reeds strength 3 (*Vandoren* preferred), reed guard (holds 4 reeds), mouthpiece cap, cork grease, and a cleaning swab

Trumpets, Baritones, and Tubas: *Al Cass* valve oil, mouthpiece brush, and tuning slide grease French Horns: *Al Cass* valve oil, a mouthpiece brush, and tuning slide grease

Trombones: *Trombotine*, a mouthpiece brush, tuning slide grease, and a small spray bottle Percussion: Snare Drum Sticks—size 5A, and a stick bag.

\*These items are crucial to the sound, maintenance, and cleanliness of the instrument.

**Neither Evanston Township High School nor the Directors provide these items.**

## RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

These items are not required; however, they are strongly encouraged and are invaluable practice tools.

**Metronome** – Two important features should be considered: 1) Size (will it fit in my case?) 2) Volume—the louder the better. There are many good metronome apps for smart phones as well.

**Tuner** - These are available for as little as \$20 and are an invaluable practice tool. There are many good tuner apps for smart phones as well.

## SCHOOL OWNED INSTRUMENTS

The Evanston Township High School Band Program is fortunate to have many instruments reserved for student use at home and/or at school. When signing out an instrument, a record will be kept of (1) the brand, the model, and serial number of the instrument; (2) The condition of the instrument; (3) any accessories checked out with the instrument.

When a student and parent signs out a school-owned instrument, they accept full responsibility for that instrument. The student must always inform the Directors of any repairs needed. In the event of any damage (beyond normal wear) to the instrument, the student will be responsible for paying the repairs (though a director will send the instrument to the repair facility). In the event of loss, theft or excessive damage, the student/parent will replace the instrument with one of the same brand and model.

## EQUIPMENT

Parents and students are urged to carefully and continually evaluate your instrument throughout the year. In order to be successful at producing quality music, all students must be utilizing equipment that is of acceptable quality and in good working order.

Besides condition, many students are still playing on "beginner" instruments that hold a student back once they have reached a more advanced playing level. Regardless of the talents of the student, most beginner line instruments are incapable of producing the mature tone and intonation control expected of a high school musician.

Woodwind instruments require regular maintenance. Even the best instruments need new pads every couple of years, and should be checked for key and rod adjustments annually. Daily cleaning is a must. Chipped mouthpieces should be thrown out and replaced immediately. Every reed player should have at least four good spare reeds at all times, and should never play on a worn out, chipped, or cracked reed.

Brass instruments should be free of dents in any area directly behind the bell. All slides should move freely and easily (this requires owning and using slide grease). Cleaning the inside of brass instruments should be a monthly ritual.

Please see Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan if you have any questions about your child's instrument or instrument maintenance/repair.

## PERFORMANCES/CONCERTS & ATTENDANCE

For Band at Evanston Township High School, as well as any performing ensemble, performance is an essential aspect of the genre. Throughout the year, your student will have multiple performances that occur outside of the school day (i.e. Evening concerts in the Evanston Township High School Auditorium and the occasional weekend concert at a festival). Our Band Calendar has been set since last February and the dates, times, and locations of our concerts seldom, if ever, change. We consistently try to keep you and your families informed with the most up-to-date information and respect your schedules by posting our calendar of events well in advance. Please keep track of all pertinent dates for your records. The ETHS Band Calendar is located on our website: [www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com).

Concerts/performance are CLASS REQUIREMENTS and count towards a significant portion of your student's grade (see Band Grading Policy). A concert or performance can be compared to an exam in other classes; however, unlike exams in another class, our concerts/performance cannot be made up. In the event that your student cannot attend a concert, Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan must be notified via email, written note, or by phone at least two weeks prior to the performance. If notice is received less than two weeks from the performance or no notice given, your student will receive a zero for an unexcused absence from the concert. Any unexcused absence from a performance could result in one or all of the following: 1) lowering of band grade; 2) loss of one or more chairs in their respective section; 3) dismissal from the band program. Excused absences within the two weeks prior to a performance include: illness, emergency, or other circumstances that are discussed with Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan by the parent(s)/guardian(s). There is understanding and flexibility on everyone's part when a student is involved in another school-sponsored activity in addition to band, and it is the philosophy of the directors to not place the student in the middle of a conflict between school-sponsored events. The band directors will work with the students, athletic staff, school sponsors, and parents to coordinate practice schedules and work to minimize conflicts. With advanced notice, we have a positive track record of navigating scheduling conflicts with other ETHS activities and sports within ETHS. A student may make up credit for an excused absence from a concert. They must contact Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan no later than two days after the concert for an assignment.

## PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

All of the concert bands at Evanston Township High School have specific attire that ensures a uniform presentation of our student musicians at performances.

### **For Concert Band Students:**

Option 1—Black closed-toed shoes, Black Slacks (no jeans, no capris, no leggings, etc), and White Blouse or Collared shirt (long sleeve)

Option 2—Black Dress Shoes (no gym shoes), Black Socks, Black Dress Pants/Slacks (no jeans, no capris, no leggings), White Long-Sleeved Collared Shirt (buttons all the way down, no polos), and Black Belt.

### **For Symphonic Band Students:**

Option 1—Black closed-toed shoes, Black Slacks (no jeans, no capris, no leggings, etc), and White Blouse or Collared shirt (long sleeve)

Option 2—Black Dress Shoes (no gym shoes), Black Socks, Black Dress Pants/Slacks (no jeans, no capris, no leggings), White Long-Sleeved Collared Shirt (buttons all the way down, no polos), and Black Belt.

### **For Wind Symphony/Symphony Orchestra Students:**

School-issued concert attire that is distributed at the beginning of the school year.



## **TRANSPORTATION POLICY (DISTRICT 202)**

### **All students are required to ride the bus to and from any field trip excursion.**

In the event that a student will need to use transportation other than the bus provided by ETHS, Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan must have a written notice from the student's parent or legal guardian relieving the directors and Dist. 202 of any liability. When your student will need alternate transportation TO or FROM a performance, please write and sign a brief note including: Date; Event; Student Name; WHO will drive the student (Students can never drive to any event or ride in a vehicle driven by a student or non-family member under 21 years of age.), and send it to the director prior to the event. Notes presented at the event may be denied, depending on the circumstances of that event. No notes can be accepted after the event.

## **TRAVEL**

The ETHS Band often travels to various venues, events, and functions for performance. Some trips will be short, for example, ½ day trips to perform at local events, or one-day trips out and back. Every two years, the full band plans an extended trip for performance and enrichment/entertainment. In the last few decades, the full band has traveled six times to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida (1989, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2018), twice to Toronto, Canada and Niagara Falls (1992 & 1998), New Orleans (2002 & 2020), New York (2006 & 2014), Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee (2010), and Washington D.C. (1995 and 2016). The Marching Band has participated in the 1994, 1996, 2011 – 2017 Northwestern University Band Day and travels to numerous competitions in the fall. The Jazz Ensemble has toured through Wisconsin (1993), Germany & Austria (1996), The University of Louisville (2014), and Purdue University (2012, 2013), and ETHS jazz combos have performed in Japan (1995) and in Switzerland (at the Montreux Jazz Festival) and Italy (in the Umbria Jazz Festival) in 2000.

## **FUNDRAISING**

ETHS band members are invited to participate in fundraising in order to subsidize costs associated with band tours and overnight trips. When an extended trip is planned, such as our New Orleans tour in the spring of 2020, students are given the opportunity to fundraise the amount needed to participate in the trip. For example, the 2020 trip to New Orleans cost approximately \$1,300.00 per student. Several students fundraised enough money to pay for their entire trip and had enough money left over for extra spending money! Fundraising is encouraged, however it is not a requirement – students certainly have the option of paying for their tours and fees out of pocket, or to simply fundraise a portion of the amount needed and pay the balance on their own. If financial aid is ever needed for tours or fees, please contact Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan immediately for details on other possible solutions.

When a fundraising function begins, a packet of information on fundraising activities will be given to students, including a timeline for completion, and deadlines for turning in orders and money. Unless indicated otherwise, students will always be raising money for their individual account. This money will accumulate during the year, and can only be put towards a band related activity.

On extended trips, such as our New Orleans Tour in the Spring of 2020, many expenses must be pre-paid months ahead of the actual trip date. In such cases, a detailed schedule of periodic prepayments will be provided for students/ parents. Failure to keep up with these prepayments may endanger the student's participation in the event.

Funds will carry over from year-to-year. No transfer of funds will be allowed between students, except within the same family. Unused funds remaining in the accounts of graduating seniors, students who leave the program but remain enrolled at ETHS, or students moving out-of-district will be placed in the general music fundraising fund for trip scholarships and related trip costs. If a student is unable to attend a trip he/she has been saving for, personal money that was deposited in the individual account (i.e. funds other than those raised through school-sponsored projects) will be refunded, less any nonrefundable amounts arising from already purchased items (i.e. plane ticket, bus cost, etc.) – except in the case of non-refundable payments made to a tour company. No money earned in a school-sponsored project can be refunded - only saved in the account as described above.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR AND SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

### Jazz Program Course Descriptions

Evanston Township High School is home to an expansive extra-curricular Jazz Program consisting of three big bands and multiple combos. The mission of the ETHS Jazz Program is to develop our students to excel in jazz through education and performance. Emphasis is placed on highlighting the enduring elements and important innovations of this distinctly American music. The Jazz Program is open to students grades nine through twelve of all ability levels; however, to be considered for either a Big Band or a Jazz Combo, you must be currently enrolled in *Band*, *Orchestra*, or *Choir*, and/or a music elective course (i.e. *Seminar in American Music*, *Music Technology & Recording I/II*, *Guitar I/II*, *Piano*, *AP Music Theory*) with immediate intentions to join *Band*, *Orchestra*, or *Choir*. Piano and Guitar are the only two exceptions to this concurrent enrollment policy. Evanston Township High School Jazz Big Bands and Jazz Combos function as credit-bearing curricular courses on your transcript.

### Big Bands at Evanston Township High School

Our big bands are modeled after the great swing bands from the 1930's, 40's, and 50's. Big bands have four sections: Saxophone section (5-6 saxes), Trumpet section (4-5 trumpets), Trombone section (4-5 trombones), and a Rhythm section (guitar, piano, bass, drums, and vibes). The ETHS *Jazz Ensemble* and *Jazz Band* utilize vocalists.

#### **ETHS JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

This is the premier big band at Evanston Township High School and intended for the most advanced and serious jazz musicians. The *Jazz Ensemble* prides itself on pushing the boundaries of what is possible for a high school big band through performing the most challenging jazz literature, utilizing advanced improvisation skills, and performing at festivals and venues around the country. Students are expected to be studying privately on their jazz instrument. The *Jazz Ensemble* maintains an active performance schedule throughout the year. Interested students must complete an ETHS Jazz Audition to be considered for the *Jazz Ensemble*.

#### **Rehearsal Schedule:**

|                           |             |                |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 7:00-7:50am | Jazz Room A113 |
|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|

#### **ETHS JAZZ BAND**

*Jazz Band* is the cadet big band at ETHS and is intended for developing jazz musicians. This group builds on and expands the fundamentals established in *Lab Band* while performing more advanced jazz literature and exploring improvisation more thoroughly. The *Jazz Band* performs multiple times per year, including several festival performances. Interested students must complete an ETHS Jazz Audition to be considered for the *Jazz Band*.

#### **Rehearsal Schedule:**

|                   |             |                |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Tuesday, Thursday | 7:00-7:50am | Jazz Room A113 |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|

#### **ETHS LAB BAND**

*Lab Band* is our entry-level big band. No prior jazz experience is necessary; however, proficiency on your instrument is required. This group establishes the fundamentals of tone production, ensemble sonority, jazz articulation, and beginning improvisation. *Lab Band* performs several times throughout the year, including festival performances. Interested students must complete an ETHS Jazz Audition to be considered for the *Lab Band*.

#### **Rehearsal Schedule:**

|                   |             |                |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Tuesday, Thursday | 7:00-7:50am | Band Room A111 |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|

### Jazz Combos at Evanston Township High School

For the more advanced jazz musicians, the ETHS Jazz Combos emphasize improvisation, arranging/composing, and performance in a small group setting. Jazz Combos rehearse once per week; however, members are expected to meet additionally outside of school. In order to be considered for a Jazz Combo, students must complete an ETHS Jazz Audition and be a member of a Big Band. Students not participating in a Big Band will be considered at the director's discretion.

#### **Rehearsal Schedule:**

Monday Evenings, 4:00 – 5:30pm or 5:30 – 7

## **HONORS RECITAL AND SENIOR SOLOISTS**

The ETHS Music Department hosts an annual Honors Recital each January in order to showcase our outstanding student musicians. The event is made up of solo and small ensemble performances with equal representation across all four grade levels. This special performance affords students the opportunity to display their talents in our main auditorium. The event is followed by a reception in our auditorium lobby.

Senior Soloists are featured on the final band, choir, and orchestra concerts of the year at ETHS. The finest senior auditioners garner the honor of rehearsing and performing with band, choir, or orchestral accompaniment.

Auditions for the Honors Recital and Senior Soloist take place simultaneously during the month of November in the ETHS choir room. The auditions are evaluated by the ETHS music staff. For a list of accompanists, look at our link on our webpage.

## **ETHS SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**

All band students are encouraged to participate in the Solo & Ensemble Festival, held in late March/early April. Band members enter individual solos and/or small ensembles for adjudication by a music judge. Preparation for these contests should begin in the late fall. Application for entry is made in February, by informing the director what musical selection is to be performed, the name of your accompanist (if any), and the names of ensemble members. The entry fee and deadline will be announced.

## **PIT ORCHESTRA (ALL-SCHOOL MUSICAL)**

Each spring, Mr. Acevedo will initiate a selection process for participation in the Pit Orchestra for the annual All-School Musical. Membership in this group is based on the required instrumentation. Selection for participation will be based on student interest, instrumentation needs, and seating order within the band and orchestra programs. For more information, contact Mr. Acevedo at [acevedoa@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:acevedoa@eths.k12.il.us)

## **ETHS BASKETBALL PEP BAND**

The ETHS Basketball Pep Band performs at nearly all of the home basketball games for the Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls teams as well as the spring Pep Rally. Enrollment in this ensemble is volunteer-driven, with sign-ups occurring each fall at the conclusion of Marching Band season. The group consists of a full wind and brass section, and a rock rhythm section of guitar, bass, piano, and drumset.

## **INSTRUMENTAL LAB GROUPS**

Many students enjoy the challenge of performing in a chamber ensemble. ETHS offers several chamber ensembles for your enjoyment – including Flute Choir, Percussion Ensemble, and more! To join a lab group, see Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan.

## **BAND STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

The ETHS Band program creates a student mentorship experience each year by pairing skilled upperclassmen musicians with beginning and intermediate band students. This program begins in November and continues through May.

## **MUSIC AWARDS**

There are many ways in which the ETHS Band program recognizes outstanding student achievement at all grade levels and in each ensemble. Each spring, the directors honor specific students with Most Improved Awards, Outstanding Performer Awards, Leadership Awards, Mentorship Awards, Senior Awards (honoring composition, outstanding jazz performance, outstanding concert band performance, and participation), as well as scholarship awards to name a few. Finally, students may wish to audition for a position in the annual Honors Recital, or as a Senior Soloist.

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF ETHS

### **ILMEA DISTRICT AND STATE FESTIVALS**

Every year, the Illinois Music Educators Association hosts music festivals for band, choral and orchestral musicians. Auditions to participate in these ensembles take place during the second week of October (see calendar for date), and audition material is generally available as early as late April. The number of students allowed to audition per school is limited to 16 for band and 12 for jazz. There is an entry fee for the audition. If you cancel, the fee is still owed by you. If more than 16 students apply for auditions, there will be a pre-audition screening to select the best 16 candidates, with one alternate.

If a student is chosen for All-District, they are automatically, a candidate for All-State, depending on their place of finish and the needs of instrumentation throughout the state. The number of ETHS All-District and All-State participants has increased steadily over the past few years and all are encouraged to participate.

### **NORTHSHORE HONOR BAND**

The Northshore Honor Band is an elite performance opportunity for Northshore Chicago-area high school students. Two grade-level ensembles are assembled based on director nomination to fill the instrumentation in Freshmen/Sophomore and Junior/Senior bands. These students get to work with accomplished guest conductors in two extended rehearsals followed by a concert. The Northshore consortium of schools also contribute to a fund which is used to commission new works for the concert band idiom - an initiative that enables the Northshore Honor Band students to premiere a new work for band every two years. Participating high schools include ETHS, Deerfield, Glenbrook North and South, New Trier, Highland Park, Niles North, Niles West, Lake Forest, and Stevenson. Nominations for this program are based on ensemble and seating auditions in the ETHS Band Program, occurring each fall, with special consideration given to ILMEA, MYA, Merit Academy, CYSO, and other regional honor groups.

## BAND CALENDAR 2022-2023

The Evanston Township High School Band Program Calendar for the main ensembles and all band activities is online ([www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com)) and powered through Google Calendar. This allows you to sync up the calendar with your phone, tablet, and computer, and any updates made to the calendar will automatically populate into your device(s). Here is a screenshot of our calendar from our webpage for the month of September 2022:

Evanston Township High School Band, District 65 Music, Evanston Township High School Basketball Pep Band, Evanston Township High School Drumline, Sep 2022 (Central Time - Chicago)  
Evanston Township High School Flute Choir, Evanston Township High School Jazz, Evanston Township High School Marching Band, Evanston Township High School Musical Pit Orchestra,  
Evanston Township High School YAMOrchestra, Evanston Township High School Color Guard

| Sun | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|-----|--|---|--|---|---|---|
| 28  | 29   | 30  | 31   | 1   | 2   | 3   |
|     | Open House<br>2:30pm - Drumline  | Late Start Day<br>4pm - Yamorchestra<br>5:30pm - Color Guard<br>7pm - Band Parent Night   | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Yamorchestra<br>6pm - Marching Band | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>4pm - Yamorchestra                               | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Yamorchestra     |   |
| 4   | 5  | 6   | 7  | 8   | 9   | 10  |
|     | Labor Day - No School  | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>4pm - Yamorchestra<br>5:30pm - Color Guard   | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Yamorchestra<br>6pm - Marching Band | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>4pm - Yamorchestra                               | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Yamorchestra     | 6:15am - NU Band Day at<br>6pm - Boosterpalooza @ |
| 11  | 12   | 13  | 14   | 15  | 16  | 17  |
|     | Fannie May Sale Begins<br>7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>2:30pm - Drumline<br>4pm - Jazz Combo<br>4pm - Yamorchestra | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>4pm - Yamorchestra<br>5:30pm - Color Guard   | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Yamorchestra<br>6pm - Marching Band | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>4pm - Evanston Day Pep<br>4pm - Football Game vs | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Yamorchestra     | 9am - Evanston Day<br>9am - Yamorchestra          |
| 18  | 19   | 20  | 21   | 22  | 23  | 24  |
|     | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>2:30pm - Drumline<br>4pm - Jazz Combo<br>4pm - Yamorchestra                           | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>4pm - Yamorchestra<br>5:30pm - Color Guard   | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Yamorchestra                        | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>7:30pm - YAMO                                    | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>7:30pm - YAMO          | 9am - Marching Band<br>7:30pm - YAMO              |
| 25  | 26   | 27  | 28   | 29  | 30  | 1   |
|     | Non-Attendance Day   | Fannie May Sale Ends<br>7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>5:30pm - Color Guard | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>6pm - Marching Band                       | 7am - Jazz Band II<br>7am - Jazz Lab Band<br>7:30pm - YAMO                                    | 7am - Jazz Ensemble<br>4pm - Football Game vs | 7:30pm - YAMO                                     |

### To Sync the ETHS Band Google Calendar to your devices, see below!

1. Click on the appropriate iCal (Mac) or HTML (PC) link to the calendar you want to subscribe to in the email below from you desktop Mac.

Bands iCAL: <http://tinyurl.com/bandical>

Bands HTML:

<http://tinyurl.com/bandhtml> Jazz iCAL:

<http://tinyurl.com/jazzical>

Jazz HTML: <http://tinyurl.com/jazzhtml>

Marching iCAL:

<http://tinyurl.com/marchingical>

Marching HTML: <http://tinyurl.com/marchinghtml>

2. The link will launch your browser. That file is called **basic.ics**
3. Import this into your calendar. Find the **basic.ics** file and either drag it onto the iCalendar icon in your dock, or launch the iCalendar app.
4. If you want to import it, here are the steps:
  - o File > Import > Import...
  - o Find the **basic.ics** file and double-click on it
  - o Select **New calendar** from the drop down
  - o Click OK
5. The desired calendar should appear as a calendar in the left-hand pane of the iCalendar app.

## VOLUNTEERING

The success of the Evanston Township High School Band Program is a result of the dedication and hard work of the students, parents, administrators and directors. Everyone realizes the importance of music and music education in the development of young people. Here at ETHS, we have been fortunate to have generous support from parents in many forms, including volunteering. Throughout the year, there will be countless opportunities to volunteer in different capacities. Mr. Bufis and Mrs. Sullivan will be emailing requests for volunteers throughout the year, please consider generously offering your time.

-----  
(Carefully Detach Here)

## HANDBOOK CONTRACT

\*\*\*Please Sign and Return by 8-26-22\*\*\*

Student's Name (printed ) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

| Student Initial | Parent Initial |  |
|-----------------|----------------|--|
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the Band Grading Policy   |
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the Rehearsal Expectations  |
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the Practice Expectations   |
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the section regarding Required Materials  |
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the School Equipment Policy   |
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the Performance Dress Policy  |
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the Transportation Policy   |
| _____           | _____          | I have read and understood the ETHS Music Honors Credit Program and have visited the website (separate packet)   |
| _____           | _____          | <i>I have read, bookmarked and/or synched the ETHS Band Calendar and checked my personal schedule against all performances, events, and rehearsals as of today</i> |

### Required Performances:

Fall Music Festival Concert – Wednesday October 19th, 7:00 p.m.  
D65 Band Day – Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. (Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band only)  
Holiday Band/Choir Concert – Thursday December 15th, 7:00 p.m.  
March Band Concert – Tuesday March 7th, 7:00 p.m. (With Saxophonist Eric Marienthal)  
Spring Band Concert – Thursday May 11th, 7:00 p.m.  
Graduation Concert – (@NU) Sunday May 21st 10:00 a.m. (10th/11th Grades Only)

### Marching Band/Jazz Ensemble/Wind Symphony

Band Day – Wednesday October 26th, 7:00 p.m.

### Wind Symphony Only:

Illinois Superstate – (U of I) Saturday May 6th TBA  
Other Opportunities TBA

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_