



# Fine Arts Department

**Matthew P. Bufis, Director of Bands**  
**Haley Nichol, Associate Director of Bands**

**Evanston Township High School**

Wednesday October 27, 2021

Dear 8th Grade Students,

On behalf of the staff and students at Evanston Township High School Bands, welcome to ETHS! We hope that your school year is going well and that you are as excited as we are for your freshmen year at ETHS. We are really looking forward to having you in the program next year. We have a lot of exciting things planned and can't wait for you to join us!

As you prepare to go through the Course Request process for classes at ETHS in late January, we wanted to remind you to select Band "MU0202" as your top elective choice in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. If you have any scheduling questions regarding band, or about our band program in general, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or phone at the information below. We are happy to help you as you transition to ETHS and would hate to see any student walk away from playing their instrument after making such an investment during their grade-school years. High school will bring so many wonderful learning and performance opportunities in music – you do not want to miss out! We also wanted to remind those of you who would like to participate in Choir as well as Band at ETHS to sign up for the Band Class "MU0202" through the course request process and simply join one of Ms. Zegree's extra-curricular choir groups once you arrive at ETHS in the fall - which meet before school, during lunch periods, or after school. Over one third of our band students take this option to participate in both music avenues during their high school experience and we strongly encourage it as a faculty.

Enclosed, you will find some basic information about our program as well as some instructions as to how to request band as an elective course at ETHS. You will need this information to complete the course request process at Course Selection Night on Wednesday January 26th and Thursday January 27th, depending on your assigned day, which is the event designed to help you choose your freshmen year classes through an online interface. Our music faculty will be present at these events to answer any of your questions prior to your online scheduling time.

Once you are enrolled in Band for next year, you will receive further information about our marching and jazz programs. We look forward to seeing you again soon at your middle school in the coming weeks!

Sincerely,

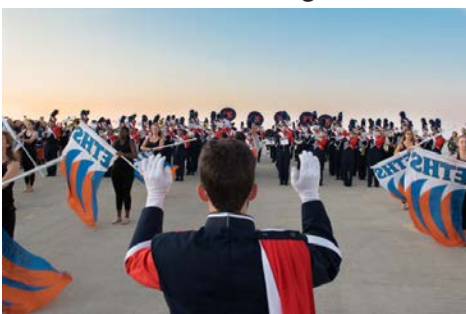
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### ETHS Color Guard



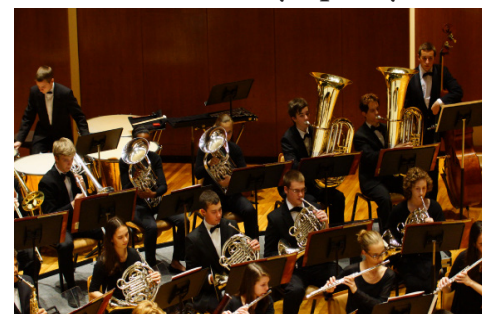
### Wildkit Marching Band



### ETHS Jazz Ensemble



### ETHS Wind Symphony





ETHS Bands Registration Information Sheet  
Band Class of 2026



*Welcome to ETHS!*

*Parents, please refer to this paper as you go through the process of requesting courses for your freshman year. We hope this information will be helpful to you as you plan your schedule for the 2022-2023 school year!*

- *If you have any questions, call us right away at: 847-424-7853 or 847-424-7869, or email us at: [bufism@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:bufism@eths.k12.il.us) or [sullivanh@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:sullivanh@eths.k12.il.us). We are happy to help you through the sign-up process! You may also visit [www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com) for more information.*

- *Students: Select:*

*“Concert Band” MU0202, standard (honors will be entered later – see “FAQ” page).*

*Band students are assigned to a particular lunch period to make scheduling easier, so your band and lunch periods will be “connected.” We have already pre-approved your child’s enrollment in HS band, based on their participation in their middle school program. All you have to do is sign up!*

*How To Request Band As An Elective At Course Selection Night*

*All freshman will be guided through an online course request process as part of the Course Selection Night experience. You will be prompted to choose whether or not you want to take Biology as a freshman (a graduation requirement that the vast majority of our band students take freshmen year, though you can take it as a sophomore) and to choose whether or not you would like to choose a World Language. Then you will be asked to select 6 elective choices and rank them.*

*Rank Band (MU0202) as your 1<sup>st</sup> elective choice. You will be asked to rank your top 6 elective choices of the dozen or so options available to you as freshman. Rank Band MU0202 as your number 1 choice of these six choices. Since you will be required to choose 6 options, this is a great opportunity to think through some other classes you might want to take in future years!*

***That’s it! You have now prioritized BAND as your top elective choice!***

**PLEASE HAVE THIS DOCUMENT AVAILABLE AT COURSE SELECTION NIGHT**

## **Frequently asked questions about requesting band as an elective:**

The process of finding enough room in your student's schedule can be confusing – especially at the incoming freshman level. Here some suggestions for making sure band can fit into your schedule:

### **Q: What course do I request if I want to be in band?**

A: Request MU0202 – Concert Band. It takes one class period. **Be sure that BAND is your top elective priority (after Biology and World Language prompts), or it will not be placed in your schedule.**

### **Q: Is band a double period? How does my lunch period work?**

A: Band IS NOT a double period class. When you are sectioned into a band class (there are three different sections), a lunch period is then assigned to you that corresponds to your band placement. For example, freshman are placed in 4<sup>th</sup> period band and 6<sup>th</sup> period lunch, and most upperclassmen are placed in either 6<sup>th</sup> period band with 5<sup>th</sup> period lunch, or visa versa. This allows for students to be most accurately placed in a proper band class according to their playing ability. The bottom line is: **BAND IS NOT A DOUBLE PERIOD CLASS, AND YOU DO GET A LUNCH!**

### **Q: What if I want Honors Credit for band?**

A: You may choose to take band for honors credit once you have started school in August. HC is based on additional activities you select to perform in (such as marching band, jazz groups, pep band, etc.), and you may not know this right now, as you sign up. We will make the level changes for you during the first semester of the year.

### **Q: Do I have to enroll in band if I want to play in a jazz, or other lab group?**

A: Yes, you do. All of our "lab" groups, like jazz, are subdivisions of our main ensembles – BAND, CHOIR, and ORCHESTRA. Your academic credit is obtained from these ensembles, and the lab groups are given "pass-fail" credit on your transcript to show your involvement.

### **Q: What if I play a non-traditional band or orchestra instrument such as piano or guitar?**

A: Piano and guitar players who want to play in jazz groups must meet with Mr. Bufis, Ms. Nichol, and Mr. Acevedo to discuss this interest. Use the contact information below to get in touch with us. We also encourage you to sign up for one of our non-performance classes such as Seminar in American Music, AP Music Theory, Guitar 1 or Guitar 2, or Music Technology & Recording sequences so you are getting a fine arts credit. Perhaps you also sing – consider joining Choir! Pianists may want to audition for Mr. Acevedo for a piano position in Orchestra, when available. His email is: [acevedoa@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:acevedoa@eths.k12.il.us)

### **Q: How do I find space in my schedule for band as an elective?**

A: This is truly the most common question. ETHS offers a wide variety of electives, and finding time to explore them all can seem like an impossible chore as a freshman. Here are some tips:

1. Map out your **entire four years** of required classes, using the four-year course planning worksheet as a guide. You should notice that the Junior and Senior years are much more open to possible electives than the Freshman and Sophomore years. While continuing to play a musical instrument is an ongoing experience, it is possible to put some course sequences off until later, when there is more time to take them. Check out this [Four Year Course Planning Worksheet!](https://www.eths.k12.il.us/Page/511) (<https://www.eths.k12.il.us/Page/511>)
2. Consider taking some required or elective classes in **Summer School** before your freshmen year or during your 4 years at ETHS. Many students who are also interested in other elective classes take them during summer school so that they can continue with these course sequences once their schedules open up junior or senior years..

There may be other ways to adjust your individual schedules based on your class choices in the required subjects, as well. If you want to discuss your particular situation, please email us at: [bufism@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:bufism@eths.k12.il.us) and [sullivanh@eths.k12.il.us](mailto:sullivanh@eths.k12.il.us)

In closing, we want to thank you for your support of music education in your child's life. Music is a unique and life-long experience for us all, and we look forward to sharing in that experience with you over the next four years!

-- Mr. Matthew Bufis and Ms. Haley Sullivan

## About Band At ETHS!

### ADVANTAGES TO TAKING BAND IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Band meets every day *during the school day*.
- Band is an academic subject.
- Band can be taken for regular or honors credit.
- Semi-Annual trips to places like Disneyworld, New York, New Orleans, Toronto, and Washington D.C.!
- Lots of social connections – Band is a friendly place in a big school.



### *Flexibility*

A staggering percentage of Band students participate in fall, winter, and spring sports as well as Cheerleading and Pomkits, are involved in theatre productions, are members of the Choral program, and participate in clubs and activities offered by ETHS in addition to Band. Freshman have no problems placing band in their schedule and can still participate in sports, clubs, and activities.

### *Variety of Experiences*

ETHS Band students form three ability-based concert bands, the Wildkit Marching Band, Basketball Pep Band, three ability-based jazz big-bands and several small group combos, three percussion ensembles, flute choir, and the pit orchestras for the all-school musical and for YAMO. The program also offers an honors recital and solo and ensemble festival, a student music mentorship program, and much more!

### *Performance Opportunities*

Performance opportunities include four annual music program concerts, adjudicated festivals throughout the state and region, opportunities to perform at prestigious venues such as the U of I Krannert Center, the Peoria Civic Center, Chicago's Symphony Center, Northwestern University's Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, and many more. Our athletic bands have had the opportunity to perform in major high school and collegiate stadiums and basketball arenas and our jazz groups have performed in famous jazz venues throughout Chicago and beyond, providing authentic experiences in every aspect of music making.

### *Travel*

As a band program, all of our students are given opportunities to travel – in our concert band program as well as in our jazz and marching programs. Previous destinations have included New York City, Disney World, New Orleans, Washington D.C., and Toronto. 2022-2023 is another traveling year for the band – we can't wait to take you with us!

### *Professional Feedback*

Throughout a four-year band experience, students will have many opportunities to receive invaluable feedback from professional musicians. All of our concert bands and jazz groups, as well as our marching band, receive clinics from the pros on a frequent basis. The ETHS Band program employs an excellent adjunct faculty of private lesson teachers who run sectionals and teach lessons on our campus on a regular basis. In addition, thanks to the help of the Fodor Fund Artist in Residency program, our students have the opportunity to perform with world-renowned soloists in live concert settings!

### *Opportunities for Individual Support*

ETHS faculty members are available before and after school and during free periods to offer additional help to all band students. The music wing also functions as a study-center, affording all music students the opportunity to utilize our many classrooms and practice rooms during their free time. As part of our music mentorship program, students seeking additional support can be paired up with upperclassmen band students – offering both a musical support system as well as a social connection within our program.



## The ETHS Wildkit Marching Band



The ETHS Wildkit Marching Band is the Pride of ETHS! Representing the spirit and enthusiasm of our school through music, marching, and cheers, this ensemble plays at all home football games, the fall pep rally, and at competitions and parades in Evanston and beyond.

The Wildkit Marching Band is a co-curricular performing ensemble and has regularly scheduled rehearsals during 6th period each day during Marking Quarter 1, as well as several Wednesday evening rehearsals in August through October. Our summer rehearsal schedule includes several rehearsals in preparation for the Evanston July 4th Parade and a summer Band Camp in early August at Eastern Illinois University and on our own ETHS practice field. For a complete rehearsal schedule, visit our Band Calendar at [www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com) for a full listing of Wilkit Marching Band Activities.

### Fast Facts About Marching Band:

- 60%-70% of Freshmen Band students join Marching Band annually!
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade Rehearsals run June 29, 30, July 1..
- Marching Band participation can be used for Honors Credit in Band!
- Band Camp: August 1-5, 8-12 2022

### To Sign Up For Marching Band:

- No Audition Required – Everyone Is Welcome!
- Attend Marching Band Information Night (Information To Be Mailed In February)
- Sign-Up By Completing Marching Band Commitment Form By May 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 (To Be Mailed In February)

## The ETHS Jazz Program

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 in 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. Evanston Township High School Jazz Big Bands and Jazz Combos function as credit-bearing curricular courses on your transcript.

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.

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.



### To Sign Up For Jazz Big Bands & Jazz Combos:

- Prepare Audition Excerpts (Available online in April at [www.ethsbands.com](http://www.ethsbands.com))
- Complete An Audition During The First Week Of School (Sign-Up Sheet Available Online in Early August)