



Easton Area High School Instrumental Music Department

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Instrumental Music Director

8th Grade Instrumental Music Parent Night

Dear 8th Grade Instrumental Music Families:

Hopefully this letter finds you well after the holiday season. The year is moving quickly and we are already beginning our planning for the 2020 - 2021 school year. With this, we will be holding an informational session for all families of instrumentalists, including colorguard, on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020**. Students are also welcome to attend. This event will be held in the instrumental music room at **Easton Area High School** and begin at **7:00 PM**. Please enter through the main entrance of the high school. There will be student greeters there to direct you. There will be light refreshments for you to enjoy before the meeting.

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 8th grade evaluations. Important information regarding scheduling for the next school year will also be provided, along with dates for our summer band camp and 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 members of our society. 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 & Aaron Hetrick

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, *11th grade clarinets*

“Being in this program has given me the opportunity to give back to my community and play at games, parades, and pep rallies. It has given me structure and taught me responsibility. It has become an outlet for me to be myself and not have any worries.” - Peyton Keleher, *12th grade alto & clarinet*



“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, *9th grade trumpet*

“Orchestra this year has been the most fun and enjoyable year by far. Where do I start? I made so many new friends from other grades and have improved so much since the first day of string camp.” - Michael Cichocki, *10th grade violin*

“Band has been an amazing experience so far because everyone around you is so welcoming and willing to help.” - Alexa Catenaro, *9th grade percussion*



“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, *10th grade tuba*



“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, *11th grade trumpet*

“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, *11th grade violin & guard*

“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, *11th grade 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, *10th grade percussion*

“Being as a group, we can cooperate and collaborate amongst ourselves and learn new skills everyday. Eventually, this leads us to do our best in our concerts and make new friends.”

- Camille Voo, *10th grade violin*



“Band and orchestra are two of my biggest commitments and something I’m most proud of.”

- Kayla Joyner, *12th grade guard & viola*

“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, *9th grade tuba & bass*

“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, 9th grade trumpet



“As each concert went by, I really saw how much I enjoyed orchestra as a whole. There is nothing more satisfying than finishing your last piece and hearing the applause, but then also realizing how far I had gotten and what I had achieved to get to the point I am now.” Brayden Caffrey, 11th grade cello & percussion



“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, 9th grade trumpet

“The experience of being in band is amazing. I look forward to it everyday and it really shows us what potential we have from the field show to our concert music.”
- Emily Nicolazzi, 9th grade flute



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