



**Fife High School
Music Department Handbook
2018-2019**

*“Music expresses that which cannot be said
and on which it is impossible to be silent.”*

–Victor Hugo

Fife High School Music Department Handbook

Welcome Message	3
Statement of Purpose and Enrollment	4
Benefits of Participating in Music Programs	4
Music Courses Available at FHS	5
Concerts and Events Description	6
Music Department Goals and General Grading Policy	7
Materials and Concert Attire	8
Private Instruction and Resources for Lessons	9
Concerts and Events Schedule	10
Fife High School Music Support Organization	11
Fife High School Music Program Code of Conduct	12
Commitment for Travel and Parent/Guardian Permission	13
Acknowledge Receipt and Understanding	14

Welcome Message

Dear Parents and Students,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you from the Fife High School Music Department! We are eagerly anticipating the upcoming new school year and are looking forward to having you further your musical interests with us here at the high school. In order to make your transition to the high school music program as enjoyable and smooth as possible, the following information regarding music at FHS should be helpful.

In this handbook you will find information about the choirs and bands at Fife High School, as well as rules and guidelines, grading policies, classroom and performance expectations, and a calendar of events proposed for the year. The Fife High School web site will provide you updates for the music calendar for this year's season of performances. Please mark all the dates in your calendars so that you can come and support your child in their musical endeavors. Please read through this handbook with your musician, and sign the last page acknowledging that both you and your child understand the expectations and responsibilities of the Fife High School Music Program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (253) 223-5858 or by email at ksorensen@fifeschools.com. You are also invited to like our **Music Department Facebook page** as well as follow our **Twitter and Instagram accounts (@fifelovesmusic)** for additional information/updates throughout the year. With our parents' support and cooperation, and our students' hard work and dedication, I expect this to be another great year.

Sincerely,

Karl Sorensen
Director of FHS Music Department
Fife High School
<https://sites.google.com/a/fifeschools.com/fhs-music/>



Statement of Purpose

The Fife School District communities have made available support in order that children and young adults within their community can partake in and appreciate music and music performance.

The Fife High School Music Program seeks to educate students in technique, performance strategies and etiquette, knowledge and comprehension of the role of music in society, esprit de corps, and other areas of music education with the intention of providing each participant the skills and desire to enjoy music as an integral part of their life now and in the future.

Enrollment

Once a student is enrolled in a music course at Fife High School, he or she is a member for the duration of the school year. Choir and Band are traditional classes and not an extracurricular activity. Students will receive grades and are expected to adhere to all policies established by Fife High School and this Music Handbook. Attendance in class and for performances is required.

Benefits of Participating in Music Programs

- Develop skills: critical thinking, creative problem solving, effective communication, teamwork and more
- Keeps students engaged in school and less likely to drop out
- Helps students achieve in other academic subjects like math, science and reading.
- The College Entrance Exam Board found that students involved in school music programs score 107 points higher on the SAT's than students with no participation
- Music majors are the most likely group of college graduates to be admitted to medical school
- Music enhances the process of learning. The systems it nourishes, which include integrated sensory, attention, cognitive, emotional and motor capacities, are shown to be the driving forces behind all other learning.
- U S Department of Education data shows that students who report consistently high levels of involvement in instrumental music during the middle and high school years show significantly higher levels of mathematic proficiency by grade 12.

Music Programs Available at Fife High School

The Fife High School Music Program currently has three choral performing groups and two instrumental performing groups. Enrollment in all performing groups is based on audition and/or teacher recommendation.

Da Capo Singers

This is an extremely high-achieving vocal ensemble made up of male and female voices (voicing depends on choral department enrollment). The goal of this class is to explore choral music at its highest level. This is accomplished through disciplined rehearsal, disciplined home practice, and dedication. The student will gain an appreciation of several styles of vocal music and skills required to acquire highest quality vocal production. Private lessons are recommended.

Jazz Choir

This is an extremely high-achieving vocal ensemble. The goal of this class is to explore choral music at its highest level. This is accomplished through disciplined rehearsal, disciplined home practice, and dedication. The student will gain an appreciation of several styles of vocal music (focusing mostly on jazz) and the skills required to acquire highest quality vocal production. Private lessons are expected. A rhythm section consisting of piano, bass, and drums are necessary for this ensemble.

Ladies First

This is an extremely high-achieving, all women's vocal ensemble. The goal of this class is to explore choral music at its highest level. This is accomplished through disciplined rehearsal, disciplined home practice, and dedication. The student will gain an appreciation of several styles of vocal music and skills required to acquire highest quality vocal production. Private lessons are recommended.

Jazz Band

The goal of this class is to further individual and group musical knowledge and instrumental ability through study, practice, and performance. Concerts, contests, Pep Band, and special public relations engagements are among the performance requirements of this group. The student will strive to master his/her instrumental technique and performance skills during rehearsal and private practice. Students will practice and perform a variety of styles of music appropriate to the jazz ensemble. As part of the student's grade, he/she is expected to attend all performances, perform in all Pep Band musical functions and related group activities (i.e. summer rehearsals, group retreat). Private lessons are recommended.

Concert Band

The goal of this class is to further individual and group musical knowledge and instrumental ability through study, practice, and performance. Concerts, contests, Pep Band, and special public relations engagements are among the performance requirements of this group. The student will strive to master his/her instrumental technique and performance skills during rehearsal and private practice. Students will practice and perform a variety of styles of music appropriate to the ensemble. As part of the student's grade, he/she is expected to attend all performances, perform in all Pep Band musical functions and related group activities. Private lessons are recommended.

Pep Band

Pep Band is a high-energy music entertainment group for all home varsity football and boys and girls basketball games. The Pep Band combines the Concert Band and the Jazz Band to support Fife High School athletes and is a required ensemble for all FHS band members. Each student is expected to perform at all Pep Band scheduled events. If the Fife teams advance into the playoffs, there will be additional games the Pep Band will perform in. These dates and times will be on the FHS music web page when the schedule has been determined.

Fife High School Music Department Concert and Event Descriptions

Concerts

All Fife Music Groups perform in 4 mandatory concerts during the school year. These concerts take place in October, December, March and June. Specific dates and times will be posted on the Fife High School calendar of events. These performances are a demonstration of each student's growth in their musical ability and what they have accomplished in working with an ensemble.

Tour*

This annual music tour is for all Fife High School musical groups. The Fife High School Music Department visits 3 or more high schools in Western WA and participates in concert workshops. This tour typically takes place in the month of March and specific dates again will be posted on the school calendar.

Festivals*

It is planned that every musical group at Fife High School will perform in one or more musical festivals a year. Concert Band will perform in the Concert Band Festival at Stadium High School and Choral Groups attend the District Choral Festival at FHS. The Jazz Choir and Jazz Band may have two to three festivals or competitions throughout the year. These are typically the Clark College Jazz Festival (Jazz Band), Clackamas Jazz Festival (Jazz Band and Choir) and the Pleasant Hill Jazz Festival (Jazz Choir).

Other Fife Music Department Performances

Different musical groups will perform at the Daffodil Selection (October), the Commencement Bay Jazz Festival Fundraising Event (March), Jazz Night (June), Graduation (June), and other ceremonies throughout the school year deemed appropriate. Specific dates will be on the Fife School calendar.

Summer Jazz Retreat and Fall Concert Retreat*

The summer retreat is a tradition for all jazz students. It is a perfect opportunity for everyone to bond and to begin rehearsing the music for the upcoming year. (Typically the second week of August) The Concert Band, Da Capo, and Ladies First ensembles may attend a retreat in early November to attend numerous workshops and clinics.

***Tour, festivals, and retreats will have additional fees/costs associated with them and the actual costs will be determined prior to the trips.**

Fife High School General Music Department Goals

- To develop the skills necessary to be a life-long musician
- To develop the life-long skills of teamwork and responsibility
- To discover high quality music from many different cultures and time periods
- To meet, work with, and form lasting relationships with other music members
- To perform with pride for your school and community
- To learn to sing and play in ensembles
- To learn to read music
- To learn the basics of genres and styles
- To develop self-discipline, concentration and cooperation
- To have opportunities to perform in group performances, concerts, community events, large group contests, and school performances

Fife High School General Grading Policy

- **Daily participation in class**, demonstrating the rehearsal skills necessary to become a successful musician and being prepared for class.
- **Attendance at required performances and practices.** Unexcused absences are not acceptable. Written permission must be received from parents/guardians no later than 24 hours prior to the event and the Music Director must agree the absence is warranted. Failure to meet these requirements may result in a loss of up to two grades (i.e. A to C) and possible removal from the musical group.
 - If students are late to Department agreed upon warm-up times before concerts/performances, they may lose the privilege to perform. This in turn will affect their grade.
- **Oral and written assessments** of individual singing/playing and music reading skills. This is done by observing your group work and sight-reading in class. Your participation in class helps show your understanding of the music concepts we are studying.

Materials and Concert Attire

All students should bring with them to class:

- A folder with music.
- A pencil. (It is best to keep it in your folder)
- All band members need to bring a complete and fully functioning instrument.
- Choir members may want to bring water.
- Tuner and metronome are necessary for band.

Concert Attire

It is asked that students adhere to Fife High School dress code policies for every music occasion.

Men*:

- Black tuxedo jacket, black dress pants, black plain T-shirt, black socks, black dress shoes.

Women:

- Black dress and black dress shoes. Minimum dress length must be to bottom of fingertips. Modest jewelry is permitted. Please wear unscented lotions and perfumes.

*Tux jackets and pants may be checked out from the Music Department free of charge. After the final performance event of the year, it is asked that the jackets and pants are returned clean. Replacement cost is \$350.00.

All concert attire shall be worn properly at all times during a performance or rehearsal or as instructed by the director. Shoes should be cleaned and/or polished for each performance. Tuxedo Wholesalers are a good resource for all formal attire and have all sizes. Average dress cost is \$50.00. <http://www.tuxedowholesaler.com>

Private Lessons

All FHS Music students are encouraged to take private lessons in order to keep up pace with the quickly-improving ensembles.

The private lesson instructors in this list are familiar with the Fife High School Music Program and have worked with our students.

Brass	Jay Scot	253-879-3575
Sax	Fred Winkler	360-893-7000
Sax	Wayne Ledbetter	425-277-1420
Drums	Jay Douglas	253-312-1111
Voice	Jenny Shotwell	seattlelessons@gmail.com
Voice and Jazz Studies	Hayley Rathburn	253-334-2897 rathburnhayley@gmail.com

There are several resources for private teachers that include local universities, professional organizations, and local music stores.

University of Puget Sound Community Music Program: 253- 879-3575

Music & Arts

South Hill
1202 Meridian East
Puyallup, WA 98373
253-848-8478

Music & Arts

32042 23rd Ave
Federal Way, WA
98003
253-946-4956

Ted Brown Music

6228 Tacoma Mall Blvd
Tacoma, WA 98409
253-272-3211

**2018-2019 FHS Music Department
CONCERT AND EVENT SCHEDULE:**

CONCERTS:

Wednesday, October 24
Monday, December 17
Wednesday, March 13
Wednesday, June 5

FESTIVALS:

League Jazz Band Festival (Jazz Band) – January 17
Clackamas Jazz Festival (Jazz Choir and Jazz Band) – March 14-16
High School Band Festival at Stadium High School (Concert Band) – To Be Announced
District Choral Festival at FHS (Da Capo Singers, Jazz Choir and Ladies First) – To Be Announced

RETREATS:

Summer Jazz Retreat (Jazz Band and Jazz Choir) – August 7-11
Fall Concert Retreat (Concert Band, Ladies First, Da Capo) – November 2-4

MUSIC DEPARTMENT TOUR:

March 8-10

FALL PEP BAND

(Dates are subject to change. Winter Schedule to Follow):

September 14
September 28
October 19

OTHER:

Doctor Funk Show Fundraiser at Louie G's – To Be Announced
Daffodil Selection – October To Be Announced
Commencement Bay Jazz Festival Fundraiser – March 23
Jazz Night – To Be Announced
Graduation – To Be Announced

Fife Music Department Support Organization

Due to the FHS Music Program at Fife being so extremely active, we ask families and friends of music students to participate in our Parent/Student Support Organization. This group usually meets on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm in the music room at Fife High School.

This group meets to help promote the FHS music programs and ensure their success. The organization raises funds to furnish the FHS Music Program with essential equipment, repair, and fundraising opportunities to make music trips possible.

The main fundraising event we put together is the annual **Commencement Bay Jazz Festival**. Funds from this event make certain all music students are able to participate in FHS music activities. High school ensembles from all over Washington and Oregon travel to our schools to compete, receive workshops, and attend world-class concerts featuring professional musicians. FHS students participate by guiding visiting schools, selling concessions, and helping set up and tear down.

Another fundraising event we plan is a **Fundraising Concert** that takes place at Louie G's. This year we are hiring the international soul band DoctorfunK! Students have the opportunity to earn money toward their music costs by selling tickets to this concert. More information can be found on the music department website.

Students are also able to earn money for their music account by signing up to work at **Concessions** for basketball games. Each hour of work earns the student \$10.00. We also are in need of parents to oversee this activity. More information can be found on the music department website.

If you would like to be a part of this organization and/or assist with any of these activities, please e-mail me at ksorensen@fifeschools.com. Our first meeting is **October 4**.



FHS MUSIC TOURS, TRIPS AND FESTIVAL CODE OF CONDUCT

Fife High School students on approved field trips are subject to the same rules of behavior and conduct as specified in the Fife High School Student Handbook. In addition, students are responsible for compliance with established field trip guidelines and the field trip student code of conduct as follows:

1. Students will comply with the directives of the chaperones, band director and/or staff members. All student members shall respect and abide by the authority of all chaperones.
2. Students will comply with designated curfew times and remain in their assigned rooms during sleeping hours. Curfew is 11:00 pm unless otherwise authorized by Music Director. Students may not leave the hotel grounds without permission or direction of chaperone and/or the Music Director.
3. No students are allowed in other students' rooms without the presence of a chaperone.
4. Students will remain with the group in conformance with the established field trip itinerary. Students are to travel in groups of three or more.
5. Students will dress appropriately at all scheduled activities as suggested by the band director.
6. Students will be financially prepared for the trip as outlined in the trip guidelines.
7. No student member shall be late for any rehearsal, performance or group departure times.
8. No student member shall behave in a manner that could be interpreted as derogatory. When on a trip, you not only represent yourself, but your family, your school, and your community. Conduct yourself in a mature manner that will bring only respect and credit to you and your organization. Breaking of any of these rules may result in being sent home at their expense and/or the expense of the parents and possible removal from the music group.

I have read and fully understand the code of conduct for the FIFE HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC PROGRAM and agree to comply with the intent of these conduct rules.

STUDENT SIGNATURE DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGN. DATE

Commitment for Overnight Travel and Parent/Guardian Permission
CONCERT BAND, LADIES FIRST, AND DA CAPO

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Music Department has decided to commit to trips during this school year. Certain guidelines are necessary. Please read this carefully and review this with your musician before you sign this travel commitment.

The Department travels to participate in festivals, competitions and tours to provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate and share their musical achievements and creativity. They will be evaluated on musical achievements in a constructive and educationally focused way. These trips complement and enhance the teaching, learning and growing process while participating in the FHS Music Program.

- 1. Fall Concert Retreat (Concert Groups) – \$300.00 (November)**
- 2. Music Department Tour (Entire Music Department)– \$300.00 (March)**

TOTAL: \$600.00

You can make payments throughout the year to the FHS Bookkeeper and all fees must be paid prior to the trip.

Important things to know:

1. Travel is not mandatory and will not be graded.
2. Students must pay for all travel before departure dates.
3. Monthly payments are suggested and encouraged.
4. To receive a full refund travel must be cancelled one month prior to departure dates.
(NO EXCEPTIONS)
5. To receive ½ of the full refund, travel must be cancelled 2 ½ weeks before departure dates.
(NO EXCEPTIONS)
6. No refunds will be given if cancelled within two weeks of travel.
(NO EXCEPTIONS)

I have read and agree to the commitments for travel for my child for the school year. Your signature on this form will commit you to all trips designed for the classes your child is enrolled in and agreed upon by the FHS Music Program. Trips may be cancelled and/or changed by the FHS Music Program as deemed necessary.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Date

Fife High School Music Department



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

With the signatures below, we acknowledge that we have received and reviewed the contents of the Fife High School Music Department Handbook. I have read the attached documents regarding the schedules and policies for the music groups.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Print Student Name

Please tear this page off of booklet and return to FHS.