

10/19/2019

Dear Students and Parents / Guardians of the 2019 SJMEA Honor Band,

Congratulations on being nominated and accepted into this year's SJMEA Senior Honor Band! Each year the San Juan Music Educators Association (SJMEA) sponsors this event to bring together the music students in Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan and Island counties who excel at their instrument and exemplify dedication and commitment to music. Each year these students have the fantastic opportunity to rehearse and perform under some of the most inspirational guest conductors the Pacific Northwest has to offer. This year our guest conductor is Dr. Christopher Bianco, Director of Bands at Western Washington University.

Along with this honor comes careful preparation of the music assigned so that rehearsals can reach beyond just the notes to where the magic of any musical experience can begin. Music will be coming your way in the next week through your band director. Please spend time before this event on your own, with your director and/or private teacher to learn your parts.

The first rehearsal will be held at Mt. Vernon High School on Monday, 11/4 from 6:00-8:30pm. We will start with sectionals, give out information for the festival, and rehearse as a full band. On Monday, 11/11 (Veterans Day), rehearsals and a concert will be held at Western Washington University. That day, rehearsals will go from 9:00am-12:00 and then 1:00-3:00. Students will then have a break to eat, rest and change, and return by 3:30 dressed in your school's concert attire and ready to tune, and then the concert will begin at 4:00pm.

Please let family and friends attending know that parking is free that day at WWU due to the holiday!

Students: please make sure to have a pencil, water bottle (labeled with your name), snacks, lunch, extra reeds, neck strap, specific percussion gear depending on your assignments, etc.- anything needed to rehearse for a full day, in addition to your music and instrument. (You will have breaks!) Bring your concert uniform with you (rather than wear it all day), and label instruments & folders with name and school so we can easily identify them.

Please let your director or myself know if you have any questions, or if it turns out that you (students) have a conflict and cannot make it.

Congratulations!

Sincerely,

Kay Reilly
Honor Band Chair
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