



ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL
EAGLE BAND

Band Handbook

2024 - 2025

Mrs. Caitlin Creech: Band Director

Father Jeffrey Moore: Pastor

Mrs. Karen Evans: Principal

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Welcome!

August 30th, 2024

Dear ACS Eagle Band Students/Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your decision to be a part of The Assumption Catholic School Band Program. You are beginning a part of your life that is rewarding for both the student and family.

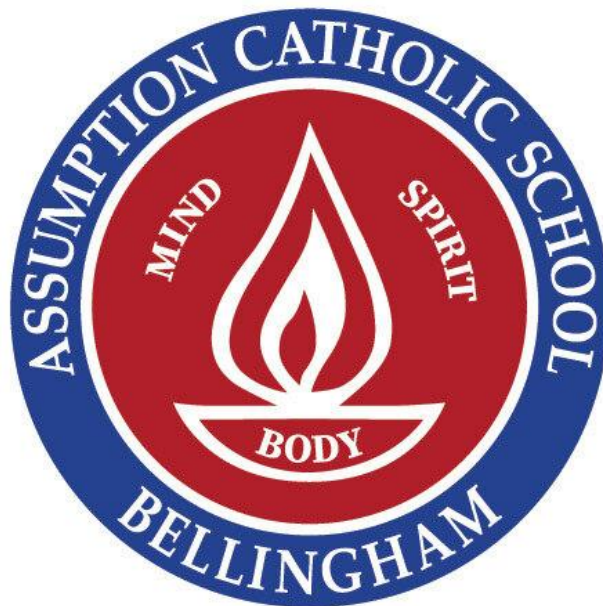
For all band students, at any level the band program has always been a source of growth, fulfillment, and fun. Students of the band program make new friends, have unique and exciting experiences, and may have opportunities to travel. The family has an opportunity to become involved in their child's education like never

before. Studies show a strong correlation between student participation in music and academic success because of music's contribution to cognitive development. That is why we always like to say to all of our students: "BE IN BAND!!"

Our goal is that the experience of all our band students will outweigh any investments you make. We encourage our students and families to consider the contributions the band program makes for the community and what it can do for everyone in the program. Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Caitlin Creech



Assumption Catholic School

Mission and Philosophy

Mission Statement

Assumption Catholic School, a ministry of the Church of the Assumption, provides excellent Catholic Education to preschool through eighth grade students of Whatcom County. All students are expected to reach their potential, to achieve a strong faith in God, and to go forth and make a lasting difference in the world.

Philosophy Statement

Assumption Catholic School inspires students to discern their vocations through academic excellence and a rigorous curriculum. Parents, the primary educators of their children, work in partnership with teachers to provide a nurturing and caring environment for a life of servant leadership. Students learn to serve with humility and compassion in their families, schools, churches, as well as local and global communities.

As a ministry of the Church of the Assumption, Catholic values are integrated into an innovative curriculum of 21st century skills that encourage collaboration and critical thinking. These skills help students make wise decisions concerning respect for life, dignity of the human person, life-long health and well-being in mind, body and spirit.

Calendar of Events (Fall Semester 2024)

Wednesday, August 28th, 2024	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES!! (No instruments yet.)
Friday, September 6th, 2024	Projected first day of using instruments in class.
September 2024	Afterschool Band Practices to begin. We will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays in the St. Cecilia Room from 3:15 - 4:15 pm. Students will be required to attend a specified number of afterschool practices each semester (information on page 7)
Thursday, December 19th, 2024	Christmas Program/Performance
Friday, January 5th, 2025	Alternate Assignment due for students who missed Christmas Performance

This calendar is subject to change. Changes will be communicated as soon as possible.



Image from: [Saint Cecilia • Saint stories - Teaching Catholic Kids](#)

St. Cecilia, Pray for Us!

Contact Information

Band Director

Caitlin Creech
ccreech@assumption.school

Administrator

Karen Evans
ACS Principal
(830)778-4570
danderson@assumption.school

Communication

Students are encouraged to communicate with the band director before concerns become issues. They should do this at an appropriate time. Again, clarification and solid communication will keep everything running smoothly throughout the entire year.

Throughout the year, we will be sending quite a bit of information home in the form of letters and email messages. Please make every effort to read this information carefully, check calendars often and keep us informed of any conflicts. The sooner we know of a situation, the more options we have in solving problems.

Please understand that our communication to you – the parents, and guardians – is a very high priority for us. We want to take care of concerns and make every situation the best for each student. Please contact us for clarification on any concerns before they become major issues. Due to afterschool practices and student help sessions, it is difficult to reach Mrs. Creech before or after school. If I am working with students, please understand that they are my highest priority and deserve my complete attention.

Conduct Expectations

Students will abide by all rules and guidelines included in the ACS [Parent-Student Handbook](#).

ACS Band Students will be: **SAFE, RESPONSIBLE, and RESPECTFUL** at all times.

IMPORTANT:

Any instances such as theft or any action which causes harm to other students and/or their belongings may result in immediate removal from the band program. This includes but is not limited to taking accessories such as reeds, oil, drumsticks and music. Theft includes hiding another student's instrument. If it is not yours, do not touch it unless instructed to do so!!

Care of Facilities

- No gum, food, or drinks are allowed in the band classroom/gymnasium/St. Cecilia Room except when authorized by the directors
- All trash is to be deposited in the wastebaskets provided (or recycling/compost bin if applicable)

- Acts of vandalism or the willful misuse of school property will not be tolerated. Every band member is responsible to help the director monitor the facility and control vandalism, which includes but is not limited to writing or carving on stands and walls, destroying music or instruments, or breaking school property.

Weekly Practice Logs

The rewards of playing a musical instrument increase in direct proportion to the number of hours invested in individual practice. The key is to set aside a designated time every day for practice. Set up a daily schedule to ensure that practice is an important part of your daily studies. A grading rubric will be included on every practice log; for full credit, the practice log must be complete.

- Due every Monday (5th Grade) or Wednesday (6th-8th Grade). If absent: Due the first day back to school.
- Signed by parent/guardian
- Can be turned in one day late, 10 points off
- Can be emailed to Mrs. Creech at ccreech@assumption.school
- Practice Logs will NOT be accepted after the 1-day late rule (unless student was absent)

Afterschool Band Practices

In order to have and maintain a high-quality band program, each member's attendance is essential. Due to our limited number of classes throughout the school-year, **band students will be asked to attend at least 2 afterschool band practices each month.** These practices will serve as an extension of our band classes.

Afterschool Band Practice will take place in the **St. Cecilia Room from 3:15 - 4:15 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning the week of September 11th.**

Concerts/Performances

Concerts/Performances Concerts and performances are an integral component of the band curriculum. Students should consult their band calendars for dates and times. Periodically, the schedule may change, and updates will be communicated. Punctuality is essential. A general report time will be given for all students. If a performance causes a student to miss another class, the student is responsible to make up all missed work.

Performances of the ensembles will include but are not limited to:

- Christmas Program
- Possible Talent Show Performance (TBD)
- Spring Program

Band Uniform

For all concerts/performances, students are to wear the ACS Dress Uniform or, if specified, dress clothes ("Sunday best").

Grading Policy

Students will be expected to meet the responsibilities for each band class as determined by the director. Since band is an academic music class with some extra-curricular activities attached, the band student's grade will reflect achievement in both curricular and extra-curricular areas.

General Grading Guidelines – ACS Band Students Students will be graded on the following scale:

Daily / Participation / Practice Logs /60%

Includes: Instrument, Music Supplies, Class Work, Participation in Class Activities, and Practice logs and other Homework Assignments

Playing / Written Tests and sectional / concert attendance 40%

Includes: Evaluation of music performance, concert attendance, afterschool band practice attendance, and accuracy/completion of written tests

Extra Credit

Extra Credit may be given to students who attend more than the 2 afterschool band practices per month. Other opportunities for Extra Credit will be specified at a later time.

Financial Obligations

It is highly encouraged that students purchase or rent their own instruments. Doing so will allow them to keep the same instrument throughout their band career and gives them more familiarity with that instrument.

Rental Information

Local Music Stores (listed in no particular order)

1. Bellingham Wind Works

Location: 2405 Meridian St, Bellingham, WA 98225

Website: <https://www.bellinghamwindworks.com/>

2. Bellingham Music

Location: 319 East Champion Street, Bellingham WA 98225

Website: <https://www.bellingham-music.com/>

Things to Consider When Purchasing an Instrument

1. If a deal looks too good to be true, it probably is.
 - a. Certain makes/brands are significantly cheaper than recommended brands. This is due to the parts used to make them. In many cases, once these instruments break, they cannot be fixed.

2. Consider buying used from one of our local music stores.
 - a. Buying a new instrument is great but can be a bit pricey! Used-instruments are usually much less in cost and still in excellent condition.

3. If your student is unsure if they will continue band in the future, renting may be a better option.
 - a. Buying a quality instrument can be a huge investment. Consider renting a “rent-to-own” program offered by one of our local music stores.

4. Explore [Reverb.com](https://www.reverb.com) for used instruments online!
 - a. You can also find quality instruments on Facebook marketplace, thrift stores, or even pawn shops. If you are unsure of the quality, please contact Mrs. Creech at ccreech@assumption.school.

Required Materials

- Band Book
 - *Measures of Success* Method **Book 1** (for flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone)



- Mark Wessels Curriculum (Percussion)
- Band Instrument (rented or purchased)
- Band Binder with the following items (all students):
 - A 1” black binder with windows
 - A copy of the band handbook
 - Sheet protectors for worksheets and music
 - Pencils
- Maintenance Kit (all students)
- Name Tag or name tape for Instrument Case (all students)
- Drumsticks and Mallets (percussion only)
- Reed Guard (Clarinets Only)
 - The one pictured is less than \$10 on Amazon!



Instruments: What Do I Need to Know?

The quality of instrument a student plays on is vital to his/her success in the band program. With that in mind, we would like to make the following suggestions:

- If you find something that is not on the recommended list, consult with Mrs. Creech to ensure the quality of the product and to ensure the playability of the instrument. We have had problems with brands that aren't listed at cheaper prices due to quality. These instruments can break or damage very easily and are not repairable due to the unavailability of parts. Many students have had to buy a new instrument within a few short months. If it is too good a deal, then there are probably reasons. If you have questions, contact the band directors.
- **YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO RENT.** Despite the cost of many instruments, music companies often have the option of renting an instrument at a cost that is cheaper than purchasing. **Don't drop band due to financial reasons. Mrs. Creech can help with this information and solutions.**
- **INSTRUMENTS GET DAMAGED EASILY.** If you purchase an instrument before we start playing in class, wait until we show the student how to properly handle the instrument **BEFORE** attempting to assemble it at home. Most instrumental damage takes place at home because students often do not understand how to properly handle and assemble the instrument. If you have already purchased an instrument, we recommend that you bring it to school so we can inspect it.
- **INSTRUMENTS REQUIRE MAINTENANCE.** Daily maintenance is the best way to ensure an instrument remains in playable condition which saves money in repairs and overhauls. All students will learn how to clean and care for their instruments during class.
- **DO NOT ATTEMPT INSTRUMENT REPAIRS BY YOURSELF.** Instrument repair is just as specialized as auto repair. One wrong move can cost you money. **If there is an issue with the instrument, the first step is to ALWAYS consult a band director.** There is a qualified repair service which takes care of instrument repairs for our school district.

Assumption Catholic School Band Recommended Instrument / Material List

C Flutes:

- Yamaha 200 series
 - YFL-200ADII

All flutes need to be equipped with cleaning kit, tuning rod, and ***Measures of Success Flute Book 1***

Bb Clarinet:

- Backun - Alpha
- Buffet Crampon Prodigé
- Yamaha 200 series
 - YCL 200AD II

All clarinets need to come equipped with 1 box of Rico or Van Doren size 2 ½ reeds, 1 ligature, Vandoren 5RV Lyre mouthpiece, cleaning kit, silk swab, and ***Measures of Success Clarinet Book 1***.

Trumpets:

- Bach TR300H2
- YTR 200ADII

All trumpets need to come equipped with 1 Bach 5C mouthpiece, cleaning kit, and ***Measures of Success Trumpet Book 1***. Denis Wick advanced formula valve oil with PTFE.

Trombones:

- King - 606

All trombones need to come equipped with 1 Bach 6 ½ AL mouthpiece, cleaning kit and ***Measures of Success Trombone Book 1***. Small spray bottle that fits in case and Slide Oil.

Parent and Student Contract Page

Student Information:

- Last Name: _____
- First Name: _____
- Shirt Size (MARK ONE): _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL
(adult size)

Legal Guardian:

- Last Name: _____
- First Name: _____
- Contact Phone Number(s): _____
- Email: _____
- Assumption Catholic School Employee: _____ YES _____ NO
- If not employed with Assumption Catholic School have you completed background check for volunteering with the school? _____ YES _____ NO (Parent/Guardian only needs to fill out background check if he/she desires to work as a volunteer for the band program. The band may have events that will require parents' help.)

We have read, understand, and agree to all the terms defined in the band handbook. By signing this form, we the student and the legal guardian(s), fully understand and commit ourselves to everything that is necessary to make this year in band a successful experience.

Signature of Student: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Please return all forms by September 20th, 2024 for a test grade.