

FERRIS HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

The Ferris Concert Band

The Ferris Concert Band has enjoyed a tradition of excellence that continues to improve each year. The band continually scores and performs at the top of its class in competition and festivals. The Concert Band has approximately 75 members. The band is the intermediate band and consists mostly of freshmen, sophomores and juniors. **It is expected that members of the Concert Band make a yearlong commitment to the band.** The ensemble meets every day during second period working to improve in the areas of tone, blend balance, and musicality. The ensemble performs medium to medium-difficult literature. The Concert Band performs approximately 6-8 times per year at concerts, contests, and festivals including a Fall, Winter, Spring and Awards Concert in our very own Paul G. Brueggemeier Hall. The Concert Band receives regular excellent and superior ratings at the Spokane Falls Music Educators Large Groups Band Festival. The Concert Band will again participate in the Spokane Falls Music Educators Large Group Band Festival. Concert Band will also travel to San Francisco over Memorial Day weekend 2021.

The Ferris Wind Ensemble

The Ferris Wind Ensemble is considered one of the premiere bands in the Pacific Northwest. The Band has enjoyed a rich tradition of success over the last eighteen years. The band works to improve tone, intonation, blend and balance in all of their rehearsals and performances. The Wind Ensemble has approximately 60 members. The band is the advanced band at Ferris and consists of mostly juniors and seniors. It is expected that members of the Wind Ensemble make a yearlong commitment to the band. Membership in this ensemble requires an audition in the spring of the year before this school year. The ensemble rehearses during fourth period daily and performs at concerts, contests, festivals, and community events 8-10 times per year including a Fall, Winter, Spring and Awards Concert in our very own Paul G. Brueggemeier Hall. The Wind Ensemble also performs a Veteran's Concert in November each year. The Wind Ensemble will perform at the Central Washington University Wind Ensemble Invitational, the Spokane Falls Music Educators Large Group Band Festival, and the Heritage Festival in San Francisco, CA.

Ferris Percussion

The Ferris Drum Line and Front Ensemble

The Ferris Drum Line and Front Ensemble is in its thirteenth year at Ferris. The Ensemble will focus on the technique and tools needed to perform music at a higher level. The Drum Line meets daily during fifth period. There are approximately 40 members of the Drum Line. The focus of the Drum Line class is the fundamentals of percussion. Exercises and drills based on the rudiments of percussion are used to teach the fundamentals. It is expected that members of the Drum Line make a year-long commitment to playing percussion. The members of the ensemble may have a number of opportunities for performance, they may include: performances with the bands, percussion competition and festivals, and concert and /or community events. The group performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Band Concerts. The culminating event of the year is our DRUMS ON THE HILL percussion concert.

The Ferris Advanced Percussion Ensemble

The Ferris Advanced Percussion Ensemble is in its thirteenth year as a class at Ferris. The Ensemble will focus on the technique and tools needed to perform music at the highest level. Membership in this ensemble requires an audition in the spring of the year before this school year. The Advanced Ensemble meets daily during sixth period. It is expected that members of the Advanced Ensemble make a yearlong commitment to playing percussion. There are 18 members of the Advanced Percussion Ensemble. The members of the ensemble may have a number of opportunities for performance, which include: performances with the bands, percussion competition and festivals, and concert and /or community events. The group performs at the Fall, Winter, and Spring Band Concerts. The culminating event of the year is our DRUMS ON THE HILL percussion concert. The Ensemble will also travel to San Francisco in May for the Heritage Festival.

Ferris Instrumental Jazz

The Ferris Jazz Bands

Ferris Jazz Band is an auditioned ensemble that rehearses two mornings each week. The auditions for Jazz Band are held the second week of school. Jazz III membership will be determined by number of participants. Members of the band will focus on learning about and performing jazz as well as work to gain more confidence in speaking the language of jazz, improvisation. The band meets Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 7:00-7:50am. In January the bands will have a winter jazz weekend where they will have rehearsals and sectionals lead by professional coaches. Members are encouraged to play one of the traditional jazz instruments (saxophone, trombone, trumpet, bass, piano, or drums).

The Ferris Jazz Orchestra

The Ferris Jazz Orchestra has experienced a tradition of excellence in jazz over the last twenty years. The Jazz Orchestra consistently places at the top of each festival or contest in which it enters. Members of the Jazz Orchestra perform at many community events in addition to the regular concert, festival, and Competition performances. The band meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 7:00-7:50am. In addition to regular rehearsals, band members are required to have a weekly sectional of 45min. or more. In January the band will have a winter jazz retreat where they will have rehearsals and sectionals lead by professional coaches. The Jazz Orchestra consists of standard big-band instrumentation. Membership in this ensemble requires an audition in the spring of the year before this school year. The Jazz Orchestra has regular invitations to perform at various community events throughout the year. One of the highlights of the year will be our Annual Swing Dance held in the Ferris Auditorium in December. This year, the band will participate in festivals and competitions at Whitworth University, the Northwest Jazz Festival in March, and the San Francisco Heritage Festival.

Other Ensembles

The Saxon Marching Band

The Ferris Saxon Marching Band participates in the Armed Forces Torchlight Parade as part of the Spokane Lilac Festival. Rehearsals occur in class and on the streets of our neighborhood the week before the parade.

Small Ensembles

The Small Ensembles program is for the students that wish to participate in a student-lead ensemble. The value of playing in a small ensemble is tremendous. A student gets the opportunity to focus on individual commitment and responsibility, musicianship, intonation, critical listening skills, and small group communication skills.

The Ferris Pep-Band – Football

All the students in the band are required to be the Pep Band at all of the Home football games. From the beginning of the home football games to the end, the band has a great time adding fun and exciting music to the Ferris football experience. The members of the band are proud to serve the Ferris community with music at the Football games to add to the excitement in the stadium!

The Ferris Pep-Band - Basketball

The Ferris Pep-Band plays at all home basketball games. The band has a great time providing the energy and noise at all the games. PEP-BAND IS A BLAST! The band provides raucous music and energy at all the home games. Every student must participate in four home basketball games with the pep band. Full-time members of the pep band perform at every home basketball game. Though this band does not compete or travel, the students have a great time watching and participating at the games. The students take pride in providing a unique and fun dimension to all home Ferris basketball games.