

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

Director of Communications: Gregg Herrington, (360) 885-5337

PO Box 200 • Battle Ground, WA 98604-0200 • Office Location: 11104 NE 149th Street • Brush Prairie, WA
District Switchboard: (360) 885-5300

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Five Battle Ground groups to perform at 49th Clark College Jazz Festival

Five music groups from Battle Ground Public Schools – four instrumental and one vocal -- will perform at the 49th annual Clark College Jazz Festival, Thursday through Saturday, Jan. 27-29. The Battle Ground contingent includes three high school groups and two from middle schools.

It all takes place at Gaiser Hall on the northwest corner of the Clark campus, with nearly 50 vocal and jazz ensembles performing during the three-day event. General admission to the festival is \$5 per day. Clark College students and children younger than 12 accompanied by an adult will be admitted for free.

According to festival organizers, “During the day, groups will perform to an esteemed panel of adjudicators made up of renowned jazz educators and performers” who will pick that day’s first, second and third-place finishers. In addition, on Saturday night one band from the entire festival will be selected the Sweepstakes winner.

Middle Schools are not competing against one another and thus there are no "Finals" in that age category, as there are at the high school level.

A new twist this year is the Clark College Invitational Middle School Jazz Ensemble Clinic. To kick off our festival Thursday morning, six local area middle school jazz bands will be invited to perform for each other and receive on-stage comments in a non-competitive format.

While Clark County and Portland-area schools will be well represented at the festival, schools from as far as Spokane, Puyallup, Fife, Astoria, the Seattle area and Lake Stevens (north of Everett) also will compete.

Music gets under way at 8 a.m. Thursday and Saturday and 7:40 a.m. on Friday.

Here are Battle Ground district groups, directors and performance times:

THURSDAY

9:30 a.m. -- Pleasant Valley Middle School Jazz Band, directed by Evan Irwin.

10 a.m. -- Chief Umtuch Middle School Jazz Band, directed by Greg "Count" McKelvey.

4:40 p.m. -- Battle Ground High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble, directed by Darcy Schmitt. Finals: 7 p.m.

FRIDAY

1 p.m. -- Prairie High School Jazz Band, directed by Joe Accuardi. Finals: 7 p.m.

SATURDAY

8:20 a.m. -- Battle Ground High School Intermediate Jazz Band, directed by Evan Irwin. Finals: 7 p.m.

4:20 p.m. -- Battle Ground High School Advanced Jazz Band, directed by Greg "Count" McKelvey. Finals: 7 p.m.

More festival information, including complete schedule:

www.clark.edu/special/jazz_festival/info.php



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