



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to share that **your child has been recommended by their band teacher** to participate in the **CBE Junior Honour Bands**, a special event that brings together outstanding young musicians from across the Calgary Board of Education. This enriching opportunity is designed for students who demonstrate strong musical skills, dedication, and leadership in their school music programs. There is no fee for participation.

About the Event

Throughout this experience, students rehearse with experienced conductors, explore new repertoire, and develop essential ensemble skills in a focused and supportive environment. The Honour Bands celebrate the growth, passion, and commitment of developing musicians while challenging them to reach new artistic heights.

The event concludes with a **public performance on Thursday, May 14th at 7:00pm at Bow Valley Christian Church**. Family, friends, and community members are warmly invited to attend and celebrate the students' hard work and musical excellence. There are no tickets required.

Application Process

Students who have been recommended for the program will be required to **complete an application through Microsoft Forms**. Please follow this link to access the application. **The deadline to apply is December 20, 2025, at 11:59pm.**

[CBE Junior Honour Bands Event- Concert Band Application – Fill in form](#)

[CBE Junior Honour Bands Event- Jazz Band Application – Fill in form](#)

Please note: Students may apply to both ensembles, but they will only be chosen for one ensemble if successful.

Students selected to participate in the Honour Bands will be **notified by January 9th, 2026**.

Honours Concert Band

The **Honours Concert Band** is designed for students who show strong fundamentals, musical sensitivity, and a desire to perform at a high level. Students will work with advanced concert band literature that challenges their tone, technique, interpretation, and ensemble awareness.

Through focused rehearsals, participants learn to blend, balance, and interpret expressive repertoire alongside peers who share their passion for concert band. Students will gain experience working with a skilled conductor, strengthening their individual musicianship and their ability to contribute to a large ensemble.

Concert Band Conductor — Sara Therrien

Sara Therrien has been a band teacher with the Calgary Board of Education since 2018 and currently teaches at F.E. Osborne School, where her ensembles consistently earn *Excellent*, *Superior*, and *Gold* rankings at local, provincial, and international festivals. She holds a Bachelor of Music (2016) and a Bachelor of Education (2018) from the University of Calgary and has performed with the U of C Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. From 2012–2022, Sara served as a reserve member of the Royal Canadian Navy, performing across Canada on flute and saxophone with the National Band of the Naval Reserve and the HMCS Tecumseh Band. She has also performed with Westwinds Gold Jazz South and the Westwinds Wind Orchestra. Sara is a member of the Board of Directors for the Alberta Band Association. As the founder of the CBE Junior High Honour Bands and conductor of the Concert Band, she brings a warm, student-centered approach that inspires confidence, growth, and excellence in young musicians.

Honours Jazz Band

The **Honours Jazz Band** is designed for students who are already members of their school jazz band and want to further develop their jazz experience. Students must also be enrolled in their school band or concert band program and demonstrate strong musical fundamentals.

Participants rehearse jazz repertoire, develop section balance and blend, sight-read jazz rhythms, and explore jazz style and interpretation. This ensemble allows students to deepen their jazz knowledge while performing with peers who share their enthusiasm for the genre.

Jazz Band Conductor — Lurene Bates

Lurene has been teaching band and music with the Calgary Board of Education at Elboya School since 2022. She also currently serves as a trombonist and board member of the Calgary Women's Jazz Collective and both sings and subs with the Southern Stardust Big Band. In her youth, Lurene played trombone in every possible band at her high school, as well as the Nepean All-City Jazz Band. She holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Victoria (2007) and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary (2022). In the past, Lurene has volunteered many times in various musical capacities with Front Row Centre Players and was a member of the army reserve bands: the KOCR Band in Calgary and the Ceremonial Guard Band in Ottawa. Lurene is grateful for the opportunity to share her passion for jazz with junior high musicians.

Rehearsal Information

“Mark Up Your Music” Night — Tuesday, February 10

This important preparation session will take place **online through Google Classroom**. Students accepted into either of the Honour Bands will be added to a Google Classroom for the ensembles.

- **Concert Band:** 6:00pm
- **Jazz Band:** 7:00pm



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During this session, students will learn how to mark key passages, prepare their music, and get ready for the first rehearsal.

Concert Band Rehearsals

Location: F.E. Osborne School — 5315 Varsity Drive NW, Calgary

Dates and times:

- Monday, May 4 — 6:00–8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 6 — 6:00–8:00pm
- Monday, May 11 — 6:00–8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 13 — 6:00–8:00pm

Jazz Band Rehearsals

Location: Elboya School — 4804 6th Street SW, Calgary

Dates and times:

- Monday, May 4 — 6:00–8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 6 — 6:00–8:00pm
- Monday, May 11 — 6:00–8:00pm
- Wednesday, May 13 — 6:00–8:00pm

We Look Forward to a Fantastic Honour Bands Experience

Thank you for supporting your child's musical journey. We are thrilled to provide this opportunity for students to grow, collaborate, and experience the joy of performing in an advanced ensemble. If you have any questions, please contact your child's band teacher.

Sincerely,

The CBE Junior Honour Bands Team

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