

2025 Century High School Winter Percussion Info and Policies



INFORMATION

Winter Percussion is a performing arts ensemble that competes in regional performing arts circuits during the winter season. It is very similar to marching band, however it takes place indoors and draws more influence from theater and dance. The group utilizes a full battery section (snare, quads, bass, cymbals) and a front ensemble (keyboards, synthesizer, bass guitar, drum set, auxiliary percussion). These instruments come together to present a musical and visual experience through marching, playing, and performance.

Century will have two winter percussion ensembles for the 2025 season, Open Class and A Class. Both ensembles will learn and perform full productions. The Open Class ensemble will focus on advanced skills while the A Class ensemble will focus on beginning/intermediate skills. Students auditioning for the Open Class ensemble will be required to complete an individual playing audition.

Auditions

Due to the nature of the activity, there are limited spaces on each instrument. The audition is placement-style where members will be assigned an instrument of best fit for themselves and the ensemble. Students are encouraged to audition for their first instrument of choice but may be offered an alternative position. Position assignments and offerings will be communicated to prospective members shortly after auditions conclude.

Auditions for both ensembles will occur together as a clinic. Members will receive instruction on fundamentals of the activity and may be asked to try out different instruments as best placement is determined. Students auditioning for the Open Class ensemble will be required to complete an individual playing audition. Students auditioning for the A Class ensemble do not need to complete an individual playing audition, though they may be asked to briefly play a passage or try different instruments in the clinic portions of auditions.

Rehearsals

Regular rehearsals for the winter season begin in December and end in early April. Rehearsals start and end at the listed time. This does not include setup and teardown. Members should plan on taking ~20-30 minutes before and after rehearsal to assist with these processes. Open Class rehearsals will typically take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:30-9:00pm. The Open Class ensemble additionally will have a winter camp on 1/2/25 - 1/4/25 where members will learn roughly half of the production.

A Class rehearsals will occur regularly from 5:00-8:00pm on Tuesdays and 5:00-7:00pm on Thursdays. Both ensembles have 1-2 full day rehearsals per month occurring on Saturdays or non-school weekdays. Members should communicate known conflicts to ensemble directors prior to the end of auditions (see attendance policy below for further info).

POLICIES

In order to participate in the 2025 Winter Percussion season, all participating students (referred to in this contact as “member”, “members”) must adhere to the following policies:

Attendance

Because we learn new things at every rehearsal, it is very important that every member of the winter percussion ensemble is in attendance. It is also extremely important that every member attends every performance. We cannot put on our best performance unless every member is on the floor. With this in mind, the following attendance policy will be adhered to for the 2025 season.

- Members missing a rehearsal or performance will need to provide a written excuse from a parent in the form of an email (to bueffeld@hsd.k12.or.us), text (to Derek Bueffel in the Band App), or handwritten note signed by a parent (handed to Derek Bueffel), prior to the start of the activity to be missed. Members failing to provide a written excuse from a parent prior to the scheduled rehearsal start or performance day will have an “unexcused absence” added to their record.
- A member with two unexcused absences will be placed on probation and benched. Members that are benched will need to provide a recorded video assignment for every rehearsal missed. Benched members will still be required to attend rehearsals. Benched members can be reinstated by completing the assignments (turned in to a director or technician) and completing an attendance meeting with Derek Bueffel.
- Any member who is benched AND does not complete the requirements for reinstatement, along with all members who accrue 3 unexcused absences or 6 regular excused absences, will be considered for dismissal from the ensemble for the remainder of the season. Dismissals will have final say by Derek Bueffel and Mr. Dunlop.
- Regular excused absences include any missed rehearsal with a note from a parent for any activity NOT academic related. This may include dental appointments, doctors office visits, eye care appointments, wedding of a sibling, family member or friend, dinner or time spent with visiting family from out of town, etc. Absences due to academic activities may be excused with approval from Derek Bueffel.

Tardies

How well we use our ensemble time is heavily impacted by our preparation for any given rehearsal. Members are expected to be ready to rehearse (i.e., at the designated rehearsal area with all required materials) at the scheduled start on the calendar. That means that members and staff must arrive BEFORE the rehearsal time posted to ensure a timely start can be achieved. For accountability to these standards, members agree to the following Tardy Policy.

- Any member found to not be setup and ready to participate at the start of rehearsal will have a Tardy added to their record. Students with excessive tardies (i.e., more than 3) will be required to have an attendance meeting with their ensemble director.
- Members with unexcused tardies will be required to make up rehearsal minutes with a staff member or section leader within the week the tardy occurred. These makeup minutes will occur prior to or after rehearsal at staff discretion.
- Members who know they will be tardy can have a parent send a written excuse to Derek Bueffel BEFORE the start of rehearsal. For every tardy with a note that was submitted before the start of rehearsal, members agree to record a required video assignment and submit it to their section leader or technician & Derek Bueffel for review.

Fiscal Responsibility

The Century High School Marching Band & Color Guard is a nonprofit organization. As such, we must fundraise to cover all season expenses. This includes paying staff, purchasing performance floors and props, acquiring instrument materials, and so much more. To raise those funds, we hold monthly fundraising opportunities along with three large events that help to generate a large portion of our season budget. The rest is split up into membership fees called Fair Share Fees that are paid by each participating member.

To participate in the 2025 winter season, members are responsible for a Fair Share with the following payment schedule (which can also be found in the Century Band Handbook).

Open Class - \$475 Fair Share and \$50 Uniform

A Class - \$250 Fair Share and \$50 Uniform

1. December 20th: All members - \$50 Uniform Fee
2. January 6th: Open Class - \$100 / A Class - \$100
3. February 3rd: Open Class - \$125 / A Class - \$100
4. March 3rd: Open Class - \$125 / A Class - \$50
5. April 3rd: Open Class - \$125

The final Fair Share Fee, that is due on April 3rd, can be reduced or fully covered by members participating in fundraising events. Please see the Century Band Handbook at centuryband.org for more details. If any member is dismissed from the band or chooses to no longer participate, they shall still maintain a fiscal responsibility. From the moment their member agreement is signed and turned in, members assume the fiscal responsibility for their spot in the ensemble. Members who leave the ensemble between December 1st and December 18th will be responsible for half of the ensemble total in Fair Share fees (Open Class - \$237.50 / A Class - \$125). For those who choose to leave during this window, notice must be sent in writing to Derek Bueffel and Mr. Dunlop prior to 11:59pm on December 18th. Any dismissal or decision to leave after December 18th will owe the full Fair Share fees at the set payment intervals on this contract.

All unpaid dues that remain at the end of the school year will be turned in to the CHS Registrar unless another agreement is reached to pay off the balance in full. All agreements must be finalized with Mr. Dunlop.

California Trip

The winter percussion ensemble plans to attend the WGI West Power Regional in the Los Angeles area on 3/22 and 3/23. This competition is one of the largest of the activity and will be participated by some of the best ensembles in the nation. It is a fantastic opportunity for members to compete in a large venue while also seeing the heights that the winter percussion activity can achieve. Members from both ensembles are encouraged to attend, though the Open Class ensemble will be the only group to perform on the trip.

Current estimates for the trip fall from \$500-\$700. This trip price is in addition to Fair Share fees. An exact price and payment due dates will be communicated to members as soon as they are finalized. Students in the Open Class ensemble who foresee challenges in attending the trip should inform Derek Bueffel and Mr. Dunlop as early as possible.

Rehearsal Etiquette

1. Members will show respect to staff, peers, facilities, and themselves.

Members are expected to follow the code of conduct as defined by Century High School and the Hillsboro School District. Members should engage staff and peers with positive regard through actions and words. This includes being respectful of other opinions and beliefs, showing attentive listening and acknowledgment of staff and peers, utilizing constructive and supportive language, and supporting self and peer growth within the activity. Members should maintain frequent communication with staff to assist with answering of questions, addressing concerns as they arise, and informing staff of any scheduling conflicts.

Rehearsal facilities are a privilege, not a right. Members should take care to respect rehearsal and competition facilities by cleaning up after themselves and taking precautions to not cause damage in any space. Facilities should always leave looking better than when the ensemble arrived.

2. Members will arrive on time and prepared

Members must take care to be present at the given rehearsal location with all necessary materials at the listed time. They must be prepared with all necessary materials, as well as having physical and mental needs met. This includes having appropriate rehearsal attire and all required materials, using the restroom and eating before starting time, having music learned and questions answered, and arriving ready to engage with rehearsal and instruction.

The winter percussion activity requires many large materials being transported across school grounds. Members should collaborate and plan accordingly to ensure that group materials (e.g., performance floor, props, speakers) are ready at the start of rehearsal along with individual materials. (See Attendance and Late Arrival policies)

3. Members will remain an active participant in rehearsals and competitions.

Members will ensure that they are attentive and ready to participate to the best of their ability. It is crucial that all members participate and engage in rehearsals to ensure that the program functions as a whole. To assist with attentiveness and participation, members are expected to limit distractions in the rehearsal and competition spaces. Phones should be placed away during rehearsal (e.g., in a backpack, on the sideline). Members should follow rehearsal guidelines set forth by staff across contexts as expectations may change slightly based on the setting (e.g., subsectionals, full battery/FE, full ensemble).

Staff Info

Questions about the ensemble or activity may be directed to the following:

Derek Bueffel - Percussion Director

bueffeld@hsd.k12.or.us

Jim Dunlop - Band Director

dunlopj@hsd.k12.or.us