Continuing music education at Ballard High School during the Coronavirus shutdown 2020…

The impact of the unexpected shutdown and social distancing measures have NOT stopped Ballard Performing Arts Directors and Ballard Performing Arts community from adapting and coming up with creative solutions to this novel and unusual situation. Here are a few things the directors are doing on a daily and nightly basis:

- We have been exploring the various online music learning apps that exist such as SmartMusic, MusicTheory.net, Sightreadingfactory, and others.
- We have been hosting online class meetings (not rehearsals, just meetings/discussions).
- We have been in the BHS building uploading music and resources and ferrying students’ instruments to them.
- We have been meeting with each other with the help of various online platforms.
- We have been meeting with our colleagues from BHS and the district via Microsoft Teams.
- We have been thinking through the end of the school year and the beginning of next year with such things as the engineering of the audition process and the registration info for incoming students.
- We have been designing project-based learning activities for our students.
- We have been communicating with families and students regularly to update them on assignments, and the make ourselves visible and available to them to provide troubleshooting and assistance.
- There continues to be opportunities for students to take online private and BPA sponsored Free lessons with professional music coaches.
- The students have been encouraged to participate in online clinics and seminars offered by many private programs.
- The students are also encouraged to listen to music and practice daily.

And so… as we navigate our way through the end of this school year, we hope to highlight this as a teachable moment of the importance of being resilient, adaptable, and committed to performing arts education even through difficult times.

THANK YOU to the Directors, BPA board and greater BPA community for your time, commitment, and financial support for excellence in performing arts education at Ballard High School before and during the shutdown.