



Information Sheet

General Information:

Hamilton's Battle of the Bands is hosted by HWDSB Programs of the Arts at Glendale and takes place at Glendale Secondary School on **December 8th, 2025, 9am - 4:30pm**. The event is open to all student aged musicians with permission of parents/teacher. The musicians will compete in two divisions: Elementary Soloist and Group; Secondary Soloist and Group and two categories: Beginner and Advanced. Cost is \$20 for entry/song for soloist; group \$10 per member per entry/song. Student musicians will have the opportunity to warm up in our prep room before taking to the main stage in the auditorium. All backline equipment (amplifiers, keyboard, percussion and monitors) will be provided courtesy of Long and McQuade Instruments and Glendale Arts. Student musicians are responsible for their own guitar, bass, and drumsticks. Soloists will upload their accompanying music to DanceBug.com in their entry form.

Sponsorship/Awards:

We are grateful to be sponsored by Metal Works Institute (recording sessions for winners: 4 hours for soloists and full day for group) and Long and McQuade (\$200 gift certificate for soloists and \$500 gift certificate for groups). There will be two awards sessions for the day; Elementary (9am – 12pm) and Secondary (1pm - 4pm). *Schedule is subject to change based on the number of entries*. Your fee will go towards all physical awards – Overall Awards, Judges Awards and Special Awards.

Entry Fees:

- Soloists: \$20 for entry/song
- Groups: \$10 per member per entry/song

Payable by cheque to **Glendale Secondary School (Battle of the Bands on memo line) or cash.

DEADLINE: December 1, 2025 for entry fee and uploading accompanying music (for soloists)

Registration Criteria:

1. Divisions:
 - Elementary (Grades 5-8)
 - Secondary (Grades 9-12)
2. Category:
 - Beginner (has never taken private lessons or has less than 3 years of experience)
 - Advanced (currently studies privately or has more than 3 years of experience)
3. Group Size:
 - Solo (One performer)
 - Group (2 or more performers)
 - Time Limit = All entries have 5 minutes maximum.
4. Genre: (no classical or choral music)
 - Country
 - Stage/Film
 - Rock/Pop
 - Other

IMPORTANT: All entries must be submitted by a *schoolteacher*

One teacher per school, please, create an account and enter all school entries at

[Hamilton's Battle of the Bands Entry](#)

Judging Criteria

Musical Elements (Beg. & Adv. for Soloist & Group both Elementary and Secondary)

1. Pitch & Intonation – Accuracy of notes, staying in time (vocals/instruments)
2. Rhythm & Timing – Precision, groove, alignment within group/accompaniment
3. Tone Quality/Timbre - Richness, clarity and appropriateness of sound
4. Dynamics & Expression – Effective use of contrasts, emotional shaping
5. Balance & Blend – How well instruments/voices mix
6. **Musicality & Interpretation** – Artistic choices: phrasing, style and emotional delivery

Performance and Presentation (Beg. & Adv. for Soloist & Group both Elementary and Secondary)

7. Stage Presence – Confidence, charisma and connection with the audience
8. Communication – Eye contact, body language, emotional conveyance
9. **Energy & Engagement** – Conviction in delivery, sustaining attention throughout
10. Professionalism – Respectful stage etiquette, clear intros/exits, handling mistakes gracefully

Technical and Practical Aspects (Beg. & Adv. for Soloist & Group both Elementary and Secondary)

11. Ensemble Cohesion – Tightness, listening to each other/accompaniment, responsiveness
12. Articulation & Clarity – Crisp diction for singers, clean attacks/releases for instruments
13. **Repertoire Choice** – Suitability of material for ability, audience and event
14. Transitions & Flow – Smooth movement between sections, pacing
15. Sound Balance – Even levels between instruments/accompaniment and vocals

Overall Impact (Beg. & Adv. for Soloist & Group both Elementary and Secondary)

16. **Creativity & Originality** – Unique artistic voice/sound, fresh interpretation
17. **Emotional Impact** – Did the performance move the audience
18. **Memorability** – A sense of identity or “Wow” factor that lingers

Adjudicating Criteria

Each Judge will give each performance a mark out of 100 for each of the following criteria:

1. Technical Proficiency (accuracy/timing/tone/interpretation) /30 points
2. Musical Expression (dynamics, interpretation, artistry) /30 points
3. Performance Presentation (stage presence, audience engagement, professionalism) /40 points

The three judges’ scores will then be averaged for their final score.

Adjudication will be recorded in real time where each adjudicator will provide specific feedback using the above as Criteria/guidance. This feedback will be available a couple of days after the event.

One top soloist or group per division for Hamilton's Battle of Bands Best Soloist or Band

Additional prizes for **Judges Awards per session and **Special Awards** from Rising Musician Judges (musicians studying post-secondary)**

Again, please have ONE teacher from your school register for DanceBug.com (free) and enter all musicians from your school together for our event.

Feel free to reach out to us with questions at pborsc@hwdsb.on.ca