



12th Annual
BAND Against Bullying
Participant Packet

BAND (Banding All Needs for Dignity) Against Bullying was founded in 2012 as an inter-school performing arts competition focused on once central theme: dignity. Each year, the event is held as an effort to raise community awareness of bullying-related issues, empower youth to be advocates of change, and to support bullying prevention and intervention efforts in Western New York.

Who can participate?

Any middle and high school aged students can create an act as a group. Students can be recruited to participate through clubs, chorus, band, GSAs, theatre/drama programs, extra-curricular activities, etc. Students in a group do not all need to attend the same school and can also include homeschooled students.

Individuals may also create an act for BAND. Individuals can perform in person at the show OR submit a video to share on our BAND social media channels. Video submissions will be reviewed for appropriate and relevant content and shared with our panel of judges for scoring.

Corporations, nonprofit organizations, and individual sponsors can make donations to BAND Against Bullying to help fund the event and promote dignity, kindness and respect within schools and the community!

What is an Act?

Any form of art (music, drama, spoken word, dance, multimedia) created by each group or individual with a theme of bullying prevention and promoting dignity, kindness and respect. Acts will perform on the mainstage at the University at Buffalo's Center for the Arts the night of the event.

The event will include valuable information and resources on bullying awareness and prevention, talent and collaboration among students, empowerment and support from hosts and all performers, and an opportunity to raise money for the prevention of bullying in schools. Proceeds will benefit participating schools and the continued development of the BAND Against Bullying Program.

What do I get if I participate? (Please note: These incentives are subject to change for the next year)

Participating schools will receive bullying prevention resources for their school, two tickets to the annual conference hosted by the Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention (in October 2026), and social media recognition for being “Upstanders” in bullying prevention.

Participating Students will receive *Express It* art therapy workbooks from Free 2 Luv, the opportunity to perform on the mainstage at UB Center for the Arts in front of a live audience and panel of celebrity judges as well as a special backstage experience, social media recognition of their performance, and chance to win prizes awarded on the evening of the event.

The act (group or individual) receiving the highest score from the judges will receive a trophy presented at the event, recognition on social media, and a unique special experience relevant to their art type (i.e. musical acts may receive an opportunity to record in a music studio). The top two (2) participating schools will receive a free bullying prevention presentation from the UB Alberti Center.

How do I participate?

Schools or individuals wishing to participate should email [**Jessica Sanna**](#) or [**Brie Kishel**](#) (contacts below).

Follow us on social:



@NYBANDAgainstBullying



@band_againstbullying



BAND Against Bullying

Website: www.nybandagainstbullying.com

➤ **Event Location:** The Center for the Arts, University at Buffalo North Campus
103 Center for the Arts
Buffalo, NY 14260

➤ **Rehearsal Date:** Monday, April 20, 2026 **Time:** Your group will be assigned a time

➤ **Event Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2026 **Time:** TBD

Contact Information

First Name	Last Name	Role	Email Address	Phone Number
Jessica	Sanna	Co-Founder/President	jkristy@me.com or jsanna@mtb.com	585-415-9451
Brie	Kishel	Coordinator/Vice President	briekish@buffalo.edu	716-208-4877
Marcy	Simpson	Director	marcyw61087@gmail.com	716-807-9408

Key Dates and Checklist

- Kickoff (informational/initial interest) meeting – **Monday, November 3, 2025**
- Receive and review the BAND participant packet
- Share information with superintendent, principals, dignity coordinators, music and art teachers, counselors, student groups, parent groups, extracurricular groups, music clubs, etc.
- Submit initial Google Interest Form by **Friday, December 5, 2025**
- First meeting with groups – **January 2026** (Date TBD)
- Second meeting with groups – **February 2026** (Date TBD)
- Third meeting with groups – **March 2026** (Date TBD)
- Contact director, Marcy, to set up a time for her to meet with your group **mid-late March 2026**.
- Meet with Marcy to show her your act by **Friday, April 3, 2026**
- Return all signed waivers (each participant in the act must complete a waiver) no later than **April 3, 2026**.
- Attend Dress Rehearsal on **Monday, April 20, 2026** during your schools timeslot at UB Center for the Arts
- Main event at UB Center for the Arts | **12th Annual BAND Against Bullying – Tuesday, April 21, 2026**

Criteria

There are 4 categories. All categories have score range of either **0-10** or **0-15**; the higher the number the better the score in such category. Some categories are weighted higher due to the importance of the category.

All points will total at the end. The act with the highest total wins. Maximum points an act can receive are 50.

Category	Score Range	Description / What to look for...
Overall Performance & Originality	0-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ How entertaining/engaging was the act? Did it grab people's attention? ➢ Did the performance flow and have a definite beginning & end? ➢ Did students create a thoughtful, creative, innovative, and independent act?
Dignity Theme	0-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Was acceptance and respect for others demonstrated? ➢ Was caring for others in all areas of life exemplified? ➢ Was it illustrated with poise/self-respect without making fun of the message? ➢ Does the act incorporate this concept below? <i>Safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.</i>
Bullying Prevention	0-15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Did the act call attention to the prevention of bullying? ➢ Does the act recognize the need for change and deterrence? ➢ Was there a sensitivity or celebration of diversity, including but not limited to: <i>race/ethnicity, physical appearance, religion, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientation or gender identity.</i>
Collaboration	0-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Ability to work as a team cooperatively ➢ Working jointly with others to communicate all messages ➢ Deliver message clearly and effectively

We don't have many rules and regulations as we are in the business of promoting creativity and freedom of expression. The few rules that we do ask of you include the following:

1. Acts must be no more than 10 minutes in length.
2. All participants must be middle or high school aged.
3. No profanity or vulgar lyrics in any performance or music.
4. Keep attire at a respectable and tasteful level.
5. No alcohol/tobacco/drug advertisements are to be shown on any clothing.
6. No pyrotechnics, open flames, or any other dangerous additions.
7. You must provide your own instruments (if incorporating instruments.)
8. All members of your group must sign a participant waiver.
9. All acts must be approved by Marcy in order to participate on April 21, 2026.