

Dear Twin Peaks Jazz/ Jam Band Students and Parents,

Welcome to the 2017-18 edition of the Twin Peaks Jazz Band. This year we will have one Jazz Ensemble (by audition only) and one Lab Band (all band and Orchestra students interested. 6th grade by audition.). Both of these bands will meet during RAM time. In these bands we learn how to play various jazz styles along with learning how to improvise solos. I am looking forward to the many upcoming concerts this school year. At the beginning of the school year we will all meet as one class and then in October there will be an audition to see who is in Jazz Ensemble. This handbook will contain all of the information you will need for the year.

Performance Schedule

The Performance schedule for both of these groups is very fluid. I receive various requests for performances throughout the year. When a new concert is booked I will notify you immediately. I will update www.tpmsband.com as new dates and times are confirmed. The Schedule as of 8/10/2017 is listed below.

Performances

Jazz Ensemble and Lab band are performance-based classes, attendance at all performances is mandatory. We are a team and everyone is important in helping us perform to our best. Please put these dates on your calendar now so that you can schedule around them. I hope to have all of the TBD dates for the remainder of the school year done in September.

In order to perform in a concert you must pass a concert music proficiency test. Students that fail the test will have time to retake the test and parents will be notified if a student has not passed the test.

Why is attendance mandatory at performances?

1. Performing for an audience is the primary focus of this class. Concerts provide an experience that cannot be reproduced in the classroom.
2. Performances are means by which the skills learned in class are evaluated.
3. Band performances are a group effort. The performance is weakened by every missing student. We rehearse together and we perform together.

Performance attendance

1. Written excuses may be considered when submitted two weeks prior to the concert if the excuse has validity.
2. Unexcused absence for any performance will result in a parent conference and possible removal from the band.

3. Students must wear the appropriate concert dress for performances. Jazz and Lab Band will have a special designed shirt to wear at all performances. Failure to be properly attired will result in lunch detentions and repeating offenders might be removed from the band.

If the concert is missed due to an excused absence (sick on day of performance (absent from school) or approval by director, a makeup essay will be assigned and will be due within two class days of the students return to school.

Jazz Ensemble and Lab Band Mandatory Concerts

October, Concert @ RAM on the TPMS Quad (Combined)

December, Concert @ RAM on the TPMS Quad (Combined)

December, Concert TBD (Lab Band)

December 9th Christmas in the Park (At old Poway Park) Combined Bands

Monday, Dec. 18 PCPA @PHS Jazz Ensemble 7pm

April Jazz Festival at PCPA (TBD)

Spring Performance @RAM on the Quad (Combined)

Annual Dinner Fundraiser (Both Bands will perform)

May/June @RAM performance on the Quad (Combined)

May 30th Jazz Jam at TPMS on the Quad (Jazz Ensemble, Lab Band, and PHS Jazz Bands.)

Other concerts will be announced at a later date.

Concert Dress

A big part of performing is dressing nicely. The dress requirement for all concerts (except outdoor concerts) is that the boys wear nice black dress pants, black dress shoes, with the Twin Peaks Jazz Shirt.. The dress for girls is black dress pants or a black skirt that goes below the knee when seated, black shoes, along with the Twin Peaks Jazz shirt. No jeans, white socks, or tennis shoes. On occasion when the band plays outdoors shorts and tennis shoes might be allowed. Please contact me if you need assistance in acquiring concert clothes. (Depending on the temperature during RAM concerts, shorts might be allowed)

Ensemble Behavior

Ensemble behavior is essential to allow the students to reach their maximum potential. I will be using the same system of grading behavior that I will be using in the Concert Bands. Our Bands

are essentially music teams. The actions of any individual can either help or hinder the entire ensemble in both rehearsal and performance. Self-discipline is not optional; it is required. Repeat offenders will not be tolerated. A system of checks and warnings will be used to promote proper ensemble behavior. Students will receive a check mark for any infraction in the following areas:

Class Preparation

No jamming before class starts

Quiet during rehearsal when not playing
Demonstrates correct posture while playing
Respect for self and others
Participates appropriately during rehearsal

Each Day

One check mark will result in a verbal warning.

Two Check marks will result in a lunch detention.

Three check marks will result in a lunch detention, and a phone call or email home. Parent conference if requested. Each check mark after three will result in additional reductions and a parent conference. There are also check marks for good behavior in the above areas as well resulting in either extra credit or removal of a check mark. A student who is continually acquiring check marks will be removed from participating in Jazz Ensemble and or lab Band.

Citizenship and Effort Grade in Jazz Band

Citizenship Grade

O=Outstanding:No check marks for behavior problems in class.

G= good:One to three check marks for behavior problems in class.

S = satisfactory: Four to Six check marks for behavior problems in class.

N=Needs Improvement: Seven to Nine check marks for behavior problems in class.

U= unsatisfactory: 10 or more check marks for behavior problems in class.

Effort Grade

O=Outstanding:No check marks.

G= good:One to three check marks.

S = satisfactory: Four to Six check marks

N=Needs Improvement: Seven to Nine check marks

U= unsatisfactory: 10 or more check marks

There are also check marks for good behavior in the above areas as well resulting in either extra credit or removal of a check mark.

Grading

Although Jazz Ensemble and Lab Band do not receive a letter grade I will still be giving classroom assignments, quizzes, exams, scale tests, performance tests, and listening assignments.

Important information:

Jazz Ensemble/ Lab band is your RAM class. The administration's and my expectations are that you will keep on top of your academic classes. We do not want the loss of RAM time to Jazz Ensemble/Lab band to negatively affect academic grades. If you need to miss my class for any reason, I require that (1) you give me advanced notice and (2) you report to Jazz Ensemble/ Lab Band first for attendance. (You are allowed to miss 2 classes (Unless your parents and I have had a meeting to allow you to miss more class time because of an extended illness, vacation, or working on improving your grade in another class. Being absent for the day, or checked out early from school does not count against this total per quarter for any reason.)). You are not allowed to miss a Jazz Band rehearsal in the five class days before a concert.

If a teacher needs to see you during RAM: Let me know before rehearsal that day. Come to Jazz Ensemble/ Lab Band first so I can take attendance. Bring a pass from the teacher and I will dismiss you. If academic grades are falling: Have your parents contact me. We will create a schedule for missing rehearsal for tutorial time in problem areas. If you need to be removed due to grades once your grades improve you will be welcomed back into the Jazz Program.

Assemblies/special events: Always report to the Band Room first for attendance. Missing attendance will cost you full credit for the concert.

Please print, sign and return this page to Mr. Moreau by Friday, September 1, 2017.

We have read and understand all of the materials presented in the Twin Peaks Middle School Jazz Band Handbook.

Student Name (Printed) _____

Student Name (Signature) _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed) _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Signature) _____

Comments/questions: