

Dear Twin Peaks Jazzers and Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-10 edition of the Twin Peaks Jazz Band. We will learn various jazz, rock, and latin styles of playing this year as well as learning how to improvise (making up your own melodies to add solos to tunes). We will have many exciting concert opportunities this year to show off what we can do.

### **Important information:**

Jazz Band is your RAM class this year. The Band Department's and Administration's expectation is that you will keep on top of your studies. We do not want loss of RAM time to Jazz 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 class first for attendance.

- If a teacher needs to see you during RAM: Let me know before rehearsal that day. Come to Jazz 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 grades absolutely require it, a student may need to be removed from Jazz Band. You can come back to Jazz Band if grades improve.
  - Assemblies/special events: I will tell you when you will miss rehearsal for other events. Always report to the Band Room first for attendance.

Concert dress will be "Twin Peaks Jazz Ensemble" T-shirts of your design, plus black dress shoes, black dress socks, and black dress pants. No jeans, tennis shoes, white socks, or flip-flops. If you would like to design a shirt, go to [customink.com](http://customink.com) and use their program to create a design. Email it to me ([mnowak@powayusd.com](mailto:mnowak@powayusd.com)) and I will print them out so that we can vote on a favorite.

There are no chair placements in jazz band. Every part is an important part of the group sound. Anyone can volunteer to play solos on any tune.

Private lessons are highly encouraged. I can suggest teachers or music stores that provide lessons.

I schedule and announce concert dates well in advance and need to know if you have a conflict well in advance. Please give me at least two weeks notice. Not showing up for a concert (illness excepted) or telling me you can't make it at the last rehearsal before a concert puts myself and your fellow band members in a bad situation and will result in an automatic U for citizenship and effort grades. Showing up for a concert unprepared (no mouthpiece, reed, music) will result in an automatic N for citizenship and effort grades. Showing up for a concert with improper attire will result in a lowering of citizenship and effort grades one level.

Listen, listen, listen! Listen to KSDS Jazz 88.3, San Diego's dedicated jazz station. Go to public libraries and check out CDs. Go to [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) and download NPR's awesome Jazz Profiles podcasts – hour long history lessons on the most important figures in jazz!

Parents, I keep you informed of jazz goings on through email. I should have everyone's email already; if not, please send it to me at [mnowak@powayusd.com](mailto:mnowak@powayusd.com).

### **How you receive your Citizenship and Effort Grade in Jazz Band**

#### ***Citizenship Grade***

Any unnecessary talking or behavior will lower this grade. During rehearsal you are expected to be quiet and courteous to all students in the classroom.

**O** = Outstanding: Student does not talk in class and is on task.

**G** = Good: Some occasional talking but not enough to cause a disruption in class

**S** = Satisfactory: Some occasional talking and the student has to be told to stop talking by instructor on a couple of occasions.

**N** = Needs Improvement: Student is talking in class and/or off task numerous times.

**U = Unsatisfactory:** Student frequently talks and disrupts class.

Students in danger of receiving an N or U will receive a phone call home.

### **Effort Grade**

**O = Outstanding:** Student is prepared for every class and has shown improvement on their music.

**G = Good:** Student has forgotten either their music or instrument on two occasions.

**S = Satisfactory:** student has come unprepared to class and has forgotten their music or instrument three times in a quarter.

**N = Needs Improvement:** Frequently unprepared for class and has forgotten their music or instrument four times in a quarter.

**U = Unsatisfactory:** Unprepared for a class five or more times during a quarter.

Students in danger of receiving an N or U will receive a phone call home.

If your instrument is being repaired please give Mr. Nowak a note with the name of store and the estimated return time. These are excused and will not count against your effort grade.

### **The Six Pillars of a Jazzer's Character:**

**Trustworthiness** – You will be careful using our equipment and bringing it to events off-campus. You will ask me for help if you need it. I will help you as best as I can as quickly as I can.

**Respect** – Jazz Band rehearsal is the place to make mistakes, experiment, and try out new ideas. You are all learning new musical concepts in this band and need to respect everyone's right to make mistakes by being supportive of each other. I will challenge you to go beyond what you think you can do on your instrument. I will be supportive of you as long as you are giving your best effort. I am receptive to your questions.

**Responsibility** – You are focused during rehearsal. You always have your instrument, music, and a pencil on your stand. You set up and take down everything you use – drum set, percussion, amps, pianos, chairs, stands, etc. Your electronic devices are OFF and put away. I will be focused and prepared to run an efficient rehearsal.

**Fairness** – You attend all concerts in proper uniform. You will give me sufficient notice if you must miss a concert. You learn your music on your own so we can progress more rapidly. I will be understanding of last minute emergencies or sudden instances of irresponsibility.

**Citizenship** – You are self-disciplined when we are off-campus. You represent our Jazz Band, our band program, and our school at many community events and need to always be aware of this. I will communicate to you my expectations of behavior and gig situations before the event.

**Caring** – We look out for each other and help each other at lunchtime and at off-campus events. We are grateful for this opportunity to have Jazz Band each day.

Let's have fun learning and playing jazz this year!

Mr. Nowak