

Mountlake Terrace Bands

Jazz Ensembles

Concert Bands

Pep Band

Percussion Ensemble

NEWSLETTER

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Week of January 6th

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**Pep Band
this Tuesday and Friday!**

**Don't forget about your
December Disney Payment**

Welcome Back!

I'm excited about the events we have planned in the upcoming months. It is a lot of things, no question! But I thrive on pushing myself and the challenge of these things. This month we will be making our recording for the Essentially Ellington Festival. We do this every year - 15 bands are selected from throughout the US to travel to NY to compete at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Three bands will be selected from our region. We have been selected several times in the past (2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2012) and have gotten as high as third place, twice. We are working hard to get to go back this year.

We are also gearing up for Swing Central. This is a festival we auditioned for in Savannah, Georgia and we found out we made it in the week before break. Jazz 1 will be traveling there in March to compete against 11 other bands. We made a recording of the required piece and one of our choice in November. They have 2 more required pieces. At this festival, every band plays the same three charts.

Lastly on the Jazz front, Jazz 1 and 2 will be going to compete at the Bellevue College Jazz Festival in early February.

In the way of classical music, Chamber Winds will be performing a concert with BTMS 7th and 8th graders on January 30th. We are hosting the league Solo and Ensemble Contest on February 1st. This is a very big event with students coming to our school from all over the area. We need lots of student and parent help with this event. Several of our own students will be playing at this as well. It is a great experience and winners in each category go on to compete at the state level. I'm attached the forms to this email. They are due this Friday. (FYI, this is a "rotating host" situation that only happens once in a while. The last time we hosted was in 2000.) The concert bands are delving or will be delving into new music for the festivals they will be attending as well as getting into the music for our Disneyland trip in early April.

And this is all on top of our basketball Pep Band obligations which are very heavy in January. Remember, students are expected to attend at least 5 of the 10 games we have scheduled. Check the band calendar for the dates. This week we have games on Tuesday and Friday nights.

Finally, I'd like to thank you all for your ongoing support of the Band program at MTHS. It is a pleasure to work at a place with such incredible parent support and such great students. It really is a group/team effort and we can't do a fraction of what we do without all of the great help from you all!

MTHS Student Profile - Chris Ryder

Sherrill Leppich, Music Booster President, is helping to interview current students for this newsletter as a way of helping us all get to know each other. Thanks Sherrill!

This weeks profile is on Senior band student Chris Ryder. Chris is currently in Jazz Ensemble 1 and has been a part of Jazz 1 since his sophomore year at MTHS. Chris' interest in music began as many other students have, in the 5th grade at Brier Elementary. He initially began learning how to play the clarinet, but in 6th grade the opportunity arose for him to try the saxophone and there his love for this instrument began. Chris has also dabbled in learning how to play the flute in jazz band, but the one instrument he would like to learn on top of these is the piano. Chris has taken a quarter at Edmonds Community College learning to play the piano and would like to continue to work on this going forward, though he is still a saxophone performer at heart.

Chris is the youngest of four children in the Ryder household. All three of his older siblings performed in band in all of, or a portion of, their school years. One of his brothers was in Jazz 2 and concert band when he attended the high school. His brother played the French Horn in concert band and the saxophone in jazz. Other siblings also played a bit in school, but are not playing instruments today.

In his sophomore year, Chris was part of the Jazz 1 that was accepted to attend the Essentially Ellington competition in New York. This is one of his favorite highlights to date, but the one memory that stands out to Chris is when the Jazz band attended Hot Java Cool Jazz at the Paramount Theater. He has always had a bit of stage fright performing in front of a large crowd, but when he attend the HJCJ performance for the first time, he said something changed for him, a sort of calmness took over and he didn't have stage fright at that performance. In fact, he was able to relax and have a great time while performing~! Since then, Chris feels he has overcome his stage fright and can enjoy and concentrate more on his performing at other events.

In his down time, Chris enjoys listening to Jazz, Alternative and Classic Rock music. If he had a chance to get a one-on-one lesson with anyone, present or past, he would choose Ray Charles. His dad would often listen to Ray Charles when he was about eight or nine, and this sparked Chris' interest and his love of jazz music.

Chris also enjoys watching comedy movies, or stand up comedy shows, likes to read action or thriller type books and his favorite food....wait for it...bacon. Bacon on just about anything works for him.

Other groups that Chris is involved with at MTHS is the Dynamics Choir, Drama and the Improv Comedy Team. The Improv Team this year was part of the final competition and was able to perform at Market Theater in Seattle. This is another highlight for Chris while attending MTHS.

After Chris graduates from MTHS this June, his top college of choice right now is to attend Temple University in Philadelphia. He has already planned a trip out to the college at the end of this month to do an audition and visit the campus. Good luck to you, Chris!



MTHS MUSIC BOOSTERS NEWS

January 6th, 2014

Happy New Year~!

Welcome back and hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and winter break. Now we need to get back into the “swing” of things and have a lot coming up for the rest of the school year.

For January, there will be a musical production that the drama department is putting on, called “Sympathy Jones”. The dates of the performances are Thursday, January 16th-Saturday, January 18th. Tickets will be \$10.00 or \$7.00 for students with ASB and senior citizens. Performances start at 7:00 p.m. Some of our MTHS band students will be providing the music for this musical and we encourage all parents and students and community to come and see all the great talent we have at Mountlake Terrace High School. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the combined talents of our drama, choir and band students all in one night and see a wonderful musical performance.

Monday, January 20th there is no school as we celebrate Martin Luther King Day. Jazz 1 ensemble has a scheduled workshop on this day from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Music Boosters is asking for volunteers to donate snacks and drinks for the Jazz 1 group as they attend this workshop through the day. If you can help out by donating food/snacks, please contact Sherrill Leppich.

For Thursday, January 23rd and 24th, during the day, the Jazz 1 ensemble is scheduled to record for their Essentially Ellington audition. The Music Boosters would like to also help out with snacks/food for the students and Mr. Faul during this time frame. Please let Sherrill Leppich know if you are able to help with donations of food for these days as well.

On Thursday, January 30th, we will be having our Concert Band performance, at 7:00 p.m. If you can assist with selling refreshments before or after the performance, please let us know.

On Saturday, February 1st, we are hosting this years Solo Ensemble Competition. We will need MANY helping hands to make this a great event for all schools and students attending. Please mark your calendars and try to donate some time to helping out at this event, both parents and students will be needed.

Also on the horizon, there are many trips coming up for our band students. If you are interested in being part of the “entourage” and want to try and stay at the same hotel as the students, you should think about making reservations soon. For the Swing Central Savannah, GA competition that Jazz 1 is attending in March, we will be staying at the SpringHill Suites in Savannah Historic District. For Disneyland trip in April, we are staying at the Best Western Park Place Inn in Anaheim, CA and for Silverwood, we will be staying at the Mirabeau Park Hotel in Spokane in May. We cannot combine your reservations with the students/chaperone reservations, you need to make your own. If you need further information, you can contact Sherrill Leppich.

It is also the time of year to start thinking about volunteering for our MTHS Music Booster Board for the 2014-2015 school year. The board members that are currently serving on the booster board have fulfilled their 2 year obligation and we will need some parents to fill the opening positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Jazz 1 Rep, Jazz 2 Rep, Secretary, Concert Band Rep, Orchestra Rep, and Choir Rep. Please consider taking on one of these positions and help the booster board to continue thriving. We will definitely need a President (can be co-chaired) and a Treasurer to keep the board alive. This is a great opportunity to volunteer and be a part of a fantastic group of parents who are looking to support the music programs at MTHS. If you might be interested, but need more information, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other board member, or even Mr. Faul. We are all happy to give you any information you may need to consider taking on a position.

We will have a nominating committee together soon and looking for candidates. If you are approached or contacted, please take time to consider helping out and joining. There is no special requirements needed to take on a position (other than having a student at MTHS in a music program) and we encourage everyone to consider taking one of the positions to keep the non-profit support group going. If you or someone you know might be interested in being a part of the board, please do not hesitate to contact a board member today.

In the words of Martin Luther King:

[Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world.](#)

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