

# 2017 JAZZ FACTORY

## “What is the Jazz Factory?”

The Middle School Jazz Factory is an extra-curricular jazz band that rehearses once a week. *This year, rehearsals will be afterschool on Tuesdays until 4:00pm.* Typical instrumentation for jazz ensembles include trumpets, trombones, alto, tenor and baritone saxophones, a drum set, guitar, bass guitar, piano, clarinet and often, a vibraphone. We perform two concerts with the High School Jazz Factory in the spring: Knoebels (May TBA) and The Pops Concert (May 12). We are actively looking for more performance opportunities.

The Jazz Factory consists of many enthusiastic middle school students. Rehearsals are more laid back and consist of different repertoire often found in concert band. We improvise (make up stuff) and explore different styles and jazz musicians.

This year, the director of the Jazz Factory will be Mr. Nathan Zeek, our Middle School Chorus Director.

## “What is jazz?!”

Louis Armstrong said, "Jazz is music that's never played the same way once." Ralph Ellison said, "Jazz is an art of individual assertion within and against the group..."

It's been called the most American form of music. It's actually been called a lot of things, but we call it jazz, the musical style of improvisation, African-American rhythms and European-American performance. That's just one definition of jazz music. Other people define jazz by the feelings it creates, the smooth and unrestricted sounds, or the attitude of freedom and cool that it embodies. However you define it, jazz music has been a major part of America's musical landscape.

But if it's so important, why is it so hard to define? Well, to quote jazz musician J.J. Johnson, 'Jazz is restless.' Jazz music bends and moves, incorporating new styles and sounds. It's musical freedom. Poetic, right? What can I say; I just love jazz, whatever it is. And I think you will, too!

## “Jazz sounds like the best thing ever, and I want to be a member NOW!”

Yes, of course you do! Jazz is amazing. To become a member of the JAZZ FACTORY, please return the attached form. You are required to attend (at least one of) the rehearsals in November/December 2016 to be a member. There are no auditions for 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Students who miss a considerable amount of rehearsals (more than 2 a month) may lose their chair. Please speak with Mr. Zeek if you wish to be a member but foresee conflicts, and we will work something out. We can always work something out... with *communication!*

Jazz Band is an extra-curricular activity. It is understood that students are involved in (several) other extra-curricular activities and it is even expected that they may have to miss every now and then. I expect communication about whether or not students will make it to rehearsals to prepare accordingly. The success of the ensemble depends on its members being present as much as possible.

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## SIGN ME UP!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Instrument: \_\_\_\_\_

If you play clarinet or flute, are you interested in learning the saxophone or trombone? YES or NO (circle one)

Other extracurricular activities that I participate in that may get in the way of some rehearsals: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ read the attached form and allow my band student to participate in the Jazz Factory for the 2016-17 school year.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_