

A Parents Overview of Roosevelt Jazz Bands

Here is a look at an average year-in-the-life of a **Jazz Band** student at Roosevelt High School. There are currently three bands: Jazz Band I, II, and III. Participation in any of the jazz bands is **by audition** during the week before school starts (see www.rooseveltjazz.org for the audition schedule and other information).

Jazz Band I is a class taught by Scott Brown during the regular school day. Jazz Band I is typically a “standard” jazz band of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, and rhythm section (drummer, bass, piano, and guitar) plus additional qualified students who may double up on various parts. Given the exceptional performance level of Jazz Band I, it is rare - but not impossible - for freshmen to qualify for this band.

Jazz Bands II and III are after-school activities taught by Stuart MacDonald. Other than during football season, when many jazz students participate in Marching Band practice after school, JB II meets three times per week and JB III meets twice per week. It is important for the growth and success of the bands and for the progression of the students for all band members to attend band practices on a regular basis. JB II and III students who are also involved in school sports are encouraged to work out a reasonable compromise with coaches for after-school time. Most coaches are understanding and supportive of the school music programs. Jazz Band II and III students, other than bass, guitar, and piano players, are also required to be enrolled in Cadet or Symphonic Band class in addition to after-school jazz. Bass players are encouraged to enroll in an orchestra class.

Your child will likely need to increase their level of practicing, and commit to performing music at the highest level at concerts and jazz festivals. Summer jazz camps and workshops are highly recommended, along with ongoing private instruction. Your child will miss school to attend jazz festivals and other performances. He/she will need to make up missed assignments and tests and keep school work current and in good standing. Your child will also be a representative of the school at various events and must possess exemplary behavior.

Parents are asked to support their student’s activities through positive reinforcement, volunteering, and fundraising. There are fundraising activities all year long (bake sales at concerts, etc.) but the biggest fundraiser is the **Big Band Dance & Auction** in March (sometimes early April), which benefits all of the jazz bands and Vocal Jazz. Parents are requested to procure \$400 or more in donations for the auction, invite friends and family, and help with running this event.

Parents are expected to become actively involved in the **Jazz Boosters**, which is a volunteer organization that supports the jazz programs and organizes many jazz events and activities. A lot of information is disseminated by email and/or is available on the Roosevelt Jazz web site, but **monthly booster meetings** are the best place to hear from the directors, keep abreast of band events and learn about the program. **Volunteering** is essential to the success of the program, whether it is chaperoning a trip to a jazz festival, helping with a fundraiser, or helping to lead by taking on a booster office such as Secretary, Treasurer, or Chair. If parents are unsure of time commitments for various tasks, the Booster Chair is happy to answer questions.

Jazz Band II and III girls typically wear nice dresses (often \$150 or more, including shoes) and boys wear dress shirts and slacks (often \$100 or more, including shoes). Performance clothing

has traditionally been black in the past but that is subject to change. Jazz Band I girls wear nice black dresses and boys wear tuxedos (\$150 and up).

All three bands travel to jazz festivals and, despite fundraisers, parents pay for a substantial portion of the expenses. Jazz Band II and III typically have **annual dues** of approximately \$500, largely to cover the director's salary since this is an after-school program, plus additional assessments of \$400-\$600 for trips depending on the success of fundraising.

Jazz Band I typically has annual dues of \$450, primarily to cover travel expenses, but may also have a travel assessment if the band qualifies for the Essentially Ellington competition (approximately \$1200 per student), depending on the success of fundraising. In addition, Jazz Band I usually goes on a summer tour every other year (2012, 2014, etc.) and, as these trips are often to Europe, the cost is approximately \$4,000 per student.

In addition to dues and trip assessments (and private lessons, instrument repairs, etc.), students will need spending money for food and incidentals while on trips of around \$25-50 per day, depending on the nature of the trip and whether some meals are included.

Since not every family can afford all of these expenses, parents can request **scholarship help** from the Roosevelt Jazz Boosters via a confidential meeting with the group Treasurer. Non-needs-based scholarships are also typically funded by the Jazz Boosters to help pay for summer jazz workshops and camps.

TYPICAL JAZZ CALENDAR

First Tuesday of each month (except September) - Jazz Booster Meeting, 7:30 PM in the Band Room

Early September – Jazz Band Auditions

Mid-September – First Jazz Booster Meeting, Tuesday, 7:30PM

Mid-October – Jazz Band I to the Triple Door for Earshot Jazz Festival (evening)

Late October – Jazz Band II to Edmonds Jazz Symposium

Early November – Jazz Band I to Sand Point Country Club Dinner-Dance (evening)

Mid-November – Vocal Jazz to the Olympic College Jazz Festival (Saturday)

Mid-November – Jazz Band III to Mill Creek Jazz Festival (Saturday)

Early December – Jazz Band I performs the Jazz Nutcracker (multiple performances)

Mid-December – Jazz Night at Roosevelt (evening, all jazz groups)

Mid-December – Jazz Band I to Sunset Club for dinner-dance (evening)

Mid-January – Jazz Band I records audition for Essentially Ellington competition

Late-January – Jazz Band I and II to Clark College Jazz Festival (Vancouver, WA, Saturday)

Early February – Jazz Band III to Viking Jazz Festival (Poulsbo, Friday)

Early February – Jazz Band I and Vocal Jazz to Bellevue College Jazz Festival (Friday, Saturday)

Late February – All groups to Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in Moscow Idaho (travel by bus, leave Thursday, return Friday)

Mid-March – Jazz Band I to Hot Java, Cool Jazz at the Paramount (evening)

Late March – Big Band Dance & Auction, all groups perform (Saturday evening)

Late March or early April – Big Band Dance & Auction

Late April – All groups to Reno Jazz Festival (travel by air, leave Friday, return Sunday)

Mid-May – If they qualify, Jazz Band I to Essentially Ellington in New York (travel by air, leave Thursday, return Tuesday)

Early June – All groups to The Triple Door (evening)

Mid-June – Jazz Bands II & III, Vocal Jazz Final Concert

Mid-June – Jazz Band I Final Concert and party

Note: This calendar does not show regular band and orchestra concerts, drama musicals, marching band performances and parades, and other events that may include Roosevelt jazz musicians!