

Dear parents & students,

Thursday December 1, 2011

There has been some confusion recently as to the expectations of Jazz I and Jazz II at TFMS. The expectations outlined below have always been the case and have been outlined clearly at the beginning of every school year or when a student joins jazz. To make sure there is a clear understanding of ensemble expectations - please read and sign this document with your student and have them return it to me by Monday December 3.

It is an honor to teach you/your students the American art form of Jazz. I love every moment I have with these groups and want to encourage and challenge them to be their best, always. TFMS has a history of award winning jazz ensembles - even since our first year in 2008. This is entirely because of the hard work, dedication, commitment, and passion of every student that has been in jazz at Twin Falls. The expectations and recommendations outlined below will help us continue this tradition of making great music together.

If you have any questions or concerns you can email me at [wenmanm@svsd410.org](mailto:wenmanm@svsd410.org)

Sincerely,  
Mr. Wenman  
(425)831-4178  
[wenmanm@svsd410.org](mailto:wenmanm@svsd410.org)  
[www.tfmsmusic.org](http://www.tfmsmusic.org)

## Twin Falls Middle School Jazz Ensemble Expectations

### Rehearsal Start Time absences/tardies:

Rehearsal starts at 6:35am every day. (Tuesday and Thursday for Jazz II)

Please arrive earlier to assemble your instrument and make sure you are ready for rehearsal (i.e. tune bass, set up rhythm section). We will begin warming up as a group at 6:35am. If you are ready earlier, begin warming up early - especially brass players (it takes professionals 40+ minutes to warm up properly!)

If you are going to miss rehearsal or be late let me know ahead of time via email or hand written note from parent.

If you miss a rehearsal or are late and didn't know ahead of time (sickness, family emergency, unexpected weather issue) please come to school with a note that day or when you return or have a parent send an email.

*\*Needing extra sleep because you were up late with homework, or haven't been getting sleep is not a valid reason to skip rehearsal or come late. Everyone is in this together! Every student has lots of work to do and is tired this early in the morning - but we are a team and have to be committed to one another!!!*

I will let you know ahead of time if we do NOT have rehearsal. When in doubt, come. I almost never cancel. Even if I have a sub for the day, I very often still do jazz band. We may set up a phone tree for rough weather cancelations.

Practice expectation:

Every student is expected to practice 2-3 hours a week (4-6 30 minute practice sessions.) This is a minimum. Many students will practice more. You must practice to whatever extent necessary to be able to play your parts as proficiently as possible.

*\*This is in addition to whatever practice is necessary for concert band (i.e. practice journals/play tests)*

Grades:

Jazz band students are some of if not *the hardest working students at TFMS*. In light of this, and because students will be missing class for performances, festivals, and travel, students must keep their grades above passing at all times in all classes. If a student is failing a class they will not be allowed to participate in rehearsals or performances until their grades have improved.

Participation Fee: Jazz I is \$60, Jazz II is \$35. Checks out to Twin Falls Middle School.

Listening/Live Performances/Boxleys:

Want to be inspired? Need motivation to practice? Want to learn *fluently* the complex and amazing language of jazz? Then....

Listen to jazz as much as possible. Find our what artists you love and listen to them constantly! Explore the world of jazz recordings - youtube counts! (check out [www.jazzonthetube.com](http://www.jazzonthetube.com))

Go listen to live musicians and the local masters of your instruments. We have a top 150 (literally) in the world jazz club right here in North Bend! Go to Boxleys and soak up some great music! Tuesday nights (check the calendar online) is future jazz heads night. Go jam with other high school and middle school age musicians. This is an amazing resource and opportunity!

Private Lessons

Though private lessons are not required they are *very highly encouraged!* Taking private instruction from a professional musician on your specific instrument and using the tools they give you (practicing them) is hands down the most effective way to improve at your instrument. You will be amazed at your improvement if you take advantage of private instruction from a good teacher!! See me if you need a recommendation for an instructor. Boosters will do auditions for lessons scholarships throughout the year. Visit [www.tfmsmusic.org](http://www.tfmsmusic.org) for more info or to donate to the scholarship fund.

If any student is not meeting expectations consistently parents will be contacted and we will work together to find a solution that is best for the student and ensemble. Possible solutions are: moving from Jazz I to Jazz II (or the opposite), requiring practice logs for jazz band, terminating participation in an ensemble, goal setting, requiring progress reports from teachers...etc.

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I have read, understand, and agree to the expectations of participating in TFMS Jazz.

Student Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

(please cut off this section and return to Mr. W. and keep the document for your records)