

WALTER R. SUNDLING MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the Walter R. Sundling Middle School Band Department! Band is one of the most exciting and rewarding educational opportunities offered by our school. The goal of the WRS Band Program is to provide our students with the highest quality musical experience. Recent statistics indicate that students who participate in music are among the academically strongest in their schools. In addition to musical experience, band students also learn the importance of group cooperation, teamwork, self-discipline, self-esteem, perseverance and leadership.

103 Seventh and Eighth Grade students are currently enrolled in the 2023-2024 WRS Band Program:

Flute: 16
Oboe: 1
Clarinet: 10
Bass Clarinet: 2
Bassoon: 0

Alto Saxophone: 9
Tenor Saxophone: 2
Baritone Saxophone: 2
Trumpet: 20
French Horn: 3

Trombone: 6
Baritone: 2
Tuba: 2
Percussion: 28

The 2024-2025 WRS Band Program will offer four performing ensembles: 6th Grade Cadet Band, 7th Grade Concert Band, 8th Grade Symphonic Band and Jazz Band

6th Grade Cadet Band

Cadet Band is offered as a Sixth Grade enrichment class to all students who have successfully completed Beginning Band. Students are invited to continue their Band experience on traditional Band instruments. Band meets once during the school day as an enrichment class. Students are also required to attend one small-group lesson per week on a rotating schedule. Through the study of different time periods and styles, students will understand music as a form of communication which will expand their ability to listen, analyze and discuss concepts. Through daily learning, the Band prepares and performs at concerts and events during and outside the school day.

7th Grade Concert Band

Concert Band is offered as a Seventh Grade enrichment class to all students who have successfully completed Cadet Band. Students are invited to continue their Band experience on traditional Band instruments. Band meets once during the school day as an enrichment class. Students are also required to attend one small-group lesson per week on a rotating schedule. Through the study of different time periods and styles, students will understand music as a form of communication which will expand their ability to listen, analyze and discuss concepts. Through daily learning, the Band prepares and performs at concerts and events during and outside the school day.

8th Grade Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is offered as an Eighth Grade enrichment class to all students who have successfully completed Concert Band. Students are invited to continue their Band experience on traditional Band instruments. Band meets once during the school day as an enrichment class. Students are also required to attend one small-group lesson per week on a rotating schedule. Through the study of different time periods and styles, Eighth Grade students will develop a relatively more advanced understanding of music as a form of communication which will expand their ability to listen, analyze and discuss concepts. Through daily learning, the Band prepares and performs at concerts and events during and outside the school day. Eighth Grade students will also have the opportunity to make connections with their High School Band program, teachers and students.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is open to all Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade students who qualify by audition. The Jazz Band seats a select group of musicians and is comprised of the following instrumentation: Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Electric Guitar, Piano, Bass Guitar and Drum Set. All Wind players and Percussionists are also required to participate in Cadet Band, Concert Band or Symphonic Band. The Jazz Band rehearses before school throughout the school year on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:50 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. in the WRS Theater with occasional rehearsals before school (prior to upcoming performances). The Jazz Band performs at various events throughout the school year.

(OVER)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When/where does Band meet?

Band meets as a class every day in the WRS Theater. In middle school, there are no Band rehearsals before or after school!

How does grading work for Band?

Band members currently receive a grade on their progress report at the end of each quarter. Grading is based on the following criteria: Rehearsals, Lessons, Performances, SmartMusic, Assignments and Practice Records. *Note: Grading will be different if D15 moves to Standards Based Grading next year.*

Can I be in Band and still participate in sports or other activities?

YES! We encourage our band members to participate in athletics and other school activities. Many of our band members are involved with our school's athletic program and other activities.

What is the time commitment for band members outside of the school day?

In addition to weekly home practice expectations and occasional SmartMusic assignments, Band members are only required to perform in four formal evening concerts. *Note: there may be fewer performances due to D15's compressed school calendar next year.* Students who participate in Jazz Band will have additional before and after school commitments.

When are Jazz Band auditions held?

Jazz Band auditions will be held when we return to school in September 2024. Stay tuned for more information...

Can I switch instruments?

YES...depending on the individual student, the Band's instrumentation and the availability of school instruments. Every year, a few students choose to switch to the following instruments: bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone and tuba.

Where do I store my instrument during the school day?

Large instruments can be stored in the band lockers in the WRS Theater during the school day. Small instruments can be stored in the student's school locker.

I sincerely hope that all current 5th Grade Band and 6th Grade Band members will continue their instrumental music education and join the Band Program at Walter R. Sundling Middle School!

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jeff Zilke (847-963-3714 or zilkej@ccsd15.net).

Visit the WRS Band Website at www.wrsband.org
Follow us on Twitter [@wrsband](https://twitter.com/wrsband)