

Director Communication – 12/29/20

Dear Panther Band Families,

We hope you are enjoying the holiday season and looking forward to the new year!

In this PHSN Band Email:

- Concert Bands Plan for 2021
- Remainder of 2021 Band Schedule
- Solo & Ensemble Preparation Check-In Expectations

Details:

Concert Bands Plan for 2021

Given the circumstances surrounding the pandemic and hybrid learning model projected by PLSD in our return to school in January 2021, the Band staff has decided the following:

- For this year, Concert Band I & II will be combined into one ensemble called “Concert Band”, and led by both Mr. Benson and Mr. Guirrerri.
- Symphonic Band will continue to be its own ensemble.
- Concert ensembles will begin rehearsing in their ensembles in the following schedule for 2nd semester:
 - Symphonic Band – Mods 11-13 (12:04pm-1:08pm)
 - Concert Band – Mods 14-16 (1:08pm-2:12pm)
- At the return to school on January 5th for students, students should follow the above schedule in their cohorts based on the Band they are in. Each ensemble will begin rehearsing as an ensemble (not Cohort Bands as for the Winter Concert) within their cohorts during the school day.
- Students should always bring their Solo & Ensemble literature with them to class, as we will balance S&E rehearsal time with ensemble rehearsal time in the month of January

Remainder of 2021 Band Schedule

Attached to this email/post, you will find the “Remainder of 2021 Band Schedule” for this school year. Please review it in full and mark all dates on your calendars. Work will not be permitted as an excuse for missing events. Please note the following:

- Concert Ensembles will have scheduled after school rehearsals:
 - Symphonic Band will have a **standing Wednesday 3:30-5:30pm weekly rehearsal** beginning Wednesday, January 13.
 - Concert Band & Symphonic Band have specifically noted after-school rehearsals as we approach concerts/performances.

- *Note: We must host these after-school rehearsals to play as an ensemble following all PLSD and Health Department protocols, as we will not have the opportunity to play as a full ensemble during the school day due to the hybrid learning model.*
- Jazz Band will continue rehearsing in cohorts during the school day, and will have two after-school rehearsals per concert cycle, as indicated on the attached calendar.

Please know that the calendar included is subject to change at director's discretion and/or related to schedule developments surrounding Covid-19.

Solo & Ensemble Preparation Check-In Expectations

This year, each student has been required to select and prepare a solo for the Pickerington Solo & Ensemble Event on January 30, 2021. As we return to school, directors will be checking in with students in-person and virtually on their progress on these solos. These check-ins will be **graded**. The expectations are as follows:

- January 4-8 Check-Ins:
 - A director will check-in with each student. Each student is expected to play **HALF** of their solo for a director.
- January 11-15 Check-Ins:
 - A director will check-in with each student. Each student is expected to play the **remaining HALF** of their solo for a director.
- January 18-22 Check-Ins:
 - These will be set by directors for students still needing additional attention on their solo preparation.
 - Most students will begin accompanist rehearsals.
- January 25-29 Check-Ins:
 - Accompanist rehearsals for all students.

Students are expected to be **practicing and preparing their solos** on their own and/or with their private teachers. At check-ins, students should be **reasonably within the performance tempo** marking (within 20 bpm of performance tempo).

We look forward to the wonderful musical opportunities we will be able to provide for students in 2021!

Thanks & Go Panthers!

Sincerely,

Mr. Benson