

West Ranch HS Music

8th Grade Parent Information Meeting

Who we are....



Program Overview

- Instrumental Music is the largest student group at West Ranch HS.
- Program is made up of 3 concert bands (separated by playing ability), 2 jazz bands, the marching band, percussion ensemble, and colorguard.
- Students participate in-
 - Just like JHS: Concerts throughout the year, band & orchestra festival, solo & ensemble festival, honor band, jazz band for interested students.
 - Different from JHS: Marching Band

A Proud Tradition of Excellence

Concert Bands



Jazz Bands



A Proud Tradition of Excellence

Marching Band



Why Music?



- Students develop discipline, time management, problem solving skills, collaboration, social skills, and cognitive awareness.
- Students enjoy being part of programs that are quality. The West Ranch band program has a proud tradition of receiving the highest ratings at festival, regularly putting the most students into the Hart District Honor Band, and is a four-time state marching champion.
- Students will have the chance to travel the country sharing their love of music with all (in the past the music program has gone to Hawaii, Italy, Florida, Ohio, as well as many other locations).

Academic Advantages to Music

- Many of the strongest academic students at the school are in band with over half our students having higher than a 4.0 GPA.
- Students remain busy and engaged, forcing them to be responsible with homework.
- Students help each other (study groups & peer tutoring).
- Eligibility requirements offer external motivation.
- Band students regularly get into the most prestigious colleges in the United States with band alumni currently attending schools such as UCLA, Cal-Berkley, USC, Stanford, Northwestern, Duke, and many, many more.



Athletics and Band

- YES, you can do sports and band.
- Almost all sports schedules work so they do not conflict with the band program.
- Directors work with coaches to alleviate scheduling conflicts.
- WR Band students currently participate in:
 - Tennis, Golf, Swim, Track & Field, Baseball, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, and yes, we have even had a few students play football!

Most Importantly

- Simply put, band is made up of the best students at West Ranch HS. Band provides a FUN, safe group for both students and parents to be part of. The friendships students make in the band will be their most lasting relationships in high school and the memories made will last a life-time.
- There are many opportunities for parents to get involved and be part of their child's experience.



West Ranch Band Boosters

- Welcome from President Marguerite Syvertson
 - For more information please send an email to syvertsonm@gmail.com
- Booster Meetings normally take place the second Wednesday of each month (full schedule can be found at www.westranchmusic.com)
- The Band Boosters allow parents the opportunity to be involved in their child's activities, but still give the students the space they are looking for in high school.
- Many parents make long-lasting friendships with other families through the boosters.



What do freshman take?

- Everyone is enrolled in a year-long concert band class that takes place during the school day.
 - **Wind Ensemble**- The most advanced students, mostly upper-classmen
 - **Symphonic Band**- Intermediate skill set, mixed grades of students
 - **Concert Band**- Developing skill set, mostly younger students
- **Marching Band (Fall Semester Only)**
 - Marching Band takes place from July 20th-November 21st and is outside the regular school day
- **Jazz Band (Optional, but student must still be in a concert band and do marching band 1st semester)**
- 4-year plan online at www.westranchmusic.com

Marching Band

- YES, all students in the band program must do marching band.
- YES, marching band will be incredibly fun and rewarding!
- YES, you can still do marching band and manage your school work.
- YES, you will still have a life!



Time Commitments for Marching Band

- The West Ranch Marching Band rehearses the least in the Hart School District!!!
- As a result of this, attendance at all rehearsals is very important.
- Practices are scheduled:
 - Tuesday & Thursday Nights 6pm-9pm
 - 4 Saturday Practices (Morning)
 - Band Camp (July 20-July 31)
 - Every section will have a one-day a week sectional for an hour
 - Percussion/Colorguard do have some additional practices (check website)
- It is very important to check the calendar at www.westranchmusic.com prior to committing. If asked for a password it is: WRanchHSBand

Band Camp



- Band Camp is located at West Ranch HS
- Week 1
 - Monday, July 20th-Friday, July 24th 1pm-9pm daily
 - Fun Games/Activities throughout the week
 - Special snacks throughout the week (ice cream, popsicles, etc.)
 - End of Week 1 Party, July 24th 8pm-10pm
- Week 2
 - Monday, July 26th-Friday, July 31st 9am-9pm daily
 - Fun Games/Activities throughout the week
 - Special snacks throughout the week (ice cream, popsicles, etc.)
 - Parent Performance and Potluck, Friday, July 31st



Band Camp.....continued

- Camp is structured so students are in doors during the warmest part of each day.
- Dinner will be provided nightly for all students from 4:30pm-6:00pm.
- YES, band camp is required. One day of band camp is equivalent to a week of rehearsals once school begins. Students who miss band camp may not be written into the entire marching show.



Jazz Band

- Welcome from Director of Jazz Studies, Mr. Leff
- How HS Jazz Compares to JHS Jazz
 - Just like JHS: Concerts, Festivals, & Rehearsals
 - Different from JHS: Jazz is a class and part of the school day
- Studio A Jazz Band is advanced and meets during 1st period (7am)
- Lab Jazz Band is intermediate and meets during 7th period (1pm)
- Students will learn about different jazz styles, improvisation, jazz history, and much more!
- There is no additional cost to participate in jazz band.

How to Register for band

- To register for band, please go to www.westranchmusic.com and click on the link to register for band (Mrs. Stoffel will also be emailing this link to all families).
- Complete the entire google doc and hit submit when done (students and parents will need to complete the registration together).
- The DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, MAY 15th.

What students should tell their counselor

- Students-Tell your counselors that you want to be enrolled in Concert Band and Marching Band when you complete your schedule requests. Students that pass the audition for Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band will have their schedule changed personally by Mr. Marshall.
- Students interested in also doing jazz band should also tell their counselor that they want to be in Jazz Ensemble (7th period).



Band Camp Fees/Donations

- Band Donations and Band Camp Fees are necessary to provide your children with the best band experience possible.
- Monies collected help cover additional staff, show design & coordination, music, entry fees, transportation/bussing, meals/snacks, t-shirts, and many other expenses.
- The West Ranch Band Boosters raise over \$100,000 a year to help supplement out budget, but we cannot do it without family payments.
- No student will be denied participation in the band program because of an inability to pay.

FAQ's

- When can I get a school instrument?
 - Keep your eyes on your email for more details on this in late spring or over the summer.
- What if I want to be in Colorguard for marching band?
 - Contact Mr. Marshall and he will put you in contact with the colorguard coach.
- What if I want to switch instruments?
 - Contact Mr. Marshall right away to discuss options for you.
- What if I want to audition for Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Jazz Band?
 - Audition information was sent out to all students by Mrs. Stoffel. Contact her or Mr. Marshall if you need additional assistance. All auditions are due by May 15th.

What to do from here?

- Look at the calendar at www.westranchmusic.com and make sure that you can commit for the entire school year.
- Complete your band registration online at www.westranchmusic.com
- Complete your school registration with your counselor
- Wait for more details from Mr. Marshall over the summer, including your marching band music.
- Practice your instrument!
- Show up to band camp on July 20th



QUESTIONS?

Please Email Mr. Marshall at jmarshall@hartdistrict.org
Jazz questions should be sent to Mr. Leff at bleff@hartdistrict.org