

WHITMAN MUSIC



WOW

September was a handful this year, but for great reasons. With 88 (!) new students to our program this year (179 total!), it's been a heavy task getting everyone set with the materials they need. If your student still needs something from me, **please** let me know since there were bound to be a few things I missed.

That being said, our new band lockers are up and running, labeled with student names to eliminate the issues of students accidentally sharing instruments that we encountered with our old shelving. It's been working perfect and our locker room looks so much more organized! We have 2 shelves that still need to be assembled and we're looking for help!

PRACTICE LOGS

Practice logs are due every Monday (except after multi-day breaks) with parent signatures.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct 12 - Curriculum Night
- October 19 - MOD Pizza fundraiser (Ballard location)
- November 14 - Pops Concert (Movies) - 6 pm
- December 6 - Jazz Band at Wheelie Pop - 6 pm
- December 7 - Introductory Ensemble "Informance" - 6 pm

TO-DO

- Fill out your annual registration form if you haven't yet
- Make sure your student has **all black** concert clothes.
- Check with your student to make sure they have **pencils** in their backpack.

INTRODUCTORY ORCHESTRA

This month we chose our instruments and have settled into them a bit. We are not using bow yet - our target goal for bow is that everyone in the class demonstrates a straight left hand wrist when playing their instrument. The arm should be straight from elbow to palm when playing, with the fingers curved.

Our first playing test is Tuesday, October 3 on #22 in our book. The students took a practice playing test with our two student TAs this week and received feedback on their playing. Our TAs this semester are a cello and violin player from Concert Orchestra.

This month we learned how to hold on instruments, proper posture, the notes in the D major scale, quarter notes, and quarter note rests. We are identifying notes in lines and notes in spaces as a first step of note reading practice.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Since I last wrote, our group has grown to 34 members! It's very exciting to have such a large Orchestra, though the students are quickly learning with a larger class comes the increased importance of not playing during instruction times.

Many students in this class are struggling with maintaining their belongings and I am often finding left behind binders and sheet music. Please make sure your student is bringing their music binder to school each day and that they have it.

Written by 7th grader Harper M. in Concert Orchestra:

This month in concert orchestra was full of reviewing our scales, and working on multiple new rhythms, and learning new music for the Movie pops concert, which will take place in November. For this beginning of year concert, we selected a variety of sheet music popular sheet music, including favorites from movies Harry Potter and La La Land. Additionally, our chamber orchestra will also be playing Pirates of the Caribbean, and our string quartet will be performing Paint it Black from Wednesday.

Each week in class we work on an assortment of skills and exercises such as practicing in sectionals, breaking off into small groups, and doing chamber music, as well as setting aside each Friday for Genius Hour, a time in which we can work on music related projects that we don't commonly cover in class. A reminder that the practice logs are due each week, and a parent signature is required.

INTRODUCTORY BAND



This month we chose our instruments and have settled into them a bit. We have spent a lot of time reviewing how to hold our instruments, proper posture, basic care of our instruments, our first 3 notes, whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, and all their rests! We are practicing identifying notes in lines and spaces..

Our first playing test is Tuesday, October 3 on #12 in our book.

If your student plays an instrument that they blow into, please make sure they are not eating right before (or during!) practice. Food particles - including the sugars from gum - can get blown into the instrument and cause mold over time. After eating or chewing gum, it's recommended to drink a good amount of water or brush your teeth to be extra safe!

INTERMEDIATE BAND

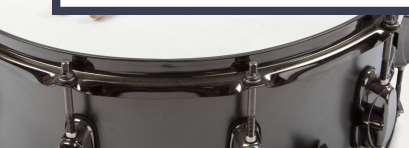


During September we started our "Make It Happen" book which has been a journey! This is a relatively new-to-market book that is designed specifically for second-year students and I'm finding the start of the book to be the perfect balance of review and building for the beginning of the year. The students have their first rhythm test this week (Thursday) on a random rhythm on their rhythm page in the book we've been practicing, between numbers 1 and 10.

We have been doing some good work on our concert songs - Ghostbusters, Friend Like Me, and Danger Zone. We are considering adding one more tune since we've been doing a pretty good job with preparing so far!

Coaches to support our clarinets, trumpets, and percussionists will be starting this month and will meet on Tuesdays during class.

We started our "Genius Hour Lite" two weeks ago. The students are learning how to use music notation software (Noteflight) and using it to first learn about chord creation. We will build on this to learn more theory about chord progressions and form in composing. Students are given a structure to be creative within, though they can choose what instruments to use and style they would like to compose within.



CONCERT BAND

Concert Band has done a lot of work in the past month to start coming together as a group. We are already starting to use our ears to blend and adjust to other parts for proper balance. We are starting week 4 of our in-class book "Superior Bands in 16 Weeks" and have done some great work in our concert songs, especially "Jump in the Line" which has a lot of syncopated rhythms. We are working on spacing our quarter note triplets out correctly and in October our goal is to move beyond notes and rhythms to refining dynamics and articulations for a very dramatic movie concert performance!

TRI-M

Written by Sam T.

Committee members have been determined! In the poster community, we have Henry, Jay, Hazel, Sabine, Emily, and Oliver. Members of the poster committee will oversee the making of any posters that may be needed at any time. In the membership committee, we have Sam, Oliver, Lucas, Brennan, and Hannah. The membership committee will propose and write membership offers to potential Tri-M members. In the fundraiser committee, there are Sabine, Henry, and Jay. The fundraiser committee will plan and run any fundraiser during the year. On a related note, Ben, Hazel, Sabine, Emily, Ari, Henry, Jay, and Oliver will be joining a stage crew specializing on lighting and special effects during concerts, using methods similar to last year's Pops rock concert.

Tri-M is currently in the process of debating how grade checks will be applied and enforced. Tri-M, as an honors society, requires its members to have a B average or greater in all classes, as well as an A average in the music program they are enrolled in. Possibilities for grade checks include having members ask their teachers write down their grades or show Ms. Gunn their grades page on The Source, among others.

Tri-M has to elected to have the following events from previous years to make a return: the Elementary Instrumental Music program day, also known as EIM Day; the practice-a-thon competition; and the end of year music program picnic. Further details to come.