

WHITMAN MUSIC



HOLIDAY CONCERT

We invite everyone to come to our first annual holiday concert on **Tuesday, December 12** with pre-concert activities starting at 5:30 and the concert starting at 6:00. This free event includes the following entertainment:

- Cash bake sale
- \$1 photo booth station with over 50 props and a winter backdrop
- Snowflake making station
- Luminaries on display from Ms. Dunnett's art classes
- Music from Hanukkah, Christmas, New Years Eve, winter, and two non-seasonal head boppers!
- If you buy a baked good or photo booth ticket you get entered for a door prize!

PRACTICE LOGS

Last practice log this month is due Monday, December 11th


UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 6 - Jazz Band at Wheelie Pop - 6 pm
- December 7 - Introductory Ensemble "Informance" - 6 pm
- December 12 - Holiday Concert - 6 pm
- January 27 - EIM Day at Whitman (Tri-M members)

TO-DO

- Make sure your student has **all black** concert clothes.
- Check with your student to make sure they have **pencils** in their backpack.

**Brrrrr! It's getting
COLD outside!**



**Protect your wooden
instruments from the cold
by following these tips:**

1. Keep your instrument stored around 60 to 70 degrees
2. Keep your instrument in a room with heat
3. Keep away from outside walls (if possible)
4. Limit time outside
5. Use a humidifier when possible

INTRODUCTORY ORCHESTRA

Upcoming Concerts

- Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 pm - arrive between 5:30 and 5:35 to get tuned in the orchestra room, warm up in the band room. Intro Orchestra is second, after Intro Band.

I'm noticing a much higher percentage of students forgetting their instruments in this class than average to years past and other ensembles. Please make sure your student brings their instrument to school every day so they can participate in the learning with us!

This month we've spent a lot of time prepping for our first performance, which includes the following skills and class collaborations:

- Working in smaller groups independently to choose and prepare section songs
- Learning concert etiquette
- Running through all the songs to get used to playing them in order without stopping
- Making arrangements of our songs by choosing groupings, dynamics, and more!

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

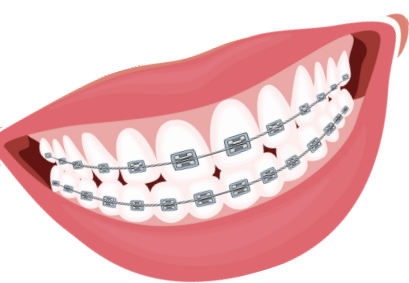
Upcoming Concerts

- Tuesday, December 12 at 6 pm - arrive between 5:30 and 5:35 to get instruments tuned and warm up. Concert Orchestra is last so students should sit in the audience with families to enjoy Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble, then report back to the Orchestra room to warm up. Tri-M students volunteering for things before the concert should show up by 5:20 to get their instruments tuned.

Last month we of course had our Movie Pops Concert which I thought went quite well! Since then, we've been prepping our holiday music in this short turnaround time. We have reviewed practice strategies and practicing smarter, not longer, by picking out hard parts since there are many repeated parts in our holiday music!

Mr. Liu has been coming to work with the students not in Chamber Orchestra once a week. He has been focusing on technique, scales, and helping the students with their orchestra music. Our students do a great job advocating for themselves and letting him know what they want to work on!

Chamber Orchestra picked out two easier arrangements of holiday tunes and last week worked on adding small touches to them to make them more sophisticated - primarily dynamics and style.



Braces & Band

Middle School is a popular time to get braces - but how does it impact playing a band instrument?

Trumpet

Challenges: Pain (most intense for trumpet!)

Adaptations: Use more air instead of mouth pressure

Tips: Using brace wax or a thin mouth guard. Practice and patience!

[Read More](#)

Other Brass

Challenges: Pain

Adaptations: Use more air instead of mouth pressure. Think “mmm” with mouth.

Tips: Using brace wax, start with short practice.

[Read More](#)

Sax & Clarinet

Challenges: Excess saliva

Adaptations: Draw out condensation from reed by inhaling

Tips: Clean the instrument after every use!

[Read More](#)

Flute

Challenges: Significant change in sound, excess saliva

Adaptations: Use more air, patience and experiment with embouchure

Tips: Clean the instrument after every use!

[Read More](#)

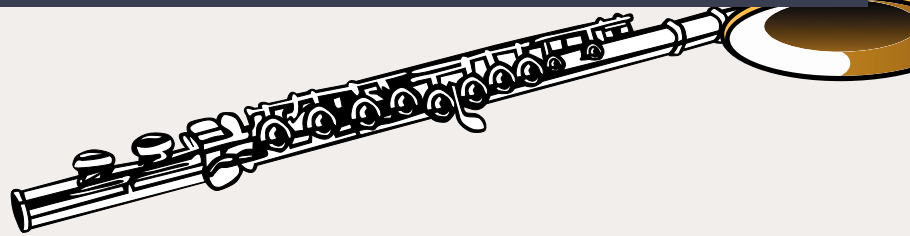
INTRODUCTORY BAND

Upcoming Concerts

- Thursday, December 7 at 6:00 pm - arrive between 5:30 and 5:38. Warmup starts on stage at 5:40.

Intro Band did a ton of work on concert prep this month and I think it's safe to say that "Echo Lake" is now feeling easy for many of us! We are blending together more as a group, learning to play loud and quiet (but with a good sound or "tone"), and breathing and playing in time together better.

Our sections have been collaborating on section songs which are student-selected and rehearsed with minimal feedback from me. This will give us a tour of all the different types of instruments we're learning in this classroom as well as being able to hear your student a little more than in the big group for their first concert at Whitman!



INTERMEDIATE BAND

Intermediate Band did a fantastic job on their first concert last month so for the last few weeks we have had time to work through the Ab section of our book: **Make It Happen!** Each week we are working through a specific routine in the book that provides a "balanced diet" of skill building including new syncopated rhythms, reinforcing the notes in Concert Ab, accuracy of slurs, range building, dynamic contrast and two-part playing, ensemble balance, and more! Last week we added more to it by working on building our dynamic range and playing **loud** (with good tone quality) for every exercise. This week we'll adventure on the less fun quiet playing.

In addition, we've been sight reading new music almost every day! Since our next concert isn't until March, it's a great time to get exposed to a wide variety of repertoire and increase our literacy. Just like regular reading, when we read a variety of texts and frequently, it can increase our fluency and the speed at which we are able to respond to new music. In the long run, this helps us learn new songs faster! It's also a fun break from working on concert songs that we have and dig into for multiple months.

March music will come to the students in January.

CONCERT BAND

Upcoming Concerts

- Tuesday, December 12 at 6 pm - students who play in Jazz Band should arrive by 5:40 and report to the stage for warmups and tuning. Students NOT in Jazz Band should arrive by 5:50 and warmup in the band room.

Concert Band just started week 10 of their Superior Bands book. We took a little break due to concert week and the holiday, but we're picking up where we left off and are set to finish all 16 weeks almost at the semester mark - with the last scale test falling on February 1!

Students in Concert Band will miss most or all of period 5 on Monday, December 11th in preparation for the combined piece on our December 12th concert (68 students performing together)! Students are responsible for making up any work that they will miss during that time. Please let me know if you have concerns about your student missing period 5.

TRI-M

This month we continued our stage crew training with students learning how to work the DMX Light board, including controlling the functions of each light and how to program scenes to come back to. This will help students in the future create and program unique lighting scenes for our concerts!

Our Marketing Committee has been working hard with updating our Tri-M bulletin board, creating posters to hang up around the school for our Holiday Concert, and writing staff invitations and announcements for our Wednesday Bulletin.

Our Fundraising Committee has nailed down our first student-run fundraiser as the photo booth fundraiser. A photo booth pass is \$1 (or included with a donation at our bake sale but Tri-M will receive \$1 for each pass). All funds raised at the photo booth station will go into our ASB Music funds, which helps cover things like transportation and registration for our field trips. So don't forget to stop by and say cheese!

