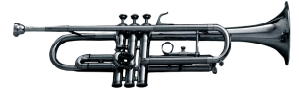


# Fort Calhoun Pioneer Band

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To: Junior High Band Students and Parents

RE: Junior High Jazz Band Program General Information

During the years of Junior High Band we offer an opportunity for students who play the appropriate instruments to begin studying and learning to enjoy the world of jazz literature. This is a somewhat unique “ball game” as opposed to our daily studies in concert band, as there are many differences in the methods of articulation and interpretation. It requires, of course, a specialized set of music scored for the instrumentation of a modern big band (swing band.) It basically incorporates trumpets, trombones (we also use baritones), saxophones (alto, tenor, and bari), along with a minimum rhythm section of piano, bass, and drumset.

As you may be aware, swing music in particular has been growing dramatically in popularity in recent years, especially on the east and west coasts of our country where most trends start.

Our Junior High Jazz Band meets on Wednesday mornings at 7:05 a.m., as it has for over two decades. This has been a major training ground as well for our high school jazz program. In many cases, students who do not begin learning jazz at this level are not able to make it into the High School Jazz Band.

We do not strictly audition the Junior High Jazz Band, nor do we hold to the standard instrumentation. Any student who plays an appropriate instrument may participate in this junior high jazz experience (excepting that we can only have one playing at a time on piano, bass, and drums. This is not usually a problem!)

THE JUNIOR HIGH JAZZ BAND WILL PERFORM: a) AT ONE JUNIOR HIGH CONTEST (hopefully). (This is normally at the Platteview contest—same date as the concert band performs.) b) AT THE VARIETY SHOW (please check the year specific information as it becomes available); AND THEN c) WILL BE FEATURED ON AN ALL JAZZ CONCERT WHICH THEY WILL SPLIT WITH THE SENIOR HIGH JAZZ BAND at the end of the school year. (Again, please check the year-specific information.) This year we will again try playing one number at the Christmas Instrumental Program in December.

REHEARSALS FOR JUNIOR HIGH JAZZ BAND WILL BEGIN IN EARLY NOVEMBER, and will be scheduled at 7:05 a.m. Once again, this will be their normal day and time of rehearsal each week. (There WILL BE a few occasional variations to accommodate Junior and Senior High program demands.)

Students at the Junior High level will receive EXTRA CREDIT for JAZZ BAND incorporated into their regular band grade. Students who begin are expected to make a commitment to the project.

This can be a highly enjoyable experience for the students as they explore another very popular area of music performance. All brass and saxophone players are encouraged to participate.

*“Pioneer” Band: A Tradition of Quality, Class, and Pride.*