

This Week In Band: 11/18

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Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a wonderful weekend!

Congratulations to everyone who was part of the Pueblo play! My son and I saw it on Friday night, and everyone was fantastic! So many band students in both casts as well as the crew, and I'm so proud of everyone!!

Saturday night was the State Marching Band Championship event at Glendale Community College, and Corona gave their best performance of the season!! There's no greater gift as a middle school band director than to see students continue in music and flourish! I was a very proud Band Mom, especially during the beautiful duet between the euphonium and alto sax—both former Pueblo band students! The epic guitar solo was incredible as always, and I definitely teared up during that last push to the end! You could feel how much they all loved performing together, and I will definitely miss this show! They earned second place by 0.188, which is crazy close!! They also earned the highest score for Music Performance, and it was so great hearing other bands cheering loudly for them when that was announced! I love how band students support each other! :)

My son and I spent pretty much all of Sunday setting up our Christmas Village! We're starting to decorate early since we'll be traveling for Thanksgiving. It's his job to set up all the buildings, and it's my job to wire everything. It's one of my favorite traditions, and I'm looking forward to setting up our trees this coming weekend!

How was your weekend?

Save the Date: Pueblo Winter Band Concert December 18th at Desert Vista

Our Winter Band Concert was originally scheduled for December 17th at Corona. Due to the extension on the construction on Corona's auditorium (it's projected to be completed in January now), the concert has been moved to Wednesday, December 18th at Desert Vista High School. I passed out blue letters to the students in class two weeks ago and emailed it, so hopefully you have already put it on your calendar. Here are the details:

Concert Date: Wednesday, December 18th at Desert Vista High School

Warm-Up: 5:45pm in the Desert Vista Band Room

Concert: 6:30pm in the Desert Vista Auditorium

Concert Dress: Same band concert uniform as the fall concert plus optional holiday accessories (santa hat, elf ears, Hanukkah attire, holiday socks, holiday jewelry, etc)

Instrument Decorations: Students can dress up their instruments/mallets/drumsticks as long as the instruments still work, the decorations can be removed, and the instrument doesn't get damaged.

Cookies: We will need people to donate cookies and other finger food type desserts for our annual Cookie Reception following the concert. We'll need help with collection and distribution as well, so be on the lookout for a Sign-Up Genius in December.

Extra Credit Concert November 26th: Tempe Winds: Time/Location Update

I have joined a new ensemble this year! It's called Tempe Winds and is conducted by Dr. Steve Meyer, the director of bands at NAU! The group has been around for a long time, but they've recently undergone some changes since their original director retired a few years ago. This is a smaller band with many fantastic professional musicians and educators, and I am playing in the clarinet section. They are working on an audition policy for the future, so we will be rotating on parts this season. We had our first rehearsal last week, and I can already tell it's going to be an amazing group!!!

Our first Tempe Winds concert is coming up next Tuesday, November 26th at 7:30pm. We just found out that the Tempe HS auditorium will be undergoing construction early, so we

are looking for an alternative location. I will send an email with that update as soon as I have that information.

Tickets are \$5 each and will be sold at the door. I will offer 100 points of extra credit for students who are able to attend (there's no school the next day, so no worries about being out late on a school night!). We are performing a wide variety of pieces including a salute to the armed forces, music from Porgy and Bess, John William's music from the movie Far and Away, Italian Rhapsody, and more!

For your planning purposes, we will also have concerts on January 28th (7:30pm) and April 19th (2:00pm).

Save the Date: Cookie Dough Delivery 12/5

Cookie dough orders will be delivered to Pueblo on Thursday, December 5th and may be picked up in the MPR from 3:00-4:30pm. They will be organized by the seller's last name. We will need parent volunteers to help with distribution, so please email me if you are available/interested.

Practice Records: Week 4

We are in Week 4 of our current Practice Record, which will be due on Tuesday, December 3rd.

As a reminder, I check everyone's Practice Record on Mondays. Students who have a parent/guardian signature and minutes written in can earn 2 Dawg Tags! I have many extra practice records, so your student may ask any time if they need a new practice record. Students must have all 5 signatures, minutes recorded for each week, their name, start date, due date, practice assignments written (on the back), and turned in on time in order to earn their 100 points. Remember—time spent playing their instrument outside of their class period (including practicing saying their note names and fingerings/studying their fingering chart) all counts as practice minutes. Please let me know if you have any questions about practice records.

7th and 8th Grade Scale Tests This Week

Each quarter we will be checking off 3 scales, and we will have our first check off day Next Thursday, November 21st (Symphonic Band will be Thursday for most Brass and Percussion and Friday for the Horns and Woodwinds due to the size of the class). This quarter we will be testing on concert Ab, Db, and C major scales.

8th graders must play all three from memory for their 100 points. 7th graders (and new 8th graders) can earn extra credit for memorization, but it is not required. Both grades can earn extra credit for extra octaves, and 8th graders can earn extra credit for speed (120 bpm or above).

Our second check-off day will be December 5th, and our final day will be December 12th. Students may also check off scales before school on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings in the band room starting at 7:50 starting the week of November 25th (they will do their first day of scale tests in class).

Students will need to check off all scales by Friday, December 20th for their 100 points.

7th and 8th Grade All State Band Auditions due 12/6

This is a reminder that recordings will be due by Friday, December 6th. Recordings are to be audio only (except for percussion), and these need to be emailed to me (I will then upload them to the audition site). Students can record at home or at school. I will be checking in with the students to help with this process. I'm happy to help students with their audition music before school on any non-Jazz day (Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday).

6th Grade Update: Band Karate

- We will continue with Band Karate this week with Woodwinds on Thursday and Brass/Percussion on Friday.
- As stated in the directions, students may also email me videos to check off songs and/or check them off before school on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday mornings (the band room opens at 7:50 each morning).
- Students will earn a treat for each belt they complete and will earn one Dog Tag per song they complete.

Jazz Band Update

We will rehearse on both Tuesday and Friday this week. Please check your email for the Jazz Updates email I sent out earlier today with more details for Saturday as well as some new dates for the third quarter.

We only have 2 rehearsals left before our performance on Saturday and really need all students at these rehearsals. I know mornings can be ROUGH (my child is NOT a morning person, so I get it!), and I really appreciate your help with this!

The gate opens at 7:00 and closes at 7:05. Please email me or send a message to the Remind if your student will be absent or is running late so I can send someone out to get them (text @puebloja to 81010 if you haven't joined our Remind Jazz Band group yet). If you don't hear from me, **please call the band room phone number if your student will be there after 7:05: 480-541-6990.**

- **2nd Quarter Jazz Band Performances:**

- Our first performance of the year will be this Saturday, November 23rd at the Dayspring Holiday Boutique at Dayspring Church in Tempe!
 - We will meet in the warm-up room behind the performance area at 10:00am, and the performance will start at 10:30am. We will be done around 11:00am.
 - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to move equipment! We will meet at Pueblo at 9:00am to load and will bring equipment back immediately following the performance.
 - Students will wear their Jazz Band shirts (they're being designed and will be here in time for the performance), nice jeans (as in no giant holes), and optional holiday accessories!
- We will also perform at Paloma, but we're still working on finalizing that date (that performance will take place before school for us, and students should be back in time for 1st period). We usually wear our Jazz Band shirts with holiday pajama pants for that performance, but I'll update you as it gets closer. We will need vehicles to help transport equipment for that as well, so be on the lookout for that once we have the date.
- We will perform at the Pueblo Winter Band Concert
- Our final performance will be at the Pueblo Winter Pep Assembly on Friday, December 20th. Please let me know if your student will not be at school that day. The assembly will be from 2:00-3:00pm in the Pueblo Gym.

- New Jazz dates for next semester:

- **Pueblo 5th Grade Showcase: January 22nd**

- We will perform at the annual Pueblo 5th Grade Showcase on Wednesday, January 22nd.
- Students need to be in the band room at 4:30pm for warm-up, and we will perform as part of the 5:00pm presentation. We will go back to the band room afterward to play while families are touring campus.
- I am still thinking about what to have them wear and will update you on that.

- **Tucson Jazz Workshop Daytrip: February 19th**

- I am thrilled to announce that we will be returning to Tucson this year! Unfortunately the Jazz festival date did not work with our calendar, so we will be going to Rincon/University High School to do a performance for the Rincon/University Jazz Band on Wednesday, February 19th! Their Jazz Band will perform for us as well, and we'll have a clinic with their amazing director, Mr. Jeff Marchant!!! They have one of the best Jazz Bands in the state, and this will be a fantastic opportunity!!!
- Here's a rough outline of the day: We will meet at 7:05am, leave at 7:30am (charter bus), do our performance/clinic, have lunch (probably U of A Student Union again), go to Reid Park Zoo, and head back to Pueblo with a return time of 5:00pm.
- We will need chaperones, so please email me if you would like to attend.

- **Pueblopalooza: April 11th**

- We will once again be performing at the annual Pueblopalooza festival on Friday, April 11th.
- I don't have our exact performance time yet, but plan on having your students available from 5:00-7:00pm that evening.
- Students will wear Jazz Band shirts with nice jeans and will need to have their music in a binder with sheet protectors.

Here is the band mentor schedule as a reminder:

Band Mentors

Please make sure they contact their partner anytime they are unable to make it to band mentors. It's not

too late to get a mentor! Please have your student submit a form ASAP if they're interested. Here is the schedule:

Student Last Name	Student First Name	Partner Name	Day
Albright	Savannah	Holland Chapman	Thursday
Badillo	Griffin	Micah Berkowitz	Monday
Ball-Perez	Emma	Bryce Hocking	Wednesday
Ball-Perez	Emma	Lucas Miller	Thursday
Barbaree	Jack	Alex DuPlessis	Monday
Bassett	Lillian	Grey Ward	Thursday
Berkowitz	Ari	Savannah Quezada	Thursday
Berkowitz	Micah	Griffin Badillo	Monday
Blinick	Victoria	Zoe Fernandez	Wednesday
Bond	Ace	Elaina Zemke	Thursday
Brish	Solomon	Shane Werkman	Thursday
Butler	Paige	Layla Larson	Thursday
Chapman	Holland	Savannah Albright	Thursday
Coggins	Sophie	Rowan Dowling	Wednesday
Dowling	Rowan	Sophie Coggins	Wednesday
DuPlessis	Alex	Jack Barbaree	Monday
Fagerman	Julia	Nina Griggs	Thursday
Fernandez	Zoe	Victoria Blinick	Wednesday
Foreman	Landon	Luke Shaw	Wednesday
Garcia	Josh	Emma Hocking	Thursday
Garcia	Sable	Ryan Hesselbacher	Thursday
Griggs	Nina	Julia Fagerman	Thursday
Hannah	Parker	Max Ohlgren	Wednesday
Hesselbacher	Ryan	Sable Garcia	Thursday
Hocking	Bryce	Emma Ball-Perez	Wednesday
Hocking	Emma	Josh Garcia	Thursday
Hsieh	Morgan	Kira Lee	Wednesday
Jarvis	Simryn	Xochitl Martinez	Wednesday
Jimenez	Ehlias	Safiya Underwood	Monday
Keiter	Steven	Lyla Sutton	Wednesday
Larson	Layla	Paige Butler	Thursday
Lee	Kira	Morgan Hsieh	Wednesday
Macziewski	Tori	Safiya Underwood	Thursday
Martinez	Xochitl	Simryn Jarvis	Wednesday
Martinez	Xochitl	James Olson	Wednesday
Miller	Lucas	Emma Ball-Perez	Thursday
Ohlgren	Max	Parker Hannah	Wednesday
Ohlgren	Charlie	Evan Sackett	Wednesday
Olson	James	Kai or Xochitl	Wednesday
Quezada	Savannah	Ari Berkowitz	Thursday
Sackett	Evan	Charlie Ohlgren	Wednesday
Shaw	Luke	Landon Foreman	Wednesday

Sutton	Lyla	Steven Keiter	Wednesday
Underwood	Safiya	Tori Macziewski	Thursday
Underwood	Safiya	Ehlias Jimenez	Monday
Ward	Grey	Lillian Bassett	Thursday
Werkman	Shane	Solomon Brish	Thursday
Zemke	Elaina	Ace Bond	Thursday

Thanks everyone! I hope you all have a wonderful week! Reach out with questions anytime!

Arlie DuPlessis Director of Bands

Kyrene del Pueblo Middle School

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