

This Week In Band: Registration Time!

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Hi Everyone,

Welcome back!!! Happy New Year!!!

I had so much fun hearing about Winter Break in all the classes today!! We shared about favorite foods, favorite places, favorite gifts we received, and favorite gifts we gave. I hope you all had a fantastic break and holidays and made some great memories!

We had a busy and fun start with Tuba Christmas (shoutout to all the Pueblo students and families who came to that!!), Christmas at Schnepf Farms (so much fun—especially the World of Illumination Holiday Train!), Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer at Herberger, and the Nutcracker on Christmas Eve Day! We had a very special Christmas with some great gifts, Butterbraids, my husband's famous lasagna, and seeing Mufasa (fantastic movie!!!). My son and I went up to Flagstaff after Christmas to see my dad and went on the Polar Express just the two of us! We've always gone with my mom and sister when they lived in Flagstaff, so this was the first time with just us. It was really fun and special :)

We also went to Lowell Observatory while we were up there, and there have a brand new building that just opened in November! It's three stories tall and has a hands on Science center and Theatre on the ground floor, you go to the second level to go out to the telescopes (it's on the same level as the open air deck), and the third level has a roof-top open air sky viewing area with heated seats and night sky shows! Definitely check it out! For those of you who haven't been, I recommend going during the day to tour the various

buildings, reserve your seats for the night time sky shows, and then come back at night to see the stars and look through the telescopes (your ticket gets you in anytime that whole day, including leaving and re-entering!).

After that we took Amtrak to New Mexico to see my mom and sister and do our Christmas with them.. We also finally got to see Wicked! We had such a special time and made some wonderful memories It's always so hard to leave family! We had fun catching my husband up on the awesome new show Star Wars: Skeleton Crew on Disney Plus! It's SO good, and I highly recommend watching it as a family!

I'm so lucky that I get to make music with your wonderful students! Saying goodbye to the holiday season has always been hard for me (yes, our trees and decorations are still up and will be for a while, haha!), so I'm grateful that they always reenergize me after the break!

How was your break? Feel free to share :)

Shoutout: Winter Band Concert!

I can't thank you all enough for making our Winter Band Concert at Desert Vista such a huge success!!! Thank you to all the parent volunteers and everyone who donated cookies for our reception! I am SO proud of all the bands for their fantastic performances, and it was so special sharing all of that as a full Pueblo Band Family!!! I sent out the links to the concert videos yesterday, so look for that email if you missed it. They are private YouTube links, so feel free to share! :)

We enjoyed some fun holiday time together in class on Friday with treats (thank you to our awesome Band Boosters!!!) and our traditional band snowflakes! I am so thankful for all the thoughtful and generous gifts I was given!! I am working on thank you notes now, but I wanted to say a big thank you here as well!

Pueblo Electives Registration Due Next Wednesday for 2025-2026!

All 6th and 7th grade students should be receiving their elective choice forms for next school year today or tomorrow. They are due by next Wednesday, January 15th so they can enter their choices. I truly hope everyone will sign

up for band again for next year! We've made SO much progress already and will continue to make more the rest of this year and beyond!

Next year we will continue to have Concert Band for the regular level of 7/8 band and Symphonic Band for advanced 7/8. Even though there will be a Band option and an Advanced Band option, I will make sure students get placed in the correct band class for next year regardless of which band they select. As long as they choose a band class, they'll be fine.

Here is some information to help with this:

- **Which Band Class?**

Students may write Band or Advanced Band. I will be the one who looks at that information and assigns their placement, so it doesn't matter which they choose for this stage. I base this decision on their maturity, work ethic, and playing ability (Band Karate progress in 6th grade, Scale Check-Offs in 7th grade) as well as which level I feel is best for that student to succeed. I told the students they can think about their progress and write which band they feel would suit them for now (Band = Concert Band, Advanced Band = Symphonic Band). I don't communicate which band class they are in until next school year when they get their schedules since a lot can change between now and the end of the year.

- **Taking Two Band Classes**

Students at the advanced level may take two band classes if they would like to have band for both electives. They may play their same instrument in both classes or choose a secondary instrument for Concert Band. Students wishing to do this would write Band and Band Advanced on their sheet. They should also put their alternate elective choices on the form in case anything changes. Taking two band classes is not a requirement--it's just an opportunity :) They should still write other alternative choices of electives in case this doesn't work with their schedule.

- **Should they switch instruments?**

We still have a lot left to learn this year, and I recommend students stick with their instrument unless they really aren't having success with it. This isn't anything to worry about for the registration form though—we can deal with that at the end of the school year/beginning of next school year.

- **Should My Student Continue?**

It's hard making these kinds of decisions in January! I tell them to try not to think about what their friends are doing and to just answer these questions: "Do I like playing my instrument/in band?" and "Do I want to continue playing?" If the answer to those questions is yes, they really shouldn't worry about anything else. Sometimes kids get distracted by what their friends are doing (or if they're having a hard time playing a song that day) and forget to think about themselves--especially at this age! What's great about continuing with band is that they know exactly what to expect in terms of routines and procedures as well as how to play their instrument. It truly keeps getting better every year! Many more opportunities come up like Junior High All State, more field-trips, Jazz Band, becoming a band mentor, playing with the Corona marching band, etc.

I hope that helps! Please let me know if you have any questions at this point.

Practice Records: Week 4

We are resuming our Practice Record from December and are in Week 4.

This Practice Record is due on Wednesday, January 22nd. I passed out extra credit optional Winter Break Practice Records before break, and those are due by this Friday, January 10th.

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.

Save the Date: Pueblo Spring Band Concert on Thursday, February 27th

This is the same date from the Band Concert calendar (yay!!!). I will send home concert reminder letters as it gets closer, but here are the main details:

Concert Date: Thursday, February 27th in the Pueblo Amphitheater (it's in the center of campus outside the MPR)

Warm-Up: 5:30pm in the Pueblo Band Room for all students.

Concert Time: 6:00pm in the Pueblo Amphitheater

Concert Order: Jazz Band, 6th Grade Band, Concert Band, Symphonic Band

Students will sit with their families before and after their performance and stay for the entire concert.

What to Bring: Bring camping chairs, picnic blankets, beach towels, etc. for the audience. Feel free to bring a picnic dinner too! Our Band Boosters will be selling concessions before the concert and between groups as well! It will be a beautiful night!!!

Concert Dress: Same band concert uniform as the fall concert (band polos for 6th grade and Concert Band with black dress clothes; Symphonic Band in all black dress clothes with Pueblo ties for students who wear ties).

Congratulations to the Pueblo All State Band Students!

We had 15 students make it into the 2025 7th Grade and 8th Grade All State Bands!!! The students worked very hard over the first few months of the school year to learn three scales and two audition songs. They had to record their audition all in one take and submit it for evaluations. Over 800 students auditioned between the two groups!! I am so proud of everyone who auditioned, even if they didn't make it in this year. Here are the students who

will be representing Pueblo at the concert on Saturday, March 1st at Mountain View HS in Mesa:

7th Grade:

Jackson Alexander, 3rd Chair Bass Clarinet

Jay Cartwright, 4th Chair Tenor Sax

Alex DuPlessis: 2nd Chair Euphonium

Layla Larson: 2nd Chair Percussion

Rocco Juarez: 3rd Chair Percussion

8th Grade:

Emma Carmody: 1st Chair Oboe

Morgan Hsieh: 2nd Chair Clarinet

Elaina Zemke: 5th Chair Clarinet

Sophia Coggins: 22nd Chair Clarinet

Julian Quintanilla Pina: 1st Chair Alto Sax

Victoria Blinick: 2nd Chair Alto Sax

Lillian Bassett: 1st Chair Bari Sax (also made 7th chair Alto Sax!!)

Emma Ball-Perez: 1st Chair Horn

Emma Hocking: 1st Chair Euphonium

Sable Garcia: 2nd Chair Tuba

California Trip Update: Payment #2 Due 1/24

I passed out individualized balance/payment information sheets to all students going on the band California trip in class today. Please let me know if you have any questions. The second payment (\$350) is due by Friday, January 24th and is tax credit eligible. Please let me know ASAP if your student is no longer attending the trip (or if you are a chaperone that is cancelling).

6th Grade Update: Band Karate Resumes 1/23+1/24

- Congratulations to Bryce Hocking on earning the title of Jedi Grand Master on the morning of our band concert!! I announced it at the winter concert, but I wanted to also give him an email shoutout! Our 6th graders have been on fire this year with Band Karate! I love it!!!
- We will NOT have Band Karate this week or next week. Our first Band Karate days this quarter will be January 23rd and 24th. Students are still allowed to check off songs before school and email videos.
- 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

This week we will rehearse on Friday at the normal time (gate closes at 7:05).

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 arrives after the gate has closed: 480-541-6990.**

- **Third Quarter Jazz Band Dates:**
 - First rehearsal: Friday, January 10th (gate closes at 7:05)
 - Normal rehearsal Tuesday, January 14th
 - **NEW: THURSDAY rehearsal January 16th (gate closes at 7:05)**
 - **NEW: No rehearsal Friday, January 17th (I'm out of town)**
 - **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 (most likely Jazz Band shirts with nice jeans).
- **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.
- **Pueblo Band Concert: February 27th (see concert details earlier in this email)**
- **4th Quarter Jazz Dates:**
 - No rehearsal on 3/25 (first day of the quarter)

- Normal rehearsals on 3/28 and 4/1
- No rehearsal on 4/4 (California trip!)
- **Pueblopalooza Performance: 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.
- **Final Pueblo Band Concert: Thursday, May 22nd at 6:00pm.**

Here is the band mentor schedule as a reminder:

The band room is open for normal hours this week. Next week it will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning (as long as my sub arrives on time!).

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

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