



WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL BANDS

Middle School Jazz Band - Audition Information

Southern: Mr. Tony Deininger - 610-670-0180 ext. 4449; deiant@wilsonsd.org

West: Mr. Andrew Rhoads - 610-670-0180 ext. 4239; rhoand@wilsonsd.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABOUT

The Wilson Middle School Jazz Ensemble is an extra-curricular group designed to challenge students involved in the Wilson Middle School band program from both West and Southern. In this group, we play music of higher difficulty levels and different styles than that of a concert band (jazz standards, swing, funk/rock, popular), and work on improvisation. We are modeled after a traditional big band configuration, which primarily includes Saxophones, Trombones, Trumpets, and a Rhythm Section (Drum set, Auxiliary Percussion, Guitar, Bass, and Piano), however, other instruments may be accepted if they are very interested and successfully audition. If not enough of a specific instrument audition, invitations or another audition date might be extended to fill the band. The Jazz Ensemble performs several times throughout the school year at competitions/adjudications, possible district-wide events, and other community engagements as our schedule allows.

SCHEDULE AND ATTENDANCE

The Wilson Middle School Jazz Ensemble will meet after school (tentatively Monday and Wednesday) for rehearsals (tentatively at the high school). Consistent attendance is essential to the ensemble's success, and students who are unable to commit to weekly rehearsals should not participate. Excessive or regular absences may result in a status change in the group or removal from the group. If additional rehearsals or sectionals are needed or changes to the rehearsal calendar, we will give as much notice as possible.

CONFLICTS WITH OTHER SCHOOL SPORTS/CLUBS/ACTIVITIES

The best solution is communicating your needs. The Wilson School District has robust after-school offerings and continually adds more, which is great, but can leave students torn between commitments. Philosophically, we believe that middle schoolers are at an age when they should be trying lots of activities; however, the reality is that it is very challenging to rehearse an advanced group when we have several members missing every week. *Please consider the commitment level this ensemble requires before you sign up.*

Because there are so many sports/clubs/activities, it is impossible to come up with a one-size-fits-all policy for students who wish to do two activities that meet at the same time. The most feasible solution is to share time. Sports and other school conflicts may be challenging to navigate due to rehearsing at a different building, but we are willing to work with students and coaches/advisors to find possible solutions.

Therefore, the best solution is to communicate your needs with Mr. Deininger & Mr. Rhoads and your coach or club teacher.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are strongly encouraged, but not mandatory to be a part of the Combined Jazz Band. There are several options for private lessons in the area. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Mr. Deininger or Mr. Rhoads.

2026-2027 JAZZ BAND AUDITION INFORMATION

REQUIREMENTS

- **Audition Information**
 - **All Instruments - [Fresh Cut Fries](#)**
 - Select the appropriate instrument part from the folder link above
 - Prepare the appropriate section of *Fresh Cut Fries*
 - Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombone, Tuba, and Flute = measures 17-41
 - Bass, Piano, Guitar, and Drumset = measures 5-41
 - Repeat at measure 41. Play the backgrounds *or* (*optionally*) improvise a solo using concert F blues
 - Please practice with the recording for the audition.
 - [Recording](#) for reference, practice, and the audition
 - **Pitched Instruments** (not for drumset) - [Major Scales](#)
 - Students must be prepared for all the scales on the sheet (Concert F, Bb, and Eb). Breaking between scales is fine, but please do it all in one recording.
 - **Drum Set Players Only** - additional styles
 - Rock/Funk - play 16-32 measures of a Rock/Funk beat at approximately 104 beats per minute ([Video Example 1](#); [Video Example 2](#))
 - Bossa Nova - play 16-32 measures of a Bossa Nova at approximately 120 beats per minutes ([Video Example 1](#); [Video Example 2](#); [Video Example 3](#))
 - Optional: 32 measures of (an)other style(s) you wish to share with us

AUDITIONS

- Auditions will be in-person and at the high school.
- Date: Tuesday, November 17, 2026
- Location: High School Band Room
 - Transportation will be provided on the activity bus
- Time: 3:30 PM until 7:30 PM (10 minutes time slots)
 - If this dates does not work, students should reach out to their home school director (Mr. Deininger or Mr. Rhoads)
- *Fresh Cut Fries* will be performed with the recording at the audition; plus scales without a recording
- Sign up for an audition time [here](#). Link can also be found on the Jazz Band page of Mr. Rhoads website
- Please reach out to Mr. Deininger or Mr. Rhoads if you cannot attend the audition for potential alternatives

ACCEPTANCE

Acceptance into this ensemble is not guaranteed. Jazz Ensemble is an advanced ensemble experience designed primarily for students in grades 6-8 who are ready for the musical and time commitments of the group. While we strive to make Jazz Ensemble an inclusive and enriching experience, depending on instrumentation needs and audition numbers, some students might not be accepted, and some sections may be capped to maintain balance within the ensemble. Placement decisions will be based on musical readiness, prior experience, and the overall needs of the group. If not enough students audition for specific spots, students could be invited to join. Students could also be invited to join on a different instrument (alto vs. tenor saxophones).

Results will be emailed to accepted students/parents, and the list of accepted students will be posted in the students' Google Classroom. All decisions are final. If anything changes with the ensemble and a spot becomes available, an audition may take place to fill that spot.