



The mission of the Roosevelt Jazz Boosters is to provide financial, logistical and creative support to the Roosevelt High School jazz music program, to ensure that musically qualified Roosevelt and Roosevelt-eligible (as defined by Seattle Public Schools) high school students have access to the best possible learning environments and jazz activities regardless of their financial circumstances.

Welcome to Roosevelt Jazz! The information included here is intended to give you an overview of our program. For more details, news, and up-to-date calendar of events, please see the Roosevelt Jazz Boosters website, rooseveltjazz.org.

Roosevelt Jazz is fortunate to have four accomplished musician educators teaching our students in up to five ensembles depending on student enrollment. Directing Jazz Band 1 and leading our instrumental program is Hannah Mowry. Directors Michael Van Bebber and Deb Schaaf will lead Jazz Bands 2, 3, and 4. Rebecca Woodbury directs our Vocal Jazz ensemble. Throughout the year, all students have opportunities to learn from jazz clinicians and perform in different settings, including competitive festivals, jazz clubs, community events, and jam sessions.

Participation in Roosevelt Jazz is determined by audition in Spring of the preceding school year. At the start of the school year, a second audition is held, if needed..

Jazz Band 1 is directed by Hannah Mowry and is a for-credit class that meets every school day, usually 5th period. This band participates in many different jazz events and festivals throughout the year, including the Earshot Jazz Festival, the Jazz Nutcracker, and Starbucks Hot Java Cool Jazz. Each year, JBI auditions for the Essentially Ellington competition, the nation's premier high school jazz festival and competition. Students should expect a significant time commitment; in addition to daily class time at school, there are regular sectionals, additional rehearsals and gigs, clinics, and recording sessions on weekends and before or after school. Students are expected to maintain a disciplined music practice, with jazz as one of their highest priorities.

Jazz Band 2, Jazz Band 3, and Jazz Band 4 meet after the regular school day and are taught by Michael Van Bebber and Deb Schaaf. These bands are extracurricular activities, not for-credit classes. JB2, JB3, and JB4 have historically met after school. (There are occasional rehearsal time changes, announced in advance, to accommodate directors' schedules.) Although these bands are not for-credit classes, **regular, consistent attendance at rehearsals is mandatory**. Students who have any conflicts with rehearsals should work out an attendance plan ahead of time with their directors. Students in these ensembles are required to enroll in a musical ensemble curricular class.

Vocal Jazz will remain a before-school extracurricular activity for 2025-2026. Vocal Jazz students are also required to enroll in a curricular music class during the school day (no exceptions). Auditions will be held in early June, shortly after jazz band placements are announced.

Expectations

All Roosevelt Jazz students should commit to practicing and performing music at the highest level. Summer jazz camps and workshops are recommended, along with ongoing private instruction. Students sometimes miss school to attend jazz festivals and other performances. These absences are excused, and students will need to make up missed assignments and tests to keep schoolwork in good standing. In recent years, Roosevelt Jazz Ensembles have traveled to events including our yearly retreat in November, the Reno Jazz Festival, California Jazz Championships, University of Oregon, and Essentially Ellington Jazz Festivals. Families are expected to plan around these dates to support student attendance as much as possible.

Students are representatives of the school and the jazz program and must display exemplary behavior, abiding by all Seattle Public School and Roosevelt Jazz policies.

Family Support

Parents/Guardians are asked to support their students' activities through positive reinforcement, volunteering, and fundraising. Roosevelt Jazz events are almost entirely funded and organized by the Roosevelt Jazz Boosters, a volunteer non-profit organization. Monetary contributions and volunteer efforts throughout the year are critical to the program's operation and success. Volunteers are needed for Board positions, planning and chaperoning trips, bake sales, fundraisers, and more. Our biggest fundraisers are the Jazz Nutcracker in December and annual Big Band Gala and Auction in March, benefitting all students in the jazz program. Parents are asked to procure donations, invite friends and family to attend, and help with planning and running these events. Monthly booster meetings are the best place to learn more about the program, hear from the directors, and keep abreast of events. Please join us!

Annual Dues and other Expenses

Annual dues per student per ensemble in 2025-26 were \$800. Dues are determined prior to the start of the school year and collected in the fall. Invoices for Jazz dues will go out via email from the RHS Jazz Treasurer in mid-September and will be due on October 31st. Please, **DO NOT PAY YOUR DUES THROUGH RHS SCHOOL PAY**. Instead, pay via the invoice sent from the Treasurer.

Seattle Public Schools does not fund most of the jazz program, and dues only cover a fraction of program operating expenses, so fundraising throughout the year is also necessary. No other dues will be collected unless fundraising efforts fall short of the additional amount necessary to fully support program offerings, which are many:

- Need-based scholarships for students
- Compensation for Jazz Bands 2, 3, 4, and vocal jazz directors, who are not funded by Seattle Public Schools
- Clinicians and workshops for all ensembles
- All costs for the annual program retreat (travel, accommodations, food, clinicians)
- Fees, travel, and accommodation costs to attend festivals
- RHS instrument maintenance; music and equipment purchases
- Other operating costs to support performances and cover business expenses

Students pay for their own performance attire, travel incidentals (e.g. meals), private lessons, summer camps and instrument-related expenses.

Families that need financial assistance for any expenses are encouraged to request scholarship support from the Roosevelt Jazz Boosters. This can be done on the dues form and/or via a confidential meeting with the Booster Treasurer.

Additional Questions?

Please contact the jazz booster chair, Erica Lerer, at chair@rooseveltjazz.org, or contact your director:

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