

EL DORADO GOLDEN HAWKS BAND & COLORGUARD

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~ PARENT GUIDE – JAZZ BAND ~

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Welcome to the El Dorado Band and Colorguard program! This program has demonstrated consistent excellence throughout its 30+ year history. We are considered one of the top programs in all of Southern California. Many of the top students at El Dorado participate in this program and consider it a highlight of their high school experience. This guide is designed to give parents of prospective jazz band students an overview of the program. For additional information please check our web site at www.eldoradoband.com.

Basics

There are two jazz bands at El Dorado – Jazz I is the top band and Jazz II is the entry band. Both bands are excellent and consistently earn top marks during competitions. Entry to either of the jazz bands is **by audition only**. Any current band or orchestra student is welcome to audition. The jazz bands consist of a certain set of instruments:

- Saxophones (Alto, Tenor, and Bari)
- Trombones
- Trumpets
- Rhythm section: Drum, Bass, Guitar, Piano

Jazz I consists of Sophomores through Seniors and Jazz II consists of Freshmen through Seniors. A high level of musical proficiency is expected for entry into the bands. Taking private lessons outside of school is expected as well.

In addition to the two full bands, there are generally one or two combo groups that perform at some of the competitions. These are smaller jazz groups (5-6 instruments), and their composition varies from year to year. Their membership is determined by the band director from members of the two full bands.

Jazz Season

Jazz competition season is in the spring, in March and April. During this time there will be 3-4 local competitions on Saturdays, plus the Reno International Jazz Festival in late April. During the jazz competitions each group will perform a “set” of 4 songs. After the completion of jazz competition season is the “Big Jazz Concert”. This is a HIGHLIGHT for all jazz students and families. Held at the end of May each year, the Jazz I band performs a concert with the Jazz I bands from Tuffree Middle School and Yorba Linda Middle School, along with a guest artist of international acclaim. Some of the biggest names in music today have been guest artists over the years. It's a once-in-a lifetime opportunity for our students to play on stage with musicians of this caliber.

All jazz band students are also in marching band and concert band, except for the occasional student who may be in orchestra instead. During the marching season (Sep – Nov) there are no scheduled jazz competitions or concerts, as all of the program's energy is focused on the marching events. During this time the jazz students are learning their repertoire for the spring.

The jazz bands also perform during various school concerts held throughout the year, such as the holiday concert, spring concert, etc.

Schedule Commitments for Students

*All competitions and practices are **MANDATORY** and count towards the student's grade. In this “sport” every member is “first string” and missing students greatly impact the ability of the group to perform.*

- If your student is in jazz band, they will have “regular” band (marching/concert) for zero period and jazz band during another period of the day. Students **not** in jazz band have zero period and 1st period band.
- There will be various jazz competitions held on Saturdays in March and April. Locations will be throughout Southern California (except for Reno – see below). Students are responsible for getting to the events on their own, buses are not used.
- Jazz I is often booked by the director for special events during the year – music educator conferences, school assemblies, etc. Some of these are “paying gigs” and benefit the music program. Some of these are in the evening or on weekends.
- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE...

Reno!

The Reno International Jazz Festival is held the last weekend of April at the University of Nevada, Reno. This is a highly prestigious competition involving bands from all over the western United States and is the final competition of the jazz season. Both El Dorado jazz bands attend this event and are transported via charter bus, leaving Thursday morning and returning Sunday afternoon. The groups stay at a Reno area hotel, chaperoned by the director and other staff members. Parents are welcome to attend but must arrange for transportation and lodging on their own. A parent dinner is held in Reno on the Friday of the event.

Jazz Attire

The Jazz I and II bands have special outfits that are worn during all performances, whether in competition or not. Each band will have one jazz attire outfit for the year. The look of these outfits is more of a professional stage look with an edge, to emphasize a cohesive, sharp and put together appearance that always makes a difference when they take the stage. The pieces in each outfit can and usually change from one year to the next, depending upon several factors, such as what may be currently available, what may have been discontinued, and the director's preference for a certain look or style. The look of the band is determined by the director and he chooses the pieces that each band will wear for the year. Each piece of the jazz attire outfit is purchased by the parents and belongs to the student, with the exception of the Jazz I tie (see below).

For the last several years, band members have worn black dress pants, black dress shirts and a different tie that is chosen each year. Each piece of the outfit must be the same so that all members match exactly. The only exception is that girls may wear women's dress pants. When school begins in September, all jazz parents are given a flyer with all the pertinent information regarding jazz attire, what to buy and where to purchase it. The ties are distributed by the jazz chairperson in the fall and need to be purchased at that time.

Recently Jazz I has gone to an all black suit, black dress shirt and custom El Dorado jazz tie that is checked out to them for the year and must be returned at the end of the year. Since there is only a limited number of custom Jazz I ties, it is imperative that extra care be taken to keep them in perfect shape, since they are not replaceable.

Parent Involvement

The El Dorado Band and Colorguard has very strong parent support through the El Dorado Band Boosters. It is important to realize the value of parent help -- it would be extremely difficult to achieve the high standard that is expected of the El Dorado Band and Color Guard without the commitment from parents throughout the year. Specific parent involvement for jazz band includes:

- Transporting students to and from jazz events and festivals, including carrying instruments.
- Drummers need extra help from parents (usually Dads) to move the drum set from one venue to another, i.e., from warm-up room to stage to clinic, etc. This happens for both bands at different times during the same performance day.
- **Jazz Breakfast** – Each year jazz parents organize and put on a breakfast for all school faculty and staff in December, at which both jazz bands perform. All jazz parents contribute food and help on Jazz Breakfast day.
- **Competition Attendance** - Parents are strongly encouraged to attend, and MANY do! We are famous for our large cheering section.

Money Matters

Checks are made out to “El Dorado Band Boosters”, and can be left in the drop box (“black box”) outside of the band director’s office.

Jazz attire - all pieces must be purchased.
Jazz 2 - shirt, pants, tie approx. \$80
Jazz 1 - suit, shirt, approx. \$140

Reno - Students/families are responsible to pay for their trip to Reno. Costs include busing, hotel and festival fees. This is usually between \$200-250. There are occasions when Jazz 1 earns money playing gigs in the fall. These funds are usually applied towards the busing costs, which helps reduce each student's portion. Money for all food and entertainment is each student's personal responsibility.

Odds and Ends

- In 2006, El Dorado Jazz I won the Outstanding Instrumental Ensemble award at the Reno International Jazz Festival, the top award for the entire festival!
- In 2009, Jazz Combo I won first place in the AAA Combo division in Reno, the first time an El Dorado combo has won first place at Reno.