

EL DORADO GOLDEN HAWKS BAND & COLORGUARD

DIRECTOR : ERIC SAMSON ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: PHILLIP INZERILLO COLORGUARD DIRECTOR: ANGELA TOUSLEY

PARENT GUIDE – JAZZ BAND

(Updated 03/14/14)

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 website at www.eldoradoband.com.

Basics

There are three jazz bands at El Dorado – Jazz I is the top band, Jazz II is the intermediate band and Jazz III is the novice band. All three bands are excellent and consistently earn top marks during competitions. Entry to the jazz program 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 and III 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 three 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.

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 “playing 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 the 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).

Parental 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 Colorguard without the commitment from parents throughout the year. There are many committees to get involved with, check the website and contact the chairperson if you'd like to help out. The main committees are:

- 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 for fair share contributions and other payments 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 III – Shirt, pants, ties approx. \$80

Jazz II – Shirt, pants, ties approx. \$80

Jazz I – Suit, shirt, approx. \$140

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 in Reno.