

## **JJIS Jaguar and Cub Band**

*The mission of the JJIS Band Program is to allow students musical enrichment; foster fellowship among its members, provide musicians with an opportunity for personal growth and leadership, create music, as well as, develop a lifelong love of the arts.*

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### **September/October**

All musicians are progressing through the Essential Elements Book Series and are assessed periodically using the Band Playing Rubric. Musicians in both the Cub Band (fourth grade) and Jaguar Band (fifth grade) can access copies of the rubric, band rank songs, weekly assignments, links for google meets if quarantining, and many other items in their band google classroom! At this point, students have learned the first five notes on their instruments!

#### Ask your child to show you:

- \*The first five notes on the music staff
- \*The fingerings or positions for the first five notes on their instrument
- \*What the notes sound like
- \*A song from the book

Ensembles will begin to play together soon. Some students are very close to passing their first Band Rank! We are off to a wonderful start to the school year! Keep up the great work!

**Ms. Knickerbocker, Band Director**  
Jaguars Believe! Jaguars Achieve!

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### **November/December**

Band members have been working diligently on their instruments! Most students are comfortable with the first five notes and can read and perform them with ease. Students have now incorporated their sixth note into the note reading and playing. We have one musician who has passed their first band rank! This means they have performed all the way up to song #58 in the Essential Elements book! Many students are very close to also achieving their first band rank.

#### Ask your child to show you:

- Song #14 "Merrily We Roll Along" in the book: this will tell you if your child feels comfortable with their first 5 notes. If they struggle with it, encourage them to practice daily.
- As many notes as they know on their instruments; some students know up to 10 different notes!
- Part of their band song: Sousa's Cadets (Cub Band) or The Big Three (Jaguar Band)

Full band rehearsals are underway. Jaguar Band (5th) meets on Wednesdays and Cub Band (4th) meets on Tuesdays. Musicians have been really good at remembering to bring their instruments on both their lesson day and band rehearsal. We have played together 4-5 times and are preparing for our **Winter Concert on Tuesday, January 11, 2022!**

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**January**

The musicians in both the Cub and Jaguar Band did a fantastic job at their concert on January 11th! I am very proud of their progress this year! I know some students were not able to attend, and they were missed.

Here is a link to the recording of the Day Concert/Dress Rehearsal, please feel free to share or have your child play along with the recording! <https://www.youtube.com/c/JJISLMC>

Band members are back in the swing of things and are working on mastering more about their instruments! Students have now incorporated their sixth-eighth notes into note reading and playing. We have two musicians who have passed their first band rank and many more very close! This means they have performed all the way up to song #58 in the Essential Elements book!

Ask your child to show you:

- Song #25 "Lightly Row" in the book: this will tell you if your child feels comfortable with their first 5 notes. If they struggle with it, encourage them to practice daily.
- As many notes as they know on their instruments; some students know up to 10 different notes!
- Warm up #2 on the Winter Band Warm Up Sheet. Keeping a steady beat is something that we practice to help us hold notes for the correct value

Full band rehearsals and group lessons are on the same day as they have been all year. Jaguar Band (5th) meets on Wednesdays and Cub Band (4th) meets on Tuesdays. Musicians are still doing really well at remembering to bring their instruments on both their lesson day and band rehearsal.

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**February**

The musicians in both the Cub and Jaguar Band have put in so much work to get where they are in mastering their instruments. Students can now play their concert B flat scale. We went from two musicians passing their first rank to nineteen! This means they have performed all the way up to song #58 in the Essential Elements book! There are quite a few students deep into the second rank and the ability on their instrument is showing!

Jazz band has started up afterschool on Thursdays for select students. We are learning how to read, listen to, and perform this style of music.

In March, we have our Solo and Ensemble concert during the school day. Students have an opportunity to perform by themselves or with friends any song they want. Any student that is interested in participating, should have decided if they are playing alone or with others, and selected what song they want to perform.

Ask your child to show you:

-Song #31 "Mozart Melody" in the book.

-Song #38 "Jingle Bells" in the book.

-Concert Bb (flat) scale

\*\*These songs will tell you how comfortable your child feels. If they struggle with them, encourage them to practice daily.

Full band rehearsals and group lessons are on the same day as they have been all year.

Jaguar Band (5th) meets on Wednesdays and Cub Band (4th) meets on Tuesdays.

Musicians are still doing really well at remembering to bring their instruments on both their lesson day and band rehearsal.

### **Ms. Knickerbocker, Band Director**

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#### **March**

The musicians in both the Cub and Jaguar Band have put in so much work to get where they are in mastering their instruments. Students can now play their full concert B flat scale and many students have learned their chromatic scale. We went from nineteen musicians passing their first rank to thirty-nine! This means they have performed all the way up to song #58 in the Essential Elements book! There are quite a few students deep into the second rank and the ability on their instrument is showing! This week we had our first student pass their second band rank! This student played past song #91 in the book! I hope my sense of pride is showing as I am so impressed with how well the musicians are doing this year! :)

Jazz band has been working hard on two pieces of music that they will perform in the Spring Concert in May. They are definitely working hard to master the two styles of music we are focusing on: swing and funk.

Our **Solo and Ensemble concert is next Thursday, April 14th!** There are many instrumental and vocal students who decided to learn additional music to participate in celebrating Music in Our Schools Month for March. This concert is during the school day and will be performed for the third grade. The concert will be recorded for parent/family viewing.

Our Cub, Jaguar, and Jazz bands will be performing along with the 4th and 5th grade chorus at our **Spring Concert on Wednesday, May 18th.** The time and specifics regarding the spring concert will be sent out at a later date.

Ask your child to show you:

- Song #41 "Eighth Note Jam" in the book.
- Song #47 "Two By Two" in the book.
- One of our band pieces for the Spring Concert.

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**April/May**

**Wow what a fantastic job the musicians have done in both the Solo and Ensemble Concert on April 14th and the Spring Concert on May 18th!** The Cub band, Jaguar band, and Jazz band all performed. Musicians have improved exponentially since September and it is amazing as this is both 4th and 5th graders first year of band!

**Musicians will continue having lessons and full band rehearsals until the end of the year.** Next year, the current fourth graders will begin where they left off in September and I can't wait to see how much progress they will achieve in their second year of band!

The current fifth graders will automatically be enrolled in the Puma Band at William J. Johnston, so they can begin instruction with band director, Keith Morrissette, in September. If you no longer want your child to participate in band, please contact me. I can't wait to hear how much progress these students will make in the MS band program and look forward to supporting them at their future concerts!

Ask your child to show you:

- Song #53 "Aura Lee" in the book. It is a duet, if you can play an instrument join them!
- Song #55 "When the Saints Go Marching In" in the book.
- Song #57 "Ode to Joy" in the book.
- Song #58 "Hard Rock Blues" in the book.

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