

Garfield Jazz Foundation Meeting

January 10, 2022

Welcome - Caroline Platt, GJF President

Discussion about performance opportunities – Mark Craemer, At-Large Rep and Gig Coordinator

- As the Gig Coordinator for Garfield Jazz, Mark works with companies and groups who hire Garfield combos to perform at events. We usually have numerous gig requests during a normal year, but requests really have dropped due to covid which was expected.
- Mark has been brainstorming with another jazz parent about other ways for students to perform this year in a safe way. The Garfield Jazz Foundation (GJF) use to host monthly jazz jam sessions at a local venue pre-covid. Jam sessions are open to all Garfield jazz students to come play in a low-pressure, relaxed atmosphere and families are welcome to attend. We have hired professional musicians in the past, like Mark Taylor, to help facilitate the students. Recently, Mr. Sessink has discussed having older students lead the jam sessions. It's previously been held at the Royal Room and Central Cinema. Although we haven't been able to host these during covid, Mark is discussing if there is a safe way to start some jam sessions up again or if there are other places that students can perform. People who were on the Zoom call were supportive about the idea of students performing more this year. Unfortunately, due to Omicron, we can't plan any new performance opportunities for the near future, but there is a possibility that things could improve in the future.
- Please reach out to Mark Craemer with any questions or if you have ideas: markcraemer@gmail.com

Director updates - Jared Sessink, Band 1 and 2 Director

- Band 1 has been working hard to prepare for their Essentially Ellington recording this weekend (1/15-1/16). Mr. Sessink is bringing in a recording engineer to help with the recording. There will also be a saxophone musician coming into the music classes to perform for the students.
- Some freshmen jazz students have been holding their own jam sessions and trumpet sectionals at lunch. They're finding creative ways to enjoy playing music together!

- The school district is clarifying their rules and protocols for field trips and overnight travel for this year. These restrictions will make it challenging for field trips and other travel to occur. Mr. Sessink will provide more information once he knows more about how this will impact potential performances like Hot Java Cool Jazz and Essentially Ellington. Due to the amount of paperwork and planning that would be involved, he will need several parents to volunteer to assist him to make these performances possible.
- Mr. Sessink thinks that it would be great for our jazz students to get in front of other bands. He has talked to the band director at Mt. Si about some possibilities. Finding performing and listening opportunities will be his focus in the coming months.
- He will also be focusing on engaging with the families of the freshmen and sophomores and helping the students and their families find ways to connect.

Updates – Caroline Platt, President

- Caroline discussed the current volunteer needs that are a priority. Open role: Merchandise Coordinator. We have a merchandise vendor that we've used before and there are previous volunteers who are willing to train the new coordinator. We'd love to be able to offer new merchandise to the students, we just need someone to volunteer to fill the role. Please reach out to any board member for more information.
- She also discussed that most of the current GJF board members have graduating seniors and so we'll be looking for several new people to take on these roles for the 2022-23 academic year. Please look for more information in the coming months but start thinking about ways that you can help continue the support that the GJF provides to our jazz students.
- Caroline opened it up for questions and comments from families:

Question: Will there be a retreat this year?

Answer: Students really enjoyed the Seabeck retreat two years ago, but due to covid we haven't been able to have it. There might be a way to have it in late spring if covid restrictions allow and if Seabeck has availability. One of the SPS criteria for overnight field trips currently is that the trip would prepare or help students get into college and a retreat doesn't fall into that category. We will continue to discuss if this is feasible. Some schools have held a day retreat which might be an option.

Comment: The Friends of Garfield Orchestra booster group is working with Mr. Kolk (the Orchestra teacher) to prepare for the Winter Waltz, which is usually held in March. Mr. Kolk would like some jazz combos to perform at this event. Combos will be invited to participate. Usually this is a community event but this year it will just be for Garfield families.

Q: What is the attire that band students need to have for future performances?

A: An email about what each group will be wearing will be sent to families soon.