



Garfield Jazz Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2021

A Message from Mr. Sessink

Garfield Jazz Families,

I am so excited to share the stage with our Jazz Ensembles and join families in experiencing our Kickoff Concert on Thursday, December 9th, 2021. Hopefully you have had a chance to reserve a family pod through our ticket system [Ludus](#). This will be our first time back on a stage with an audience since February of 2020. For perspective, current 9th graders have not performed in a school concert for families since 7th grade!

As we approach the holiday season, I want to share updates and look ahead to 2022. As many know, Garfield has a history of participation in the [Essentially Ellington Jazz Competition](#). This event, hosted by Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City, celebrates the contributions of major jazz artists like Duke Ellington, Mary Lou Williams, Count Basie, and other icons from the Swing Era. Jazz Ensemble 1 is currently preparing audition materials and will be recording in January. Finalist bands will be announced on February 16th, 2022.



To celebrate the process of engaging in this competition, Jazz Ensembles 2 and 3 will be joining in on the fun! Our Winter Concert on Thursday, February 10th, 2022 will feature all three jazz ensembles performing selections from the Essentially Ellington competition library. Save the date! Tickets for this event will be available when we return to school in January. We will also be recording our selections in high-definition audio, thanks to the support of the Garfield Jazz Foundation and the purchase of some new recording gear.

Seattle Public Schools is set to review and update field trip and travel guidelines in coming weeks. I want to get students out in the public and performing off-site as quickly and safely as possible, and I expect that opportunities will sometimes appear without much advanced notice. I ask and expect that students prioritize jazz performances over extracurriculars, clubs, and outside organizations. Students with jobs need to talk now with their employer so that they understand the process of requesting time off, and make sure I know of any major timeline needs. The key is that we work together and communicate effectively. I am always here to help!

I hope to see you at the Kickoff on Thursday, December 9th! Happy Holidays to you and your family!

Mr. Sessink
jasessink@seattleschools.org

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3. Select "Garfield Jazz Foundation" as your charity



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