

Rice Ravin' Jazz Band

2018-2019 Auditions

Students and Parents,

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for the Rice Ravin' Jazz Band! This ensemble is an extension of the Rice Raven Band program, performing on our campus, for community events, and area jazz festivals. In fact, the Rice Ravin' Jazz Band was named Grand Champions at the University of Texas at Arlington's Jazz Festival last year!

Students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, piano, or drum set are welcome to audition. No prior experience is necessary; we do require students who audition on saxophone, trumpet, or trombone be enrolled in band.

Membership Expectations

Members of the Ravin' Jazz Band are expected to do the following:

- Attend all rehearsals, Master Classes and Performances
 - Prepare for every rehearsal
 - Arrive on time with all materials
 - Strive for musical growth as an individual
 - Maintain a positive attitude and support the goals of the band
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Rehearsal Schedule

Jazz Band rehearses on Thursday mornings from 7:15 AM to 8:15 AM in Room 603. Students who play a rhythm instrument (guitar, bass, piano or drum set) are required to set up their equipment for the rehearsal the afternoon before each rehearsal. It is important that members be in their chair warming up by 7:05 AM.

From time to time, additional rehearsals or rescheduled rehearsals may be necessary. In such instances, notice will be provided as far in advance as possible.

Performance/Tentative Dates

The following performances and special events have been scheduled this year for our jazz band:

- December 7th – Winter Tour
 - December 12th – Performances for lunches
 - January 24th – Region Jazz Audition
 - January 26th – Region Jazz Clinic
 - March 2nd – Plano Jazz Invitational (all day event)
 - April 29th – Plano Courtyar Theater Festival
 - May 7th – Plano West Cluster Jazz Concert
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Audition

Audition music will be available Monday, August 13th, on the jazz bulletin board outside of Room 603. Audition music may also be downloaded from the jazz band page of our band website.

Audition masterclasses will be held Wednesday, August 15th and Thursday, August 16th, from 3:45 PM to 5:00 PM. Students interested in auditioning are strongly encouraged to attend one of these masterclasses. The focus of these sessions will be to go over the audition music, cover basic jazz techniques, and introduce improvisation. Auditions will take place Monday, August 20th through Wednesday, August 22nd during band classes and after school. Students may sign up for audition times on the jazz bulletin board outside Room 603.

Audition Procedures:

_____ **Prepare.** Practice your audition music to the best of your ability.

_____ **Sign up for an audition time.** This will be posted on the jazz bulletin board (outside of Room 603)

_____ **Perform.**

- Saxophones, trombones, trumpets, bass, guitar, and piano will perform three excerpts of music and an improvisation solo
- Drum set will demonstrate eight bars of rock, swing, and Latin grooves and adding fills when appropriate.

Financial Obligation

Students selected for the Rice Ravin' Jazz Band will be required to purchase the \$30 jazz band performance polo shirt we use for all concerts and competitions.

Plano ISD does not fund jazz bands at the middle school level. All of our jazz expenses, including equipment, sheet music, transportation, and festival entry fees are paid through our band student activity account through fundraising. Rather than organizing an additional fundraiser for jazz band, we will be asking that families of selected members consider a donation to help offset the costs of this group. We are committed to not requiring a mandatory fee for each student while also trying to move our jazz program toward self-sustainability within our overall band program. More detailed information will be provided when results are announced.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Reyna – Joshua.reyna@pisd.edu

Sincerely,

Joshua Reyna

Associate Band Director

Rice Middle School