

1/27/2017

Dear Band Parents & or Guardians,

This letter is to inform you about the ISSMA Jazz contest we are scheduled to play for on: March 4 @ Goshen Middle School

I wanted to give you a few weeks notice for this important date because I would like to see all parents/families attend to support our band.

ISSMA History: Music festivals for students in Indiana schools began in the 1920s. In 1935, a formal association was formed North-NISBOVA and South ISMA. The first Marching Band contest began in 1973. In 1981 the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) was created as a merger of both North and South Indiana State Associations. In 1999 ISSMA became an independent not-for-profit corporation.

ISSMA rules:

- Students will perform 3 prepared contest selections as a band for 3 adjudicators. Each band will receive comments and a rating of a Gold, Silver or Bronze. Gold and Silver plaques will be shown on display at School.
- We are being judged on the following criteria in accordance with the Indiana Department of Education Music Standards: Intonation, Color-Texture, Precision, Time/Meter, Interpretation, Phrasing, Dynamics, Balance.Blend, Srtistry, Improvised Solos, Stage presence, posture, appearance, student conduct, etc.
- NO playing/sound of any instrument prior to the designated warm up time. Penalties can and will be assessed.
- Once a performance begins, NO ONE will be allowed into the performance area until all THREE songs are complete. Parents, please plan to arrive 15-20 prior to your child's performance time.
- Electronic devices such as cell phones, pagers, watches etc. must be turned on mute in the warm up and performance areas.

Jefferson History: Jefferson was built in 1931. After digging through the archives, I know we had band programs in the 50s in South Bend and Jefferson did compete in NISBOVA contests. Many old 50s/60s plaques are on display at the top of the 2nd floor main stairs. According to the ISSMA office records in Indianapolis, the Jefferson Jazz Ensemble has never competed in ISSMA Jazz contest. For that reason, it is really important that we do this well and make this a new tradition for Jefferson. If LaSalle and Dickinson can participate in ISSMA Jazz, so can we. This will be the most important performance all year.

ISSMA concert admission is free. More details will be forthcoming on how to get to Goshen Middle, where to park and an inside map. Parents, I have no objections to you taking your child home after the concert. Please make sure to check out your student with me after the performance. If they leave with you they will need to be responsible for their

instrument even if it is a school owned instrument. All instruments need to be back to school on the following Monday morning.

Please remind your child they will need the following things:

- Instrument (labeled clearly with your name, address & school) and required equipment (reeds, mutes, sticks, mallets, valve oil, pencil, music, etc.)
- Folder, pencil & all concert music (labeled clearly with your name)
- Concert Dress: Wear jazz shirt, black pants and black shoes.

<u>Band Class</u>	<u>ISSMA Contest Date</u>	<u>ISSMA Concert Location</u>
Jazz Ensemble	March 4	Goshen Middle

If you have any questions, or you wish to help on ISSMA contest day please feel free to send me a remind. Thank you for your support of music education at Jefferson ITS.

Musically Yours,

Dawn Forsythe, Director of Bands
Jefferson Intermediate Traditional School