

## **What would you tell current 8th graders about jazz band at the high school?**

### ***Comments from current and former KHS Jazz Band members:***

“Thanks you for talking me into joining jazz band! It’s so much fun and the music is so much better than regular band music!”

“Okay so for me, it was very confusing how lunch works even after all the clarifying so I’ll break it down. For Jazz Lab, you would eat your lunch like normal in the lunch room every day you don’t have jazz. But on the days you do have jazz, you grab your lunch, go to the band room, eat your lunch for about 20 minutes and then the other half of lunch, you play. But in all seriousness, joining jazz band is one of the best decisions you can make. Even if you aren’t a big jazz person, jazz can still be very fun. It is much more casual and jazz feels more like you’re just playing with friends and not one big group.”

“After you get over the initial curve of not knowing how to play the music, you will get to the true fun of being in the class. Playing the pieces, having fun with your friends, it is all worth it. Even if you are on the fence about it, I would encourage you to join, and get others to join as well.”

“Probably to just join right away, you won’t regret it. I joined two years too late, so the best thing to do would be to join right away because it’s a fun time!”

“I would tell them that high school jazz band is really fun and definitely worth joining. It isn’t necessarily additional work (as some may say), and if you are planning to stay in band all throughout high school, it is going to help you improve a lot on the side. In addition, it is a great way to hang out with your friends and possibly get to know more people in band.”

“I would tell them that it might seem like it would stink since you have class every other day during lunch, but they shouldn’t let that stop them from joining jazz because you still get more than enough time to eat, and it is so much fun to play this style of music. I always find myself with extra time after I finish eating, and even if I didn’t, it would be worth it because it’s just a really fun place to be because the people that are in jazz are the people that really care about band and about playing their instrument well, so it is less stressful than concert band, and rehearsals are a lot of fun because you can make a lot of good friends.”

“I would tell them to get involved early, because it helps a ton in the later years. Every year of jazz is super helpful, because jazz is played so much differently than other concert music. If they are interested at all, they should definitely try it out, because the payoff will be huge.”

“You won’t regret it. Jazz band has helped me improve as a musician. You learn new techniques that you can use in other situations. Plus, it’s just fun to play jazz music with friends.”

“I would tell them that it is a ton of fun. I found it really nice because I was able to find a close group of friends through it and we all had something that we liked a lot in common. I also think that even if you don’t find normal concert band super fun, it doesn’t mean that you won’t like jazz band. Although jazz band is competitive on some levels (WSMA Festival) that doesn’t mean that you can’t have a great time and at least try it out for one year. (Also the music we play is generally really interesting and more fun to play than some concert band pieces).”

“I would tell the current 8th grades that the jazz band in high school is so much more fun than it was in middle school. If you played in middle school the music might seem to get boring and easy to play but in high school, the pieces always have something you can individually improve on and improve on parts as a band.”

“It’s super fun! Though it may seem stressful at first because you don’t get a full lunch, and you have so little time to do a lot, it is one of the most fun bands you can participate in. The songs are so much fun to play, to me, they are honestly more fun than most of the concert band songs. And the whole atmosphere of Jazz Lab is one where you can have fun, but also work hard.”

“Definitely don’t be afraid to try something new. As somebody who’s now done an improv solo, it was a blast. Don’t be afraid to take those opportunities. It’s fun when you do them. Maybe nerve-racking the first few times, but it gets super fun. Be creative. It’s okay.”

“Do it! Even if you’re a little bit scared or need to learn a new instrument. My biggest regret is waiting until junior year to join jazz. It’s so fun and so worth it.”

“I would tell them that it’s really fun and that they should stay in band, and that jazz band helps you learn a lot of new playing styles and techniques.”

“That it makes you a better musician and you get to create long lasting relationships.”