Middle School Music Update: Celebrating Autumn Milestones & Community Support

Saratoga Music Boosters (SMB) is a volunteer-run School Connected Organization (SCO) dedicated to supporting our student musicians.

Dear Music Families,

There is a great buzz echoing from our middle school music rooms this autumn. We are proud to share how our student musicians are progressing, along with ways our community can keep this momentum going.

🎷 The Band & Percussion Programs

- **Beginning Band:** These young musicians are already preparing for their debut concert in just over 5 weeks. Students are hard at work mastering complex rhythms, expanding their playing ranges, and learning section balance and blend.
- **Advanced Band:** The ensemble gave excellent lunchtime Halloween mini-performances in the quad! They are also deep into rehearsals for the upcoming Winter Concert, the CMEA festival in March, and their spring Disney trip.
- **Jazz Band:** The ensemble has begun learning the basics of swing, the blues scale, 12-bar blues, and characteristic swing styles. We are excited for them to perform later this school year!

🏳️ The Color Guard & Winter Percussion Programs

- **Color Guard:** The team has gotten a strong start! Students are learning fundamental movement techniques, spinning skills, and tosses with flags. They are currently planning their competitive spring season with CCGC (California Color Guard Circuit).
- **Winter Percussion:** The group conducted workshops in September and is introducing students to the fundamentals of marching drumline and front ensemble (keyboard) instrument technique.
- **Join Us:** Both Color Guard and Winter Percussion groups welcome new middle school members of all ability levels!

🎻 The Orchestra Programs

- **Beginning Orchestra:** This year features a large, high-energy class with plenty of distinct, wonderful personalities.
- **Intermediate Orchestra:** These students are building their foundational repertoire and focusing on their first major performance in mid-December.

- **Advanced Orchestra & Chamber Orchestra:** Both groups joined Advanced Band in giving fun lunchtime Halloween mini-performances in the quad. Additionally, the Advanced Chamber Orchestra musicians offered a special Halloween performance right here at RMS, and they are exploring recording ideas for a potential submission to the Midwest Clinic.

🎶 A Growing Family Legacy

A clear trend is emerging in our schools. More 5th graders are choosing instruments after watching their older siblings go through the program. In fact, approximately two-thirds of our current 6th-grade orchestra students have older siblings who play, creating a strong chain of musical excitement across Saratoga families.

💸 Supporting Our Programs

Saratoga is fortunate to have vibrant musical opportunities. To ensure these student programs run seamlessly with the coaching and resources our community values, SMB manages two distinct community fundraising tracks this month. Please know that every contribution is a direct investment in enriching our children's musical education.

The Annual Cookie Dough Fundraiser (Extended!)

- **Extended Deadline:** Saturday, November 7th, 2026
- **The Goal:** A short-term community drive to fund immediate middle school program needs.
- **How to Support:** Visit our Online Webstore to order your treats or share the link with friends and neighbors.
- **Pickup Logistics:** Orders must be collected on Friday, November 13th, 2026, at Saratoga High School in the Music Building, Room M101 between 11:30 AM and 6:00 PM. Students are welcome to pick up orders on behalf of the buyer.

Annual Program & Benefactor Donations

- **Timeline:** Active throughout the school year.
- **The Logistics:** Tax-deductible, company-matchable, and payable online via credit card, check, or stocks.
- **Direct Program Donations:** Funds critical operational pieces like sheet music, awards, program grants, and our Sectionals Program—where local professional musicians are brought into classrooms to run instrument-specific sessions that accelerate student technique.

- **SMB Benefactor Donations:** These contributions go straight into the general booster fund to purchase instruments, support continuity between RMS and SHS, and provide scholarships so no student is excluded due to hardships.

📅 Save the Date: Winter Concert Series

We invite our entire community to come out, enjoy, and celebrate the incredible progress our student musicians are making! All performances will be held at the **McAfee Performing Arts and Lecture Center** on the Saratoga High School campus.

- **December 7th: Band Concert Series**
  - **6:00 PM:** Beginning Band
  - **7:30 PM:** Intermediate and Advanced Bands
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- **December 9th: Choir & Jazz Concert Series**
  - **7:00 PM:** Choir & Joint Jazz Performance with SHS
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- **December 10th: Orchestra Concert Series**
  - **6:00 PM:** Beginning and Intermediate Orchestras
  - **7:30 PM:** Advanced and Chamber Orchestras

Stay Connected With Us!

For the latest updates, event highlights, and concert media, follow our community on social media:

- **Facebook:** @saratogamusicboosters
- **Instagram:** @saratogamusicboosters and @susdmusic
- **Website:** www.saratogamusicbooster.org