**MMS Jazz Information Sheet**

Dear MMS Parent/Guardian,

As your child has expressed an interest/desire to participate within either the grade 7 or 8 Jazz Ensemble, the following is intended to provide you (and your child) with information regarding the Jazz programming at MMS and the expectations/requirements of participation in either of these extra-curricular groups. Please take a few moments to review the following information with your child and provide the requested signature and appropriate e-mail address should his/her participation meet with your approval.

1. **Description of Jazz Programming**

As outlined in the Band Handbook which was distributed to all band students in their first band classes of the year (also available on the Band Program Website: [www.mmsbandprogram.weebly.com](http://www.mmsbandprogram.weebly.com)), the Jazz program is an extra-curricular component of the overall Band Program available to any grade 7 or 8 band students wishing to supplement their band experiences beyond the regular concert band curriculum. Participants will be exposed to several styles/genres of musical performance (Blues, Swing, Rock, Latin, Be-Bop, etc.) as well as to the concepts involved in musical form and improvisation. The Jazz ensembles therefore afford students much enhanced opportunities for greater depths of the skills, knowledge, and understanding with regards to their individual instruments and to their overall enjoyment in the process of becoming fluent music makers.

1. **Rehearsal Schedules (Attendance Expectations)**

Jazz rehearsals are held from 7:30 to 8:30 AM on Mondays and Wednesdays for grade 8s and on Tuesdays and Thursdays for grade 7s. Regular rehearsals will begin on Monday, Sept. 27th. The front doors of the school (students should use the same entrances they have been assigned for this school year) will be open by 7:15 AM and participating students should plan to arrive at the school early enough to be in their seats with instruments set up for a 7:30 start to each rehearsal. Attendance at all rehearsals is considered mandatory throughout the school year – the director should be informed in advance of any student absences occurring due to planned family events (or other acceptable reasons) and/or provided a note or e-mail from a parent/guardian for any absences occurring due to illness. *Students are advised that Jazz rehearsals will be cancelled in accordance with the MVSD Inclement Weather Policy and/or when buses are canceled due to weather considerations.* (The director will be at the school regardless of any cancelations as described above and will make every effort to advise parents/guardians by group e-mail in cases of cancelations as described above.)

1. **Academic and Citizenship Expectations**

As with student participation within any MVSD extra-curricular programming, participating students are expected to meet their academic potential in all classes and observe acceptable standards of personal conduct both in school and within the overall community. Due to the fact that several students are learning secondary instruments within the ensembles (especially for rhythm section players) as well as the more complex nature of instrumental techniques required of Jazz performance, pull-out lessons/sectionals may be scheduled within the school day; this may be a weekly “lesson” (as with rhythm section players or students learning a secondary instrument) or occasional “sectional” sessions leading up to performances and/or the introduction of a new concepts/skills relevant to certain instrument groupings. The director will communicate with students and classroom teachers in these situations in order to find the least “disruptive” times; however, students are expected to make-up any work missed in regular classes in a timely fashion and to ensure that there is no negative impact in their academic performance due to these lessons/sectionals. Participating students will also be expected to ensure they are contributing positively to both the extra-curricular Jazz Ensemble as well as the regular Concert Band in which they participate.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Monaghan at the school with any questions/concerns you may have.

Kevin.monaghan@mvsd.ca

Parents/Guardians and students are asked to sign in the spaces provided below to acknowledge that they have read and understand the information presented above. (Please provide a parent/guardian e-mail address in order to allow us to create a Jazz e-mail group in order to keep you reminded/informed of any rehearsal cancelations and/or information items which may develop throughout the year).

**Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**