

Frank Mantooth Jazz Festival at New Trier High School “Parent to Parent Frequently Asked Questions”

When is Jazz Fest? This year’s festival is from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm, Saturday, February 4th, 2012.

Where does it take place? The Mantooth Jazz Festival is at New Trier High School, Winnetka Campus. There are six performance sites for big bands ... the Gaffney Auditorium main stage (1,560 seats), McGee Theater (600 seats), the student cafeteria, the student lounge (junior high groups), and in the two, third floor band/jazz rooms. All daytime performance sites, clinics and master classes are open to the public with no admission charged.

Who attends? All New Trier jazz students participate along with jazz students from about 40 other schools from around the country and Canada. There are 1,200 high school and junior high students on campus as guests.

How does my jazz student participate? New Trier’s Freshman Jazz Ensemble, Concert Jazz Ensemble and Lab Jazz Ensemble play on the Gaffney Main Stage (the main auditorium) during the morning. Following a short performance, each ensemble participates in a clinic with a guest professional musician or music educator. Parents are welcome to observe the clinic sessions. After performing, students will have an assigned role to help out at the Festival.

When do the other schools’ bands play? Bands from other schools perform in various parts of the Winnetka Campus throughout the morning/early afternoon. Those bands also receive comments and feedback from the professional clinicians.

Are there other learning opportunities? Master classes and clinics taught by professional musicians and university educators work with every guest band throughout the day. All students may attend workshops on performance technique, music careers, jazz improvisation and other topics.

What happens in the afternoon? A professional combo performs at noon in Gaffney (*Chicago’s own Marquis Hill’s Black-tet*). *The Jazz Directors Big Band* comprised of guest band directors performs at 2:45 pm in Gaffney. Master classes for every jazz instrument take place from 3:00 to 3:50 p.m. The free daytime portion of the 2012 Festival ends with a concert by *The Michigan State Jazz Orchestra* performing from 4-5pm in the Gaffney Auditorium..

What happens in the evening of Jazz Fest? In the evening there is a concert in Gaffney Auditorium at 7:30pm. The New Trier Jazz Ensemble I perform first, followed by a guest professional band. This year’s guest professional band is *The Chicago Jazz Ensemble led by Dana Hall with special guest artist, Nicholas Payton!*

How do I get tickets for the evening concert? Festival Sponsors receive 4 free tickets and may purchase additional tickets when they pledge a donation of \$250. Remaining tickets (if available) go on sale at the Fall Jazz Ensembles Concert on Thursday, November 17th, 2011, or may be ordered on-line after that night at \$25 each. Complete festival details are available in the mid-September mailing to parents of New Trier Jazz students, or on-line at ntjazz.com/JazzFestival.

What else can jazz students expect during the day of Jazz Fest? New Trier jazz students are expected to volunteer to work a four hour shift during the day. They will sign up during their jazz classroom period. This is handled by Student Directors from Jazz I.

Are there volunteer opportunities for parents? Yes. Jazz Fest is largely staffed by parent volunteers. We typically have over 130 parent volunteers. Most work two hour shifts, helping with cafeteria meals, traffic control, hallway security, CD and t-shirt sales and other tasks. **You can sign up at the Fall Jazz Concert, mail in your Parent Volunteer Form or contact one of the Jazz Fest Parent Directors:**

Mimi Dray (mimidrav425@aol.com) Kellie Klein (kelli.klein@comcast.net) Adrienne Furniss (afurniss@comcast.net)

