

August 2021 Music Notes

Welcome~

The Music Department at Edison welcomes you to a new school year! We are excited to see students returning to band, chorus, and orchestra and we are eager to get to know our new students and make music with them. Band directors Jason Rygg and Holly Gage have taken new positions. Mr. Rygg will teach at George McGovern and Mrs. Gage will be at Patrick Henry this fall. We will miss them and we wish them well! We welcome band director, Mr. Rick Jensen, BACK to Edison and we are excited to have Miss Emily Deinken as our new band director in the music department! Mrs. Stacy Sip and Miss Shannon Abels are the Edison orchestra directors. Mrs. Mollie Weflen and Mrs. Amber Sundvold are the Edison chorus directors. You can read more about them on the Edison Music Department website at: <http://emsmusicdept.weebly.com/> Please call the school office or e-mail any one of us if you have questions.

Band/Chorus/Orchestra!~

These groups meet every other day during the school day. Students can be in two performance groups as they meet on opposite days. Each group performs two evening concerts per year. If you were in band or orchestra last year we hope you continue!! It's never too late to try chorus if you enjoy singing! If your child did not get signed up for band, chorus, or orchestra last spring please call the Edison office now! (605.367.7643)

Important Dates for First Semester~

Make sure your child's concert dates are on your calendar. High school concert times or rehearsal times *might* be different than what is listed here and will be communicated with your child if they are an 8th grader in band or chorus.

Sept. 21, 22, 23	Inventions Auditions in the Chorus Room	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Sep. 28, 29, 30	Production (TBA) auditions in the Auditorium	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Oct. 18	LHS Fall Choir Concert w/8 th graders (rehearsal 6 pm)	7:00 p.m. @ LHS
Oct. 19, 20, 21	Brio Auditions in the Orchestra Room	4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Oct. 21	WHS Fall Choir Concert w/8 th graders (rehearsal 6 pm)	7:00 p.m. @ WHS
Nov. 8	RHS Fall Choir Concert w/8 th graders	times TBA @ RHS
Nov. 16	WHS Band Concert w/8 th graders (6:00 rehearsal)	7:00 p.m @ WHS
Nov. 18	Edison Orchestra Concerts 6 th grade–6:00 p.m., 7 th grade–6:45 p.m. & 8 th grade–7:30 p.m.	
Nov. 18	LHS Band Concert w/8 th graders (rehearsal on 11/17 at 7:30 a.m.)	7:00 p.m. @ LHS
Dec. 7	Edison Band Concerts 6 th grade–6:00 p.m., 7 th grade–6:45 p.m. & 8 th grade–7:30 p.m.	
Dec. 9 & 10	Production (TBA) performance in auditorium	7:00 p.m.
Dec. 14	Edison Chorus Concerts 6 th grade – 6:30 p.m. & 7 th /8 th grade – 7:45 p.m.	
Dec. 16	RHS Band Concert w/8 th graders (7:30 am rehearsal)	7:00 p.m. @ RHS

Musician of the Month~

Each month the band, orchestra, and chorus areas will each recognize a 6th, 7th, and 8th grader that shows exceptional dedication, responsibility, and character each and every day in rehearsal. We will always list these students in this section of the ECHO. This program starts in September.

Ensemble Schedule~

Jazz Band will be meeting two mornings a week from 7:45 – 8:45 a.m.

Brio - Students who audition and are selected for the string ensemble, *Brio*, will be meeting two mornings a week from 8:10 – 8:45 a.m. Audition dates are 10/19, 10/20, & 10/21.

Inventions - Students who audition and are selected for the vocal ensemble *Inventions*, will meet two mornings a week from 7:45 - 8:45 a.m. Audition dates are 9/21, 9/22, & 9/23.

**The exact mornings that our ensembles will meet will be determined in the near future.

All-State Band~

The South Dakota Middle School All-State Band is a special event designed to inspire and encourage top band students from across the state. Tryouts are held in December, **but interested students need to start practicing the required music now**. For more information, please contact Mr. Jensen or visit <http://sdmea.net/> and look under the Events list and MSASB (Middle School All-State Band). We encourage you to give it a try!

Jazz Band Auditions~

Jazz Band is open without auditions to any 7th or 8th grader who plays a jazz instrument. Jazz instruments are saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, piano, drumset, bass guitar, and sometimes electric guitar. If we have more students than we have room for on drumset, bass guitar, or electric guitar, we will do an informal audition during the first two weeks of Jazz Band rehearsal. Contact Mr. Jensen with any Jazz Band questions.

All-State Orchestra~

The South Dakota Middle School All-State Orchestra is in its fifth year! The top orchestra students in the state of South Dakota come together to perform for this special event. Auditions are held in late October/early November, **but interested students need to start practicing the required music now**. For more information please contact Mrs. Sip or visit <http://sdmea.net/> and look under the Events list for: Middle School All-State Orchestra. All the information you need and the audition music is there for you!

Inventions Auditions~

Inventions is a swing choir open to 7th and 8th grade chorus students. Those interested in auditioning for these groups should sign up on the door by the chorus room in early September. Auditions will be held after school on Sept. 21, 22, & 23 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the chorus room. Students can audition in groups of 1, 2, or 3. They should come prepared with a song of their choice and they will individually sing the first verse of “My Country Tis of Thee”, which we will practice in chorus.

SD Junior Honors Choir~

7th and 8th grade singers have the opportunity to audition for the 2022 SD Jr. Honor Choir. Around 175 voices from around the state of SD will be chosen from all the auditions submitted for these choirs. Students in grades 7, 8, and 9 are eligible to be chosen as part of either the mixed choir or the women’s choir. The honor choirs take place January 21 – 22, 2022, in Sioux Falls, SD. It costs \$15 to audition and \$145 to participate if you're chosen. More info to come in the next ECHO or watch for info on the music dept. website.

If you know your child will be auditioning, please e-mail Amber.Sundvold@k12.sd.us.

Edison Stage Production~

We will hold auditions for this year’s stage production at the end of September. We are not sure if we are doing a variety show or musical, but we have decided that we are going to do it in the first semester! All chorus students will be given details and there will be some all school announcements for those that are not in chorus but interested in participating.

Edison Music Department Website~

The Edison Music Department has a website! Refer to this website for information and dates.

<http://emsmusicdept.weebly.com/>

“Like” us on Facebook!~

Edison Music Department has a Facebook page! This page will be used for informational purposes only. We will NOT have any pictures of students posted, it will strictly be used for getting information out to you!

The page is: www.facebook.com/EMSMusicDept

There are other Edison schools out there so check before you “like” our site!

Thank you for encouraging your child to participate in Band, Chorus and Orchestra at Edison! We look forward to making music with them!

- Band directors – Rick Jensen - Rick.T.Jensen@k12.sd.us & Emily Deinken – Emily.Deinken@k12.sd.us
- Chorus directors – Amber Sundvold – Amber.Sundvold@k12.sd.us & Mollie Weflen – Mollie.Weflen@k12.sd.us
- Orchestra directors – Stacy Sip – Stacy.Sip@k12.sd.us & Shannon Abels – Shannon.Abels@k12.sd.us

“Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.” - Confucius