

**42ND
ANNUAL**

JAZZ

FESTIVAL

FEB. 6-7 | 5:30 PM
FESTIVAL CONCERT HALL

NDSU

CHALLEY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

2025 NDSU Jazz Festival Schedule

Thursday, February 6

Time	Band	Director(s)
8:30 a.m.	Moorhead High School Jazz Band	Pam Redlinger
9 a.m.	West Fargo High School Jazz Ensemble	Dan Christianson
9:30 a.m.	Liberty Middle School Jazz Band	Amy Johnson
10 a.m.	Central Cass Jazz Band	Brandon Noffze
10:30 a.m.	Mandan Middle School "Braves" Jazz Band	Brandon Bondley
11 a.m.	Horace High School Jazz Ensemble	Eric Pelletier
11:30 a.m.	Century High School Jazz Ensemble II	Erik Stordalen
12 p.m.	Mandan High School Jazz Ensemble III	Shawn Boehm
12:30 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK	
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.	Clinics	<p>Monty Cole, saxophone – Beckwith Recital Hall</p> <p>Sammy Kestenholtz, drums – Festival Concert Hall</p> <p>Tim Farrell, trumpet – Room 118</p>
3 p.m.	Mandan Middle School "Mandan" Jazz Band	Sara Baumann
3:30 p.m.	Mandan High School Jazz Ensemble II	Shawn Boehm
4 p.m.	Century High School Jazz Ensemble I	Chris Dasovick
4:30 p.m.	Bismarck High Jazz Ensemble II	Austin Yri
5 p.m.	Mandan High School Jazz Ensemble I	Jon Baumann
5:45 p.m.	NDSU Jazz Lab Band	Jeremy Brekke
6 p.m.	NDSU Jazz Ensemble with Guest Artists	Matthew Patnode

Scan the QR code to read the bios for each school in our digital program:



2025 NDSU Jazz Festival Schedule

Friday, February 7

Time	Band	Director
9 a.m.	Fargo North Broadway Jazz	Kelsey Dragosovich
9:30 a.m.	Minot High School Jazz Ensemble II	Evan Meiers
10 a.m.	Minot North High School Jazz Ensemble	Jeremy Meinert
10:30 a.m.	Fargo South Jazz Orchestra	Race Hogleund
11 a.m.	Minot High School Jazz Ensemble I	Evan Meiers
11:30 a.m.	Jamestown Blue Jay Jazz Ensemble	Brittany Schwingler
12 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK	
2:00 - 2:45 p.m.	Clinics	
	Monty Cole, saxophone – Beckwith Recital Hall	
	Sammy Kestenholtz, drums – Festival Concert Hall	
	Tim Farrell, trumpet – Room 118	
3 p.m.	Fargo South High School Jazz Collective*	Race Hogleund
3:30 p.m.	Sheyenne High School Jazz Ensemble II	Kennedy Stromberg
4 p.m.	Alexandria Area High School Jazz Ensemble	Derek Ziemer
4:30 p.m.	Willmar High School Jazz Ensemble	Todd Blaser
5 p.m.	Fargo South High School Studio Band*	Tristan Byer
5:45 p.m.	NDSU Jazz Lab Band	Jeremy Brekke
6 p.m.	NDSU Jazz Ensemble with Guest Artists	Matthew Patnode

**This schedule change was made after the program was printed.*

Scan the QR code to read the bios for each school in our digital program:



Guest Artists



Monty Cole

Monty Cole joined the faculty at Mercer in the Fall of 2002, where he teaches clarinet and saxophone, and is Director of Jazz Studies. Before coming to Mercer he served on the faculties of Minot State University, and at Humboldt State University. A versatile performer, he appears throughout the country as a clinician and performing artist in both classical and jazz areas.

A California native, he completed his B.A. in Music from Humboldt State University. He later earned his M.M degree from the University of Kentucky and in 1998 completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the Cincinnati Conservatory. His teachers include Robert Flum, Edward Harris, Ronald Monsen, Gordon Cole, Rick Van Matre and Ronald DeKant. His doctoral thesis elucidated the life and music of jazz saxophonist Rahsaan Roland Kirk.

As a clarinet artist, Cole has worked with numerous orchestras including the Richmond (Indiana) symphony, the Lexington Philharmonic, the St. Martin Chamber Orchestra (Cincinnati), the Humboldt Symphony, the Minot Symphony, the Macon Symphony, and the Ocmulgee Symphony. As a chamber musician, he has toured throughout North and Central America. As a saxophonist, he has toured with the Guy Lombardo Big Band, performed with a number of jazz artists including Frank Mantooth, Vince Dimartino, Brad Goode, Pat Harbison, Ed Soph, Randy Porter, Larry Engstrom, Dick Titterington, Joe Henderson, and many others. Recent performances include the internationally syndicated Oprah Winfrey Show with Josh Groban and in concert with Barry Manilow, Kristin Chenoweth, Il Volo, and Sarah McLachlan. His jazz solo CD, featuring all original compositions, *Mile to the East* was released in 2007. View from a five-gallon aquarium, featuring Dr. Cole on clarinet was released in 2008.

Guest Artists



Tim Farrell

Dr. Tim Farrell is a Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He teaches applied trumpet and horn, jazz improvisation, music education courses and directs the UNK Jazz/Rock Ensemble. Before moving to Nebraska, Tim was Chair of the Music Department at the University of South Dakota.

Dr. Farrell also taught at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, for twelve years, where he was assistant dean, chair, the applied high-brass teacher, and Director of Jazz Studies. In 2008, he won the highly coveted Alice Admire Teaching Award at Fort Lewis College.

Dr. Farrell is a Yamaha Performing Artist. Tim can be seen on the Sound Innovations trumpet DVD published by Alfred Music in 2010. Dr. Farrell received his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Oregon, Master of Music from Northwestern University, and his Bachelor of Musical Arts from Pacific Lutheran University.

Guest Artists



Sammy Kestenholtz

Grammy nominee, Song and Album of the Year Drummer (Dove and UCMVA Awards) Sammy Kestenholtz – known as “Slammin’ Sammy K” – is an international educator, clinician, and performer. He is an educator for the Music for All Summer Symposium (sponsored by Yamaha) Joe’s Jazz Camp (Atlanta GA), New Horizons Band Camp, and the Dayton Jazz Labs.

Sammy also does distance clinics and teaching with high school and college students internationally. Sammy has appeared on the Emmy winning Wayne Brady Show, Ally McBeal (with KC&The Sunshine Band and Josh Groban) and in The Fast and The Furious. He has recorded and or performed with a list of artists: Bob Hope, The Manhattan Transfer, Burt Bacharach, Steve Lawrence, Jimmy Heath, Lucy Lawless, Dave Brubeck, Jon Hendricks, and the United States Air Force Band. His playing can be heard on: MythBusters, several Disney holiday DVDs, Confessions of an Eco Terrorist, ABC, CBS, NBC, and the films The Girl on The Train, The Spaces In Between: On the Road with Amy Cook, and Dalai Lama Awakening.

His other clients have included: Ferrari, The Walt Disney Company, The International Toys For Tots Campaign, Six Flags, Daimler Chrysler, Jeep, Panda Express, PG&E, the Los Angeles Laker Band, the Hal Leonard Publishing Company, MatFal Music, Much Music Television and the Tournament of Roses. Sammy is an Educational Endorser of Remo Drumheads, Zildjian Cymbals, Yamaha Drums, Vic Firth Drumsticks, Cympad cymbal washers, Big Bang Distribution and Kotz Cajons.



NDSU Jazz Lab Band

Jeremy Brekke, director

Manteca.....John Birks Gillespie
arr. Mike Tomaro

7th Street Stomp.....Eric Richards

Saxophones

Dylan Balken, alto 1
Lillian Mohr, alto 2
Lucas Schweisthal, tenor 1
Luke Nowicki, tenor 2
Keagan Carlson, baritone

Trumpets

Alex Munson
Logan Cook
Jamison Lang
Nick Newsam

Trombones

Ian Strand
Connor Straub
Avery Wiese
Grace Bjur
Jackson Windle, bass

Rhythm Section

Caleb Roth, piano
Jacob Rolle, guitar
Joe Roehl, bass
Mason Polk, drumset/ percussion
Sophie Rosh, drumset/ percussion

NDSU Jazz Ensemble

Matthew Patnode, director

To be selected from the following:

Struttin' with Some Barbeque.....Lillian Hardin Armstrong and Don Raye
arr. Mike Tomaro

Portrait of Louis Armstrong *from the New Orleans Suite*.....Duke Ellington
trans. David Berger

Tonight, We Tango.....Rick Hirsch

Tim Farrell, trumpet

Naima.....John Coltrane, arr. Manny Mendelson

African Skies.....Michael Brecker, arr. Rob Lussier

Monty Cole, saxophone

Love for Sale.....Cole Porter, arr. Pete Myers

In a Mellow Tone.....Duke Ellington, trans. Myles Collins

Sammy Kestenholtz, drums

The Crawfish Stomp.....Eric Richards

Featuring the Jazz Festival Guest Artists

Saxophones

Ethan Bruley, alto 1
Devin Devine, alto 2
Sid Woitalewicz, tenor 1
Isabelle Jipson, tenor 2
Blake Neubauer, baritone

Trombones

Jacob Reinhold-Nagel
Nathan Krueger
Ethan Phillips
Jace Prosser

Trumpets

Rylie Schick
Zach Breidenbach
Nathan Isaak
Jacob Rolle
Kody Robinson

Rhythm Section

Chance Bowlinger, piano
Tyler Hills, guitar
Ryan Livdahl, bass
Alejandro Lopez-Ochoa, drumset
Owen Cary, percussion/vibraphone

History of Jazz Ensembles at NDSU

Jazz Ensembles have been a part of the NDSU Music Program for over 50 years. In the 1950's the first "Stage Band" was organized by members of the Gold Star Band as an extra-curricular group that played for dances and other on-campus events. In the early 1970's, the director of bands, Orv Eidem, organized the group into a credited class for both music majors and non-majors to study and perform the art of big band music. Under Eidem's leadership, the NDSU Jazz Festival began in 1982, featuring many well-known jazz artists as guest soloists with the band.

Upon Orv Eidem's retirement in 1993, Dr. Kyle Mack was appointed as director, expanding the program into two big bands, and adding an annual jazz tour to schools throughout the region. In 2018, Dr. Matthew Patnode was appointed director of the Jazz Ensemble. Today, the NDSU jazz program has grown to include two full big bands, combos, as well as courses in jazz pedagogy and improvisation. The jazz faculty include instructors in saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, bass, and drumset. The bands and combos keep an active schedule on and off campus, and tour regional schools. The annual jazz festival, now in it's 42nd year, hosts school bands and features guest jazz artists with the Jazz Ensemble.



NDSU Jazz Faculty



Jeremy Brekke

Associate Professor of Trumpet/Jazz
jeremy.brekke@ndsu.edu



Connor Challey

**Instructor of Tuba/Low Brass
& Director of Athletic Bands**
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Sigurd Johnson

**Associate Professor of Percussion Studies
& Director of Orchestral Activities**
sigurd.johnson@ndsu.edu



Eric Martens

Instructor of Guitar
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Doug Neill

Instructor of Tuba/Bass
doug.neill@ndsu.edu



Matthew Patnode

Professor of Saxophone/Jazz
matthew.patnode@ndsu.edu

To learn more about our Jazz Faculty, visit ndsu.edu/music.

NDSU Jazz Festival Sponsors

Thank you for your support!



NDSU

CHALLEY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

NDSU Performing Arts Box Office

701-231-7969 | ndsuhperforming.arts@ndsuh.edu

Please visit ndsuh.edu/performingarts/calendar for a full event schedule!

Alexandria Area High School Jazz Ensemble

Derek Ziemer, director

Alexandria, MN

The Alexandria Music Department has a long history of great music making. The Alexandria Area High School has three curricular bands, orchestras, and choirs, as well as an extracurricular Marching Band. The AAHS Jazz Ensemble recently had the opportunity to open for Emmy Award-winning vocalist Shaun Johnson and his big band. The NDSU Jazz Festival is the first of two festivals that are part of our season, and we look forward to performing for and listening to all the jazz bands performing at the NDSU Jazz Festival this weekend!

Originally from St. Cloud, Minnesota, Derek Ziemer is a 2014 graduate of the University of Minnesota, Morris. Derek graduated with a Master of Music Education degree from Concordia College in May of 2024. He teaches band at Discovery Middle School in Alexandria, MN, and his primary instruments are the saxophone and bassoon.

Mr. Ziemer's duties in Alexandria include directing the 7th grade Cardinal and Viking Bands, providing lessons to 6th and 8th grade band students, and teaching 7th/8th grade Music & Media courses. He also directs the Alexandria Area High School Jazz Ensemble and serves as the percussion instructor for the Alexandria Marching Band.

Mr. Ziemer is also an active performer in the Alexandria Area, most notably as a bassoonist in the Central Lakes Symphony Orchestra (CLSO). He is a Cannonball Educator for Cannonball Musical Instruments and has served as Adjunct Instructor of Saxophone at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Mr. Ziemer is also a member of NAFME, MMEA, and MBDA.

Saxophone

Samara Groetsch
Dhani WencI-Singh
MaKayla Hart
Markelle Burginger
Sofia Christiansen
Carter Olson

Trombone

Jack Chelin
McKenzie Huwe

Trumpet

Evelyn Stockford
Carter Gamm
Natalie Travis
Lizzie Reike
Brody Zappe

Rhythm Section

Esther Bernards, piano
Gavin Chelin, bass
JakIn Miller, drumset
Bodee Hagstrom, drumset

Bismarck High School Jazz Ensemble II

Austin Yri, director

Bismarck, ND

Bismarck High School offers four bands in addition to its two jazz bands. Students must audition for Wind Ensemble and The Screamin' Demons jazz band if they wish to perform in those two ensembles. All band members participate in pep band for various sporting events and prepare for two parades each year in addition to their concert music. Band members also prepare small ensembles to perform at the NDHSAA Saxophone/Percussion, Woodwind, and Brass Festivals in Bismarck, ND.

Austin Yri is the Associate Band Director at both Bismarck High School and Wachter Middle School in Bismarck, North Dakota. This is his fourth year with Bismarck High and third year with Wachter Middle School. Austin has taught band, jazz band, choir, and elementary music over the past seven years. Austin attended NDSU (2014-2018) and earned his B.S. in Instrumental Music Education and a minor in Vocal Education. He then taught in Park River, ND for two years before moving back to his hometown of Bismarck, ND to teach elementary music for a short time. He then began teaching at Bismarck High School and Wachter Middle School. Austin enjoys performing with the Bismarck/Mandan Wind Ensemble, Bismarck/Mandan Community Band, and recently formed a saxophone quartet – The BisKeys.

Saxophone

Kayleigh Glatt, alto
Ahviana Harris, alto
Wyatte Kostelecky, alto
Madison Morey, alto
Isaac Rensch, alto
Hannah Daniels, tenor
Laura Horning, tenor
Emalee Simnioniw, tenor
Mya Lydeen, baritone
Brooklyn Schuh, baritone

Trumpet

Ty Buresh
Cooper Eberle
Cole Hogan
Felicity Jochim

Trombone

Carter Mikkelsen
Berkley Paulson

Flute

Sienna Huber

Rhythm Section

Ty Popiel, guitar/drumset
Zachary Pieske, drumset and aux. percussion
Bosten Welle, aux. percussion
Grayson Grinaker, piano/vibraphone
Kari Penn, piano/vibraphone
Seth Peterson, bass
Ezekiel Weaver, bass

Central Cass High School Jazz Band

Brandon Noffze, director

Casselton, ND

The Central Cass Concert Band is an opportunity for students in Grades 9 - 12 to perform a wide variety of instrumental music. We place heavy focus on ensemble musicianship by providing students opportunities to perform in many types of ensembles including chamber groups, jazz band, pep band, and concert band. Students are encouraged to think critically about their growth by establishing tangible goals and reflecting on their performances. These goals are not always limited to musical performance. We believe that we can use music as a tool to better understand ourselves and the world around us. Organically, many students have set and achieved goals related to leadership, social skills, personal growth, and critical thinking. We provide opportunities for our students to grow with outside opportunities as well. We perform at multiple festivals throughout the year including Raging Red and NDSU Jazz Fest. We also regularly bring in college band directors and professional musicians to work with our students on their craft. We believe that music is an important part of every child's developmental puzzle and we are committed to providing opportunities for our students to learn and grow as musicians and as people.

Brandon Noffze is in his 4th year as director of bands at Central Cass Schools in Casselton, ND. He accepted this position in 2021 after he had spent a semester there student teaching. Since becoming a graduate of Minnesota State University Moorhead, Brandon has been an active member in various music scenes around Fargo including jazz, metal, and experimental.

Saxophone

Case Muscha, lead alto
Marjorie Forderer, alto 2
Ben Dawson, tenor 1
Jaxon Radcliffe, tenor 2
Greta Olsen, baritone

Trombone

Bennett Parkhouse
Scarlett Anderson

Vocals

Ava Bastian

Trumpet

Melody Kempel
Anna White
Toby Rostvedt
Luke Olsen
Lilly Brossart
Gage Murdock
Kalli Meyer

Rhythm Section

Cayden Weckerly, drums
Ian Krause, bass
Alaina Peterson, piano
Ogden Martinez, piano
Heidi Olsen, vibraphone

Century High School Jazz Ensemble I

Chris Dasovick, director

Bismarck, ND

Chris Dasovick is a graduate of the University of Mary and the American Band College at Southern Oregon University. This is his twenty-second year at Century High School where he directs the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble #1, Freshmen Band, Marching Band, Pep Band, and Color Guard & "Spirit of '76." Additionally, he serves as the sectional coach for Prep Band and Concert Band. Alongside his teaching duties, Mr. Dasovick is the site manager for the North Dakota All-State Music Festival and directs the pit orchestras for musicals produced by Bismarck Public Schools and Sleepy Hollow Summer Theatre. His wife teaches elementary music for Bismarck Public Schools and they have four wonderful children.

Saxophone

Noah Christopherson
Aidan Koster
Trinity Metz
Caleb Nelson
Ryan Schommer

Trombone

Ella Clark
Kaleb Clark
Addie Skoglund

Trumpet

Larry Big Leggins
Maya Clark
Connor Michela
Hayden Parent
Jacob Schlag
Chloe Wolff

Rhythm Section

Jacob Dorrheim
Kallie Hay
Val Kuhn
Ben Peske
Karsten Peterson
Danielle Schill

Century High School Jazz Ensemble II

Erik Stordalen, director

Bismarck, ND

Erik Stordalen received his Bachelor of Science in Music Education from North Dakota State University. From the fall of 2002 through the spring of 2008, he taught in Manvel, North Dakota. During his six years in Manvel, Stordalen taught K-6 General Music, 6-8 Choir and 5-8 Band. From the fall of 2008 to the spring of 2013, Mr. Stordalen was the Vocal Music Director at Elroy Schroeder Middle School in Grand Forks.

Mr. Stordalen joined the Bismarck Century High School music faculty in the fall of 2013, as Associate Director of Bands. His duties include conducting the Prep Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble #2 as well as assisting with the Wind Ensemble, Freshmen Band and Pep Band providing support as a brass specialist.

Saxophone

Anika Helm, alto
Mason Hoskins, alto
Caleb Nelson, alto
Alaina Stramer, alto
Braxton Hedstrom, tenor
Brady Kinden, tenor
Anders Fritz, baritone
Braeden Young, baritone

Trombone

Sophia Augustadt
Adam Bergman
Connor Michela
Katherine Tschaekofske

Trumpet

Ella Clark
Jack Elsberry
Camden Layawen
Kristina Papalich
Isabell Rudy
Ryan Schommer
MeKayla Stordalen
Capin Wardner

Rhythm Section

Sophia Augustadt, piano
Valerie Kuhn, piano
Logan Abrahamson, drums
Benjamin Gitter, guitar
Kolton Harris, bass
Kaden Geerdes, vibes/auxiliary
Addyson Jeffers, vibes/auxiliary

Fargo North Broadway Jazz

Kelsey Dragosavich, director

Fargo, ND

Fargo North High School's Band Department hosts five performing ensembles, three concert bands and two jazz ensembles. Jazz II is an un-auditioned ensemble open to all instrumentation. It is an introduction to jazz, blues, swing and funk. Jazz III is an auditioned group of students, limited to traditional jazz instrumentation. It builds on student's pre-established fundamental musicianship in the respective genres with a greater focus on improvisation. Both ensembles meet daily and are a credited class.

Kelsey Dragosavich is in her tenth year as the Director of Bands and Music Department Chair at Fargo North High School. The school is home to three concert bands and two jazz ensembles. The Fargo North Broadway Jazz Ensemble meets daily as a credited class. Auditioned students explore various styles, including, but not limited to, blues, funk, pop, and swing, while working to develop their musical voices through improvisation.

Saxophone

Zach Christesen
Finn Gravalin
Nathan Johnson
Kaden Liedberg
Brad Dalman

Trombone

Joseph Gourde
Eli Aslakson
Caysen Hemstad
Lucas Toay
Kyrell Jacobson

Trumpet

Gordon Barsh
Sophia Formo-Harbour
Avery Fick
Quinn Buckmiller
Jonah Feigum
Michael Dummer

Rhythm Section

Olivia Madrigal, piano/vibraphone
Oleksandra Tarnavchyk,
piano/vibraphone
Autumn Momsen, bass/aux
Aerna Daeuber, bass/aux
Lucas Toay, guitar
Brayden Evert- Bakken, guitar
Owen Christensen, drums

Fargo South High School Jazz Collective

Race Hogleund, director

Fargo, ND

Fargo South High has a population of just under 1,000 students. The band program has three concert bands, two jazz bands, and one extracurricular jazz combo club. Each band rehearses 5 days a week for 45 minutes during the regular school day. The Studio band is made up of 9th-10th grade students and the Jazz Orchestra is made up of 11th-12th grade students with the exception of a couple high flying 10th graders. Due to the explosive growth within the jazz program over the past 4 years, Fargo South will be adding a third audition-only jazz band next fall.

Race Hogleund is currently in his 5th year teaching Concert Band and Jazz Band at Fargo South High School and in his 3rd year teaching adjunct saxophone at Concordia College Moorhead. Race earned his BM in instrumental music education from Concordia College and has spent time during his summers performing on cruise ships through Royal Caribbean and Lime Entertainment. He has also been a semi-finalist for the US Army's Pershing's Own Concert band and has spent time learning music in Italy, Finland, and NYC. Race also plays in many different professional and amateur groups in the Fargo-Moorhead area. He writes and arranges for his own jazz group, plays lead alto in the FM Kicks Band, and has played regularly in many other local jazz bands, funk bands, and cover bands. Race has been fortunate enough to study jazz saxophone under Patrick Bartley, Bob Reynolds, Steve Kortyka, Adam Larson, Chase Baird, and Russell Peterson. Race has also had the opportunity to work and perform with several notable musicians such as Don Braden, Peter Erskine, Terell Stafford, Danny Seraphine, Jacob Mann, Dave Pollack, Taylor Hicks and Bernie Dresel. Aside from performing, Race also hosts the only Jazz Jam Session in the Fargo-Moorhead area and tries to provide as many playing opportunities for his students as possible.

Student roster unavailable at time of printing.

Fargo South Jazz Orchestra

Race Hoglund, director

Fargo, ND

Fargo South High has a population of just under 1,000 students. The band program has three concert bands, two jazz bands, and one extracurricular jazz combo club. Each band rehearses 5 days a week for 45 minutes during the regular school day. The Studio band is made up of 9th-10th grade students and the Jazz Orchestra is made up of 11th-12th grade students with the exception of a couple high flying 10th graders. Due to the explosive growth within the jazz program over the past 4 years, Fargo South will be adding a third audition-only jazz band next fall.

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Student roster unavailable at time of printing.

Fargo South High School Studio Band

Tristan Byer, director

Fargo, ND

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Tristan Byer is a percussionist and music educator from Fargo, ND. He currently teaches band, jazz band, and music composition at Fargo South High School. Along with this, he coaches percussion and low brass sectionals at Carl Ben Eielson Middle School. Prior to these positions he was the beginning band instructor at Horizon Middle School in Moorhead. As a musician, Byer is an active member of the Lake Agassiz Wind Ensemble and a variety of jazz combos in the FM Area. He has had the opportunity to collaborate and learn from musical artists such as Gregg Bissonette, Allen Vizzutti, and Clayton Cameron.

Saxophone

Vincent Cossette, alto
Jaylen Runnels, alto
Sydnee Gorder, tenor
Kyle Sjolín, bari

Trombone

Teagan Peterson

Trumpet

Kadence Munns

Rhythm Section

Timothy Lentz, drums
Ella Tesch, bass
Henry Eichhorn, bass
Jacob Heupel, guitar
Kahlan Borchert, piano

Horace High School Jazz Ensemble

Eric Pelletier, director

Horace, ND

The Horace High School Jazz Ensemble is in its 3rd year at Horace High School, which opened in 2021. The band rehearses twice a week before the school day. The Horace Hawks are part of West Fargo Public School district.

Eric Pelletier is in his 3rd year as director of bands at Horace High School. He directs the concert bands, jazz ensemble, and pit orchestra. A graduate of NDSU, Eric performs as a professional saxophonist in the FM area.

Student roster unavailable at time of printing.

Jamestown Blue Jay Jazz Ensemble

Brittany Schwingler, director

Jamestown, ND

Brittany Schwingler is a graduate of Concordia College - Moorhead where she obtained her Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education in 2015. She began her career in Crosby, ND teaching 7-12 Choir and 5-12 Band. She was the Director of Bands at Stanley High School in Stanley, ND for 6 years where she taught 5-12 Band, Drumline, and Music Tech. She is now the Director of Bands at Jamestown High School in Jamestown, ND where she teaches Guitar, Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band. Ms. Schwingler is the Executive Director for the North Dakota Music Educators Association. She is a member of the North Dakota Band Directors Association, North Dakota Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, and Phi Beta Mu.

Saxophone

Trinity Burley, alto
Aleeya Mickelson, alto
Madison Schmidt, alto
Ravi Bansal, tenor
Olivia Korynta, tenor
Jameson Kjorstens, baritone

Trombone

Ethan Erickson
Evan Lureen
Keane Roorda
Ryan Solensky

Trumpet

Parker Finck
Eli Jacobson
Annabelle Paulson
Brock Truax

Bass/Guitar

Leif Hanson
Zachary Janzen
Mercedes Snow
Atticus Tritschler

Rhythm Section

Finn Moser
Layna Hoffer
Jaxon Schlecht

Liberty Middle School Jazz Band

Amy Johnson, director

West Fargo, ND

Liberty Middle School opened in the fall 2013 and is a part of the West Fargo School District. LMS has a student population of approximately 1,200 students. Instrumental music classes begin in 6th grade where Band, Choir, Orchestra, and General Music are all options. The LMS Jazz Band is a group comprised of 7th and 8th grade students who meet outside of the school day for 60 minutes a week. The Jazz Band is led by Amy Johnson.

Amy Johnson is a band director at Liberty Middle School in the West Fargo School District in North Dakota and has been teaching for 20 years. Johnson performs regularly in the Fargo-Moorhead area on trombone, vocal jazz and piano. She performs with the FM Kicks Band, Lake Agassiz Wind Symphony and many other groups in the vicinity.

Saxophone

Orion Brown, alto
Andrew Carson, alto
Lily Engelking, alto
Lilly Herland, alto
Audrey Kildahl, alto
Stone Paulson, alto
Ariella Hayes, tenor

Horn

Abby Olson

Trombone

Thomas Christianson
Emery Henline
Alex Zimney

Tuba

David Orukotan

Baritone

Archer Martin

Drums

Drew Saville

Trumpet

Clayton Bahe
Pierce Clapp
Leighton Childers
Aiden Daly
Andrew Mauriello
Parker Retzer

Clarinet

Anushka Nagpal

Keyboard Percussion

Keira Corcoran
Eliana Liskiewicz
Jamison Martinetti
Preston Ressler

Mandan Middle School “Braves” Jazz Band

Brandon Bondley, director

Mandan, ND

The Mandan Middle School Band Program is comprised of over 380 students from grades 6, 7, and 8. Students begin band in 6th grade with like-instrument classes. The 7th and 8th grade bands continue in a full-band setting each day with students having a like instrument sectional once per week. MMS bands perform throughout the year in concerts, parades, and festivals. Students in grades 7 and 8 participate in the auditioned jazz ensembles which rehearse 2mornings per week plus sectionals before school. MMS band members participate in Solo/Ensemble Festival and the ND JH All State Band Festival. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the International Music Camp, and Mandan Middle School has been consistently named in the “Top 10 Club”. Sara Baumann, Brandon Bondley, Whitney Naas, and Stephanie Frank serve as instrumental faculty for the Mandan Middle School Band program.

Brandon Bondley is currently teaching band at Mandan Middle School. Prior to his current position, he served as Director of Bands at Jamestown High School from 2012-2020, where he led the Concert Bands, Jazz Ensemble, Marching Band and Pep Band. From 2009-2012, he taught elementary music and beginning band in Bismarck, primarily at Northridge Elementary School. Bondley serves as the Secretary for NDNBA and is a member of Phi Beta Mu and NAFME. He was awarded the NDNBA Allegro Band Award in 2015. Bondley has adjudicated elementary, middle school and high school level festivals (solo, ensemble and large group) in North Dakota. Bondley received his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from North Dakota State University (Fargo) in May 2009. At NDSU, he studied trumpet with Dr. Neil Mueller and Dr. Jeremy Brekke. He received his Master of Arts degree in Band Conducting from the American Band College of Sam Houston State University in 2016.

Saxophone

Maceo Varriano
Ilyana Vasquez
Jaxten Stai
Piper Sanford

Trombone

Evan Muth
Dominick Ormonde
Jacob Schanandore
Eva Benz
GareA Dakken
Bryce Smith
Wyatt Schafer

Trumpet

Caleb Jockers
Nolan Berger
Wesley Heiple
Jackson Moch
ScarleA Duerre
Kyra Stockwell
Chaske Chase

Rhythm Section

Joseph Parsons
William Boyd
Eli Geiger
Jackson Brown
Cameron Kroh
Landon Forman

Mandan Middle School “Mandan” Jazz Band

Sara Baumann, director

Mandan, ND

The Mandan Middle School Band Program is comprised of over 380 students from grades 6, 7, and 8. Students begin band in 6th grade with like-instrument classes. The 7th and 8th grade bands continue in a full-band setting each day with students having a like instrument sectional once per week. MMS bands perform throughout the year in concerts, parades, and festivals. Students in grades 7 and 8 participate in the auditioned jazz ensembles which rehearse 2 mornings per week plus sectionals before school. MMS band members participate in Solo/Ensemble Festival and the ND JH All State Band Festival. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the International Music Camp, and Mandan Middle School has been consistently named in the “Top 10 Club”. Sara Baumann, Brandon Bondley, Whitney Naas, and Stephanie Frank serve as instrumental faculty for the Mandan Middle School Band program.

Sara Baumann is a graduate of North Dakota State University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education. She completed a master’s degree in Conducting from the American Band College at Southern Oregon University. Mrs. Baumann is currently in her 23rd year as director of bands at Mandan Middle School in Mandan, ND. Under her direction, Mandan Middle School Bands have consistently earned superior ratings in all areas of performance including concert band, jazz band, and solo and ensemble festivals. Her students often represent the largest number of students from any one school in the Junior High All State Band. The Mandan Middle School Band has been selected twice to be a featured performing group at the North Dakota Music Educators In-Service Conference.

Saxophone

Tate Johnson
Crosby Krein
Fiona Jennings
Lukas Howard
Shae Azad
Avery Kinev
Finnley Moon
Veronica Mattson

Trumpet

Ian Keller
Joss Fraser
Drake Schoellkopf
Hunter Erhardt
Brynn Hoovestol

Trombone

Zander Lynch
Isobel Rayda
Abel Backes
Avery Miller
Beckham Zachmeier
Hadley Stone
Violet Bieri

Rhythm Section

Serafima Kazakova
Tyler Dutenhafer
MaAheW Christen
Evelyn Johnson
Bohde Zachmeier
Landon Blair

Mandan High School Jazz Ensemble I

Jon Baumann, director

Mandan, ND

Mandan High School is located on the Missouri River in Mandan, North Dakota. The enrollment is 1200 students with over 400 participating in the music program, which consists of three concert bands, three jazz ensembles, marching band, three concert choirs, and swing choir. Many students participate in more than one performance ensemble. Students in the Mandan band program are auditioned and placed into one of three Jazz bands with Jazz Ensemble I being the top performing Jazz Ensemble. Students in Jazz Ensemble I take private lessons, perform at North Dakota High School Activities Association Solo and Ensemble events, organize and manage the Big Muddy Band Festival, and participate in the North Dakota All-State music ensembles. Guest performers with Mandan bands have included: the Dallas Brass, the Hornheads, Wayne Bergeron, Mike Davis, Bill Watrous, Dennis Diblasio, Adam Meckler, Frank Catalano and Steve Weist.

Jon Baumann, a native of Bismarck, ND, attended St. Mary's Central High School where he was a student of Bill Schmidt. Upon graduation he earned his undergraduate degree in Music Education at the University of Mary. In 2003, Mr. Baumann earned a Master's Degree from the American Band College at Southern Oregon University. He began his teaching career as the Band Director at Tri-Catholic Middle School. He then became the Director of Bands at Bismarck High School. He is currently in his 13th year as Director of Bands at Mandan High School. His responsibilities include directing concert bands, jazz band, and marching band. Mr. Baumann's students consistently are selected for the ND All State Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra. His students earn top awards at regional solo and ensemble festivals and jazz festivals.

Saxophone

Cassandra Bauer
Jared Christen
Emilee Lennie
Hudson Roberts
Saige Warner

Trombone

Jacob Baumann
Jacob Grasl
Hayden Krusi
Annika Orthmeyer
Zoe Peterson

Trumpet

Parker Barnick
Colton Friesz
Bennett Graff
Kyler Reile
Zachary Schanadore

Rhythm Section

Karter Hatzenbuhler
Briston Friesz
Nia Lee
Emma Mosbrucker
Christian Skjod
Austin Wetsch

Mandan High School Jazz Ensemble II

Shawn Boehm, director

Mandan, ND

Mandan High School is located on the Missouri River in Mandan, North Dakota. The enrollment is 1200 students with over 400 participating in the music program, which consists of three concert bands, three jazz ensembles, marching band, three concert choirs, and swing choir. Many students participate in more than one performance ensemble. Students in the Mandan band program are auditioned and placed into one of three Jazz bands with Jazz Ensemble I being the top performing Jazz Ensemble. Students in Jazz Ensemble I take private lessons, perform at North Dakota High School Activities Association Solo and Ensemble events, organize and manage the Big Muddy Band Festival, and participate in the North Dakota All-State music ensembles. Guest performers with Mandan bands have included: the Dallas Brass, the Hornheads, Wayne Bergeron, Mike Davis, Bill Watrous, Dennis Diblasio, Adam Meckler, Frank Catalano and Steve Weist.

Shawn Boehm is a native of Mandan, ND and graduate of Mandan High School. Following high school, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Mary in vocal/instrumental music and in 2005, received a Masters of Conducting degree from Southern Oregon University/American Band College. After 10 years of teaching vocal/instrumental music in Class B Schools, Mr. Boehm has been a part of the Mandan High School Band Program directing Pep Band, Musical Pit-Orchestra, Concert Band II, III and Jazz II, III and assistant director of the Marching Braves for the past 25 years. Currently, Shawn directs and plays lead trumpet in Big Al's Big Band in Bismarck and performs with the BisMan little BIG Band as well. He also is part of the BisMan Wind Ensemble which performs at the ND JH All-State Band Concert in March. Shawn's favorite activities are playing tennis, skiing, golfing and spending time with wife Lynn and their 4 dogs. Shawn is a member of NEA, MEA, NBA, and NAFME.

Saxophone

Andrew Bierman, alto
Kylie Aune, alto
Rafael Figueroa-Nieves, tenor
Ellie Geiger, tenor
Braelyn Bauer, tenor
Caden Wondra, baritone

Trombone

Sam Azad
Landyn Nelson
Haley Penor
Madelyn Eels
Brayden Geir
Yeindhy Torres Ramirez
Nathaniel Rodriguez

Trumpet

Scott Marsh
Robert Martin
Ashtyn Miller
Judah Moon
Bryan Plaza
Gonzalez
Ava Rerick

Rhythm Section

Logan Kolosky, guitar
Addyson Flory, bass
Austin Arne, piano/vibraphone
Varvara Kazakova, piano/vibraphone
Riley Miller, trap set

Mandan High School Jazz Ensemble III

Shawn Boehm, director

Mandan, ND

Mandan High School is located on the Missouri River in Mandan, North Dakota. The enrollment is 1200 students with over 400 participating in the music program, which consists of three concert bands, three jazz ensembles, marching band, three concert choirs, and swing choir. Many students participate in more than one performance ensemble. Students in the Mandan band program are auditioned and placed into one of three Jazz bands with Jazz Ensemble I being the top performing Jazz Ensemble. Students in Jazz Ensemble I take private lessons, perform at North Dakota High School Activities Association Solo and Ensemble events, organize and manage the Big Muddy Band Festival, and participate in the North Dakota All-State music ensembles. Guest performers with Mandan bands have included: the Dallas Brass, the Hornheads, Wayne Bergeron, Mike Davis, Bill Watrous, Dennis Diblasio, Adam Meckler, Frank Catalano and Steve Weist.

Shawn Boehm is a native of Mandan, ND and graduate of Mandan High School. Following high school, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Mary in vocal/instrumental music and in 2005, received a Masters of Conducting degree from Southern Oregon University/American Band College. After 10 years of teaching vocal/instrumental music in Class B Schools, Mr. Boehm has been a part of the Mandan High School Band Program directing Pep Band, Musical Pit-Orchestra, Concert Band II, III and Jazz II, III and assistant director of the Marching Braves for the past 25 years. Currently, Shawn directs and plays lead trumpet in Big Al's Big Band in Bismarck and performs with the BisMan little BIG Band as well. He also is part of the BisMan Wind Ensemble which performs at the ND JH All-State Band Concert in March. Shawn's favorite activities are playing tennis, skiing, golfing and spending time with wife Lynn and their 4 dogs. Shawn is a member of NEA, MEA, NBA, and NAFME.

Saxophone

Annika Peterson, alto
Austin Helbling, alto
Maci Lanz, alto
Hannah Nelson, alto
Caleb Backes, tenor
Molli Lanz, tenor
Brynn Oothoudt, tenor
Gemma Viloria, baritone

Trombone

Lily Bradford
Caleb Kimmel
Rayann Knoll
Regan Lagasse
Lilly Stone
Corbin Torsell

Trumpet

Lucas Entzel
Alex Erhardt
Annaleise Iszler
Sophia McCann
Jacob Mosbrucker
Dmitri Niculita
Gavin Voth

Rhythm Section

Laila Chadwick, bass
Logan Kolasky, bass
Varvara Kazakova, piano
Chandler Berger, trap
set/vibraphone

Minot High School Jazz Ensemble I

Evan Meiers, director

Minot, ND

Evan Meiers received his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Minot State University in 2009. He also has a Masters of Music Education degree from Northern State University. Mr. Meiers is currently the Director of Bands for Minot High School in Minot, ND. He is also the director for the Magi Drumline in Minot, ND and directs the Drumline at the International Music Camp located in the International Peace Gardens. In 2014 the Stanley High School band (under the direction of Meiers) received the North Dakota Governor's Band award. In 2023 Mr. Meiers received the "Instructional Performance Award" at Minot Public Schools. Meiers is an avid performer of the percussion arts in and around the Minot area. He also farms with his wife Erin and three daughters, Emery, Eila, and Eilsey.

Saxophone

Lucas Dunklee, alto
Aidyn Hanselman, alto
Xylia Michels, alto
Kiera Torgeson, alto
Orion Bennett, tenor
Michael Zepeda, tenor
Kowyn Meigs, baritone

Trombone

Leif Allen
Caleb Buynak
Gavin Youngblood
Landin Wyum

Trumpet

Gabe Burton
Ethan Dangel
Thomas Griffith
Landon Taylor

Rhythm Section

Kjell Andersen, piano
Cooper Fjeld, bass
Tyler Croxall, drums
Jack Loard, guitar
Levi Vitko, drums

Minot High School Jazz Ensemble II

Evan Meiers, director

Minot, ND

Evan Meiers received his Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from Minot State University in 2009. He also has a Masters of Music Education degree from Northern State University. Mr. Meiers is currently the Director of Bands for Minot High School in Minot, ND. He is also the director for the Magi Drumline in Minot, ND and directs the Drumline at the International Music Camp located in the International Peace Gardens. In 2014 the Stanley High School band (under the direction of Meiers) received the North Dakota Governor's Band award. In 2023 Mr. Meiers received the "Instructional Performance Award" at Minot Public Schools. Meiers is an avid performer of the percussion arts in and around the Minot area. He also farms with his wife Erin and three daughters, Emery, Eila, and Eilsey.

Saxophone

Cayley Gibbons, alto
Kaylee Jackson, alto
Roen Werner, alto
Danica Zerr, alto
Landin Bonsness, tenor
Aleah Rude, tenor
Kia Torgeson, tenor
David Main, baritone

Trombone

Aleah Gibbons
Bryce Gibbons
Mark Parton

Trumpet

Myles Mittleider
Jasper Nelson
Kemper Ottmar
Jason Shappell
Asher Waters

Rhythm Section

Waden Edin, piano
Jovie Rafferty, guitar
Alethia Bloom, bass Guitar
Yari Klimpel, bass Guitar
Anna Kerzmann, drums
Connor Ressler, drums

Minot North High School Jazz Ensemble

Jeremy Meinert, director

Minot, ND

Minot North High School (new this year) has two bands and two jazz bands. While no auditions were held this year for the jazz bands, they will be auditioned in the future. All MNHS band students are required to participate in the pep band for football, basketball and marching band in two parades each year. The program offers opportunities to participate in festivals and honor groups throughout the state.

Jeremy Meinert is Director of Bands at Minot North High School and Assistant Director at Erik Ramstad Middle School in Minot, North Dakota. This year is the first year of the band program at MNHS and Meinert's first year as MNHS Director of Bands. In 2023 he was Associate director at Minot High School and Erik Ramstad Middle School. Prior to last year, he was Director of Bands at Erik Ramstad Middle School from 2013 to 2023. Before that, he taught K-12 Music at TGU in Granville, ND from 2009 to 2013. He still likes to perform with Swing Band of Minot, The Minot Community Band and the Minot Symphony Orchestra when available. As a graduate of NDSU, Meinert looks forward to being back on campus and having his students experience the NDSU Jazz Festival.

Saxophone

Cooper Chick
John Clark
Asa Garver
Maximus Geathers
Avery Hamilton
Codey Irwin
Diego Juarez
Nevaeh Lowery
Andrew Miller
Ellie Schaefer

Trombone

Parker Armes
Lenon Edwards
Carson Nadeau
RayAlan Schnieber

Trumpet

Emma DeVries
Moses Ellis
Paul Haman
Grayson Hannegrefs
Gavin Lynch
Miguel Martinez
Harrison Schaefer
Easton Rawls

Rhythm Section

Adyson Dahlgren
Nicholas Debowey
Kaidra Freebury
JJ Isza
Hailey Kennedy
Bella Lockrem
Benjamin Olsen
Teague Peterson
Ryan Walker

Moorhead High School Jazz Band

Pam Redlinger, director

Moorhead, MN

The Moorhead High School Jazz Band was re-established in 2010. It is an extracurricular group made up of students in grades 9-12. The band enjoys traveling to regional festivals as well as performing at Moorhead High School concerts and other local events. Moorhead High School just opened Phase I of a new, multi-million dollar facility. The music department looks forward to leaving the current, temporary spaces for a state of the art fine arts wing and auditorium sometime during 2025-2026 school year.

Pam Redlinger has been teaching since 2003, primarily as a band director in the Moorhead Public Schools. Redlinger oversees the Moorhead High School Band Program. She directs three concert bands, a jazz band, the pep band, and a non competitive street marching band. Redlinger graduated from South Dakota State University with a Bachelor's of Music Education in 2003. She earned a Master's Degree in Music in 2006 through the American Band College, which took place on the campus of Southern Oregon University. Redlinger lives with her husband and two kids in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Saxophone

Fi Kjos, alto
Jordan Klemetson, alto
Jonah Paul, alto
Kierstin Windingland, alto
Jackson Anderson, tenor
Cailey Rouse, tenor
Chris Johnson, baritone

Trombone

Ian Artley
Jericho Menge
Ross Myxter
Ella Perrine
Simon Wanzek

Trumpet

Ethan Burtsfield
Olivia Lundberg
Gavin Voit
Keegan Werre
Brendan Whittaker
Brittany Windingland

Rhythm Section

Elliot Lien, guitar
Kennadie Berg, piano/mallets
Claire Haberman, piano/mallets
Carter Reburn, piano/mallets
Lucy Noonan, bass
Leland Bjornson, dums/aux
Quade Brown, drums/aux
Elliot Lien, drums/aux

Sheyenne High School Jazz Ensemble II

Kennedy Stromberg, director

West Fargo, ND

The West Fargo Sheyenne High School band department has three curricular bands, two jazz bands, as well as a drumline and pep band. The Jazz II Ensemble serves as a welcoming non-auditioned group for any instrumentalist to join. Jazz II is an extra-curricular ensemble and meets on Tuesdays and Thursday from 7:30am-8:10am throughout the school year. The NDSU Jazz Festival is the group's only festival for the year, and we look forward to listening to all the other jazz bands performing!

Originally from Buffalo, Minnesota, Kennedy Stromberg is a December 2024 graduate of Concordia College Moorhead. Kennedy graduated with a degree in Instrumental Music Education and student taught at West Fargo Sheyenne High School with James Landman. She continues to teach jazz at Sheyenne and is a long-term substitute for choir at Heritage Middle School.

Ms. Stromberg has worked as a woodwind technician and honor guard director for the Bemidji Marching Band. She will be directing 6-12th grade band in Benson, MN beginning the 2025-2026 school year. Her primary instruments are flute and bass.

Saxophone

Kyle Hodnefield, alto
Bailey Bobb, alto
Eli Lemar, alto
Samuel Tooley, alto
Kaylee Rolla, tenor
Mickey Wenger-Richter, tenor
Cecelia Kebulu, tenor
Crosby Helland, baritone

Flute

Sophie Vaagen

Clarinet

Holly DuVan
Morgan Foss
Addison Gefroh
Eden Guy

Tuba

Thomas Ripplinger
Jaylin Volk

Trumpet

Dakota Fenroy-Eaden
Jonah Follingstad
Catherine Greenley
Reed Mapes
Evan Jorissen

Baritone

Wyatt Coleman

Rhythm Section

Shreyas Chavour, piano
Kenzie Wu, bass
Ezra Dobrinz, percussion
Skylar Fenroy-Eaden, percussion

West Fargo High School Jazz Ensemble

Dan Christianson, director
Sue Jordahl, substitute director
West Fargo, ND

In addition to three concert bands, the West Fargo High School band program has two extra-curricular jazz bands. The Jazz Ensemble is an auditioned group consisting of traditional big band personnel. They rehearse Tuesdays and Fridays from 7:45am-8:15am. The Jazz band is a non-auditioned group consisting of any and all instruments. The band rehearses Mondays and Tuesdays from 7:45am- 8:15am. Outside of band the West Fargo High School music program offers two choral groups, one extra curricular Madrigal group, three orchestras, and guitar methods classes.

Dan Christianson holds his undergraduate degree in music education from MSUM Moorhead and most recently received his Masters in Instrumental Music Education from American Band College. In his previous assignment in Moorhead, Dan helped grow program numbers considerably. He initiated the 5th grade band program and brought in many guest artists including The Dallas Brass, Charles Lazurus, Keith Hanlon, The International Sax Quartet, The McNasty Brass Band and many others. In 2020, Horizon Middle School won a grant to commission a piece of music. In the spring of 2021, the eighth grade band premiered "Clay County Overture" by Darryl Johnson II.

Saxophone

Jonah Svenby, alto
Alex Pagan, alto
Noah Mutzenberger, tenor
Alysson Wanner, tenor
Dan Althoff, tenor
Spencer Morgel, baritone

Trombone

Aidan Swenson
Jaxon Schneider
Nathaneal Murphy
Wesley Nephew

Trumpet

Joey Klemetson
Oliver Lemke
Levi Peltier
Demetri Johnson
Eli Hunt
Berny Anjah

Rhythm Section

Macy Purdy, piano
Miriam Harvala, piano
Jacob Peterson, guitar
Siena Newland, bass
Callum D'Camp, drumset/aux/mallets
AJ Butts, drumset/aux/mallets

Willmar High School Jazz Ensemble

Todd Blaser, director

Willmar, MN

The community of Willmar has strong agricultural roots alongside a diverse population. Willmar Senior High School boasts students from 18 different countries creating a melting pot of various cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds. Willmar District 347 is the 8th most diverse school system in the state of Minnesota.

WHS offers a rich curriculum of musical offerings including three concert bands, musical pit orchestra, jazz ensembles, various small seasonal ensembles, pep band and AP Music Theory. All band members perform in at least 4 concert band concerts, about a dozen pep band performances, and at least one section or conference contest or festival. Junior and senior band, choir, and orchestra members tour every other year. Recent trips included performances and travel to Puerto Rico, California, Florida, Mexico, Hawaii, Washington DC, and New York.

The WHS jazz ensemble has been selected to perform at the Minnesota Music Educators' Association Mid-Winter In-Service in Minneapolis on Friday, February 14th. On March 13, WHS will be hosting the 2nd annual Willmar Jazz Festival with members of the Jason Minke combo serving as clinicians. The festival hosts 12 junior and high school jazz ensembles.

Todd Blaser teaches the Concert Band, Varsity Band, Cardinal Band, Jazz Band and jazz combos, Pep Bands, instrumental lessons, solos and ensembles, and directs the pit for the fall musical. He also teaches AP Music Theory, serves as music department chair, and is on the WHS continuous school improvement team.

In 2006 Todd was inducted into the band director fraternity Phi Beta Mu by Tom Haugen and Butch Dufault. He maintains an active judging schedule working with marching bands, concert bands, jazz ensembles, and other festivals throughout the midwest. Todd is on the MBDA board of directors and currently serves as the honor band audition coordinator. He is an active member of MBDA, MMEA, NAFME, and the Phantom Regiment Alumni Association.

Saxophone

Miguel Garcia, alto/tenor
Danny Martinez, alto
Ryan Newberg, tenor
Sam Oswood, tenor/bass clarinet
David Lammers, tenor/clarinet
Jaiden Fredrickson, bari/flute
Jaret Brakken, bari

Trombone

Luke McCleary
Jorge Gomez Castro
Jack Holm
Ian Ziehl

Trumpet

Timothy Halvorson
Jared Barrera
Jackson Gatewood
HarleyAnn Passa
Bryce Peterson
Bazel Standfuss

Rhythm Section

Evan Wallestad, drums
Abram Schueler, drums
Anthony Buzzeo, drums
Hailey Jurgenson, piano
Brandon Araujo, bass
Sophia Haase, guitar

Tuba

Tristan Boehme

NDSU

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