

FEBRUARY 2024 | ISSUE 15

# KEEPING ON BEAT

Official newsletter of SEMS Music Program Boosters



8th Grade Band Musicians and Members of Advanced Choir at the Disneyland Imagination Sound Studio



## **SPRING** *accelerando* **<<< MONTH IN REVIEW**

The Music Department started the Spring Accelerando strong with the 8th Grade Band students and the Advanced Choir participating in the Disney Imagination Campus Performing Arts Workshops Soundtrack Sessions. During these workshops, our musicians sight-read music and worked directly with industry professionals to create a truly magical ensemble piece. The experience culminated with a screening of their recorded work set to Disney film footage. The musicians got to spend the evening in Disneyland blowing off steam and bonding. We are so excited to be able to offer this wonderful experience year after year.

Over the first weekend in February the Music Program was proud to host the Solo and Ensemble Festival on the SEMS Campus. Over 125 musicians from SEMS, Double Peak, and SMHS showcased their talents in over 100 adjudicated solo or ensemble performances. Over 30 parent volunteers helped the day run smoothly as we welcomed the musicians and their families to the SEMS Campus. Student volunteers also helped throughout the day setting up for the event, running judge sheets to the awards table, and arranging instruments for each performance in the school's three different performance venues. It was an incredible day for the Music Program and a great testament to the support and encouragement our musicians receive from their community. A highlight video of the festival can be found [here](#).

### **FEBRUARY**

**Wednesday 21st**  
Concert Band  
Pre-Festival  
at Mission Hills HS  
6pm-7:30pm

**Thursday 22nd**  
Golden Eagle  
Band Pre-Festival  
at Mission Hills HS  
6:30pm to 8pm

**Friday 23rd**  
Wind Symphony  
Pre-Festival  
at Mission Hills HS  
5:30pm to 7pm

**Thursday 29th**  
Golden Eagle Band to  
El Camino Festival High  
School Festival in  
Oceanside



An Ensemble Prepares for Their Performance at the Solo & Ensemble Festival

# SPRING *accelerando*

## LOOKING AHEAD >>>

Over the next month our musicians will be preparing to share their talents at festivals and competitions throughout Southern California.

### **Pre-Festival Performances at Mission Hills High School (All Upper Bands)**

These pre-festivals take place in the evening and are an opportunity for our musicians to show off their hard work in a supportive environment and received feedback on their performances prior to taking their pieces to the competition festivals. The Concert Band will be the first group of musicians to kick things off at Mission Hills High School where judges, hired by the district's music programs, will review each piece and will recommend improvements. The next two days will include performances from the Golden Eagle Band and Wind Symphony. The concerts are free and families are more than welcome to come watch. Please review the calendar in the right hand column of the newsletter and look out for emails from the Directors with additional details.

### **El Camino Band Festival (Golden Eagle Band) - Thursday, February 29th**

Our very own Golden Eagle Band will be the first to kick off competition season at the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association festival hosted by El Camino High School. Our musicians will be adjudicated on three prepared pieces of music and sight-read for a rating. This type of event is part of the state and national standards for music education and gives students the experience of putting their music knowledge to the test outside of the regular school day.

### **Cal State Fullerton Music Festival (Wind Symphony) - Friday, March 1st**

The Cal State Fullerton Music Festival is a two day Band Festival in which our students will perform 3 prepared pieces for college music professors. After the performance, students attend a clinic led by one of the professors in a full band setting. The day is filled with high level performances and our

## MARCH

### Friday 1st

Wind Symphony to Cal State Fullerton Festival  
*School Day Field Trip*  
7am - 9pm

### Wednesday 6th

Booster Meeting  
SEMS PAC 6pm  
*All Are Welcome!*

### Saturday 9th

Wind Symphony  
San Diego Winds  
Composer Festival  
at Mission Hills HS  
8:15am to 10:30am

### Wednesday 13th

ALL JAZZ BANDS  
Double Peak School  
Jazz Festival  
*Partial Day Field Trip*  
1pm to 6pm  
*Students Need to be Picked Up from Double Peak!*

### Friday 15th

Beginning Band and  
Choir Coffee Concerts  
*Student's Adults Come to SEMS PAC During Class Period*

### Wednesday 20th

Concert Band to  
SCSBOA Festival in  
San Juan Capistrano  
*School Day Field Trip*  
8am - 4pm

students have the chance to hear college level bands play. Our Wind Symphony is one of only two middle school groups that attend the festival comprised of mostly high school bands. It is a great chance to immerse our students in a day of music at the highest level.

### **San Diego Winds Composer Festival**

(Wind Symphony) Saturday, March 9th

San Diego Winds wanted to create a festival where students were able to not only perform high quality music but do work on that music with the composers themselves and world class conductors. This year they are excited to announce the featured composer is Michael Markowski. San Elijo Middle School will be entering the festival as a “Standard Group” who will perform their selections and receive an inspiring on-stage clinic. It is an amazing opportunity for our musicians. Saturday evening there will be a Concert at the Mission Hills High School Theater (limited spots available). Click [here](#) for more information on the Festival.

### **Double Peak Jazz Festival (All Jazz Bands) Wednesday, March 13th**

Our three amazing Jazz Bands have their opportunity to perform at a festival Double Peak School created specifically for Jazz Bands. Jazz Band Musicians will leave school midday and head over the hill to perform their prepared pieces. Throughout the afternoon all three bands will preform as they support each other during their down time. Parents can pick up their musicians from Double Peak School when their child is done performing or at the end of the Festival around 5:30pm.

### **Coffee Concerts (All Beginning Band/Beginning Choir) Friday, March 15th**

Now it's the Beginning Band's chance to show their families everything they learned since the Turkey Concerts. During the Coffee Concerts, family members will be able to sit next to their musicians and attend a class session with them. Following their class session, the musicians and their families will be treated to coffee and donuts hosted by the Music Program Boosters. There will also be an opportunity to take a family picture with your musician and their instrument in front the the Music Program backdrop to commemorate the event. It is truly unique and wonderful experience.

## **MARCH**

*(continued)*

### **Thursday 21st**

GIG Jazz to Preform  
at La Costa Meadows  
Open House  
5pm - 7pm *(tent.)*

### **Friday 22nd**

Advanced Choir to Sing  
at La Costa Meadows  
Morning Flag Salute  
*Partial Day Field Trip*  
*Time TBD*

### **Spring Break**

March 25th to  
March 29th

## **APRIL**

### **Wednesday 3rd**

Booster Meeting  
SEMS PAC 6pm  
All Are Welcome!

### **Thursday 4th**

Gig Jazz Perform at  
5th Grade Parents Night  
5-5:30pm

## **Social Media**

Facebook:

SEMS Music Program

Instagram:

SEMSMusicOffical

Mrs. Homes: @mskofmusic

Mrs. McInnis: @mcinnismusic

Click [here](#) to get in contact with the  
SEMS Music Program Boosters

## **SEMS MUSIC PROGRAM BOOSTERS**

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