



January 6, 2020

Greetings from Morningside!

I am excited to invite you and your bands to the Middle School Jazz Day @ Morningside to be held Friday, March 20, 2020. Last year was the first in this current format and it was deemed successful. It was great to hear so many young jazz musicians.

Many of you are familiar with our high school festival, now in its 48th year! We are proud to offer a similar experience for younger jazz musicians in the region. Each group will have the opportunity to perform in front of a live audience in beautiful Eppley Auditorium, as well as receive a clinic from top-notch educators and performers. One of the most important aspects of learning jazz (and indeed all types of music) is listening: students will be able to hear other middle school bands, as well as the Morningside Jazz Ensemble. This will be a positive experience for all involved.

Middle School Jazz Day @ Morningside is a competitive event with awards given out to the top three groups. Of course, we are more than happy to welcome groups 'for comments only.' I want to stress that this is an educational and positive experience. In addition to a live clinic, directors will receive a packet with written and recorded comments from the clinicians/adjudicators and a clean audio CD of their band's performance. Outstanding soloist and musicianship awards will be awarded to deserving students as determined by the clinicians.

Accompanying this letter is information regarding registration, deadlines, fees, and guidelines. Do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. More specifics will be communicated once I know roughly how many bands will be participating. I am looking forward to seeing many familiar faces and hearing your bands in March.

Jazz and jazz education continue to be a strong force in Siouland at all levels; we look forward to welcoming you to Morningside!

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