



# WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

West Senior High School • 3330 Seneca Street • West Seneca, New York 14224-2799

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Matthew J. Bystrak  
Superintendent of Schools

John S. Brinker  
Principal

January 10, 2019

Dear Student Musician:

Congratulations on being selected to perform as a member of the 2019 ECMEA Senior High "B" Jazz Ensemble! This ensemble is comprised of the top Jazz students from across Erie County, and should provide an excellent learning experience for all involved.

Your conductor will be Mr. Russell Owens. Mr. Owens recently retired as Director of Instrumental Music from St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, in Buffalo NY. During his forty- four years of teaching his ensembles participated in many of the top high school jazz festivals throughout the U.S., winning the Berklee College of Music Jazz festival in Boston, the national Down Beat magazine student recording competition in the combo division and the Central New York Jazz Arts Foundation Jazz festival in Syracuse NY.

Mr. Owens has selected a challenging repertoire of music on a high level. It is extremely important that you practice this music ahead of time, and arrive at the rehearsal prepared to play! Our limited rehearsal time requires your advanced preparation to insure a successful concert. Be sure to go over your music with your teachers!!!

Along with advanced practice, it is also important for all musicians to have their equipment at the rehearsals. Guitar and bass players should have their own amplifiers and cords. Please also bring EXTENSION CORDS to plug in your amplifiers. The drummer must bring his own drum set. All brass players must bring their own mutes, as required in the music. Amps, cords, percussion equipment, etc. will NOT be provided! All musicians should bring a pencil to the rehearsal!

**CONCERT DRESS:** Please wear all black – Gentlemen: black dress pants and black shirt with long sleeves and a collar (no tee-shirts), with black shoes and socks. Ladies may wear the same or a black skirt and blouse or black dress.

I am looking forward to a great concert. Mr. Owens is a fantastic musician and teacher, and I know you will all have fun and learn a great deal from working with him! Please take your advanced preparation seriously – remember that you are representing your schools, as well as JAZZ: America's Classical Music!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Sincerely,

John Hasselback, Jr.  
Chairperson – ECMEA Senior High "A" and "B" Jazz Ensemble  
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