

Saratoga Music Boosters works with the Saratoga Union School District (SUSD) and Saratoga High School (SHS) to provide music programs and clinics for students in grades 5 through 12. Over the 2022-23 fiscal year, Saratoga Music Boosters supported the following Saratoga High School music programs and its students:

Band (151 students including Marching and Concert Band), Jazz Band (48 students), Color Guard (25 students), Winter Guard (26 students), Winter Percussion (48 students), Orchestra (153 students), and Choir (37 students).

The music programs at the high school participated in several events and reached a level of accomplishment and recognition for which SMB is truly proud to be a booster for SHS' music education:

All of the strings, bands, choir students performed in their yearly and much loved SHS winter and end of year concerts. Finished with excellent results in the CMEA Festival. As well as participated in a two week Summer Central Europe Music Festival Tour traveling to Austria, Slovenia and Czech Republic.

The Saratoga Foothill Club enjoyed a performance offered by the SHS Jazz Band and now they wish this to repeat. The Jazz band also participated in their SHS end of year concert.

Marching band and color guard performed during football half-time at home games as well as competed in several events throughout the year.

Winter guard and winter percussion also competed in several events and performed for their SHS senior night.

Summary of events and achievements recorded for the 2022-2023 academic year for each music program:

**Choir** benefitted much from music clinics and trips:

- 4 students went to work with the San Jose State Quartet under the direction of Scott Gilson from Cal Poly and performed in the festival
- 7 students participated in the regional honor choir
- Professor Lou De La Rosa from West Valley College worked with students
- 7 students participated in all-state auditions, 4 of them qualified for CASMEC All-State held in February to rehearse and perform with the country's top conductors
- Attended the Coastal Region Honor Choir Concert in the Performing Arts of San Luis Obispo
- Attended the West Valley College Invitational Choral Festival
- Attended the SJSU Choral Invitational where they worked with an adjudicator.
- Participated in CMEA attaining the highest recognition for their performance level
- Attended California Theatre in San Jose to see 'Falstaff' by Verdi

**Jazz band** attended the Lincoln Center at Stanford where the last series of concerts featured band, small band, and jazz band where the latter incorporated amazing pieces by Tony Glausi.

**Marching band and Color guard** trips and achievements:

- The marching band took second place and color guard took first place in the MBCG Competition: Cupertino TOB
- Traveled to Sacramento State University for the WBA NorCal Super Show. This competition is a "regional championship" for California, with a highly competitive group of bands. Competing against 20 bands (many of the schools' overall student populations are at least twice the size as SHS), Saratoga High School placed 4th. Other notable successes include 2nd place in the Visual Performance Caption as well as 3rd place in the Percussion Caption.
- At the CCGC Competition at Fremont they placed second.
- 4 students ended up traveling to Indianapolis to participate in the all national honor band. The guest conductor was Dr. Mallory Thompson.
- Amo brass quintet offered clinics with students and offered a master concert.
- 13 students qualified for CASMEC All-State held in Fresno to rehearse and perform with the country's top conductors.

**Winter Percussion and Winter Guard** both had a wonderful season:

Winter percussion has grown to be so popular two groups have been created: Winter Percussion Open (WP O) and Winter Percussion. Winter Percussion A (WP A) being the novice group.

- WP A and WP O Performed at James Logan HS where WP A offered their best performance and WP O earned first place.
- WP A and WP O went to NCPA Show 2 American at Canyon High School where WP O earned first place with a higher score than last year's end of year championship.
- Although WPA came last in their final competition they certainly ended the year at their highest score as a team.
- Winter Guard set off on their Mini-Tour in SoCal finishing 2nd. Ending the tour with a dance master class
- WP O and Winter Guard competed at the CCGC Competitions at Independence HS. Winter Guard earned second place

**Orchestra's** year in review:

- Held a two day Orchestra retreat
- Participated in the Homestead Orchestra Festival.
- 9 students qualified for CASMEC All-State held in Fresno to rehearse and perform with the country's top conductors.
- Our highest Orchestra Ensemble Saratoga Strings led our program to the point of receiving an invitation to perform at the 77<sup>th</sup> Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago this coming December, 2023.

Saratoga Music Boosters is proud to report a slight uptick in music student enrollment at Redwood Middle School (RMS) even though general school enrollment is on the decline.

The numbers are as follows:

5th grade instrumental: 135 (this includes all three elementary schools Saratoga, Foothill and Argonaut)

RMS Bands (Woodwind, Brass, Percussion): 163

RMS Choir: 38

RMS Orchestra: 172

Percussion Fundamentals (after-school):14

Just as in the high schools there may have been students participating in multiple programs. Orchestra has grown significantly year thanks to the efforts of SUSD and the music directors to offer orchestra during the school day for 5th graders as opposed to after school enrichment.

All the RMS music programs also have had events and performances held throughout the year with achievements to be proud of too:

- Performed in their Winter and Summer concerts
- Benefited from clinicians for sectional work throughout the year such as:
  - Tracey Hurley (trumpet) and Tennessee O'Hanlon (clarinet)
- Having clinicians come does help to offer individual attention to those that need more help.
- Redwood sent 4 ensembles to participate in the CMEA festival hosted by SHS. This was the first festival experience for the majority of our students.
- Bass students attended the San Francisco 2023 Winter Bass Bash
- 9 RMS students qualified to participate in CASMEC All-state
- RMS came 4th in the ranking overall with the number of kids accepted to participate in all-state and one of the students managed to be concertmaster for one of the orchestras.
- A total of 188 students (band, orchestra & choir) traveled to Disney to attend workshops and hold performances.

5th grade is where the drive for music begins for SUSD students. They start the year with instrument trials where they will be fitted with one of their top two choices. When they receive their first instrument they are taught how to hold, care and assemble the instrument, as well as make their first sounds. They are obsessed with the little things like in the case of a wind instrument, hearing the click when inserting the valve. The excitement is palpable! Half way through the year the students switch their instruments between band and orchestra ensuring they will be able to decide, with this exposure, whether band and/or orchestra is a road they wish to continue onto to RMS.