

Hello students,

I hope you are enjoying your vacation this week. Thanks for your interest in the new modern rock band at LQHS. Here is a brief overview of what to expect. I'll try to address as many questions as I can for you:

**Curriculum:** This is a highly experimental class offering right now. That being said, I can't give you a very clear picture yet of what the class will be like. This will be my first time teaching the class, and therefore there will be a lot of learning as we go - both on your end, and on my end as the instructor. I know that we will be doing a lot of Jamming together to learn skills, some improvisation for those of you learning how to solo, and putting together some songs that we can actually go out and perform together. Expect to have fun, but don't expect me to have it all together yet, we will do a lot of learning together.

**Schedule:** Students will be enrolled in 7th Period "Jazz Band" that will meet on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS after school 3:00pm - 4:30pm in the BandRoom (301). I know the initial survey said Tuesday and Thursday, it was a mistake. The only requirement is attendance at class and a small number of performances there are no tests or in-class assessments. We will start meeting when we return back from Winter Break in January.

**Performances:** Having never done this before, and not knowing what we can realistically expect to put together for public performances, I can't say how many performances we will have. If the group learns pretty quick, I can put some things together really quick. If there is a smaller more advanced group we can assemble amongst you, ready to hit the streets and go play, that is an option too. Right now there is nothing on the calendar, but when we get to see what we can do, we will start adding some performance opportunities. I don't envision more than 2-3 commitments throughout the semester. But we can add more if we want to!

**Instruments:** There is a surprisingly LARGE number of you interested in the class so far (and that's awesome!). LQHS Will own 6 acoustic guitars, and 1 (maybe two) bass guitars for you to use. We will also own a few keyboards for you to use. We will definitely not have enough guitars for everyone. Because of the number of you interested, you are encouraged to bring your own guitars (acoustic or electric). There will be a place in the band room for you to store instruments if you'd like. We will have a couple of electric guitar amplifiers for your use during class, but that can only accommodate 3-4 players at a time. If you have a small amp you don't mind bringing (or keeping at LQHS) that's a good idea too. We will have two drum sets to use in class.

**What do I play?** Anything you want! While some of you will want to just stick to one instrument (or singing), the curriculum is based on most of the class learning guitar, with a few people on keyboard, bass, and drum set at a time. Most of the teaching will probably be guitar chords and strumming patterns. If you have a guitar in your hands you'll be pretty hands-on all the time, if you're wanting to play drums, you'll be probably waiting your turn a lot, as we will only have one or two drummers playing at a time. Bass players & keyboards will also get a lot of playing time, but we only have a few of those instruments available.

**"Little Kids Rock"** [www.littlekidsrock.org](http://www.littlekidsrock.org) - The teaching resources and curriculum come from a national movement for teaching modern band to K-12 students. The program started in the elementary schools in Los Angeles and New York about 15 years ago, and was called "Little Kids Rock." The name stuck, and they have expanded to older students (such as yourselves). So, while you will likely see "Little Kids Rock" on a lot of stuff - know that it's a company name that will likely see rebranding in the future, as more of these programs are entering the schools for grades 6-12. That being said - this stuff is do-able for beginners through experienced students. (And the videos online are adorable).

**The Jam Zone:** While we are not limited to songs on "The Jam Zone" - it is likely where we will get MOST of our stuff from. Check it out, it's free. This will give you an idea of some of the songs available for us to learn. The website is <http://jamzone.littlekidsrock.org/> Bookmark it, and come back to school with ideas on what you'd like to play. There are a lot of free resources for you on there as well if you are learning. You should definitely start checking this out!