



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2025

JANUARY 2025 | ISSUE 5

KEEPING ON BEAT

Official Newsletter of SEMS Music Program Boosters



December 2024 | House Jazz Band Performed at the Carrillo Elementary Festival of Lights

SEMS MUSIC

The SEMS Music Program had a very busy and successful first semester (see page 3 for fundraiser totals), with much more to look forward to this coming semester! From Disneyland to Knotts Berry Farm, our musicians are going to be sharing with the greater community their talents and everything they have worked on this past few months. Workshops in January, Solo & Ensemble Festival in February (see page 2 for details), competitions in March, and even more in April and May. Keep an eye on the calendar at semsband.com/calendar as festival and field trip dates will be here before we know it!

Note: Field trip forms will be distributed at the end of February. Festival fees are covered by SEMS Music Boosters, however, student families are asked to contribute to cover transportation fees. Advanced Golden Eagle Choir, Concert Band, Golden Eagle Band, and Wind Symphony students are strongly encouraged to participate in their respective festivals as performances are included in the SEMS music curriculum and participation will be reflected in student grades. Stay tuned for details.

To kick things off in 2025, this month 8th grade band and advanced choir students will be participating in Disney Imagination Campus performing arts workshop soundtrack sessions. During these workshops, students will sight-read music and work directly with industry professionals to create truly magical ensemble pieces. The experience culminates with a screening of their recorded work set to Disney film footage. This is a beloved and exciting experience that younger SEMS musicians and singers look forward to participating in during their 8th grade year.

Visit the SEMS Music Program calendar at semsband.com/calendar

JANUARY

Friday 1/24
8th Grade Band Trip to Disneyland Instrumental Soundtrack Session

Friday 1/31
Advanced Choir Trip to Disneyland Vocal Soundtrack Session

FEBRUARY save the dates

Wednesday 2/5
Booster Meeting
All Are Welcome!
6PM, SEMS PAC

Saturday 2/8
Solo & Ensemble Festival
8AM-4PM, SEMS Campus
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



February 2024 | An ensemble performs in the SEMS Performing Arts Center during the 2024 Solo & Ensemble Festival

SEMS SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL | Saturday, February 8, 8 AM-4 PM

SEMS Music Program is proud to host the Solo and Ensemble Festival on the SEMS Campus. The festival is open to 7th and 8th grade musicians, from both SEMS and Double Peak, who have chosen to showcase their talents in either solo or ensemble performances. Local music educators will be serving as judges, providing students with feedback on their performances. Students will also receive written comments from a judge with a rubric and rating. Each performer is awarded a ribbon based on their rating as a token of their hard work. Top performers are invited to perform in a recital later in the year as a celebration of their dedication and talents.

In 2022, SEMS Music Director Mrs. Homes authored an informative article on the Festival featured on Yamaha Music USA's website. Ms. Homes wrote: "The Solo and Ensemble Festival gives so much to participating students not only educationally, but also in the way of their self-confidence. When students are preparing for the festival, we encourage them to learn their parts individually, and if they are part of an ensemble, to meet once a week at lunch or after school to start piecing it together. Almost all rehearsals are student-driven, which develops strong musical skills and leadership qualities. Music coaches and directors will step in and provide guidance when needed or to help refine elements. For students working on solos, they are putting themselves out there, learning to push through performance nerves." [Read the full article here.](#)

In order to be successful, this amazing all-day event will "take a village." We need a team of volunteers to ensure everything runs smoothly. Opportunities include friendly check-in table workers, concession stand assistants, door guards to ensure performances are not interrupted, band room monitors, and more! High school students are welcome to volunteer. Single and all-day (for which lunch will be provided) shifts are available. Learn more about volunteer opportunities and sign up at bit.ly/sems-festival-2025.

Everyone is invited to attend and support our brave and talented musicians throughout the day. (A video featuring some of the performances from last year's festival is available at bit.ly/sems-festival2024-video.) **Note:** Solo & Ensemble Festival permission slips will be distributed soon. A flat fee of \$10 per student performer is requested to help cover judge fees. Please stay tuned.

**Wednesday 2/19-
Friday 2/21**
SMUSD Band
Festival Concerts
San Marcos High School

Tuesday 2/25
Gig Jazz Dine Out
6PM, *Tin Leaf in Carlsbad*

MARCH
save the dates

Saturday 3/1
Wind Symphony @
Festival, *CSU Fullerton*

Tuesday 3/4
SMUSD Choir Festival
San Marcos High School

Thursday 3/6
Golden Eagle Band &
Concert Band @
El Camino Festivals
El Camino HS, Oceanside

Tuesday 3/11
Advanced Choir @
Santa Margarita Festival
*Las Flores Middle School,
Las Flores*

Wednesday 3/12
Double Peak Jazz Festival
Double Peak School

Friday 3/21
Beginning Band & Choir
Coffee Concerts
SEMS PAC

APRIL
save the dates

Wednesday 4/9
Solo & Ensemble Recital
5 PM, *SEMS*

Saturday 4/12
Music in the Parks
*Knotts Berry Farm,
Buena Park*

OTHER DECEMBER PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Music Boosters volunteers prepare for poinsettia distribution



Gig Jazz Band performs at the San Elijo Elementary School WinterFest

CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESSES | YOUR GENEROSITY IS WHAT KEEPS OUR FABULOUS MUSIC PROGRAM GOING — THANK YOU!

Choir Winter Concert: Thank you to the generous donors who purchased snowflakes at the Choir Winter Concert. The Music Program raised **\$330** for the purchase of new music and song material for our choir program.

Poinsettia Fundraiser: Thank you to everyone who supported our biggest fundraiser of the year. Together, our music community raised **\$23,707!** These funds will support SEMS Music Program ongoing costs, including purchasing music and supplies, acquiring and repairing instruments and equipment, sponsorships, festivals, concerts, and more.

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR | MUSIC BOOSTER RECRUITMENT

The Music Program Boosters is a Not-for-Profit organization that helps support the SEMS band and choir programs meet its financial needs and obligations. With over 400 students enrolled and numerous activities held throughout the year, there are many ways we help our program succeed and provide our students with opportunities to showcase their talents and skills. **We have a fabulous team of volunteers serving our Music Program this year, but unfortunately several of our boosters are 8th grade parents who will be “retiring” at the end of this school year. WE ARE IN NEED OF INTERESTED PARENTS to join Music Boosters and shadow retiring boosters in their roles for the rest of the school year, becoming familiar with the responsibilities of each position.** Music Boosters is seeking volunteers for the 2025-26 school year to fill these Music Booster positions:

- Co-Treasurers
- Fundraising Coordinators
- Hospitality Coordinators
- Parent Volunteer Coordinator
- Student Activities Coordinator

Learn more about these Music Booster roles at semsband.com/boosters.

STAY CONNECTED



FACEBOOK
[SEMS Music Program](#)



INSTAGRAM
[SEMS Band Official](#)

Mrs. Homes:
[@mshomesofmusic](#)
Mrs. McInnis: [@mcinnismusic](#)

CONTACT
SEMS Music Boosters at
semsband.com/contact

SEMS MUSIC PROGRAM BOOSTERS

Co-President	Rachel Jobin
Co-President	Lauren King
Treasurer	Ellie Sisson
Assistant Treasurer	Lindsay Buck
Secretary	Sally Schifman
Fundraising Coordinator	Taya Delaney
Hospitality Coordinator	Donna Kirsch
Jazz Co-Coordinator	Deanna Katragadda
Jazz Co-Coordinator	Erene Mina
Media Master	Liz Vaisben
Student Activities Coordinator	Open Position