

“An Evening at Club Cougar”



**Club Cougar Orchestra Handbook
CC'23**

The Purpose of this Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to give an overview of what Club Cougar is and to fully explain the role, time commitment and considerations of the Club Cougar Orchestra (Jazz Band).

Okay, stop... What is CLUB COUGAR?!?

Foothill High School's Performing Arts Production, "**An Evening at Club Cougar**" is an event to raise money to support FHS Music and Drama departments, while educating music students in the art of performance skills. Club Cougar is a step back in time, as we recreate a 1930's Chicago-style jazz club; featuring authentic dress, music and decor. This evening of dining, drama and dancing to big band music is made possible by the extraordinary talents and commitment of our music and drama students, as well as their parent volunteers.

Aside from our Jazz Band (the CC Orchestra), roles are offered for Vocal, Dancing, Drama and Supporting Cast. The 4-night February show is held at the David Marr Auditorium (2200 Eureka Way). Students will need transportation to and from the venue each night.

Because we could not do this show without the support of countless volunteers, parents are required to help with at least one volunteer shift during the performance. Club Cougar is the main income generator for the arts at FHS.

The Timeline

The Fall Semester

The Fall Semester is spent building the band, and our sound. Students should be to be immersed in and obsessed with listening to the music of the Big Band Era, in order to capture the distinct sounds and styles needed to produce music that replicates the era in the most authentic way possible.

We perform at a series of concerts towards the end of the semester in order to start to ramp up: The Thursday before Thanksgiving Break in the FHS Small Gym, our Winter Concert at the David Marr Auditorium, and the Sacramento State Jazz Festival (second Saturday of December). These performances provide good markers for progress and assist with practical goal setting.

Parents, take special note:

- An "Introduction to Club Cougar" meeting will be held for new parents on Wednesday, November 30 from 6:00-6:30pm in the Drama room (room 404). First time parents/guardians of Club Cougar cast members are encouraged to attend.
- In addition, a MANDATORY All Parent Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 30 from 6:30-8:00pm in the FHS Library. Here is where parents receive ticket information, fill volunteer roles/shifts and pay CC Production Fee. The Production Fee of \$45.00 covers dinner for 5 evenings (Dress Rehearsal and Show nights 1/31, 2/1, 2/2, 2/3, 2/4), Dry Cleaning of pre-provided vests and our Saturday night Cast Party...

Approaching Finals Week, it is necessary for the jazz band to hold after school rehearsals. The week before Finals the band rehearses on Thursday and Friday (Dec 15-16), from 3:30-5:30pm. These lengthy rehearsals galvanize the band and prepare us for January...students should make every effort to attend as many of these rehearsals as their schedules permit. *Every student needs to be present for at minimum two hours; as two hours of these rehearsals count as our official Semester Final.*

Early January

In January, our jazz band really ramps up! In addition to our zero period class, we begin after school rehearsals. These are 3:45-4:45pm (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday...beginning on Tuesday, January 10th). These after school rehearsals are to be considered "as mandatory as personal/family schedules allow." Yes, that doctor, dentist, private lesson or unavoidable family commitment needs to still happen, but the ultimate goal is to strive to have every student at every rehearsal, as often as possible.

Moving Day

The Friday before the show opens (1/27), Jazz Band meets with the CC Dancers in order to run the numbers for the show. This closed rehearsal takes place in the FHS Cafeteria from 3:30-5:00. Following this rehearsal, we load out and move in to the David Marr Auditorium. We welcome any and all parent help during this time! Upon arrival, we set up our entire stage (stand fronts, stand lights, band chair/stand placement, and rhythm section placement). Rhythm section will plug in and get a rudimentary sound check. Dinner will be provided by FHS Band Boosters, and we will conclude by 7:30pm. Transportation is not provided on this day.

Show Week (Pre-Production)

The Monday and Tuesday that precede Opening Night are important pre-production days for our show. Jazz Band will miss school on both of these days. Please plan ahead.

Monday: 7:30-10:00am, 11:00-1:00pm, 4:30-5:30pm Cast Pictures, 6:00-9:00pm (at the latest) is Dress Rehearsal. This is a Closed Rehearsal.

Tuesday: Feeder School Matinee Performance! 9am call time, show is from 10am-noon. School transportation (TO the Marr only) is available at 8:30am. Following the show, non VIP musicians are dismissed. Lunch is on your own. VIP musicians have a sound check and run-through in the VIP room from 1:30-3:00pm.

Performances

The first Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday of February are our show nights! Students need to be at the David Marr by 5:00pm. The show concludes at 9:00pm, and pick-up for non-VIP musicians is 9:30pm. Our VIP musicians (jazz rhythm section and select horns TBD) have an after-show until 10:00pm. They are released at 10:15pm. There is no Zero Period class during this time, and all music classes will be study halls/rest time during this entire week.

Cast Party

Following the Saturday Closing Night Show, students have a Cast Party at TBD...food and fun provided! They are released at 1:00am Sunday morning.

The Rules

Wardrobe

Our show makes every effort to take people back in time. As a result, we work hard to provide authenticity to all aspects of the show.

Vests and ties are provided by Club Cougar. In addition to the vest/tie, students need: all black shoes, calf length black socks, black dress pants, and a white long sleeve collared shirt.

Following the Closing Night show, vests/ties must be hung neatly on our CC Orchestra Garment Rack.

Hair (Gentlemen): Above the shirt collar in the back and styled appropriately for the time period. Hair does not necessarily need to be short, but it must not be long in a shaggy/un-kept way. From the hall, audience members need to see your face, so hair that hangs down in the eyes is not acceptable. Hair also must be a natural color.

Hair (Ladies): Hair is to be pulled back off your face and secured in the back. Hair must be a natural color.

Cosmetics: Ladies, one small stud per ear is appropriate. No other jewelry, facial piercings, lipstick or makeup (a light foundation is fine).

Accessories

Phone: From the time you are on stage to the time you are off stage, you do not own a phone. There is no phone. Forget about the phone. It should be kept in your case, and should be out of your mind. "Oh but I need to use it for a tuner." Great! Go buy a tuner.

Watch: An era appropriate (meaning non-smart watch, a "dumb watch!") is acceptable.

Behavior

For all student-specific rules pertaining to the Club Cougar Production, students must abide by the rules and regulations as stated in the Foothill High School Student Handbook. The default rule is this: If you have to ask yourself if what you're about to do is dumb...it probably is...so, DON'T DO IT!

Lastly, we are The Club Cougar Orchestra. We are a hard-working, committed ensemble. Act like it.

For your reference, a copy of this document is available for viewing anytime at www.fhscougarband.com, under About Tab, under Courses.

I have read the CC'23 Handbook and my name and signature verifies that we understand what we are getting ourselves into...and we're excited about it! 😊

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____