

## **Simmons Middle School Activities**

### **Jazz Band**

Simmons Middle School has built a reputation for having a fine jazz band program. Students with experience on jazz band instruments are encouraged to sign up and participate. Rehearsals are held outside of school time and regular attendance is a must.

Standard jazz band instrumentation is: 2 alto saxophones, 2 tenor saxophones, 1 baritone saxophone, 5 trombones, 5 trumpets, drum set, bass (acoustic or electric), piano, and electric guitar. At the middle school level this instrumentation has some flexibility – brass and saxophone parts can be doubled if needed.

In order to participate in jazz band, brass, percussion and saxophone players must be members of the regular SMS bands. Pianists, bass players, and guitar players are given preference for membership based on:

1. regular band membership, 2. orchestra membership, 3. other students if there is a need.

For the last several years, the SMS Jazz Band has successfully participated in the NSU South Dakota Jazz Festival and we anticipate doing the same this year. The group also plays for several school concerts and events.

