



Dear community member,

I am the band director at Corvallis High School and we are putting together a jazz festival for young women. It has come to my attention over the scope of my career, that there is a gender imbalance in the jazz community. I am hosting this festival, the Virginia Vinal Jazz Festival, to give girls a chance to experience jazz and practice improvisation in an all female setting. The research I have done shows that girls do better in a less competitive environment with lots of encouragement and support from peers. We were able to host a small version of the festival last year with only a handful of schools in attendance, and we are hoping to expand this year to include all of Western Montana and hopefully become a regional festival for the northwest.

We are in need of donations in order to expand the festival and offer more workshops for students. Our hope is to provide a guest clinician on each instrument to give students guidance specifically for the instrument they play. There will be workshops on jazz improvisation, leadership and stress management; as well as performances by the guest artists and a performance by the girls who participate in the festival. We hope you join your fellow community members and demonstrate your support of this event by making a financial contribution. Each clinician will cost approximately \$200, and we will have seven clinicians. We would be very grateful if you could provide us with a donation to cover the cost of one of our clinicians, but smaller donations are also appreciated.

Here is a quote from a girl who participated last year:

*"The Virginia Vinal Women in Jazz festival left a lasting impression on me. Not only was I able to explore my musical voice, I was able to understand my leadership style and how I best interact with people, as well as how to improvise and solo on my instrument. The feeling of playing beautiful jazz pieces with an all women ensemble is so powerful. I know for a fact that my confidence grew immensely because of that experience and I am so excited to go back for two more years."-Tylin S.*

These skills will help them with job interviews, scholarship applications, and will hopefully give them the courage to speak openly with peers and supervisors in the future.

I hope that you will consider donating. If you have any questions, please contact me at [willip@corvallis.k12.mt.us](mailto:willip@corvallis.k12.mt.us) or (406)360-5536. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Willi Ann Prince  
Band Director  
Corvallis High School

**RECEIVED**

NOV 15 2021

Ravalli County Commissioners

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**How to make a contribution:**

Please make checks payable to Corvallis High School or CHS and send them to:

Attn. Willi Ann Prince  
Corvallis Bands  
1151 Eastside Highway  
Corvallis Mt, 59828

Tax ID # 81-6000828

How we can promote your business: (Please check all that apply.)

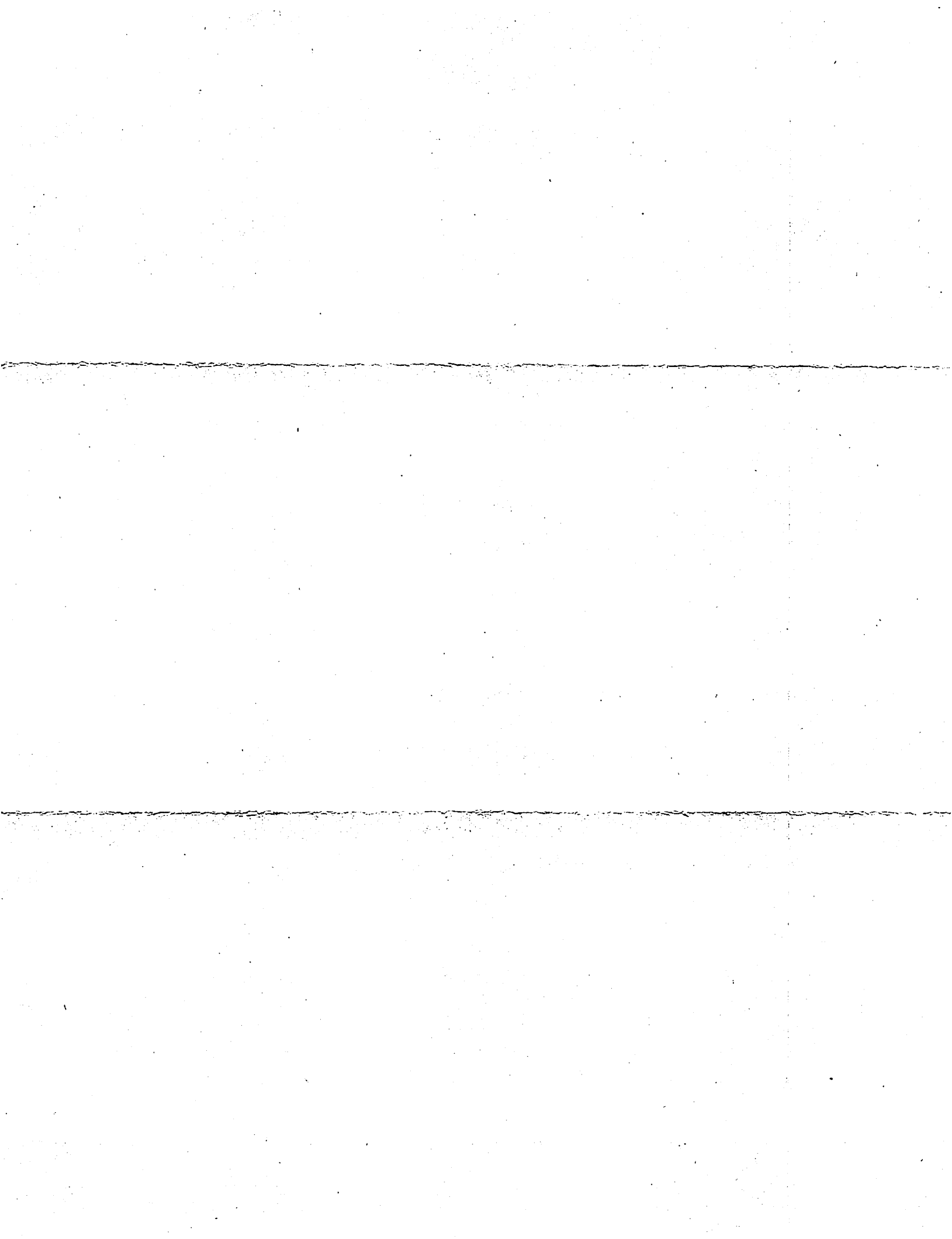
- We will provide shirts to all of the participants, if you would like your company logo on the shirt please send a copy of the logo with this letter.
  
- We can also put an advertisement in our program, if you would like to do that please send me a copy of your advertisement with this letter or email [willip@corvallis.k12.mt.us](mailto:willip@corvallis.k12.mt.us).

Any additional comments or questions:

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