



DANIELLE FROST/POST-RECORD

Washougal High School jazz band one students Morgan Ranf, Matt Bullene, Shane Phillips, Alex Arzhanov and Shane McCarty practice for the upcoming Clark College Jazz Festival.

WHS students prepare for Clark jazz festival

Competition will include several Northwest schools

By Danielle Frost
Post-Record staff

Morgan Ranf and Malelee Watts are excited for the upcoming Clark College Jazz Festival this weekend. The Washougal High School students are in one of 45 jazz bands performing.

"It's a great chance to get out there and have lots of people hear us," Watts said.

Ranf enjoys the experience of performing in a larger venue.

"It's nice to play for a bigger community," she said.

Washougal High is one of only a few schools in the local area to send a group

to perform at the festival, according to band teacher Kelly Ritter.

"It's nice because pretty much everyone else is from Portland or farther away," she said. "It's great to be on our home turf. Hopefully lots of people will come out and cheer us on."

By the way, it is perfectly appropriate to be vocal and applaud during a jazz band performance, according to Ritter.

"Choral groups, no," she said. "But jazz, yes. The louder the better!"

Students in this jazz group do it as an extracurricular activity and rehearse before school.

"They have to be pretty

dedicated," Ritter said. "It takes an extra level of commitment."

She is hoping that dedication carries over during the festival performance.

"It's great to play for experts in the field who will be able to give us constructive criticism and feedback," Ritter said. "And it never hurts to come home with a trophy."

WHS students will perform on Friday, Jan. 30 at 3:20 p.m. in Gaiser Hall at Clark College, 1933 Fort Vancouver Way, in Vancouver. Tickets are \$5 per day. Children 12 and younger and Clark College students are admitted free.