

Highland 2024/2025 Jazz Band Auditions

Alto Saxophone

General Information

There are two jazz bands at Highland Middle School. These ensembles, Jazz 1 and Jazz 2, use “traditional” jazz band instruments (saxophones, trumpets, trombones, guitar, piano, bass, and drums). An audition is required in order to be considered for Jazz 1, and rhythm section instruments only in Jazz 2. Exact dates for the auditions and extra-help sessions will be posted outside the band room at the beginning of the year. They will also be available on the jazz audition website (<https://bit.ly/HMSjazz>).

Every seat in each jazz band is open at the start of the school year. Placement in either jazz band as a 6th or 7th grader does not guarantee placement in that same band or a higher band the following year.

Directions for the Music

Attached to this note is the audition material for next year’s jazz auditions. Included are portions of songs that Jazz 1 will be performing. Do not worry if some of it seems difficult. The audition material must challenge students from grades 6 through 8. The first selection is a ballad called, “Prayer Meetin’.” Play this selection with straight eighth notes. The second selection is a Latin tune called, “Children of Sanchez.” Play this selection with straight eighth notes and hard accents. Metronome markings are indicated for each selection. If these are too fast for you it is O.K. to audition at a slower tempo, but students performing well at the correct speed will score higher than students playing well at a slower speed.

Listening to the Music

Recordings of this music are available online - See the jazz audition website (<https://bit.ly/HMSjazz>) for the link.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2024

Alto Saxophone

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#1 "Prayer Meetin'"

Gospel/Pop Ballad ♩ = 69

The musical score is written for Alto Saxophone in treble clef, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 4/4 time signature. The tempo is marked as a Gospel/Pop Ballad with a quarter note equal to 69 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score consists of four staves of music, with measure numbers 1, 5, 9, and 13 indicated at the beginning of each line. The music features a melodic line with various note values, including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2024

#2 "Children of Sanchez"

Alto Sax

There are two songs for this jazz audition

Special Note: This song has two options. The harder option (Option #1) is the original music from this song. The easier option (Option #2) includes music from this song, but has been transposed to include lower, easier notes. Those students who play "Option #1" well will score higher than those who play "Option #2".

Option #1 MEDIUM LATIN ♩ = 112

Option #1 musical score for Alto Sax, Medium Latin, tempo 112. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and contains a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The third staff features a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The fourth staff has a melodic line with eighth notes and rests, including a measure with a '7' indicating a triplet. The fifth staff concludes with a melodic line featuring various accidentals (flats, sharps, naturals) and rests.

Option #2

Option #2 musical score for Alto Sax, a transposed and simplified version of the piece. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and contains a simplified rhythmic pattern. The second staff continues with a simplified melodic line. The third staff has a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The fourth staff concludes with a melodic line featuring various accidentals and rests.