

Highland 2024/2025 Jazz Band Auditions

Percussion (must include mallets & drum set)

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. If more than four students audition, not all of them will be placed into a jazz band. Each jazz band will take only up to two drummers. The first selection is a ballad called, “Prayer Meetin’.” Feel free to make changes to the drum set part. Drum parts for jazz tunes are mere suggestions of what should happen. 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.

Bells - Xylophone - Vibes

All students auditioning to play drums in the Highland Jazz Bands are expected to audition on drum set and bells/xylophone/vibes. The music for these mallet instruments is included in the audition materials. Students may choose to perform the mallet portion of the audition on one of the large, school-owned instruments, or on their own bell kits. Students’ performances on these mallet selections are often what separates the good from the great players.

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

Percussion

There are two songs for this jazz audition. Each includes a bells/mallets part and a drum set part.

#1 "Prayer Meetin'"

Special Note:

In the first part of the audition, you will play the melody on this page on a mallet instrument (either bells or xylophone -- your choice).

Gospel/Pop Ballad ♩ = 69

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second staff starts with a measure number of 5 and includes a fermata over the second measure and an accent (>) over the final measure. The third staff starts with a measure number of 9. The fourth staff starts with a measure number of 13 and ends with a double bar line. The melody is primarily composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests and a final phrase that includes a sharp sign (#) on the second line of the staff.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2024

Percussion

There are two songs for this jazz audition. Each includes a bells/mallets part and a drum set part.

#1 "Prayer Meetin'"

Special Note:

In this part of the audition you will play the drum set. What you see below are eight measures from the actual Prayer Meetin' drum set part, corresponding with the last eight measures of the melody you played on mallets. The notes above the staff should be played with brushes (they will be provided for you if you don't have them). During the drum set portion of your audition, Mr. Swartzloff will play the melody from measure 9-16 of your mallet audition. One of the things you will be evaluated on is how well you play with him.

Gospel/Pop Ballad ♩ = 69

The musical score is written on two staves in 4/4 time. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4. Above the staff, there are two groups of six 'x' marks, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern. The notes below the staff are mostly quarter notes and eighth notes, with some rests. The dynamic marking *mf* is present under the first measure. The second staff starts at measure 5, indicated by a '5' on the left. It continues with similar rhythmic notation. Above the staff, there are two 'Fill' markings with dashed lines and a bracket, indicating a fill section between measures 7 and 8. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2024

#2 "Children of Sanchez" Bells

There are two songs for this jazz audition. Each includes a bells/mallets part and a drum set part.

Special Note:

In the first part of the audition, you will play the melody on this page on a mallet instrument (either bells, xylophone, or vibes -- your choice).

MEDIUM LATIN $\text{♩} = 112$

The musical score is written for a mallet instrument in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat major). The tempo is marked as MEDIUM LATIN with a quarter note equal to 112 beats per minute. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The music is characterized by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, many with accents and slurs, creating a rhythmic and melodic pattern. The second staff continues this pattern. The third staff features a dynamic shift to forte (*f*) and includes some triplet-like figures. The fourth and fifth staves show a more relaxed melodic line with dotted notes and rests, ending with a double bar line.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2024

#2 "Children of Sanchez" -- Drum Set

Special Note

This is an excerpt from the drum set part to "Children of Sanchez". The Latin beat given is merely a suggestion. You may use this beat, or you may create your own. During this part of the audition, you will play your Latin beat on the drum set and Mr. Swartzloff will play the melody on his saxophone. One of the things you will be evaluated on is how well you play with him.

MEDIUM LATIN ♩ = 112

The musical score is written for a drum set in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 112 beats per minute. It consists of ten systems of notation, each with a top staff for the snare and a bottom staff for the bass drum. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *RS* (ride). Specific drum parts are labeled: **H.H.** (Hi-Hat) in the first system, **RIDE** in the seventh system, and **RS** (Ride) in the eighth and tenth systems. The score features a mix of steady eighth-note patterns and more complex rhythmic figures, including a triplet in the eighth system. The overall feel is that of a medium-tempo Latin jazz piece.