



Jazz Band

Insert Teacher Name

Insert Room Number

Full Year

Insert Period

Insert Email Address

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jazz Ensemble is offered, by audition, to students in grades 9-12, who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums and guitar. Wind players and percussionists must be members of the band program; piano, guitar and bass players must be enrolled in a music class, ideally a performing ensemble. Students taking this class will work individually and collaboratively to improve ensemble rehearsal and performance techniques, instrumental techniques, musicianship, and music literacy in the jazz idiom. Literature for this ensemble will be selected from the standard “big band” and contemporary repertoire. Intervals, chord structure, chord progressions and improvisation will be studied.

Jazz Ensemble is a full year class that meets one night per week, with one sectional rehearsal per week. Throughout the year Jazz Ensemble students will demonstrate their mastery of technical skills and musical interpretation by performing in both formal and informal settings. Unique performance opportunities will be pursued beyond the Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble curriculum concerts. Participation in all fall, winter, and spring scheduled rehearsals and performance is required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will:

- Perform a variety of jazz styles
- Describe typical characteristics of Big Band styles: Swing, Ballad, Latin Jazz, Jazz Funk/Rock
- Creatively improvise in tune, with characteristic tone and style, over a given harmonic chord structure, with a variety of rhythmic and melodic patterns
- Play their instruments in tune and with a characteristic jazz tone, jazz repertoire at NYSSMA levels 3 to 5 with expression, appropriate stylistic interpretation, and technical accuracy.
- Listen to, analyze, and describe their own recorded performances, comment critically, and improve their own performance.
- Listen to, analyze, and describe past and present masters of jazz, comment critically, and describe the interrelationship between jazz, history and culture, and their daily life.

COURSE POLICIES AND REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

Cumulative/In-Progress Grade:

- 10% of the grade will be based on formative assessments, homework completion, or behavior (see FPS BOE [Policy 6154AR](#))
- 90% will be based on summative assessments based on a minimum of eight assessments (see FPS BOE Policy 6146AR)

End-of-the-Year Grade:

- 80% of the overall course grade will reflect the student’s mastery of course content and skills during the school year through the Cumulative/In-Progress Grade.
- 10% of the End-of-the-Year course grade will be based on the Mid-Year Assessment
- 10% of the End-of-the-Year course grade will be based on the Final Assessment.

Grade Reporting

- All grades will be communicated through Infinite Campus
- Summative assessment results will be reported back to the student within ten school days from the date of submission or the due date.

Guidelines for Late Work (see FPS BOE Policy 6146AR):

- Late work will be accepted for both summative and formative tasks within a defined timeline agreed upon between the student and the teacher
- The total points may be reduced as a penalty for late work

MATERIALS:

WINDS: Personal, rented, or school-rented wind instrument

PERC: Stick & Mallet pack + stick bag - contact me for details

ALL: Appropriate-level instrumental workbook - contact me for details, tuner app, metronome app

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:

Students must be in attendance at all rehearsals and performances. Students should refrain from talking and be attentive and responsive during rehearsals, allowing for music to be rehearsed and concepts to be learned by all. There will be opportunities for collaborative learning where selected students facilitate sectionals.

All students will attend rotational lessons where core instrumental concepts will be learned and practiced.

Students should come to their lesson having utilized personal practice time, outside of class time.

Students may opt out of in-school lessons by utilizing one of the wonderful private teachers in the Fairfield metro area. Contact Warde Band staff for recommendations.

EXTRA HELP:

For students requiring additional help beyond class work and lesson work, they should attempt to make an appointment with their teacher.