

Murrieta Valley Unified School District
High School Course Outline
February 2012

Department: Performing Arts/Instrumental Music

Course Title: Jazz Band/Advanced Jazz Band

Course Number: 7205

Grade Level(s): 9-12

Length of Course: One Year

Prerequisite(s): Audition with Jazz Director

UC/CSU (A-G) Requirement:

Brief Course Description: Jazz ensembles are formed based on ability level and instrumentation needs. This is assessed through an audition process. The class focuses on the development of jazz fundamentals through sight reading, improvisation, style, and performance. Jazz ensembles will perform at jazz festivals, home concerts, and various community events.

I. Goals

The student will:

- A. Gain a fundamental understanding of the jazz style as it applies to their major instrument.
- B. Develop as an individual through various performance opportunities throughout the year.

II. Outline of Content for Major Areas of Study

Semester I

- A. Jazz Fundamentals
 - a. Sight Reading
 - b. Basic Improvisation
 - c. Performance Practices Specific to Each Instrument
 - d. Stylistic Considerations
- B. Application of Jazz Fundamentals Through Performance in Concert

Semester II

- A. Continued Development of Jazz Fundamentals
 - a. More Advanced Sight reading
 - b. Vertical and Horizontal Approaches to Chord Changes
 - c. Increased Technical Instrumental Dexterity
 - d. Stylistic Nuances

- B. Application of Jazz Fundamentals Through More Frequent and Varied Performance Opportunities

III. Accountability Determinants

- A. Students will be assigned various projects and be expected to play a wide range of instrumental music covering various styles, tempi, and degrees of difficulty.

- B. Students will be assessed through performance and according to various rubrics assigned by the jazz director. Attendance at concerts is mandatory and will be assessed according to the instrumental music handbook.

IV. Instructional Materials and Methodologies

- A. Music is provided for each student. Lost music will be dealt with according to school textbook policy.

- B. Supplemental materials to be provided by the jazz director.

- C. The director will employ several jazz methodologies pertaining to improvisation and big band pedagogy.