



# STAPLES HIGH SCHOOL

Kevin Mazzarella  
Director of Bands

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## Staples HS Jazz Auditions

Dear Prospective and Returning Jazz Ensemble members,

I want to thank you for your interest in the Staples High School Jazz program. I would like to take the opportunity to provide a brief overview of the program and outline the audition process.

The Staples Jazz program is comprised of two main ensembles:

**Jazz Ensemble 1** - Our award-winning flagship ensemble is open to advanced wind and percussion students passionate about exploring the jazz idiom. This select group, structured as a standard big band (5 trumpets, 4 trombones, 5 saxophones, drum set, piano, upright bass, and guitar), has earned notable recognition including *Outstanding Trumpet Section* and *Outstanding Rhythm Section* awards at the Essentially Ellington Regional Competition. Members are selected through competitive auditions held in the spring for the following academic year. Eligibility requires concurrent participation in a Staples Band, chorus, or orchestra program. The ensemble meets once weekly for intensive jazz study and rehearsal, with an additional required weekly sectional. Throughout the year, Jazz Ensemble showcases its talents at school functions, prestigious festivals, community events, and formal concerts.

**Jazz Ensemble 2** - Our NEW second big band (replacing Jazz Workshop) emphasizes jazz fundamentals and improvisation. This high-performing group represents Staples at festivals and public events while providing an excellent development opportunity. This ensemble is open to all interested students, creating an inclusive environment for jazz education and performance excellence.

### Audition Requirements

1. Bb Blues "Da Five Four One Blues" music found [HERE](#).
    - a. Play Head (melody) 1 time, Improvise 1 time, play head 1 time
    - b. This will be performed with a play-along backing track found [HERE](#).
    - c. Rather than "Da Five Four One Blues" Drum set players will perform 12 measures of medium swing beat, 12 measures of rock or funk beat, and 12 measures of a Latin beat. Quarter note = 114
  2. Excerpt marked by [brackets] of "Who, Me?" music found [HERE](#).
    - a. This will be performed unaccompanied.
    - b. This is a recording of the composition [HERE](#).
- ★ Saxophone Players: You may audition on your preferred saxophone (alto, tenor, or bari). Please understand that if selected for the ensemble, you may be asked to play different saxophones throughout the year as needed to create the best sound for the band. We appreciate your flexibility in helping our ensemble achieve its full potential!



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- ★ Trumpet and Trombone Players: If you're interested in taking on lead parts, please prepare an audition using the Trumpet 1 or Trombone 1 part for "Who Me?" This will help me assess your readiness for lead positions in the ensemble!
- ★ All other trumpets and trombones should plan to audition on trumpet/trombone 3.

### Audition Dates

- 1) Bedford Middle School (BMS) Tuesday, May 27 after school
  - 2) Coleytown Middle School (CMS) Friday, May 30 after school
  - 3) Staples High School (SHS) for returning and new students during finals makeup time.
- ★ Please note that ALL returning students who are interested in playing jazz will be required to re-audition.



I look forward to hearing you play!

Sincerely,

Mr. Mazz