

Jazz Studies

Overview/Course Goal: The SHS Jazz Studies Program is a performance-based course for instrumental musicians as a part of the Spartan Band program. The SHS Jazz Band is a select group admitted by audition process that can perform as a big band style ensemble and in many small jazz combo configurations. This course is designed to help instrumental students further their jazz knowledge and skills to their next level. In this course, we will work through a variety of technique programs and performance literature to become face-melting jazz musicians who are ready for the demands of busting out sweet jazz music either in college or in their community. Students in this class will perform in both Big Band and Jazz Combo contexts, and they will also work independently to prepare a variety of solo etudes, performance exercises, and improvisational sessions for performance and/or assessment. Attendance at all assigned performances is required.

Objectives: Students will learn music reading skills, improvisational skills, musicality, music terminology, music history, and music theory. Through performance, sight reading, and exercises students will learn the concepts of rhythm, texture, balance, blend, and rudiments as they develop their role as ensemble members.

Jazz Studies Students will be able to...

- ...develop an effective practice schedule and stick to it
- ...sight read rhythmic and tonal patterns from sheet music on their instrument
- ...identify and extrapolate notes based on sheet music representations of music
- ...refine a simple to advanced prepared solo
- ...construct a simple to advanced improvised solo
- ...write effectively in a jazz context
- ...form multiple combo groups select repertoire, prepare, and perform with that group
- ...sing general intervals for jazz chords for tuning and general jazz theory knowledge
- ...learn a variety of scales and modes for use in improvisation
- ...optimize their equipment for their use for performance
- ...perform jazz literature (solo or in ensembles) commensurate with their skill level
- ...gain skills on secondary instruments if approved/nominated by the director
- ...synthesize multiple sources of information to understand musical theory for pieces
- ...develop a listening list and analyze/describe music from it
- ...evaluate their performances and other musical performances
- ...understand the history and culture of jazz

Course Organization: The Jazz Band has a few different modes of learning as follows...

Warmup: This will start as a teacher-directed activity and may be student-led at Mr. Brodin's discretion. This is a quiet time of getting ourselves focused for class and the detailed focus required to study music at a high level. All students should be focused on properly starting to use proper technique and playing accurately. **ALL STUDENTS SHOULD ARRIVE WITH ENOUGH TIME TO BE READY FOR WARMUP!**

Group Lesson: This type of learning environment is similar to a classroom environment. Students may be working with music/worksheets, listening assignments, or with their instruments. This time is led by Mr. Brodin. We will be investigating a variety of topics through the year. Regardless of the topic, students should remain focused primarily on helping each other to a higher level of ability or general musical knowledge. There may be listening assignments or other homework for this learning mode.

Rehearsal: This is time for the entire ensemble to rehearse large sections of musical works or entire works. This time is led by Mr. Brodin. This time is precious. All students should be focused.

Practice Block/Sectional: This is a time of general practice in the classroom/practice rooms. During this time, students are expected to practice assignments or techniques as they/section leaders wish. Students may ask help from Mr. Brodin or sections leaders/upperclassmen and can ask for more material to practice any time. Those who do not use the time as a work time may lose points or may be subject to discipline.

Combo Rehearsal: Students will be given the opportunity to practice as a combo on certain days. Some days will only be for the rhythm section combo then groups of students may apply with Mr. Brodin for combo time. Each assessment period there will be an expectation that everyone has prepared 1-2 songs with the combo.

Assessments: When we are assessed on any repertoire goals or etudes, Mr. Brodin will call students one at a time to assess. All other students will be quietly focused on their own practice. Failure to respect others as they test may result in discipline and/or loss of points on the assessment. There may also be an opportunity to turn in assessments online.

Transitions: There will be transitions between one activity to another. These can be fun but orderly times for rearranging the room. All transitions will be given a time limit so we can continue to move through rehearsal.

Materials for class:

1 folder for music

All music (handed out in class)

Instrument of Choice

Accessories:

All oils and greases required for instrument*

Reeds (keep multiple on hand)*

Trumpet players: 1 Straight Mute*

Percussionists: Brushes and Vibe mallets*

Tuner or similar app (recommended)

Metronome or similar app (recommended)

Other mutes (provided by school)

*denotes required accessory