

Highland 2026/2027 Jazz Band Auditions

Bass

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 either band, with the exception that 6th grade saxophone, trumpet, and trombone students may be invited into Jazz 2 without an audition. 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 bass players. The first selection is a swing tune called, “May’s Way.” Play this selection in a swing style (uneven eighth notes and hard accents). The second selection is a Latin tune called, “Brazil Nuts.” 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.

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 2026

Bass

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#1 "May's Way" -- Jeff Jarvis

Special Note:

Below are instructions for a "basic audition" and an "advanced audition". Students new to jazz, or unfamiliar with creating their own bass lines should simply play the "basic audition." Students who perform a good advanced audition will be placed into a higher jazz band than students who perform a good basic audition.

Basic Audition:

The music below is the first 27 measures of the actual bass part to "May's Way." In a good swing style the bass player should play beats 2 and 4 with more emphasis than beats 1 and 3.

Advanced Audition:

Students with jazz training should play through the repeated section as many times as they would like to. They should play it as written the first time. With each repeat these more advanced jazz bassists should create a new bass line from the chord symbols.

♩ = 138 Swing Style

f

4

8

15 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ 7

20 B $\flat$ 7 F7 E $\flat$ 7

25 B $\flat$ 7

1 2

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2026

Bass

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#2 "Brazil Nuts"

Special Note:

Below are instructions for a "basic audition" and an "advanced audition". Students new to jazz, or unfamiliar with creating their own bass lines should simply play the "basic audition." Students who perform a good advanced audition will be placed into a higher jazz band than students who perform a good basic audition.

Basic Audition:

The music below is the actual bass part to "Brazil Nuts" beginning in measure 17. Please observe the time signature and tempo marking. This is long, but very repetitive.

Advanced Audition:

First play through the basic audition. Next go back and play through this same section of the music while creating your own bass line. Use the chord symbols and keep the bass line in a "samba feel."

Latin "Samba" Style

$\text{♩} = 98$ $E\flat 7$ $D\flat 7$ $E\flat 7$ $D\flat 7$ $E\flat 7$ $D\flat 7$

17 *mf*

23

29

35

41

47

as is