

Wallenpaupack Area School District Planned Course Curriculum Guide

Middle School Music

Jazz Band-Full Course

Course Description:

Students will develop the foundational skills necessary to perform beginner jazz instrumental music with accuracy, style, and expression. They will apply these skills to rehearsal and performance of jazz repertoire, blues, swing, and other introductory jazz styles in small and large ensemble settings.

Initial Creation Date: N/A

Revision date – September 2nd, 2026

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Wallenpaupack Area School District Curriculum	
COURSE: 7th/8th Grade Beginner Jazz Band	GRADE/S: 7/8
UNIT 1: Jazz Foundations and Performance Skills	TIMEFRAME: • One 60-minute Tutorial session per week for one heterogenous instrumental group. • Each student receives 60 minutes per week of instruction.

PA COMMON CORE/NATIONAL STANDARDS:

9.1.12A – “Know and use the elements and principles of each art form to create works in the arts and humanities”

9.1.12B – “Recognize, know, use and demonstrate a variety of appropriate art elements and principles to produce, review and revise original works in the arts”

9.1.5C – “Know and use fundamental vocabulary within each of the art forms”

9.1.12G – “Analyze the effect of rehearsal and practice sessions”

9.1.12H – “Incorporate the effective and safe use of materials, equipment, and tools into the production of works in the arts”

UNIT OBJECTIVES (SWBATS):

-Students will be able to perform selected beginner jazz literature with accurate rhythm, jazz articulation, appropriate style, and expression, both individually and as an ensemble.

-Students will be able to identify and perform swing eighth notes, syncopation, and basic jazz rhythmic figures in selected repertoire.

-Students will be able to identify and perform major scales and a blues scale used in beginner jazz repertoire.

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES/ACTIVITIES:

-Large group jazz ensemble rehearsals

-Small group lessons

ASSESSMENTS (Diagnostic/Benchmark/Formative/Summative):

- Informal, formative assessment is constant. It is given within the cycle of each rehearsal and lesson and guides the design of upcoming instruction.

- Formal assessment of the ensemble comes through public performance (Winter Concert and Spring Concert Performance).

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION (Acceleration/Enrichment):

-Repertoire and parts are selected and assigned based on students' current levels of musicianship and prior jazz experience.

-Advanced students may perform improvised fills, lead selected phrases, or serve in student leadership roles.

RESOURCES (Technology Based Resources, Text Resources, etc.):

-Winter jazz band repertoire (changes each year)

-Beginner jazz method materials and play-along resources

-Jazz listening examples and recordings

-Teacher-created worksheets – jazz rhythms, scales, chord symbols, and improvisation exercises

KEY VOCABULARY:

-Elements of music – melody, rhythm, harmony, form, texture, tempo, dynamics, tone color, affect

-Jazz notation concepts – staff, clef, note names, articulations, dynamic markings, chord symbols

-Ensemble concepts – pulse, swing feel, blend, balance, intonation, style

-Jazz rhythm – swing eighth notes, syncopation, rests, triplets

-Jazz form – 12-bar blues, head, chorus, background

-Improvisation concepts – motif, call and response, blues scale, riff