

Jazz Band Gr 9-12 (MJA1A 10S-40S)

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Prerequisite: Previous Middle and/or High School Concert Band Experience is needed to participate in Jazz Band.

Course Description: Students learn to perform various styles of jazz music such as blues, swing, Latin and Rock through rehearsal, listening and jazz history. Members of the jazz band also learn the basics of jazz improvisation and arranging. This class is performance focused, and all members are required to participate in a variety of workshops, concerts, tours and festivals, as they are the pinnacle of jazz performance. Previous jazz experience is not required.

Implementation: Through active participation in band class, students will receive instruction in context with traditional jazz band music and styles, based on models of the National Voluntary Curriculum and Standards for Instrumental Music and the Manitoba Music Educator's Curriculum.

Assessment: In accordance with Manitoba Public Education and Manitoba Music Educators, assessment will be determined using Grade Specific Learning Outcomes. Students will be required to demonstrate an understanding of technical skills such as counting, pitch accuracy, rhythm, tone, dynamics, articulations, and musical interpretations as specified by the composer, by playing their assigned parts individually, in a full band rehearsal and in a concert setting.

There will be four assessment periods:

1. Fall (Sept to November)
2. Winter (December to end of January)
3. Spring (February to end of March)
4. Year-end (April – last day of June)

Evaluation: A variety of evaluation methods will be used, including student self-evaluations, playing tests, practice logs, public performances and concert repertoire progress evaluations.

Demonstrations: Concert Repertoire/ Improvisation Progress Daily Evaluations 40%

Rich Performance Task: Concert Performance Evaluation (Winter, Spring) 40%

Essay: Community performance, experiences, goals, theory, written work 20%

Late assignments: All assignments must be submitted on time. The due dates will be posted on the repertoire board in the band room. Late work will not be accepted. This applies to written or playing assignments.

Attendance: Our band is a team. A team can only perform at its best if everyone is on hand to practice. Fortunately, our team practices are scheduled into your school day. Therefore, all students are expected to attend class every day.

Missed Classes: It is the responsibility of the individual student to collect and complete and practice all repertoire and theory work if they miss a class. This applies to all school-related & personal absences.

Missed Performances: Missed performances will result in “Zero” (0) in Powerschool. To be excused, you must have a doctor’s note or get permission from the school administration for missing a concert due to extreme circumstances or family crisis. ***There are no make-up or alternate assignments for missing a mandatory performance.***

Practice: The responsibility is on you as a member of an advanced team. That means, taking time to practice and learn your part thoroughly, (this is your homework). Your bandmates and I as the conductor will be able to hear whether you are taking time to thoroughly learn your individual part. Each and every one of the parts are important! Our success comes from the entire group knowing their parts and being strong.

Digital Citizenship:

In general, personal phones, tablets, and other devices are prohibited in and during class. Regarding educational use – We may use devices in the classroom for research use.

CONCERT ATTIRE: In the world of concert band, formal attire and etiquette are as much a contributor to the overall performance as your musical skills. Therefore, it is essential that you know what is expected of you for all our concert performances.

Black Tops - The concert band’s formal attire will consist of a plain black shirt with a full collar, with long sleeves. Please avoid lace, and sheer materials, ruffles and scooped necklines.

Red Tie - All band members wear a red senior concert band tie. To ensure uniformity all students must wear the same tie. They can be purchased from me for a small cost.

Black Bottoms - Black dress pants are to be worn by all (boys and girls). Black jeans are not “good enough” unless they are new and show no signs of wear and do not have yellow or white topstitching. No stretchy, clingy, yoga pants style pants or leggings.

Black Shoes - At the high school level, we strive to keep our concert attire formal and in good taste, just like the professionals. Everyone must wear close-toed dress black shoes and socks. If your shoes have laces, the laces must also be black. Black shoes with white soles or rubber edging are not acceptable.

Fundraising: To keep the band program operating and functional, all band students will be required to participate in our general fundraisers. These provide the budget required for clinics, workshops, and travel. We have the new Swan River Valley Band Parent Fundraising Group who are very excited to assist in this and are organizing the fundraising projects! Students wishing to travel to Northern Band Festival, Parkland Norman Honor Band, BU Jazz Festival, etc., may participate in further fundraising projects as they arise. Those details will be sent home with students upon commitment.

Have a great year in Jazz Band!