

Jazz Band

Grade Level: 7-8

Length of course: Two semesters

Course Description: This course is for students interested in performing and learning jazz, rock, pop, and world beat. Students will be introduced to jazz theory, style, and the art of improvisation. Several required performances include school concerts and outside school performances. Students provide their own instrument except for the larger instruments that may be available from the school. Instrumentation of each jazz band may vary depending on director discretion.

Readiness Standards:

- Be able to participate cooperatively in a group
- Be able to follow the conductor's directions
- Be able to perform basic music fundamentals taught in Intermediate or Advanced Band

Strands

Mastery Core Objectives

The Musician

- Work cooperatively with others
- Understand individual role in group
- Demonstrate dependability and reliability
- Prepares for class with all necessary materials
- Stop playing, look, and listen when the conductor stops the ensemble
- Ask appropriate questions
- Independently use pencil to mark music

Woodwind and Brass Techniques

- Develop knowledge of:
 - Woodwinds:
 - Alternate fingerings
 - Altissimo register
 - Vibrato
 - Brass:
 - Upper Range
 - Alternate fingerings/positions
 - Vibrato

Rhythm Section Techniques

- Develop ability to:
 - Piano:
 - Know and use common chord symbols
 - Use common chord symbols in comping technique
 - Bass:
 - Know and use common chord symbols

- Compose stylistically correct bass lines from common chord symbols
- Keep accurate time
- Guitar:
 - Know and use common chord symbols
 - Play in a rhythmic guitar style
 - Play in a lead guitar style
- Percussion:
 - Know and use common chord symbols on the mallet instruments
 - Solo on the mallet instruments
 - Develop a knowledge of and proper use of the bass drum, hi-hat, ride cymbal, crash cymbal, snare drum, tom-toms, additional cymbals

Pitch Perception

- Develop knowledge of basic chord construction and symbols for a variety of chords

Rhythmic Perception

- Develop knowledge of how notes and phrases are played in:
 - Latin Style
 - Swing Style
 - Funk Style
 - Rock Style
 - Ballad Style

Melodic Perception

- Develop ability to:
 - Identify, define, and use correct phrasing techniques in varying jazz styles
 - Balance within the section
 - Balance within the total ensemble
 - Lead trumpet, trombone, and alto sax:
Develop knowledge of abilities required of this position
 - Rhythm section:
Develop knowledge of ability to play as a unit and in response to the larger ensemble or soloist

Symbols and Terms

- Develop knowledge of and the ability to play the

following jazz articulations:

- Bend
- Short Fall
- Long Fall
- Scoop
- Doit
- Flip
- Cut off indication

- Develop a knowledge of accent markings and how they are performed in varying jazz styles
- Demonstrate knowledge of various symbols as they occur in music: repeat sign, solo/soli/tutti, divisi/unison, accent, first and second endings, one and two measure repeat signs, multiple measure repeats and rests, D.C. and D.S. al Fine, staccato and tenuto
- Define and play all indicated dynamic markings
- Define and play indicated tempo markings
- Identify all major key signatures

Improvisation

- Develop knowledge and technique to improvise in common major and minor scales, blues scales, and pentatonic scales

Musical Styles

- Develop the ability to define and play differing musical styles related to the jazz ensemble idiom

Sight Reading

- Develop ability to sight read appropriate level music literature

Music Appreciation

- Develop knowledge and appreciation of various jazz styles and performers through classroom listening and attending live performances

Ongoing Learner Goals:

- Work cooperatively with others
- Improve technical skills on instrument as it relates to jazz studies
- Increase knowledge of jazz fundamentals
- Continue to develop the creative process used in improvisation
- Continue to enjoy a variety of musical activities (participating or attending performances)