



West Contra Costa Unified School District

# EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

*Keith Johnson, Director of Bands*

## 2017-18 JAZZ ENSEMBLE COURSE SYLLABUS

<b>Class Schedule:</b>	M-F, Block 1A (8:05 – 8:55am)
<b>Instructor:</b>	Keith Johnson
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Daily, 11:00am -12:00pm
<b>Phone:</b>	510-231-1427 ext. 26418
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:keith@echsbands.com">keith@echsbands.com</a>

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

**Jazz Ensemble** is performance based jazz course for advanced-level musicians focused on developing jazz vocabulary, strengthening improvisational skills, and applying knowledge of jazz theory. Students will also work for refinement of ensemble skills toward the collegiate level, mastery of music reading, and strong performance fundamentals through active listening and performance of jazz standards and new compositions by contemporary artists. Instrumentation is limited and concurrent enrollment in Wind Ensemble is required. **All students enrolled are required to participate in all performances.**

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Refine individual playing ability
- 2) Apply jazz theory and vocabulary through improvisation
- 3) Listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music using specific criteria
- 4) Strengthen music reading skills

### CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to contribute positively in rehearsals by arriving to class on time, prepared, with all required materials.
- Students will focus on the success of the group by eliminating distractions. All phones, books, and electronic devices should be left in your backpack.
- **Rehearsals are time to work collectively, not individually.** Rehearsals (daily classes) are not to learn your part – they are to learn everyone else’s part and therefore, the music. At this level, learning your part is your responsibility and a basic expectation. This is the professional standard.

### TARDY POLICY

Tardiness affects the performance and learning environment of all band students. Tardiness will be reflected in a student’s procedure grades as outlined in the grading breakdown.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

### ○ Instruments

Students are encouraged to rent or buy an instrument for daily use. Students that do not own an instrument may check out an instrument from the ECHS instrument inventory. There are not enough instruments to supply students with two instruments (one for home use and one for school use).

### ○ Sheet Music, Folders & Pencils

Students are responsible for having a pencil in class at all times. Sheet music and folders are supplied and are on loan to students for the duration of the school year. Folders must be stored away in the designated folder slot at all times unless the folder is taken home. **Students should not leave folders in their lockers under any circumstances.** Students are responsible for all loaned materials and must cover the cost of any lost or damaged items. Replacement folders are \$20 and replacement parts are \$5.

### ○ Woodwind Players

Woodwind players are responsible for buying their own reeds. Students are encouraged to play on size 3 reeds and no lower than lower than size 2 ½. The recommended brand for clarinet and sax is **Rico** (cheaper) or **Vandoren. Forest** reeds, from Forest Music in Berkeley, are the recommended brand for oboe and bassoon. Students should have at least 3 reeds in their case at all times.

### ○ Brass Players

All brass players are encouraged to purchase their own mouthpiece. **Bach 3C** for trumpet players and **Bach 6.5 AL** for trombone players. All brass players should also own a bottle of valve oil and/or slide grease. Trombone players should own a small spray bottle to keep their slide lubricated.

### ○ Percussion Players

Percussionists are required to own their own pair of drumsticks, a practice pad, and encouraged to purchase their own set of mallets.

### ○ Lockers

Students will be checked out a locker in the instrument storage room. It is everyone's responsibility to put their instrument in their locker after every rehearsal. Instruments may NOT be left out in the band room under any circumstances. Lockers should be used for music class only.

## CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire for all performances is as follows:

- **Girls:** Black dress pants or skirt (**must cover knees when seated**), black dress shirt, and shoes
- **Boys:** Black, 2 button suit (**must be a complete, SOLID BLACK suit**), black dress shirt, white tie, black dress shoes

## GRADING & ASSIGNMENTS

### ○ Rehearsal Procedures

Being a member of this ensemble is a privilege. Procedure grades are based on student preparation including punctuality, having all materials ready when class begins, and contributing positively to the rehearsal. Students that are consistently tardy, absent, and come to class unprepared will see a direct impact on their grade and/or be dropped from the class at the discretion of the Director.

○ **Homework**

It is expected that each student practice for AT LEAST 2.5 hours a week (30 minutes a day). **NEW THIS YEAR:** In addition to individual practice students will be assigned listening assignments and transcribing projects throughout the course of the school year. Information on these assignments will be provided as they are assigned.

○ **Exams**

Students should be always prepared to demonstrate the ability to play parts by themselves or in a small group.

- **Playing Exams** will be graded on accuracy, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, and musicality.
- **Written Exams** will be graded on musical terms, music theory, and music history.
- **Scale Tests** will be graded on demonstration of proper execution of major and minor scales.

○ **Concert Reports**

**NEW THIS YEAR:** Jazz Ensemble members do not need to submit an additional concert report for this class. Members may choose a jazz concert for use in their Wind Ensemble concert report. It is your responsibility to know when concert reports are due. Concert reports will be due by **Friday, December 15, 2017** and **Friday, May 18, 2018**. A list of acceptable concerts and critique formats are available on our website under the Forms and Docs tab.

○ **Sectionals**

Every section in Jazz Ensemble is required to have at least one (1) out of class sectionals per month, run by the principal player of that section. Detailed sectional expectations are available on our website under Student Resources.

## PERFORMANCES

Jazz Ensemble is a performance-based class. Application of material covered in class is demonstrated in performance. **All performances are MANDATORY and are a part of the student's grade.** Performance dates will be given to students in a timely manner well in advance and are always available online. **Work conflicts, extra curricular sport and/or music activities or conflicts within your control, i.e. family vacations and/or trips, are not excused absences.** Missed performances due to illness are excused but require a doctor's note for verification. All other conflicts will be handled individually on their own merit and must be cleared with the Director PRIOR and WELL IN ADVANCE of the performance. Missed performances will affect a student's grade by at least two full letter grades. **No make-up work can or will be assigned for missed performances.**

## GRADING BREAKDOWN

Final grades will be based on the following weighted categories and percentages for each quarter/semester:

- **REHEARSAL PROCEDURES:** 35%
- **PERFORMANCES:** 35%
- **EXAMS & HOMEWORK:** 30%

### POINT BREAKDOWN

Rehearsal Procedures	2 points
Playing Exams	10 points
Reports/Midterms	20 points
Performances	50 points
Tardy:	- 1 point
Unexcused Absences	-5 points

### GRADING SCALE

94-100% = A	74-76% = C
90-93% = A-	70-73% = C-
87-89% = B+	67-69% = D+
84-86% = B	64-66% = D
80-83% = B-	60-63% = D-
77-79% = C+	Below 60% = F

**JAZZ ENSEMBLE**  
**2017-18 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM**

(Due by Friday, August 25, 2017)

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**Student Name** (print please)

**By signing this form you acknowledge the following:**

- I have read and understand the information contained in the course syllabus and am responsible for all of the information contained in it.
- I understand the level of commitment and effort that is required as a member of this class and agree to the procedures and expectations set forth.
- My parents have read and understand the information contained in this document.
- I understand that I am required to participate in the following performances are a part of my final grade:
  - 1) **Fall Concert** (Quarter 1): Saturday, October 21, 2017
  - 2) **CSM Jazz Festival** (Quarter 2): Friday, November 17, 2017
  - 3) **Winter Jazz Concert** (Quarter 2): Friday, December 6, 2017
  - 4) **Folsom Jazz Festival** (Quarter 3): Saturday, January 27, 2018
  - 5) **El Cerrito Jazz Festival** (Quarter 3): Saturday, February 10, 2018
  - 6) **Next Generation Jazz Festival** (Quarter 4): April 7-8, 2018 (pending acceptance)
  - 7) **Reno Jazz Festival** (Quarter 4): April 27-28, 2018
  - 8) **Yoshi's Concert** (Quarter 4): Tuesday, May 22, 2018

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**Student Signature**

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**Date**

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**Parent Signature**

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**Date**