



EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL BANDS COURSE SYLLABUS 2016-17

Course Title:	Jazz Ensemble
Schedule:	M-F, Block 1A (8:05 – 8:55am)
Instructor:	Keith Johnson
Office Hours:	Daily 10:30-11:30am and by appointment
Phone:	510-231-1427 ext. 26418
Email:	keith@echsbands.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jazz Ensemble is the premiere jazz course for advanced-level jazz musicians, which offers students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of jazz styles and further develop improvisational skills. Students work for refinement of ensemble skills toward the collegiate level, mastery of music reading skills, developing a jazz vocabulary, strengthening their knowledge of jazz theory, and sound performance fundamentals. Standard and contemporary jazz repertoire are studied and understood through performance and active listening. Concurrent enrollment in Wind Ensemble is a prerequisite for participation. **All students enrolled are required to participate in all performances.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Use jazz theory knowledge to accurately interpret music
- 2) Strengthen fundamentals of jazz improvisation and expand knowledge of jazz vocabulary
- 3) Refine elements of proper instrumental technique
- 4) Listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music using specific criteria for quality and effectiveness
- 5) Strengthen sight-reading abilities

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to contribute positively in rehearsals by arriving to class prepared and on time with all materials.
- Students will always 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 – rather they are to learn everyone else's part and therefore, the music. At this level, learning your part is your responsibility. This is the professional standard.

TARDY POLICY

Tardiness affects the performance and learning environment of all band students. Students will be given a verbal warning and lose procedure points for their first three (3) unexcused tardies. After the third offense grades will be lowered by half a letter grade on each of the following tardies until the end of the quarter.

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

Music and folders are supplied and on loan to students for the duration of the school year. Students are responsible for all loaned materials and must replace any missing or damaged items. Students are responsible for having a pencil in class at all times. 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.

○ Saxophone Players

Sax players are required to purchase their own reeds. Doubling may be required of saxophone players. Instruments for doubling will be checked to students by the director. **It is the responsibility of each student to bring all doubles to EVERY rehearsal.**

○ Brass Players

Brass students should own a bottle of valve oil and/or slide grease. **Brass players must bring all mutes and doubles (Flugelhorns) to ALL rehearsals.**

○ Rhythm Section Players

Drummers should own their own pair of (jazz) drumsticks. **Bass/guitar players are required to provide their own patch chords for EVERY rehearsal.**

○ 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 suit (**must be a complete, SOLID BLACK suit**), black dress shirt, white tie, black dress shoes

GRADING

○ Rehearsal Procedures

In addition to coming to class prepared by knowing your music, you are expected to be in your seat with your folder, instrument, and pencil on time.

○ Homework

It is expected that each student practice for AT LEAST 2.5 hours a week (30 minutes a day). Students that are showing little to no improvement over the course of the semester will be placed on a practice card. Practice cards will require a parent signature and turned in on a weekly basis until the end of the quarter. In addition to individual practice, students will also receive written homework assignments as determined by the Director.

○ Exams

Students should be prepared to demonstrate the ability to play parts by themselves or in a small group at any time. An exam schedule is attached to this syllabus.

- **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**

All band members are required to turn in one (1) concert report each semester. 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 two (2) out of class sectionals each semester, 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 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 PROCEDURE:** 35%
- **PERFORMANCES:** 35%
- **PLAYING EXAMS:** 20%
- **HOMEWORK:** 10%

POINT BREAKDOWN

Rehearsal Procedures:	2 points
Playing Exams:	10 points
Reports/Midterms:	20 points
Performances:	50 points
Tardies:	- 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

2016-17 ECHS JAZZ ENSEMBLE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Student Name (print please)

I have read and understand the information contained in this syllabus and acknowledge that I am responsible for all of the information contained in this document. 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.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date