



EL CERRITO HIGH SCHOOL BANDS

Keith Johnson, Director

2018-19 JAZZ ENSEMBLE COURSE SYLLABUS

Class Schedule:

Mon:	Block 1B (8:05am – 8:50am)
Tue:	Block 1B (8:05am – 8:50am)
Wed:	Block 1B (8:05am – 9:20am) *
Thu:	Block 1B (8:05am – 8:50am)
Fri:	Block 1B (8:05am – 8:50am)

Instructor: Keith Johnson
Office Hours: Daily, 10:00am -11:00am
Phone: 510-231-1427 ext. 26418
Email: keith@echsbands.com

* Jazz Ensemble will meet for the full block on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jazz Ensemble is an advanced performance-based course dedicated to the study and performance of the American art form of jazz. The course emphasizes building jazz vocabulary, strengthening improvisational skills, and preparing students for collegiate performing opportunities through the performance of jazz standards and new works by contemporary artists. Limited instrumentation requires an audition for ensemble membership. Concurrent enrollment in Wind Ensemble is required. **Offsite performances, workshops, and sectionals are required of all members.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Understand the concepts of jazz including style, theory, harmony, form, and history.
2. Apply knowledge of jazz theory and vocabulary through ensemble performance and improvisation.
3. Refine individual playing ability toward the collegiate level.
4. Listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music using specific criteria for quality and effectiveness.
5. Strengthen music reading skills.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- o Band members will contribute positively by arriving to class on time, prepared, with all required materials.
- o Students will focus on the success of the group by eliminating distractions and remaining engaged in the rehearsal. All phones, books, and electronic devices should be left in your backpack.
- o **Class time is a time to work collectively, not individually.** 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**

Sheet music and folders are supplied and are on loan to students for the duration of the school year. Students should keep a pencil in their folders 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.** Students are responsible for all loaned materials and must cover the cost of any lost or damaged items. Replacement folders are \$25 and replacement parts are \$5 each.

○ **Saxophone Players**

Sax players are responsible for buying their own reeds. The recommended brand is **Vandoren**, however **Rico** reeds are cheaper. You should also plan on investing in a jazz mouthpiece that is different than your Wind Ensemble mouthpiece. Meyer 5 or 6 is recommended for alto players and Ottolink 8 for tenor players. Doubling may be required of saxophone players in Jazz Ensemble. 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**

All brass players are encouraged to purchase their own mouthpiece. **Bach 3C** for trumpet players and **Bach 6.5 AL** for trombone players. If you are a lead player, please see Keith about mouthpiece alternatives. 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. **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 performances is as follows:

Formal Performances

- **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

Each student is responsible for obtaining the listed performance attire. Students that are not dressed in proper attire for concerts will not be permitted to perform and will not receive credit for the performance.

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 & ASSIGNMENTS

○ **Rehearsal Procedures**

Procedure grades are based on daily preparation and preparedness 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**

Students are required to practice for at least 2.5 hours per week. On occasion, additional listening and written assignments may be given. Weekly practice time should be spread out daily over the course of the week. Cramming practice time into one day is highly discouraged. It is expected that students practice instrument specific exercises and etudes provided by the Director and master teachers as well as their individual parts in class. **Individual parts must be learned by the end of the fourth week of the concert cycle.** Students showing a lack of effort and/or improvement over the course of the semester will be required to submit weekly practice cards. Practice cards will require a parent signature and are to be submitted on a weekly basis through the end of the quarter. **Students that are placed on a practice card for two consecutive quarters will be dropped for the class.**

○ **Exams**

Students will demonstrate their ability to play assigned parts and exercises through playing exams. Playing exams will take place in class and online via audio recordings. On occasion, students may be given written exams. Below are the grading criteria for exams:

- **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.
- **Playing Exams** will be evaluated on note/rhythmic accuracy, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, and musicality.

○ **Sectionals**

Every section is required to have at least two (2) 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.

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

- Playing Exams 5-25 points
- Performances 50 points
- Daily Procedures 2 points per day
- Each Tardy - 1 point
- Unexcused Absences -5 points

JAZZ ENSEMBLE 2018-19 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Due on Friday, August 24, 2018

Student Name

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 20, 2018
- 2) **Delta Jazz Festival** (Quarter 2): Saturday, December 1, 2018
- 3) **Winter Jazz Concert** (Quarter 2): Thursday, December 14, 2018
- 4) **Folsom Jazz Festival** (Quarter 3): Saturday, January 26, 2019
- 5) **El Cerrito Jazz Festival** (Quarter 3): Saturday, February 9, 2019
- 6) **Next Generation Jazz Festival** (Quarter 4): April 5-7, 2019 (pending acceptance)
- 7) **Reno Jazz Festival** (Quarter 4): April 26-28, 2019
- 8) **Spring Jazz Concert** (Quarter 4): Friday, May 24, 2019

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date