



ECHSBANDS

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JAZZ ENSEMBLE 2022-23 COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Keith Johnson
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Remind Code:	@22-23je
Google Classroom:	5mycgqf
Class Schedule:	
	Mon: Block 1A (8:30am – 9:15am)
	Tue: Block 1A (8:30am – 9:15am)
	Wed: Block 1A (8:30am – 9:05am)
	Thu: Block 1A (8:05am – 8:50am)
	Fri: Block 1B (8:05am – 8:50am)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jazz Ensemble is an advanced performance-based course dedicated to the study of the American art form of jazz. The course emphasizes building jazz vocabulary, strengthening improvisational skills, mastery of music reading, fundamental music theory concepts, and refinement of individual skills toward the collegiate level through the performance of jazz standards and from new, diverse and contemporary artists. Limited instrumentation requires an audition for ensemble membership. Concurrent enrollment in Wind Ensemble is required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate understanding of jazz concepts 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 **Daily Class Meetings**

Class attendance is crucial for student learning and the success of the ensemble. It is expected that all students attend class daily, on time, prepared with all required materials. **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. Learning your part is your responsibility and a basic expectation.

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 curricular 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 can affect a student's grade by up to two full letter grades. **No make-up work can or will be assigned for missed performances.**

HOMEWORK, ASSIGNMENTS, PROJECTS, & EXAMS

- **Performances** (50 points each)

Curricular performances are considered class midterms and finals. These performances are listed below. Extra-curricular performances (i.e. trips, football games, etc.) will not be graded and are optional.

- 1) **Fall Jazz Concert** (Q2): Friday, November 18, 2022
- 2) **CMEA Jazz Festival** (Q3): Friday, January 20, 2023
- 3) **Folsom Jazz Festival** (Q3): Saturday, January 28, 2023
- 4) **Campana Jazz Festival** (Q3): Saturday, February 11, 2023
- 5) **El Cerrito Jazz Festival** (Q3): Saturday, March 4, 2023
- 6) **WCCUSD Jazz Festival** (Q4): Wednesday, April 26, 2023
- 7) **Spring Jazz Concert** (Q4): Thursday, April 26, 2023
- 8) **LPAA Jazz Festival** (Q4): April 28 through 29, 2023

- **Daily Practice**

Students are required to practice for at least **30 minutes a day**, Monday through Friday. It is expected that students practice instrument specific exercises and etudes (provided by the director and master teachers), individual parts for large and small ensemble projects, scales, and sight-reading. Below is a breakdown of how you should break up your practice time. **Individual parts must be learned by the end of the fourth week of the concert cycle.** Students that do not have their parts learned will be required to submit weekly practice logs.

SAMPLE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- **Method Book/Handout Work** (10 minutes)
Technical exercises; articulations, slurs, finger dexterity, sticking, rudiments, range, etc. Pick one concept to work on (can be guided by your master teacher; ask questions!).
- **Repertoire** (10 minutes)
Repertoire can include your big band music, jazz etudes, jazz standards, or anything you're working on in small ensembles.
- **Scales** (5 minutes)
Each quarter we will be working on a set of scales. Each day work one or two scales to master them. Don't try to cram scale practice on the week of a test, it won't work!
- **Jazz Patterns** (5 minutes)
Pick patterns from the materials located on the band website!

- **Rehearsal Procedures** (2 points daily)
Procedures are based on daily preparedness by having all materials ready when class begins and participating in the warm-up and contributing positively to the rehearsal by having individual parts learned.
- **Scale Pattern & Jazz Vocabulary** (16 points)
Through these ongoing assessments, students will demonstrate mastery of scale patterns and jazz vocabulary through a combination of in class live performances and recorded assignments uploaded to Google Classroom. All scales and patterns will be performed by memory in class or recorded using an appropriate backing track and uploaded.
- **Transcription Projects** (25 points each)
Learning jazz vocabulary is essential to developing skills as jazz musicians. In addition to active listening, transcribing and performing solos recorded by professional artists is a crucial skill in developing a jazz vocabulary. Students will have two (2) solo transcription projects over the course of the course.

Semester 1: All students will prepare and perform a transcription assigned by the instructor. Most of the transcribed solo will be provided for students with sections left intentionally blank for students to transcribe on their own. The form, chord progression, and related scales will be covered in class to provide students with the necessary resources to successfully complete this project. Students will perform the transcription in class for a grade using a performance rubric.

Semester 2: Students will choose their own transcription project by the third week of the semester. The solo must be approved by the teacher to ensure it is level-appropriate for each student. All of the same resources from the first project will be made available to students. At the beginning of the 4th quarter, students will submit a progress recording to ensure the project is moving along as necessary and, to allow the teacher the opportunity to offer support. The final week of class all students will perform a solo transcription as a part of their course final. Performance rubrics will be used for grading.

- **Recorded Assignments** (10 points each)
Recorded assignments will be assigned based on the progress of the group and/or individuals. All recorded assignments will be recorded using a cell phone or computer and submitted via Google Classroom. All assignments will be graded using our performance rubric.
- **Concert Reports** (20 points)
Listening to live music performances is important for all musicians. Students will submit one (1) concert report each semester in Google Classroom. Concert reports will be due by **Friday, December 9, 2022** and **Friday, May 19, 2023**. A list of acceptable concerts and critique formats are available on our website under the Forms and Docs tab.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

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

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