

CURRICULUM SYLLABUS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – JAZZ ENSEMBLE

GRADE LEVEL(S): 10-12

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. TRASKAL

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Conference Period: 5th Hour (12:13pm-1:09pm)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Jazz Ensemble is an advanced ensemble that selects its members through an audition process, and meets for the entire year. This ensemble is made up of trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and a rhythm section (guitar, piano, bass, and drum-set). The band focuses on rehearsing and performing the various styles of jazz, R & B, swing, rock, fusion, etc. Time is also spent in the development and implementing of improvisation skills, along with the basic knowledge of music theory. The Jazz Ensemble performs in the community as well as at the CMU Jazz Weekend, at MSBOA State Jazz Festival, and at Winter and Spring concerts. Obligations to this class include after-school performances and rehearsals. Students interested in taking Jazz Ensemble must plan their schedule accordingly to create room for an extra elective outside of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. One option to free-up schedule space is by taking required courses at a community college or night school. This is not necessary, but will provide students in two band classes with more course choices during their high school career.

PREREQUISITE: A successful audition (including the ability to read standard notation).

COURSE EXPECTATIONS / GOALS / BENCHMARKS / OBJECTIVES:

- Playing an instrument alone and with others
- Playing an instrument with appropriate tone
- Playing an instrument with appropriate intonation
- Playing an instrument with appropriate rhythm
- Playing an instrument with appropriate technique
- Being able to interpret music with suitable phrasing, expression, temp, dynamics, style and tradition.
- Students will become creative problem solvers who think critically and can make decisions, through artistic modes, in situations where there are no standard answers.
- Students will become culturally aware citizens who have a sense of history and an appreciation of the fine arts through multi-cultural experiences.
- Students will become humanistic thinkers who have creativity, sensitivity, and emotion.
- Students will become collaborative workers who are confident, receptive to others ideas, and utilize peer input to develop interpersonal relationships within the framework of their setting.
- Students will develop responsibility by demonstrating accountability for instrument and uniform care, practicing, teamwork and behavior in and outside of school.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS / MATERIALS:

- Recordings
- Essential Elements for Jazz
- Scales & Modes
- Various sheet music addressing curricular needs

MAJOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS / REQUIREMENTS:

- Transcription Project
- Playing Quizzes

- CMU Jazz Weekend
- MSBOA State Jazz Festival
- Concerts/Performances

GRADING AND ASSESSMENTS (TESTS AND QUIZZES):

The grading for the Instrumental Music classes at Eisenhower High School will be broken down into the following categories:

1) Daily Participation:

- Being prepared with your music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- Arriving to class on time, and immediately getting your instrument out to begin warming up.
- Acting appropriately during rehearsals by not talking, playing out of turn, chewing gum, etc.

2) Homework:

- Always having your part learned for class.
- Playing all quizzes with minimal to no mistakes.
- Participating at all sectionals.
- Participating at all rehearsals that are held in addition to class.

3) Performances:

- Participating in all concerts and performances.
- Arriving to the performance at the stated call time.
- Wearing the proper attire needed for that performance.
- Being prepared with the correct music, instrument, reeds, etc.
- Playing your part to the best of your ability.

4) Practice Slips:

- Practicing outside of the school day at least one hour per week (if enrolled in more than one instrumental class the practice time is still one hour per week).
- Private lessons can count towards up to 30 minutes per week.
- Outside Music Ensembles can count towards up to 30 minutes per week (only 15 minutes if taking credit for private lessons).
- At least 15 minutes of time per week must come from actual practice time and not lessons/outside music ensembles

NOTE - If you are absent from a performance due to an unexcused reason, you are in jeopardy of receiving a failing grade. Instrumental music is a performance based class, and will be graded as such. Thus, the performance category is weighted much heavier than the other two categories. (see attendance policy)

HOMEWORK:

This is important from the standpoint of being prepared for performances and rehearsals. Items that should be included in at-home practice include:

- Concert Material
- Reviewing Materials Covered in Class
- Scales & Etudes
- Fundamental Technique
- Tone

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Auditions for the various ensembles take place in the Spring before the class scheduling process and information is provided to the students as to when, where, and what is required for the audition. The audition process usually consists of a one-on-one audition with one of the directors. In the audition, major scales and etudes will be evaluated with emphasis on the scale portion of the audition. It is also wise to remember that everyday in rehearsal is an audition and thus, everyone auditions from the first day of school. These auditions are optional.