

Cathedral City High School Bands
Jazz Band Syllabus 2019- 2020

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“Excellence Is Our Minimum Standard”

Description:

The Purpose of Jazz band is to introduce students to the art of Jazz Performance, including such skills as swinging, improvisation, comping, chord identification, and jazz composition. Students will be exposed to a wide array of jazz literature of the highest quality, which will range from early Dixieland to modern Jazz. The major component of Jazz Band is participation in rehearsals and performances. Each semester, Jazz Band students will have a cumulative final assignment which will cover topics discussed previously.

Jazz Band/Percussion Ensemble “Gigs”

Throughout the year, both Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble will have scheduled performances outside of the regular school day. These events will be calendared at least two weeks in advance, and will be weighted as any other performance. Absence from these performances will result in a two letter grade deduction in a student’s grade.

Performance Requirements:

In order to perform in concert, a student must not have more than one “D” on any mini-juries. Students who do not attend their section’s assessment day will automatically fail their “mini-jury” (only excused with a SIGNED doctor’s note). Students who do not perform on a concert due to the aforementioned policy will have their course grade lowered two full letter grades. Additionally, as this is a performance based course, students who miss concerts due to ANY other reason outside of illness, will be dropped out of the course at the semester. Concerts are weighted at 200 points per event. **Band students with more than one “D” in one semester will be dropped from the course at the semester break.**

Course Materials:

All musicians who are members of the Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble need to have the following for optimal course success:

1. A fully functioning tuner/metronome.
2. Reed players must have a swab for their instruments and a reed holder that holds a *minimum* of four reeds.

3. Reed Players: FOUR fully-functioning reeds at all times.
5. Brass Players: Necessary Oils/Valve And Slide Cream.

Note: These items may be purchased at local music shops, and through the internet. Please see the Director of Bands to get further information.

Attendance At Rehearsals:

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals as scheduled. The CCHS Bands website contains the CCHS Bands calendar, which holds all of the information needed in order to successfully manage the requisite course rehearsal dates. Before or after-school rehearsals may be required for Jazz Band Students, and each rehearsal is weighted as a test grade.. **Please note missing more than one after-school rehearsal will equate to a student not performing on the forthcoming concert.** Students who do not perform on a concert due to the aforementioned policy will have their course grade lowered one full letter grade. Additionally, as this is a performance based course, students who miss concerts due to ANY other reason outside of illness, will be dropped out of the course at the semester.

There are many prerequisites for participation in the CCHS Bands but among the most important requirement is the personal commitment to be prepared for rehearsals. *The purpose of our rehearsals is to learn the other musicians' parts - **not** to learn your own part. Likewise the other musicians cannot learn your part unless you are prepared and in attendance.* Therefore your attendance is **mandatory** at all rehearsals and individual preparation is required. Musical honesty and integrity in concert grows out of our commitment to being prepared for rehearsals. Every rehearsal is a performance leading up to the culminating experience of the concert.

Individual Preparation and Practice

“Great artists are great artists because they enjoy practice as much as performance. That is because their practices (or repetitions) are always performances. Repetition in rehearsal is both repetition and deepening. One must experience focused repetition in order to discover the mysteries of the art. One must experience repetition in order to explore the beauties of the piece. One must repeat in rehearsal in order to learn a fundamental human condition: commitment.”

James Jordan

The description of practicing quoted above is significant in that it describes the essence of what is required to be an excellent performing musician. The degree to which we commit to this attitude will be reflected in the quality of our work as individuals and as an ensemble. Practice often and practice with specific goals in mind. Be sure to practice those skills you need the most work on work on the music you will be accountable for in upcoming rehearsals.

Attendance At Rehearsals, Performances, and Jazz Gigs:

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals, Performances, and Jazz Gigs as scheduled and presented to the students. The CCHS Bands website contains the CCHS Bands calendar, which holds all of the information needed in order to successfully manage the requisite course rehearsal dates. Saturday rehearsals, performances or Jazz Gigs in the fall are required for Symphonic Band, Jazz Band, and Percussion Ensemble Students, and each Saturday rehearsal or Jazz Gig is weighted as a test grade. **Please note missing more than one Saturday rehearsal or Jazz Gig will equate to a student not performing on the forthcoming concert.** Students who do not perform on a concert due to the aforementioned policy will have **their course grade lowered two full letter grades**. Additionally, as this is a performance based course, students who miss concerts due to ANY other reason outside of illness, will be dropped out of the course at the semester.