

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE I SYLLABUS

2019-2020 School Year

Jazz I is one of the premier instrumental music performance ensembles on the campus of Warren HS. The students in this ensemble have proved through audition that their skill set is higher than that of the average high school musician. The Jazz I ensemble will serve as the music ambassador to Warren HS and will have many gigs to perform at. It is expected that the members of this ensemble take this responsibility seriously and take it upon themselves to be ready and available for many out of school performances.

Grading Criterion:

- Participation – 40%
- Assessments – 40%
- Final Exam – 20%

PARTICIPATION 50% of grade

- Out of School Day Rehearsals = 10 points (late 5 points; absent 0 points)
- Festivals and Performances = 20 points (late 10 points; absent 0 points)

to be excused from a rehearsal or performance, it requires a 2 week prior notification **along with Mr. Niemeyer's approval. Just because you request to be excused does not mean you will be excused.*

Daily Attendance: no points

Students are expected to be in class every day. Attendance is taken every day as students go through their warm up process. If a student is continually late, absent or unprepared a meeting will be set up with said student's parents and school policy will be in effect.

Out of School Day Rehearsals: 10 points per rehearsal/sectional

In 2019-2020 there is no planned out of school day rehearsals. They will only happen if deemed necessary. Students who are tardy will earn half of the points available. If a student has an unexcused absence, they will receive 0 points. If a student is granted an excused absence, they will earn 8 points.

Festivals and Performances/ Attire: 20 points for every performance

Students and families must make the effort to make sure students can participate in these activities. Most of these events will be on school days. Please visit the online calendar to see dates, times and locations. To receive full credit, students must be wearing their "dress/tux" with all the appropriate accessories. Students who miss these performances for any reason, ARE LATE or are not properly dressed and groomed will earn half of the points available. If a student has an unexcused absence, they will receive 0 points. If a student is granted an excused absence, they will earn 18 points.

ASSESSMENTS: 40% of grade

Mr. Niemeyer will frequently announce assessments on all aspects related to being in band. These assessments are in place to hold students accountable as individual musicians and ensemble members. Tests will include: tuning charts, reed checks, instrument maintenance checks, pencil checks, music checks, memorization tests, playing tests, written tests, etc. An example of a playing test is Mr. Niemeyer will ask students to play certain passages of the literature that is being rehearsed in front of the class. Sometimes these may be done alone or sometimes with others.

FINAL EXAM: 20% of grade

At the conclusion of both the Fall and Spring semester each student will perform in a small ensemble and or a solo during class in front of their peers. **Fall – small ensemble; Spring – solo.** Check points are the following:

Fall: September 16th – solo selected; October 14th – check point; November 18th – check point; December 12-19 performances.

Spring: February 3rd – solo selected; March 2nd – check point; April 6th – check point; May 4 – 29 performances.

CITIZENSHIP: ATTITUDE + CHARACTER

This will be reflected in the students citizenship mark.

CHALLENGES:

Challenges are not allowed in Jazz I. However, if Mr. Niemeyer or a student feels they are ready to for an opportunity to place higher chair music the student will be given a chance to prove him or herself.

BAND ROOM REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS:

- The NO List: gum, candy, food, drinks, iPods, Cell Phones, Tablets, Laptops, sweater hoodies, baseball hats, homework from other classes, books to read, talking, fixing instrument during class, cases or pack backs in rehearsal space.
- The YES List: help set up and put away chairs and stands, be prepared, sit actively through rehearsal, keep your instrument well maintained, keep a pencil ready to write at any moment, ask for help, practice outside of class time, be responsible and trustworthy, sit tall, invest your energy into the rehearsal.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE ON TIME AND PREPARED?

1. In chair with instrument, music and pencil ready to go when Mr. Niemeyer, staff member or student leader begins warm ups.
2. All music is lightly numbered with pencil and has been practiced at home.
3. Alert and ready to rehearse. This includes having a positive attitude.

WHAT IS A REHEARSAL?

A rehearsal is a time when a group of musicians get together to work on musical issues that relate to balance, intonation, phrasing, dynamics, tempo and transitions, rhythmic alignment, etc. In rehearsal your job is to learn everyone else's part.

WHAT IS PRACTICING?

Practicing is when you learn your part on your own. Practicing is a routine that is developed by an individual musician to master concepts, techniques, literature, etc.

INSTRUMENT SHARING/MOUTHPIECES

Some students share instruments because we do not own enough of them for everyone to have their own. Every student is to provide own their own mouthpiece. Sharing of mouthpieces is unacceptable.

WHAT DO I NEED TO OWN TO BE PART OF BAND?

All students should own a quality Metronome and Tuner!

All students should be investing in quality method books and Apps to assist in their learning! (see attached list)

Alto/ Tenor/ Bari – should own Meyer mouthpiece and Rover Ligature (or something better) Sax players should also own a reed saver that always has 4 reeds in it that are being playing in rotation every week. Sax players should only be playing on Vandoren jazz reeds – not blue box reeds. The type of reed and mouthpiece you use in playing jazz and popular music is different than the one you would use in concert band or marching band!

Trumpets – should own an intermediate/ pro trumpet. Proper care and storage of instrument should be part of a daily routine. This includes oiling valves and greasing slides. Give your instrument a bath every now and then to scrub out the crud that builds up inside. Trumpets at minimum should own a Bach mouthpiece and should consider trying out other mouthpieces! The mouthpiece you use in jazz may be different than the one you use in concert band or marching band due to the demand of the high tessitura in jazz and popular music.

Trombones – should own an intermediate or professional trombone with a small bore and no trigger function unless you play bass trombone. Proper care and storage of instrument should be part of a daily routine. The slide is the most sensitive part of the instrument – no dents and a clean slick working slide should be the norm. Keep the tuning slide greased and operable. Trombone players at minimum should own a Bach 61/2 AL mouthpiece and should consider trying out others. The mouthpiece you use in jazz may be different than the one you use in concert band or marching band due to the demand of the high tessitura in jazz and popular music.

Drummer – should own a stick bag that has at minimum several pairs of drum set sticks and a quality pair of brushes. Drummers should own their own drum set to practice at home. Drummers can practice before or after school in the band room on the WHS equipment.

Bassist – should own an electric bass and amp to practice on at home. Strings should be best quality purchasable and in good working order. Bassists can also practice before or after school in the band room on the WHS equipment.

Pianist – should own their own piano or electric keyboard to practice on at home. Pianists can also practice in band room before and after school in the band room on the WHS equipment.

Performances/Events for 2019-2020 as of 8/14/2019

- Holiday Caroling December 6,7,13,14 4:45-7:30pm each day
- Winter Concert Wed. December 11th @ Downey Theatre 7pm – student call time 4pm
- Spingo Fri. January 24th @ TBD 6-9pm
- Jazz Festival #1 – Date TBD most likely February
- Jazz Festival #2 – Date TBD most likely March
- 2nd Annual Paint Night Fundraiser Fri. March 20th 6-8pmish
- San Francisco Tour April 3-5
- Flapjacks and Jazz Sat. April 25th 7am-11am