

WARREN HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ ENSEMBLE II SYLLABUS

2019-2020 School Year

The Jazz II Ensemble is a unique ensemble that only meets during the spring semester. Class time is 7th period which is the period 3-4pm after 6th period (after school). However, to help ease after school conflicts this ensemble will meet Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 3-4:15pm. (No Tue/Fri class) Due to schedule conflicts and limitations it is of the utmost importance that students understand the rehearsal and commitment schedule of this ensemble. Students are expected to practice on their own regularly and even pursue additional help from private coaches.

Grading Criterion:

- Participation – 50%
- Assessments – 50%

PARTICIPATION 50% of grade

Festivals and Performances = 20 points (late 10 points; absent 0 points)

**no excuse for missing a performance will be accepted or tolerated. Situations will be dealt with case by case.*

Daily Attendance: no points

Students are expected to be in class every day. Attendance is taken every day as students go through their ensemble warm up process. Jazz II will start at 3pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday. Please refer to the school's policy on Tardies!

***Tardy – school tardy policy will be strictly enforced. See school handbook. If student arrives after 3pm they are Tardy, If they arrive after 3:30pm they are Truant. Every 3 tardies, student's letter grade will be lowered. A+ to A to A- to B+ and so on.

***Absences from class must be cleared within 24 hours with the school attendance office. If the absence is not cleared within 24 hours, the absence will become 'inexcusable'. For every inexcusable absence a student's letter grade will be lowered. A+ to A to A- to B+ and so on.

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 "jazz attire". (see jazz attire sheet) Students who are late will earn half of the points available.

ASSESSMENTS: 50% 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, 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.

CITIZENSHIP: ATTITUDE + CHARACTER

This will be reflected in the student's citizenship mark.

CHALLENGES:

Challenges are not allowed in Jazz II. 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 tear 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 before and after school, 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 prior to 3:00pm.
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 help their selves 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. No sharing will be tolerated.

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

All students should own a quality Metronome!

All students except drummers should own a quality 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.

2019-2020 Jazz II Calendar

January

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
6 3-4:15pm	7	8 3-4:15pm	9 3-4:15pm	10
13 3-4:15pm	14	15 3-4:15pm	16 NO CLASS	17
20 No School	21	22 3-4:15pm	23 3-4:15pm	24
27 3-4:15pm	28	29 3-4:15pm	30 3-4:15pm	31

February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 3-4:15pm	4	5 3-4:15pm	6 3-4:15pm	7	
10 No School	11	12 3-4:15pm	13 3-4:15pm	14	
17 No School	18	19 3-4:15pm	20 3-4:15pm	21	22 Spingo
24 3-4:15pm	25	26 3-4:15pm	27 3-4:15pm	28 Upland Jazz Fest?	

March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 3-4:15pm	3	4 NO CLASS	5 3-4:15pm	6	
9 3-4:15pm	10	11 3-4:15pm	12 NO CLASS	13	
16 3-4:15pm	17	18 3-4:15pm	19 3-4:15pm	20	21 South Hills Fest
23 3-4:15pm	24	25 3-4:15pm	26 3-4:15pm	27	

April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 3-4:15pm	31	1 3-4:15pm	2 3-4:15pm	3	
6 3-4:15pm	7	8 3-4:15pm	9 3-4:15pm	10	
13 Spring Br	14 Spring Br	15 Spring Br	16 Spring Br	17 Spring Br	
20 3-4:15pm	21	22 3-4:15pm	23 3-4:15pm	24 San Francisco	25 San Francisco *Or Flapjacks*
27 3-4:15pm	28	29 3-4:15pm	30 3-4:15pm	1	2

May

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 3-4:15pm	5	6 3-4:15pm	7 3-4:15pm	8	9 Flap Jacks & Jazz
11 3-4:15pm	12	13 3-4:15pm	14 3-4:15pm	15	16 West Ranch Fest
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	