



RADNOR TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
Course Overview



Jazz Ensemble
05120850

General Information

Credits: .5

Length: Full Year

Weighted:

Format: Meets on Cycle Days

Prerequisite: Enrollment in Band, Full Orchestra
or String/Full Orchestra (except for guitar, bass
& piano)

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Course Description

The Jazz Band Honors course is designed for students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, bass or drum set. Additional instruments that would be considered after consult with the teacher are violin, vibes, flute and clarinet. Students must also be enrolled in Band. Students are expected to be able to play music within the standard music level range of grade 3 to 5. Students will rehearse and perform varied repertoire covering both the big band and small combo jazz idioms. Students will also study the art of improvisation and will be encouraged to develop their skills through live performance and the utilization of play-along recordings and software. Students are expected to perform at up to four concerts during the school year. At home practice is an expected requirement of the course. This is an ensemble class and attendance is an important and vital part of assessment. Attendance at all concerts is mandatory. Elements of jazz fundamentals and musicianship are progressively taught and developed throughout the year.

Course Objectives:

- To enable students to play in a jazz ensemble setting.
- To develop students' listening skills in a large and small jazz ensemble settings.
- To develop students' performance skills in jazz ensemble settings.
- To develop each student's sense of intonation, rhythm, tone quality, balance, blend, dynamics and expression relevant to jazz interpretation.
- To develop each student's individual instrumental jazz playing technique.
- To develop jazz sight-reading skills.
- To develop a "discriminating ear."
- To reinforce basic jazz music theory concepts through performance.
- To develop student's improvisation skills.

Common Assessments:

- Jazz Performance 1
- Jazz Performance 2

Major Units of Study:

- Jazz Ensemble Technique

Materials & Texts

MATERIALS

A variety of music will be utilized from contemporary jazz band literature, which will include, but not be limited to big band arrangements, small combo literature, lead sheets and fake books. Play-along

CD's from the Jamie Aebersold and Jazz Play Along collections will be utilized. Additionally, various jazz scales, exercises and warm-ups will be utilized.

TEXTS

- Advanced Jazz Ensemble Method by Dean Sorenson and Bruce Pearson
- Aebersold for Everyone by Jamey Aebersold/ arranged by Peter Blair
- Alfred's Essentials of Jazz Theory, Book 1 by Shelton G. Berg
- Alfred's Essentials of Jazz Theory, Book 2 by Shelton G. Berg
- Alfred's Essentials of Jazz Theory, Book 3 by Shelton G. Berg
- Chop-Monster 1 by Shelly Berg
- Chop-Monster 2 by Shelly Berg
- Jazz Combo Session by Dean Sorenson
- The Articulate Jazz Musician by Caleb Chapman & Jeff Coffin

Summer Assignment

None