

Jazz Band, 2024-2025

Murphy High School

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Course Description

Jazz Band is an instrumental course designed to study and perform styles of music native to American popular music. Membership in the Symphonic Band is required for wind instruments and drum set. Electric Bass, piano, and electric guitar will be auditioned from non-Band members if no band members are available to play them. Electric Bass and guitar players need to own their instrument and be able to read chord figures and written music without tabs. This is a performance-based class with performances during and after school. Students enrolled in Jazz Band are expected to attend mandatory performances and occasional rehearsals on evenings and/or weekends.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will develop the tonal and technical skills needed to perform and improvise at a level appropriate for their individual development.
2. Students will demonstrate large and small ensemble skills by studying the performance practices of many jazz styles, with a focus on swing, bebop, and hard bop.
3. Students will develop aural skills and learn music theory within the context of jazz improvisation and the large ensemble repertoire.
4. Students will study and perform a wide variety of historically significant repertoire in multiple styles.
5. Students will develop critical jazz listening habits and evaluate the merits of various jazz performances.
6. Students will understand the social and historical context that shaped jazz music and its most notable personalities.
7. Students will demonstrate musical citizenship within the ensemble, the school, the greater community, and throughout life.
8. Students will develop their own individual jazz style and taste while learning self assessment skills.
9. Students will be exposed to performance and non-performance opportunities beyond the classroom

Important Dates

Please see murphyhsband.com/calendar for a complete calendar.

Materials

- Instrument with all necessary accessories as outlined in Murphy High Band Handbook
- Binder or folder for music
- Any music given to you
- Pencil (grab one from the pencil drawer if you forget yours)
- Concert Dress (Performances only) as outlined in Murphy High Band Handbook
- Access to Schoology
- Any other materials specified by the Director
- Resources

- o Jamey Aebersold Books
- o Real Easy Book
- o Real Books
- o Essential Elements Jazz Book
- o iReal Pro
- o MuseScore

Grading

- 60% Major Grades
 - o Examples include playing tests, performances, written tests, etc.
- 40% Minor Grades
 - o Examples include bell ringers, quizzes, etc.

Classroom Rules, Procedures, and Disciplinary Policies

Please refer to the Murphy Band Student Handbook on murphyhsband.com for a full list of rules and procedures. All students must always follow Murphy High School and MCPSS rules and procedures. Rules not explicitly stated in this syllabus but stated by the instructor must also be followed.

- Rules
 - o Only water is allowed in the Band Facility – NO OTHER DRINKS, FOOD, OR GUM IS ALLOWED
 - o Only touch and use items designated by the instructor – DO NOT TOUCH INSTRUMENTS, SMARTBOARDS, OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU DO NOT OWN
 - o Only use cell phones, headphones, AirPods, and electronics at designated times
 - o Stay at the designated area of the Band Facility – DO NOT GO TO THE OTHER ROOMS WITHOUT PERMISSION
 - o Only talk at designated times
 - o Follow all Murphy High School and MCPSS rules, including uniform policies
- Procedures
 - o At the beginning of class, come to the Band Facility; before the late bell rings, sit in your assigned seat, and begin working on any Bell Ringers or assignments
 - o Use the restroom at designated times only
 - o Only leave the Band Facility once the dismissal bell rings
 - o Fire Drills – exit the facility through the large band room and go to the band field
 - o Severe Weather Drills – proceed to the uniform room at the back of the large band room
 - o Lock Down Drills – proceed to the uniform room at the back of the large band room