

Jazz Bands Syllabus

Santa Monica High School Jazz Band

Course Syllabus

Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30

Instructor: Tom Whaley

Office Number: 310-450-8338 ext. 70287

Office Location: Santa Monica High School band room

Office Hours: By Appointment

E-mail: twhaley@smmusd.org

Course Description:

Participation in the Jazz Ensemble gives students the opportunity to rehearse and perform both new and established works in the repertory of the genre. Students are also exposed to techniques of jazz improvisation, jazz style characteristics, and elements of jazz formal structure. There will be a minimum of three public concerts throughout the year and one of the concerts will feature a prominent jazz composer/performer. **This course is open by audition only. This course is a dual enrollment course between Santa Monica College and Santa Monica High School. Only students who are already enrolled in a Santa Monica High School music class during the day are eligible to enroll in M78.**

Course Objectives/Outcomes (See Course Outline of Record and Student Learning Outcomes for Your Department): The learning goals for M78 include the understanding of current and professionally accepted instruction in jazz performance and pedagogy using the medium of the "Big Band. Instruction focuses on the fundamentals of jazz style, intonation, articulation, technique development, elements of overall musicality, exposure to jazz ensemble literature in the standard repertory.

Students will demonstrate proper standards of rehearsal etiquette, learn to improvise or improve their ability to do so and successfully complete scheduled concerts and festivals throughout each semester.

Course Materials: There is no required textbook for this course. Recordings and/or other information may be made available to students through the Music Library or the instructor. Students will need an instrument and if they do not, an instrument can be provided by the Santa Monica High School music department in most cases. When appropriate, students are responsible for disposing of educational/fair use copies immediately after their temporary use for rehearsals.

Additional Expectations:

- Students are expected to spend time as necessary practicing their assigned parts.
- Students are expected to complete listening and other assignments as given by the instructor.
- Students are expected to be present and on time at rehearsal time. In case of illness, the instructor should be notified by telephone and/or email (twhaley@smmusd.org) prior to rehearsal. For emergency absences, the instructor should be notified by telephone and, if possible, by email as soon as possible. Other absences should be discussed with the instructor at least one week prior to the absence.
- Students are expected to attend all ensemble concerts, recitals by students, and other events as assigned by the instructor.
- **Special project-** Students will be required to present a recording of a favorite jazz musician/recording to the class and describe why they chose it. (i.e. liked their sound, groove, how they built the solo etc.)

Grading:

Your grade will be based on the following scores:

Test 1:	100 points	Grading Scale:	460-600 points = A Excellent
Test 2:	100 points		420-459 points = B Good
Final Exam:	200 points		380-419 points = C Satisfactory
Homework:	100 points		340-379 points = D Poor
Special Project:	50 points		Below 340 points = F Failing
Quizzes:	50 points		
Total Possible Points:	600 points		

Unexcused absences after the first one will result in a drop of 1 letter grade per absence. Lateness to rehearsals will be reflected in the rehearsal grade. An unexcused absence to a dress rehearsal or concert will result in a failing grade for the semester.

INSTRUCTOR METHODS

We each have roles that will facilitate your understanding of the course material. My role is to aid you by demonstrating and discussing the various methods of improvisation, articulation, phrasing and dynamics.

Your role is to come to the class **prepared**. Students are expected to come to class equipped (instrument, music and a pencil for every rehearsal). Preparation for rehearsals, successful participation in concerts and other performances, and improvement over the course of study is extremely important in terms of success in this class. Failure to adequately prepare, or other failure to meet the expectations listed above or addressed by the instructor will result in deductions from the lesson grade.

Students are encouraged to ask questions. The only wrong question is an unasked question; if asking that question would have improved your understanding. I will attempt to answer all student questions during the rehearsal

except when it is apparent that the student has not been paying attention. I am also available during office hours, via telephone, e-mail and by appointment.

CLASS DECORUM

Students are expected to come to class on time, set up their chair, stand and begin warming up on their instrument. Once class has started, students must avoid any necessary conversation and raise their hand to express a concern, use the restroom or ask a question. No gum, food or drinks other than bottled water will be permitted in the band room. Students will also be expected to use good playing posture throughout the length of class. **TURN OFF CELLULAR PHONES, TEXT MESSENGERS, ETC. UPON ENTERING CLASS**

At the end of class, students will put their instruments/equipment away and leave the classroom after all music and equipment has been put away.

Currently Scheduled Recitals/Concerts:

2018-2019 Samohi Jazz Ensemble Performance Dates

- Winter Concert – Morgan Wixson Theatre 1/27/19, 6-8pm
- Stairway to the Stars Concert – Jazz 1 Only 3/27/19 Barnum
- Spring Concert – Date TBD, Location Catalina Bar and Grill

ATTENDANCE

As with any course, it is crucial that you do not miss any classes! Subject matter covered in the book and in lectures may appear on quizzes and tests. If you are late or absent, you are responsible for submitting homework before the assigned deadline and for keeping abreast of lecture topics. Excessive tardies or unexcused absences may result in a lower grade and/or being dropped from the class. In addition, participation in concerts and festivals withdrawn if a student has more than 3 unexcused tardies/absences, as missed rehearsal time negatively affects the other members of the ensemble as they work to prepare music for a performance.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

Students are responsible for withdrawing from a class and must not expect faculty to initiate withdrawal procedures for them.