

Jazz Ensemble and Grading Policy

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Mission Statement

The goal of the Liberty High School Instrumental Music Program is to present polished musical performances of a professional caliber. We perform the highest quality wind and string literature of a diverse and varied repertoire. Our audience may range from groups within the school to the community at large. We rehearse as an ensemble and practice individually in a way that continually stretches the outer boundaries of our musical abilities, and we seek outside opportunities to grow as musicians.

Grading Policy

40 % Performance Evaluations

35 % Daily Performance Assessments

15 % Performance Critiques (two per quarter)

10 % Written Assignments (midterm and final theory exam is 7% of semester grade)

Performance Evaluations: Performance evaluations may be given at any time in order to assess student preparedness, progress or retention of learned skills. Performance evaluations may be formally announced or unannounced and will include, but not limited to, current repertoire, warm-ups, or scale studies.

Evaluations will be used as chair placement auditions to determine seating. Students are expected to adopt a practice schedule and work at home to learn assigned music. (The equivalent of twenty minutes of practice per day is strongly recommended.) Class time is reserved for ensemble development and mastery of skill.

Daily Assessments:

Five points are earned daily for each successfully completed rehearsal. A successful rehearsal demands promptness, preparedness, on-task behavior, effort and retention. Students are expected to arrive on time to class with their assigned music, a sharpened pencil, individual instrument accessories, and an instrument in good working condition.

Students without music and/or instrument lose assessment points for that rehearsal period and are expected to do a make-up assignment. Two unprepared rehearsals result in lunch or after school detention. Students are expected to get a rental instrument if their instrument is undergoing repairs, or they may borrow an instrument (if available) from Ms. Jason (please ask in advance). Students may also present “proof” of repair from the repair service in order to be excused from rehearsal. Students who are unable to play an instrument due to medical illness will be excused from rehearsal with a handwritten note from a parent or legal guardian.

As with all performance classes, students must be in attendance in order to actively participate. Students with an unexcused absence forfeit their participation points for that class period. Excused absences will be given the opportunity to do extra work to make-up for lost rehearsal time.

Performance Critiques:

All students must complete one live performance critique and one recorded performance critique per quarter. (Please see Performance Critique handouts.) Critiques are to be one page, double-spaced, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Students must incorporate appropriate use of music terminology.

Live performance critiques must be accompanied by a program and/or ticket stub as “proof” of attendance. Recorded performance critiques must be accompanied by a photocopy of the CD, tape, or record cover, or clearly list the website from which the music was downloaded as “proof” of listening. A reduction of 15 points will be taken for critiques submitted without “proof.” Additional points may be deducted for incomplete work. Late work will lose ten points per class period.

Written Assignments/Music Theory:

Students are responsible for completing written class work and homework on time. In case of excused absence, all work must be submitted within two class periods in order to receive full credit. Students will take a midterm and final written music theory exam.

Required Performances

CCPS require students to receive a grade for all curricular concerts. The graded concert consists of a performance evaluation, concert critique (completed in class), and concert attendance. . Students who miss a concert (regardless of circumstance) will receive a zero for the concert attendance portion of the grade. Below are the required performances for this course:

- 12/15 Jazz and Orch. Concert, 7 pm
- 3/5 Instrumental Pops Concert, 7 pm
- 5/19 Jazz and Orch. Concert, 7 pm
- 6/5 Graduation, 11 am

*Students may be invited to perform at the MD State Jazz Convention in January.

After School Rehearsals

Below are the mandatory after school rehearsals required for this ensemble. Students must fill out an Absence Request Form (at least) a week prior to the missed rehearsal. The Instrumental Music Director will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused. Below are the required rehearsals for this course:

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| 12/2 | 6-8 pm | 5/11 | 6-8 pm |
| 12/9 | 6-8 pm | 5/17 | 6-8 pm |
| 3/1 | 6-9 pm | 6/1 | (non-graduates only), 3-5 pm |
| 3/30 | Orlando Band (only), 6-9 pm | | |

Parent Signature: _____