

# *Jazz Band*

## *Syllabus*

### *2016-2017*

Instructor: Mr. McDonald

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Band Website: [www.olahighschoolband.com](http://www.olahighschoolband.com)

*\*Please visit the band website for a schedule of after school rehearsals, performances, and more\**

#### **I. Course Description:**

The *Ola High School Jazz Band* class will study a large repertoire of literature that encompasses many genres of music. Students will train in advancing their musical skills through participation in classroom rehearsals and activities, as well as outside performances. This group will also provide appropriate, quality musical programs for the school and community.

Although the *Ola Jazz Band* will provide a different atmosphere in the making and learning of music compared to other more classically centered courses offered in the *Ola Band* ensemble family, its structure will be similar in makeup and daily routines.

All students must meet or exceed the semester *terminal objectives* set forth by the director in order to continue in the *Symphonic Band* class. Any student who does not successfully meet the semester terminal objectives is subject for removal from the class.

#### **II. Class Procedures and Expectations:**

1. Begin class by putting ALL school supplies in the wings of the classroom.
2. Unpack your instrument from your case, and again leave your case in the wings of the classroom.
3. Bring to your chair, instrument, stand, music folder, and PENCIL...EVERY DAY.
4. Once you have had a seat, begin warming up on your instrument. Make sure to tune your instrument with your tuner prior to rehearsal beginning.
5. When rehearsal is complete, return your stand to the rack and put all belongings into your cubby.
6. Show respect for everyone and their personal belongings
7. Practice and master your individual parts
- 8. No food, drink, candy, or gum is allowed in the band room**
9. School-owned instruments damaged by negligent student behavior can and will result in repair costs being paid by the student (all students using school-owned instruments will need to fill out a instrument check out form)
10. Your cubby is not your locker. All items that are not band related will be put into the school lost and found.
11. You are responsible for your band instrument. While you are welcome to use the band cubbies during the day, you must take your instrument home with you daily. We are not responsible for any damaged or stolen items while your instrument is at OHS.

### **III. Materials**

*\*The following materials are mandatory for each instrument. Please come prepared to every class with the following\**

#### **Wind Instruments- Materials Needed:**

**Brass-** Valve Oil, Slide Grease, Cleaning supplies, Proper Mouthpiece, Tuner

**Woodwinds-** Ongoing supply of at least 4 reeds, Swab, Tuner

*\*All instruments MUST be in working condition. This is a performance-based class and you must have a working instrument at all times. Failure to comply will result in a grade deduction\**

#### **Rhythm Section- Materials Needed:**

**Drum Set:** 1. Drum Sticks (2 pairs)

*\* Sticks should be Vic Firth American Custom  
ST1 Generals or ST2 Bolero's\**

2. Stick bag with your name.

**Bass:** 1. Instrument (bass guitar or upright)

*\*School will provide amplifier and chords for guitar\**

**Piano:** \* School will provide electronic keyboard and amplification material.

#### **Method Book(s)**

*Standard of Excellence- Jazz Band Method I AND II by Dean Sorenson & Bruce Pearson*

#### **Performances and Special Assignments:**

For a calendar of upcoming performances please visit [www.olahighschoolband.com](http://www.olahighschoolband.com).

Please understand that the jazz band serves as the “go to” performance ensemble for events at Ola high and the surrounding community. Performance dates outside of large group concerts will be made available as soon as the event is booked and will be added to the band calendar.

*\*By joining the Ola Jazz Band the student will adhere to a strict attendance policy involving both classroom rehearsals and performances. Please refer to the attendance policy for any further details.\**

## IV. GRADING POLICY

### **Grading Policy:**

Four basic areas will make up a student's grade in band class: daily rehearsals, musical progress (tests), class assignments, and after school rehearsals/performances.

### **Daily Rehearsal Grades:**

Students are expected to participate in rehearsal every day. There are no exceptions to this rule. If a student is well enough to attend school, he or she is well enough to rehearse. If a student's instrument is not working correctly, it is the responsibility of the student/parent to get the instrument fixed. Each week a student will earn 100 points for a weekly grade. Each day that a student doesn't participate in class for any reason, that student will lose 20 points from that week's daily grade.

- Students are responsible for the maintenance and care of their instruments even if they play a school owned instrument. The student's grade will suffer if no effort is made to repair his/her instrument.
- Class participation points are **earned**. If a student is behaving inappropriately or is asked to leave the classroom, participation points will not be earned.

### **After-school Rehearsals and Performances:**

*\*ALL students are expected to attend ALL concerts\**

Please understand that the jazz band serves as the "go to" performance ensemble for events at Ola high and the surrounding community. Performance dates outside of large group concerts will be made available as soon as the event is booked and will be added to the band calendar.

*\*By joining the Ola Jazz Band the student will adhere to a strict attendance policy involving both classroom rehearsals and performances. Please refer to the attendance policy for any further details\**

One hundred points will be earned for attendance at after-school rehearsals. **These rehearsals are not optional!** After-school rehearsals will be few and held only when necessary. Students will be given at least two weeks' notice for these rehearsals. Any absence must be cleared in advance. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** The calendar for the school year is posted on the bulletin board in the band room, and it will also be distributed to the students during the first week of school, and it will be on the band website [www.olahighschoolband.com](http://www.olahighschoolband.com)

### **Class Assignments/Homework:**

Most of the time the student's "homework" in band class will be to practice and master his/her individual music. There might be sometimes where we will assign outside work for the students. These assignments will encourage students to read and listen to their instruments being played professionally.

**Attendance at band concerts is required.** If a student has an unexcused absence from a concert, he or she will be prohibited from participating in future performances outside of school, i.e. concert festival. In addition, an unexcused absence from a performance may result in the failure of the course for the semester.

**100 points** – concert attendance and participation

**25 points deducted** – late to performance

**0 points** – absent from performance

*\* Excuses must be approved in **advance** with the appropriate director. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**  
Transportation problems and work are never excuses and will result in a 0 for the concert grade\**

**Grades will be determined as follows:**

Daily Participation/Homework	20%
Test Grades	20%
Concert Performances & After-school Rehearsal Grades	40%
Semester Exam	20%

**Band Parent Organization:**

All band parents are encouraged to become involved with the OHS Band Parent Association (Band Booster club). This is the opportunity for parents to learn about the current happenings of our band program. If you would like to have input in decisions that are made for the band students, we invite you to attend. A successful band program will only thrive with parental support and enthusiasm for the students' well being!