

# **Hutto High School Jazz Band**

Course Syllabus 2020 - 2021

Instructors: Mr. Michael Harrison & Mr. Joseph Rush

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Office phone: (512) 759-4720 - Tutorial Schedule: Monday–Friday: 7:45am – 8:15am

Google Classroom Code: phtxp3r

## **Objectives**

- Perform jazz music by big band/standard composers, past and present, including sub-genres of jazz: swing, Dixieland, modern, funk, hip-hop, fusion, and more.
- Improvise melodies vocally and on an instrument over a given harmonic progression in the correct style, meter, and tonality.
- Study (listen and analyze) and be able to describe elements of music that are present in a particular excerpt.
- Demonstrate common knowledge of jazz music through assignments: famous composers, performers, vocabulary, styles, and more.

## **Methods for Accomplishing Objectives**

- Intensive rehearsal of music to be presented at performances throughout the year.
- Jazz theory will be presented throughout the year on a regular basis in order to educate students on how to improvise.
- Listening examples will be presented and analyzed in class with the expectation that the students will do the same at home.
- Assignments and tests given throughout the year to develop and demonstrate knowledge of jazz music. Ex. Jazz performer report, vocabulary tests, etc.

## **Grading**

- 60 % - Performance Attendance/Tests– This is a performance based class. Any absence from a performance must be cleared through the director. Students are expected to stay for the entirety of the

concert or contest. Students will not be allowed to leave early unless for a family emergency. **All conflicts or requests to leave early must be cleared by Mr. Harrison or Mr. Rush.**

- 40 % - Homework Assignments/Daily Participation– Participation is required to be in the course. Students will have to play for the class whether it is during improvisation or while rehearsing the music. Every student is expected to participate everyday as this is a participation class.

### **Class Procedures**

- Students in the Jazz Band shall be held to the Hutto ISD student code of conduct at all times.
- As stated above in the grading section, performances are mandatory unless an absence is cleared through the director far in advance of the performance date. Exceptions will be made for emergencies (car accidents, death in the family, etc.) 60% of the grade is based on performance attendance. You cannot pass this course without attending all performances.

### **Technology Expectations**

- You will use Google Classroom and Smart Music to complete most assignments.

### **Attendance Policy - Synchronous and Asynchronous**

- Your director will communicate which days will be synchronous and asynchronous. On synchronous days, you must be present in the google meet with the rest of the class. On asynchronous days, you must log in to complete the attendance assignment.

### **Attendance Statement**

- Students are required to attend class virtually every day. A student who does not log in and complete work by 4 p.m. will be counted absent that day. Repeated absences will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to loss of credits, makeup hours and truancy court. Students are expected to be online every day.

### **Class Materials**

- Music will be provided for each student.
- Students must bring a pencil to class daily. This is part of their participation grade.
- Students must bring their instrument and music to class daily. This is part of their participation grade.

### **Performance Dress Code**

- Members of the Hutto HS Jazz Bands will perform in ALL BLACK.

- Mens uniform includes: Black polo or oxford shirt, black slacks (no jeans), black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes.
- Womens uniform includes: Black shoes (flats preferred), black pants, black blouse, or long black dress (must go past your knees).

### **Fundraising**

- Students may be asked to participate in 1-2 fundraisers to help us raise money to attend different jazz festivals and purchase new music and equipment. **These fundraisers are highly encouraged, as they help the growth of the Hutto Jazz Band.**

### **Concert Dates**

- November 3, 2020 - 6:30 pm -- Fall Jazz Concert. HHS Performing Arts Center - Potentially a virtual concert
- May 6, 2021 - 6:30 pm -- Hutto ISD Jazz Night. HHS Performing Arts Center - Potentially a virtual concert.

If it is safe to do so, we will try to attend jazz festivals during the spring semester. This is dependent upon the district allowing students to travel to events outside of the district. The window to register for the festivals does not open until late in the fall semester or early in the spring semester. As soon as those are scheduled you will be notified. **All eligible students are required to attend.**

## **Digital Syllabus Receipt Form:**

**<https://forms.gle/K6k8CzbSBCTLMsQe7>**

**Must be filled out and submitted no later than**

**Tuesday, August 18, 11:59 pm.**