



Basha High School Bands

Jazz 1 Syllabus
1 Credit, Full Year
2011-12

Matt Kozacek, Director of Bands
kozacek.matt@chandler.k12.az.us
480-224-2280
www.bashahighschoolband.com

Course Description:

Jazz Band provides students the opportunity to study and perform music of the “Big Bands” from the 1920’s to the present. The emphasis in this group is to perform the different styles of music (swing, rock, blues, popular) with understanding. Students will also learn to improvise their own solos with good technique and understanding. Participation in all performances and festivals, in state and out of state, is required. Saxophonists are required to also learn flute and/or clarinet. May be repeated for credit.

Text and Materials:

Jazz Conception by Jim Snidero
Metronome
Tuner
Spiral notebook and writing utensils
Black Binder with plastic inserts
Any additional **JAZZ** equipment for your specified instrument (will be discussed in class)

Diversity Statement:

All individuals have a right to an educational environment free from bias, prejudice and bigotry. As members of the Basha High School educational community, students are expected to refrain from participating in acts of harassment that are designed to demean another student’s race, gender, ethnicity, religious preference, disability or sexual orientation.

Attendance Policy:

Band is an activity that requires commitment and planning. We plan rehearsals to minimize the time requirement and maximize the productivity of the band. **When any person is absent from a rehearsal, whether it be for legitimate reasons or not, it affects the group in many ways.**

Class rehearsal will follow the school attendance policies, found in the Basha HS Student Handbook. After 10 absences, excused or unexcused, a student MAY BE dropped from the class and receive no credit. Tardies will result in a conference with the teacher. On the third tardy, students will receive a detention with the teacher. On the sixth tardy, students will receive a written referral and the office administration will determine their consequence. Being tardy to a concert or extra-curricular event will result in a lowered grade for that event.

Extra-curricular rehearsals, concerts, gigs, trips and competitions are required and graded. Please check the band website calendar (www.bashahighschoolband.com) when scheduling work, vacation or other personal occasions. If you face a conflict, please let a director know IMMEDIATELY. You will then be asked to fill out an Excused Absence Form (found on the website). Your absence will be excused or unexcused. If the absence is excused, you will still have to make up the points by completing an assignment at the director’s discretion. If the absence is unexcused, there will be no opportunity to make

up the points missed. Please note that work is not an excusable absence. Excusable absences are for emergency situations.

Sectionals will be scheduled by the director or a section leader. These rehearsals are required as well. If you are going to be absent from a sectional, notification to the band director is required for excusal.

Conference period will be on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:17 - 9:45. During this time students are only allowed out of the classroom if they have a pass. The library is not available during conference. Students should use this time to study, practice, or read. The band will also check out twenty passes for Thursday and twenty passes for Friday, which enable students to come to the band room to practice or have sectionals.

Applied Staff Instruction *NEW THIS YEAR*

The directors have hired an applied staff to come in and work in a “group lesson” setting with all students involved with the Basha Bands. Students will be required to attend this group lesson every other week with their applied instructor. The Basha Bands will be paying these instructors, and there is **NO COST** to your student. The instructor will be working on etudes and methods that will help increase the student’s knowledge and performance level on their instrument. Students are strongly encouraged to also set up individual private lessons with the applied staff member. The schedule of what day and time the group lesson takes place will be communicated to the various instrument groups. The instrument groups are as follows:

Flutes
Clarinets
Double Reeds
Saxophones
High Brass
Low Brass

Classroom Policies and Procedures:

1. Absolutely NO food, drink or gum is allowed in the band room. Bottled water is ok. If the band office is open during lunch, you may eat lunch with the directors (otherwise you must go outside, not to the hallway). Lunch in the room, or any other rooms in the band hallway will no longer be allowed.
2. Students will not be permitted to wear hats during class.
3. Cell phones are not to be used during class or band performances. Phones will be temporarily confiscated. Cell phone use during a concert will result in a lowered concert grade.
4. Profanity, harassment or hazing of any type will not be permitted.
5. Be prepared for class and ready to play by two minutes after the final bell rings.
6. Do not touch or play with an instrument that is not assigned to you.
7. BE POSITIVE!!
8. No PDA (public displays of affection) will be allowed.
9. Lock your instruments and belongings. Unlocked items are subject to removal and assessed a \$1 per day storage fee. Keep your lockers clean.
10. **Students must wear appropriate concert attire during performances. You will not perform** if you are not appropriately dressed. Black dress clothes. Black socks, dress shoes, no sneakers and no t-shirts. Examples will be discussed in class.

Failure to abide by classroom policies will result in a conference with the director, a detention, and potentially a referral to the administration.

Grading Policy:

Basha High School has established a grading policy that will be followed for both semesters of this course:

1 st Quarter Grade	or	3 rd Quarter Grade	=	40%
2 nd Quarter Grade	or	4 th Quarter Grade	=	40%
Finale Exam (Sem1)	or	Final Exam (Sem2)	=	20%

The resulting percentage will be given a grade by the following structure:

- A = 90 to 100
- B = 80 to 89
- C = 70 to 79
- D = 60 to 69
- F = 50 to 59

Within this structure, quarter grades will be broken down in the following percentages:

Participation	15%	- daily preparation and positive participation
Practice	20%	- practice records
Performance	30%	- concerts, competitions, gigs
Class Assignments	15%	- listening journals, mentoring, essays, etc
Playing Tests	20%	- performance evaluation (formal and informal)

If a student is unexcused absent from a class, there will be NO opportunity to make up missed points. If a student is excused absent, they may make up the work missed with no penalty. Late work will also be accepted for a lower grade.

Parents can access their child's grades and assignments by going to the school's website and clicking on Parent Connect. Students' information is only accessible by using an individualized password assigned by the school. Parents may contact office personnel/counselor for their child's password.

Practice Records are due weekly. Students must pick up a practice record and complete the record to turn in on Monday (see online resources). Students must practice a total of 3 hours per week and document the time spent on different fundamentals and literature. Detailed instructions can be found on the back of the practice charts.

Financial Commitment:

Due to budget constraints, there will be a financial commitment from band members. Students are expected to pay for all necessary accessories, transportation costs for trips and other various costs through the year. Below is an estimated cost for travel this year:

NAU Jazz Festival	\$100
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These costs are only for travel, there may be more costs for clinicians and special guests to perform with and for the students. Those costs will be outlined in detail if necessary.

Objectives and Expectations:

1. A student will exhibit a professional attitude and behavior during performances and rehearsals.
2. A student will become an independent thinker and self-motivated worker while becoming a team player through directing and/or taking part in productive sectional rehearsals, and performing, whenever possible, without a conductor.

3. A student will become aware of his or her skill level on their instrument in relation to their potential.
4. A student will understand, appreciate and perform a wide variety of jazz ensemble literature.
5. A student will become aware of past and present jazz performers, ensembles, composers, and compositions. They will also be taught the basics of jazz history.
6. A student will learn an amount of music theory related to the proficiency level of improvisation they seek to attain.
7. A student will be encouraged to use or purchase "play-a-long" recordings to help develop improvisational ability. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase the appropriate "Jazz Conception" book by Jim Snidero.
8. A student will identify by ear the difference between major, minor, dominant-seventh, augmented, and diminished chords, and perform those chord structures on his or her instrument.
9. A student will become aware of career or employment opportunities or college-major options available to them in the field of music.
10. A student will engage in performance tours or off-campus concerts whenever possible.
11. A student will be given the opportunity to perform in a combo setting.
12. A student will have the opportunity to be exposed to the teaching styles of other music educators.
13. A student will be responsible for helping to promote audience attendance at jazz concerts.

Charms Music:

Students and Parents will be able to easily access their students band information through the Charms Music system. Accessing Charms is simple:

1. Go to www.bashahighschoolband.com
2. Click on Access Your Band Account
3. Enter the students school ID number as the password

Charms contains a lot of useful information for parents to access, including documents, handouts, student account balances, and many more features. Please plan to fully utilize this wonderful program.

Smartmusic:

Students will also most likely be utilizing Smartmusic, a program that allows students to practice along with accompaniment and record their progress. The program is downloadable for a \$30/year fee. It is not required for students to have this program, as it will be available at school for use, but it is strongly recommended.

Instruments:

Basha High School has some instruments, which are rented to students upon director approval. These instruments are primarily percussion and the more expensive instruments. School instruments are rented for a \$35 usage fee. This fee is not refundable. The fee is used to help defer maintenance costs on the instruments. The student will still need to provide the necessary equipment needs (i.e. reeds, swabs, etc.) for their instrument. School instruments that are damaged or lost will be the sole financial responsibility of the student and parent. Please check with the band director for availability.

Online Resources:

www.pandora.com – free online radio for listening to jazz
www.charmsmusic.com – music office manager for tracking student accounts
www.smartmusic.com – software recommended for home use
www.azjazz.org – jazz resource
www.ntjazz.org – jazz resource
www.jazzinaz.org – find local concerts and other jazz happenings in Arizona
www.azjazz.com – search for jazz events

Syllabus Approval and Contact Information Sheet

I have read the course requirements and expectations listed in the attached syllabus. By signing, I acknowledge that I have received all rules and consequences, as well as grading procedures and class requirements.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Student Signature _____ Date _____

JAZZ 1

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ ID#: _____

Mailing Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____

Student Cell phone: _____ Student Home Phone: _____

Student Email address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mother/Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____

Mother Cell phone: _____ Mother Home Phone: _____

Mother Email address: _____

Father/Guardian's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____
_____ Zip: _____

Father Cell phone: _____ Father Home Phone: _____

Father Email address: _____