



JazzRams Band Syllabus

Mr. Mike Mitchell, Director of Bands at LMHS

Overview

The JazzRams class is structured to be a fun and exciting class separate from the rigors of academic demands. Students will perform a variety of styles of jazz ranging from Dixieland to big band to contemporary. They will learn how to improvise and perform as soloists within a group. The history and basic structure of jazz will also be studied and discussed. In addition, students will be introduced to a variety of composers, styles and terminology and will be expected to have a working familiarity with everything we cover. Members are expected to practice on a regular basis (once a week does not constitute a regular basis). Good practice habits include a minimum of 3-5 days a week, 30-40 minutes per session. They are also expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. The jazz band will perform at school functions, concerts and around the community.

Classroom Rules

- 1) Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- 2) Work hard and employ a positive attitude.
- 3) Be prepared-Always!
- 4) Maintain your equipment meticulously. If you don't, it will develop the nasty habit of letting you down when you need it most.
- 5) Clean up after yourself.

Materials

- 1) Instrument (or sticks & mallets)
- 2) At least 1 pencil (no pens, please)
- 3) Music
- 4) Extra reeds (woodwinds only, naturally)
- 5) Valve oil (brass only)
- 6) Extra patch cords, strings and picks (for electric instruments only, of course)
- 7) A medium sized binder; 1" – 2" in thickness with loose leaf paper

Concert and Performance Dress Code

Once the roster is determined, the group will choose the attire for the band.

Grades

Grades will be earned according to effort, preparedness, participation and progress. Each performance is worth 100 points and every after school rehearsal is worth 50 points; each classroom rehearsal is worth 25. Any assigned homework (aside from practicing) will have a value equal to the amount of work involved. Students will lose points for, among other things: not being prepared, excessive absences or tardiness, poor effort, attitude, etc. Students can earn extra credit by attending other concerts, performances approved by the director. Private lessons will be considered as extra credit as well. Other extra credit may be available on occasion. Lastly, if a student is going to miss, or misses a rehearsal or performance, please bring a note from your parents explaining the situation. If the absence is excused, make-up work will be assigned. Otherwise, it will count as an unexcused absence and the student will be given a zero for that assignment.

Performances – 200 points

Rehearsals – 50 Points

Class Participation– 25 Points per class (100 points per week)

9-weeks exam - 20% of grade

*** ***All performances are mandatory.*** Exceptions will only be made in case of emergency. Forgetting to get time off work or to find a ride are not emergencies. Serious illness, accidents, etc. are examples of acceptable excuses (see the band handbook for specifics). If there are issues or concerns, please let me know as soon as possible. I can be reached at the school mike_mitchell@scps.k12.fl.us or 407-320-9560 (band office)

Finally, with the JazzRams, we will be asked multiple times to perform throughout the year. Not all dates are set as of yet. I will do my best to keep our performances at a number understanding your other commitments with family and school. I will also keep you up to date as best I can regarding any changes there may be throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding class, performances or anything else, please let me know as soon as possible.

Welcome to Jazz Band!

Mr. Mitchell