
PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

COURSE SYLLABUS: JAZZ BAND

COURSE OVERVIEW AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Jazz Band is an ensemble comprised of saxophonists, trumpeters, trombonists, keyboardists(pianists), guitarists, bass guitarists, and percussionists (drum set emphasis) Students are selected through an audition. Literature is comprised of a variety of genres and difficulty levels.

The focus of the course is geared towards individual/group musical performance. Students perform swing, bebop, funk, latin, and various styles. The introduction of improvisation is a central component of this ensemble.

Technology is used regularly to develop fundamental skills: intonation, tempo accuracy, technique

Course Textbook and Required Materials

- ☐ Band Literature : TBD each year based on ensemble balance and skill - provided
- ☐ Tuner and metronome - provided or permitted on personal device via apps
- ☐ Music stand & folder - provided
- ☐ Personal instrument (personally owned, borrowed, rented or school issued)
- ☐ Additional Supplies - reeds for large wind instruments provided, mallets for percussion, amplifiers, keyboards provided
- ☐ Percussionists provide own sticks

Course Outline of Material Covered:

Unit or Topic	Concepts/Skills/Resources	Timeframe
Tone Production Intonation	Embouchure and air support via oral cavity, lips, jaw, and diaphragm support Use of digital tuner	2 weeks
Scales and Technical Development Basic improvisation	Major, minor, chromatic, blues, pentatonic Application in 3rds, etc. Use of digital metronome Call & response used to generate improvisation skills Scale application to improvisation	4 weeks

Articulation and Dynamics Rudiments Head Chart Performance	Staccato, legato, slur, jazz accents - all addressed through appropriate air support Volume spectrum from <i>pp</i> through <i>ff</i> Dynamic production assisted by air support Percussion/drummer style knowledge and demonstration on set (swing, bossa nova, samba, rock, funk, etc.) Learning songs by rote (head chart)	8 weeks
Ensemble Literature Music Vocabulary	Application of previous concepts applied to literature performance Appropriate genre interpretation Musical terms applied towards performance expression	20 weeks

****The course outline is subject to change based on the class skill level and/or school district calendar changes.***