

# Willow Glen High School Jazz Band 2019-20

Instructor: Kelly Walker

Room: L103

Period: 7 (2:45-3:45)

Email: [kwalker@sjusd.org](mailto:kwalker@sjusd.org)

Website: [www.wghsband.com](http://www.wghsband.com)

## **Introduction**

This is an ensemble designed for students interested in instrumental music and performance activities, particularly in the jazz genre. During daily rehearsals, band students work on improving technique through a series of warm-ups and exercises for breath control, with a focus on individual and group intonation, tone quality, rhythmic skills, balance, blend, sight reading, and interpretive elements of music. Students learn, study, and prepare jazz pieces from a variety of musical eras and genres. Students are expected to come prepared and participate actively in daily rehearsals, as well as any performances that take place outside of normal school hours.

## **Goals for the Class**

- Refine individual instrumental technique and skills.
- Understand the various elements of jazz music, how to notate and read those elements, and how each relates to instrumental performance.
- Become familiar with music from the standard jazz band repertoire and understand where those songs fall in the context of music history.
- Listen to music critically and evaluate individual and ensemble performances for any problems or necessary fixes.
- Foster creativity to make educated and appropriate choices in music and elsewhere.
- Build confidence in music theory and sight reading skills through regular practice.

## **Student Expectations**

- Students will be on time and prepared for each rehearsal.
- Students will be present for all performances and outside-of-class rehearsals.
- Students will use clean language in class and at all ensemble events.
- Students will be active in class participation, whether working independently or in a group.
- Students will meet all deadlines, regardless of absence.
- Students will be open to new styles of music.
- Students will abide by all school and district policies regarding dress code, cell phones and other technology, academic integrity, and behavior.

### **Required Daily Materials**

- Your instrument and all needed accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.).
- Your sheet music, which will be provided by Mrs. Walker. You must bring your music to class every day. This includes any method books we use.
- A pencil.

### **Assignments and Grading**

Grading breaks down as follows:

Participation in daily rehearsals = 40%

Participation in scheduled performances = 40%

Written and performance assignments, quizzes, and tests = 20%

Students will earn 1 participation point each day. Participation is graded on timeliness, having all required materials, and attitude/effort shown. If you are absent from class and your absence has been marked as excused in IC by the end of the grading period, you will be exempt from that day's participation points. If your absence has not been excused through the online system by the end of the grading period, you will receive a zero for the day.

All performances in this class are required. Absences are only excused if it is for another event of *equal* importance (e.g. an athletic competition or drama performance; a practice or rehearsal does not qualify) or for illness. Absences from performances for any other reason will result in lost credit for that performance. No make-up assignments will be given for absences.

All known/planned absences from performances should be submitted in writing via the Google form that is linked on [wghschoir.com](http://wghschoir.com). This does not affect whether or not the absence will be excused, but it helps keep things on the record and eliminates confusion.

Written and performance assignments may be given throughout the year at Mrs. Walker's discretion. Written assignments may include music theory homework, brief write-ups about performances that you either played in or attended, and/or research on a particular piece or composer that we are studying. Performance assignments may include checks on certain sections of our music, sight reading quizzes, and/or performances of student compositions.

### **Important Dates**

- BBQ in the Glen: Saturday, September 28, 12 PM
- Fall concert: Wednesday, October 23, 7 PM
- Holiday concert: Thursday, December 19, 7 PM
- WGPAB Crab Feast: TBD
- CMEA Jazz Festival: TBD
- Spring concert: Wednesday, March 25, 7 PM
- Music in the Parks (hosting): Friday, April 24-Saturday, April 25
- Farewell concert: Wednesday, May 27, 7 PM

Other performance opportunities may come up throughout the year and will be announced with plenty of advance notice. Additional rehearsals may be required in the weeks leading up to the event.

### **Fundraising**

Jazz Band will have multiple fundraising events this year in order to raise money for festivals and trips. Each student should plan to participate as much as possible in each fundraiser, as it will benefit the entire ensemble.

### **Concert Attire**

For concerts, students who are in both Wind Ensemble and Jazz Band will wear their formal, school-provided Wind Ensemble concert attire. Students who are in Jazz Band only will wear their own all-black attire. For Jazz Band-only events, such as the Crab Feast, everyone will wear their own all-black attire.

### **Cell Phone Policy**

Cell phone use is not allowed during class, but you may opt to charge your phone at a wall outlet. If you are caught with your phone out during class, it will be taken away. After the second offense, it will be given to Mr. Gallegos and school policy will be followed.

### **Responsible Student Policy**

In class, students are expected to behave in a respectful manner that encourages collaboration, safety, and personal and group growth. Students who choose not to treat others, our work, or our space with the utmost respect will receive appropriate consequences, including detention, parent conferences, and/or referrals to the office.

To Be Completed By WGHS Jazz Band Student and Parent or Guardian

**\*\*\*Please return this page to Mrs. Walker by Tuesday, August 20th. You will receive zero participation points each day until this contract is returned signed.\*\*\***

I have read, understand, and agree to the expectations and requirements for participation in Jazz Band for the 2019-20 school year, including the requirement of performing with Wind Ensemble. I will abide by all class and school rules and represent Jazz Band, the Music Department, and Willow Glen High School in a professional and responsible manner. I will be an active, creative, and positive member of Jazz Band this year.

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

As a parent or guardian, I have read, understand, and agree to the expectations and requirements for participation in Jazz Band for the 2019-20 school year, including the requirement of performing with Wind Ensemble. I will assist my student in abiding by all class and school rules and encourage them to participate actively and positively in Jazz Band. I will take an active role in their musical education, knowing that the skills they learn in music have a positive impact on the rest of their lives as well.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_