

Masconomet Regional High School Curriculum Guide

Course Title: Jazz I

Course Number: 8631

Department: Music

Grade Level and Phase 9-12; H

Length of Course: 3 PPC; 2 Semesters

Course Description:

Jazz I performs jazz compositions written or arranged for the standard big band or swing band. The instrumentation used for Jazz I will be comprised of three sections: saxophones, trombones, and trumpets. The size of each section may range from three to seven students depending upon number of and ability level of the students who audition for the Jazz I. In addition a rhythm section that is comprised of one piano player, one bass player, one drummer, one guitarist, and one auxiliary percussionist is also utilized. The instruments which comprise the "rhythm section" may have multiple students assigned to the parts depending on the results of the placement auditions. On occasions flutes, clarinets, and French horns may be used, but not on a regular basis. Jazz I plays traditional big band swing, Latin jazz, as well as jazz adaptations of rock and funk. Jazz I performs at several school concerts as well as provides music for several school assemblies. Jazz I may also participate at district and state festivals and competitions. Jazz I is considered a select ensemble and all students interested in joining are required to audition for the music director. Auditions are held on the last Wednesday of September. Jazz I rehearses from 6:00-8:00 on Wednesdays beginning on the first Wednesday in October and concluding on the last Wednesday in May.

Objectives:

All students enrolled in Jazz I will:

- A. demonstrate a high level of proficiency on their chosen instrument
- B. demonstrate a high level of proficiency at playing in a variety of jazz styles including contemporary swing, traditional swing, Latin, rock fusion, and funk, with emphasis on appropriate style, intonation, rhythmic precision, steady tempo, and dynamic contrasts
- C. demonstrate a desire to explore a variety of recorded performances through the use of internet technology such as YouTube as well as other online services
- D. demonstrate a positive attitude, a willingness to contribute to the ensemble, and a desire to provide leadership
- E. demonstrate a positive attitude, a willingness to contribute to the program, and a desire to provide leadership

These objectives support the following **Learning Expectations from the Masconomet High School Mission Statement: A1, A3, A4, S1, S2, S3, C1, C2, C3**

Materials and Activities:

The music chosen for Jazz I changes from year to year dependent upon the students who pass the entrance audition and elect to enroll in the class

Scope and Sequence:

First semester:

- Blues and Improvisation
- Big Band swing
 - Count Basie
 - Sammy Nestico
 - Duke Ellington

Second Semester

- Improvisational techniques
- Latin Jazz
- Rock and Funk

Assessment:

Based on:

- attendance and attitude
- rehearsal preparedness
- performance decorum
- weekly reports on internet explorations of jazz artists and performances.