



Greensburg-Salem High School Jazz Ensemble Handbook 2017

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit."

Aristotle

Real change requires you to change your behavior, not just your attitude.

Motto

There are no shortcuts.

GS Jazzers...

- are accountable and take responsibility for their actions.
- have purpose in what they do.
- are organized.
- are humble.
- are nice.
- are appreciative.
- work smart and efficiently.
- show initiative.
- are persistent.
- exceed expectations.
- speak with impeccability.
- are a class act.

Level 6

Level 1: I Don't Want to Get in Trouble

Level 2: I Want a Reward

Level 3: I Want to Please Somebody

Level 4: I Follow the Rules

Level 5: I Am Considerate of Other People

Level 6: I Have a Personal Code of Behavior and I Follow It

Expectations

- 1) Be in the right place at the right time with the right materials and the right mindset.
- 2) Allow yourself and others to learn.
- 3) Allow the directors to teach.
- 4) Be excellent to and for each other.

Things That Require ZERO Talent

- Arriving early
- Work Ethic
- Effort
- Body Language
- Energy
- Attitude
- Passion
- Being teachable
- Doing extra
- Being prepared

Philosophy of Music

Every aspect of music is important and will be emphasized at various stages in a student's development. The core of an instrumental program is the symphonic concert band. From this ensemble, groups such as the marching band, jazz band, pep band, and various chamber groups are derived.

The GS music department stresses the advancement of the student's abilities to function in both the large group and the small ensemble setting. Music offers a unique opportunity to challenge each student cognitively, affectively, and physically. It provides for emotional expression, intrinsic worth, and has a positive impact on individuals, families, communities, and cultures.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Greensburg Salem High School Jazz Ensemble is to provide students a creative and supportive environment to explore and pursue the art of jazz music from an individual basis as well as from an ensemble and societal point of view. These varying perspectives will allow students to learn, understand and assimilate the many needed life skills to develop in to a lifelong student in order to be a productive and successful person in the modern real world. Specifically, this will be accomplished by varied structured rehearsals, with an emphasis on focused listening, sight reading, study and expansion of the basic fundamentals of music leading to an understanding of jazz theory, quality musicianship and development of both self and group discipline, all rooted in the tradition of big band swing style.

General Information

The GS Jazz Ensemble meets after school on a regular basis during the spring (January - May) at the High School. The ensemble is open to students in grades 7-12. Students do not have to be enrolled in a band class at the middle school or high school to participate. However, they are required to have a basic understanding and ability to play their instrument and read music notation.

The standard instrumentation is saxophones (alto, tenor and baritone), trombones, trumpets and rhythm section (guitar, piano, bass and drum set). Other instrumentalists are welcome to join as well, but will be limited in number (for example, only 1 clarinet and 1 flute will be accepted). Additionally, a maximum of three (3) drum set players will be taken. For those drummers who are selected, students will need to be prepared for the possibility of playing auxiliary/mallet percussion. Auditions will be held if there are more students interested in participating than there is space in the ensemble.

For the purpose of ensemble continuity, students are only allowed to play a maximum of two (2) instruments from different instrument families. For example, a student who plays trumpet and flugelhorn will be considered as one instrument, where as a student who plays trombone and guitar will be considered as two instruments.

Attendance

Regular attendance is necessary for the ensemble to have productive rehearsals and quality performances. Any absence from rehearsal affects the group's ability to rehearse effectively as a whole. If you are absent, **YOU WILL BE MISSED**.

An excuse is just that, an excuse. You must have a valid reason for missing rehearsal. "Reasoned" absences include, but are not limited to:

- illness (doctor's note required at next attended rehearsal)
- death in the family
- religious holiday
- other emergency situation
- athletic events* (see below)

A job conflict (work) will NEVER be considered as a reasoned absence. You are a student first and foremost, which is a full-time occupation in itself.

Students participating in sports MUST attend half or more of all rehearsals. Athletic forms must be filled out and turned in to the high school band office with at least 48 hours notice. Forms are available at www.gsbands.org/athletic.pdf. Any athletic form that is turned in without sufficient notice will be considered late and result in an unreasoned absence.

Any student who has more than two (2) unreasoned absences will sit out the next performance and will still be required to attend rehearsals regularly. Chronic and severe abuse of the attendance policy (to be defined at the discretion of the directors) will lead to dismissal from the ensemble.

All performances are MANDATORY. If a student must miss a performance for some reason, approval must be sought from the director(s) at least one week prior to the performance. A missed performance due to illness will be deemed reasoned when a doctor's note is presented to the director(s) within five (5) school days of the performance.

Any unreasoned absence from a performance will result in immediate dismissal from the group.

Practice Notes

- **SOUND ABOVE ALL ELSE;** make the best possible sound you can
- **Always perform.** Having this mindset will allow you to play at your best all of the time.
- Practice is what you do on your own time. Rehearsal is when the full ensemble meets. In other words, practice is what you do to learn your part and rehearsal is when you learn everyone else's part.
- Average musicians practice something until they get it right; great musicians practice something until they can't get it wrong.
- Have specific goals for each practice session. For example, for (insert tune name here), I will *perform* measures ___ to ___ with (correct notes/rhythms, proper articulations/dynamics, at tempo, etc.) ___ times in a row. Write down what you have worked on in order to keep track of your progress.
- Only practice at a speed that is slow enough to get it right the very first time. Otherwise you are practicing mistakes.
- Quality is better than quantity. A half hour of well thought out, goal oriented, deliberate practice is better than an hour of haphazard, careless practice.
- Even though quality is better than quantity, you must put the (quality) time in on your instrument.
- Practice is about progress, not perfection. Take note of small achievements.
- Keep practice varied. Doing the same things in the same order will lead to your brain going on autopilot.
- Instead of going over things you can already play, work on items that are problematic. In other words, work to improve your weaknesses. This will lead to greater progress.
- Conduct mock performances. Simulate as much as you can of what an actual performance would entail.
- Learning the notes and rhythms is only the first step. Once you have mastered that, then you are ready to make music.

Practice quickly to improve slowly. Practice slowly to improve quickly.

**REHEARSAL
ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY WALK IN
WITHOUT PRACTICING**

JAZZ RESOURCES

Best Selling/Historically Significant/Notable Recordings

Miles Davis - Kind of Blue
John Coltrane - A Love Supreme
The Quintet - Jazz at Massey Hall
Louis Armstrong - The Complete Hot Five and Hot Seven Recordings
John Coltrane - Blue Trane
Dave Brubeck Quartet - Time Out
Stan Getz & Joao Gilberto - Getz/Gilberto
Sonny rollins - Saxophone Colossus
Art Blakey & the Jazz Messengers - Moanin'
Benny Goodman - Live at Carnegie Hall
Herbie Hancock - Maiden Voyage
Count Basie - April in Paris
Duke Ellington - Ellington at Newport
Clifford Brown - Study in Brown
Cannonball Adderley - Somethin' Else
Oliver Nelson - The Blues and the Abstract Truth
Art Farmer/Benny Golson - Meet the Jazztet
Dizzy Gillespie/Charlie Parker - Bird and Diz
Horace Silver - Song for my Father
John Coltrane - Blue Train
John Coltrane - Giant Steps
Sonny Rollins - Tenor Madness
Charlie Parker - Now's the Time
Count Basie - The Complete Atomic Basie
Miles Davis - Milestones
Miles Davis - Seven Steps to Heaven
Dizzy Gillespie - At Newport
Maynard Ferguson - M.F. Horn, Vols. 4-5: Live at Jimmy's

Websites

www.thejazzresource.com - Albums, Theory, Improvisation and more
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CH-1E99ZvU - Inside the Big Band: U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors
www.redhotjazz.com - The Red Hot Jazz Archive: A History of Jazz Before 1930
www.pbs.org/jazz - PBS, Jazz: A Film by Ken Burns

Big Bands

Air Force Airmen of Note
Army Jazz Ambassadors
Count Basie
Tommy Dorsey
Duke Ellington
Marynard Ferguson
Dizzy Gillespie
Benny Goodman
Woody Herman
Thad Jones/Mel Lewis
Stan Kenton
Glenn Miller
Original Dixieland Jass band
Navy Jazz commodores
Buddy Rich

Musicians

Bass

Ray Brown
Ron Carter
Paul Chambers
Stanley Clarke
Milt Hinton
Dave Holland
Christian McBride
Charles Mingus
Jaco Pastorius
Slam Stewart

Clarinet

Barney Bigard
Paquito D'Rivera
Eddie Daniels
Buddy DeFranco
Eric Dolphy
Irving Fazola
Benny Goodman
Ken Peplowski
PeeWee Russell
Artie Shaw

Drums

Louie Bellson
Art Blakey
Jack DeJohnette
Roy Haynes
Elvin Jones
Philly Jo Jones
Gene Krupa
Mel Lewis
Buddy Rich
Max Roach
Ed Shaughnessy
Jeff Watts
Chick Webb

Flute

Herbie Mann
Frank Wess

Guitar

George Benson
Kenny Burrell
Charlie Christian
Al Di Meola

Bill Frisell
Freddie Green
Barney Kessel
Pat Metheny
Wes Montgomery
Joe Pass
Bucky Pizzarelli
Django Reinhardt

Organ

Joey DeFrancesco
Jimmy McGriff
Jimmy Smith

Piano

Kenny Barron
Count Basie
Dave Brubeck
Chick Corea
Duke Ellington
Bill Evans
Red Garland
Erroll Garner
Herbie Hancock
Earl Hines
Ahmad Jamal
Wynton Kelly
Marian McPartland
Thelonious Monk
Jelly Roll Morton
Oscar Peterson
Bud Powell
Horace Silver
Art Tatum
Fats Waller
Kenny Werner

Sax

Cannonball Adderley
Gene Ammons
Sidney Bechet
Michael Brecker
Benny Carter
John Coltrane
Paul Desmond
Dexter Gordon
Stan Getz
Coleman Hawkins

Joe Henderson
Johnny Hodges
Joe Lovano
Branford Marsalis
Gerry Mulligan
Charlie Parker
Joshua Redman
Sonny Rollins
Wayne Shorter
Sonny Stitt
Phil Woods
Lester Young

Trombone

Bob Brookmeyer
Tommy Dorsey
Wycliffe Gordon
Slide Hampton
TJ Johnson
Kid Ory
Tricky Sam Nanton
Jack Teagarden
Steve Turre

Trumpet

Louis Armstrong
Bix Beiderbecke
Buddy Bolden
Clifford Brown
Miles Davis
Roy Eldridge
Sweets Edison
Jon Faddis
Art Farmer
Maysard Ferguson
Dizzy Gillespie
Freddie Hubbard
Harry James
Wynton Marsalis
Joe "King" Oliver
Nicholas Payton
Marcus Printup
Arturo Sandoval
Woody Shaw
Clark Terry
Joe Wilder

Vibes

*Terry Gibbs
Lionel Hampton
Milt Jackson
Joe Locke*

Vocalists

*Louis Armstrong
Tony Bennett
Nat King Cole
Ella Fitzgerald
Billie Holiday
Frank Sinatra
Mel Tormé
Sarah Vaughan
Joe Williams*

The Greensburg Salem High School

Jazz Ensemble is on Facebook!

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*WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/G
SJAZZ*

