C. Milton Wright High School

Jazz Ensemble

2021-2022 Student Handbook



Music Website:

[www.cmiltonwrightmusic.com](http://www.cmiltonwrightmusic.com)

Dr. Frisch – Joel.Frisch@hcps.org

Band Parent Organization – [CMWBPO@gmail.com](mailto:CMWBPO@gmail.com)

**Introduction**

**Welcome**

I am glad that you are a part of the C. Milton Wright Music Department and I look forward to a successful and rewarding year. Being a member of a musical organization is a wonderful experience, one that you will remember the rest of your life. The C. Milton Wright Music department has the potential to achieve musical excellence if all the members of each performing group are committed towards this unified goal. As we begin the year, it is appropriate to review the responsibilities of membership in our various ensembles. Please read the following and keep it to know what is expected of you and all members of our groups.

**Course Description**

This course will focus on the development of individual performances technique of various music styles, and ensemble performance by studying standard and contemporary jazz literature. This class is co-curricular, and grades will take place in the classroom and at performances. Additional performances are a possibility and information will be sent home as soon as possible. Students may take this course more than one time.

**Outcomes**

Students will enhance instrumental performance skills, knowledge of music fundamentals, and music theory by rehearsing and performing a wide variety of music. The students will gain experience in ensemble and solo performance of jazz music through practice and listening assignments.

1. Use listening skills to balance ensemble.
2. Demonstrate ability to read music.
3. Develop proper instrumental and rehearsal techniques.
4. Perform in a variety of settings.
5. Exhibit the ability to listen to, critique, and understand other musical performances.
6. Improvise solos during class.

**Assessment**

The following forms of assessment will be used during the course of the school year:

1. **Practice (20%)** – ensemble preparation, worksheets, homework (Summative)
2. **Process (30%)** – required outside of class rehearsals, minor playing assessments, written quizzes (Summative/Formative)
3. **Product (50%)** – performances, major playing assessments, written tests (Formative)

**Grading Outline**

The student’s grade will be derived from:

1. **Rehearsal Preparation/Participation**-students are expected to come to class prepared with their instrument, music, a pencil, instrument accessories (valve oil, reeds, etc.), and class journal. Music must be practiced at home.
2. **Progress/Achievement/Performances** – A student’s developing technical facility will be assessed by regular playing tests and quizzes. Most tests will be performance based but some will be written. Students will demonstrate their achievement of musical objectives in a live performance setting (see performance dates).
3. **Homework** – Students will often have forms that require a parent signature.

**Class Responsibilities and Procedures**

1. Rehearsal time is limited and important. Everyone needs to be present, on time, and prepared to work. Attendance and active participation are a part of the student’s grade.
2. Gum chewing is not allowed in the music rooms. As you enter the room you discard any gum that you may be chewing into the appropriate trash receptacle. Food and drinks, other than water are not permitted in any of the music rooms. Please help keep our rooms clean and organized.
3. Have your music and all equipment needed for the rehearsal with you as you take your seat.
4. When the director steps in front of the classroom on the podium, all playing and talking should stop immediately so we may proceed with rehearsal as posted on the chalkboard. Rehearsal etiquette includes stopping when the director stops conducting or cuts of the group. Listen for directions, comments, or corrections. Always mark out music with a pencil. When the director’s hands are raised you should be ready to begin.
5. Take good care of all equipment, whether it is yours or the schools. Please do not lean on the music stands as this bends and loosens them. Misuse or damage of school instruments or percussion equipment will result in an appropriate replacement fee and referral to the main office.
6. YOU are responsible for caring for your music. A copy of all music will be distributed to each student in the class. In most cases, music will be placed in your folder slot for each day. Lost or damaged music will be replaced by the student for a price ranging from $1.00 to $5.00, depending on the publishing company. It is your responsibility to take care of your music.
7. Each student must put their name, address, telephone number and school on a tag outside of their case for identification purposes. If this tag is lost or destroyed at any time, you must see the director about a replacement tag.
8. Take your instrument home every day and practice!
9. **During virtual instruction**, please adhere to the following:
   * Mute your microphone upon entering the virtual classroom
   * Be in front of your screen
   * Be prepared with all essential materials (see Course Materials on page 3)
   * Wear headphones

**Course Materials**

**Required Supplies:**

1. Instrument (in working condition)
2. Reeds, mouthpiece, oil, etc.
3. Music
4. Jazz Binder – You will be assigned a binder at the beginning of the year. If you damage or lose it, the replacement cost is $20.
5. PENCIL EVERY CLASS!!!

**Recommended Materials:**

1. **Vol.1 How to Play Jazz and Improvise by Jamey Aebersold**: The jazz bible for learning how to improvise. There are many other volumes that are all extremely valuable and worth having.
2. **Real Book** (volume 6): Available at any music store, online music retailer, and amazon. Different volumes have different tunes. Be sure to choose the correct key of your instrument as each volume comes in Bb (trumpet and tenor sax), Eb (alto and bari sax), C Bass Clef (trombone, bass and piano), and C Treble Clef (piano and guitar).
3. **Jazz On the Tube**: <http://www.jazzonthetube.com/> This site will provide emails of different jazz performances throughout history. Great for learning new tunes and composers.

**Required Apps**

1. **Metronome**

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|  | Pro Metronome  FREE on Apple and Android  Paid version ($3.99) is recommended |

1. **Tuner** (choose one)

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|  | DA Tuner by Prometheus Interactive  FREE on Android, not available for Apple  Paid version ($2.99) is recommended |
|  | Tunable  FREE on Apple, $3.99 on Android |
|  | Tonal Energy (also includes a metronome)  $3.99 on Apple and Android |
|  | iStroboSoft (for bass clarinet, bari sax, tuba, double bass)  $9.99 on Apple |
|  | Strobe Tuner Pro by A4tune Labs (for bass clarinet, bari sax, tuba, double bass)  $2.99 on Android |

1. **Band App**

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|  | Band  FREE on Apple and Android  Download the app and create an account  Use this link (<https://tinyurl.com/CMWBand>) or QR code to join the C. Milton Wright Band page: |

1. Smart Music (Recommended)

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|  | Web-based: <https://www.smartmusic.com/>  Free version has limited resources  Performer subscription ($40 per year) accesses a variety of ensemble and solo music |

5. iReal Pro (Recommended)

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| --- | --- |
|  | $13.99 on Apple and Android An amazing practice tool that allows you to play along with professional sounding tracks in various styles. |

**Jazz Ensemble Performances**

**Attendance Policy**

Jazz Band is a performance-oriented class. Participation in performances is an essential part of the learning process. It is a primary way in which the director can evaluate students. Jazz Band students represent C. Milton Wright High School in a meaningful and visible way during performances. The absence of any student from a performance will have an impact on the reputation of the school and on the success of the entire program.

The following procedures and policies apply to the participation of Jazz Band students in performances:

1. At the beginning of school, the director will distribute a list of performances for the upcoming school year at which attendance of all students is required.
2. Students are expected to attend all scheduled performances and rehearsals.
3. If a student misses a rehearsal or performance without a valid excuse, as determined by the director, the student will receive a zero for that performance, as they will be unable to meet the objectives of that particular performance.
4. If a student misses a performance, no penalty will be imposed and a make-up assignment will be given if the reason of the absence meets one of the following criteria:
   1. The student is ill
   2. Family emergency
5. The following are examples of reasons for absence from a performance for which the grade penalty will be imposed and a make-up assignment NOT assigned:
   1. Work
   2. Sporting events/other concerts
   3. School work – The rotating schedule provides you with ample time to complete your homework, you are to be responsible and plan ahead.
6. Early notification of a conflict and potential absence from a performance is essential. The student and parent should notify the director of a potential absence and the reason for the absence as soon as it is known, this notification should be in writing with a parent signature or in an email and should be sent BEFORE the concert.
7. When a student’s absence results from an unexpected event (such as sudden illness or family emergency), every effort should be made to contact the director before the performance. The director recognizes that on rare occasions this will not be possible.
8. When a student notifies the director that he/she will be absent from a performance, the director will decide if a penalty will be imposed and will share this decision with the student.

**Additional Opportunities**

* Jazz Club (after school)
* Jazz Combo
* All County Jazz Band
* All State Jazz Band

**Individual and Home Practice**

Practicing at home is your homework for music class. You need to practice your assigned music enough to be able to perform it well. Aim to perform it perfectly. I suggest at least 30 minutes of individual practice at home every two days. Practice time should be geared toward improvement in tone, intonation, rhythm, technique, and musicality. You will have frequent opportunities to show your improvement and musical growth through playing your music individually, in sectionals, or in class.

**Private Lessons**

1. Taking private lessons on your instrument greatly improves your ability, technical skills, and musical knowledge. The individual attention received through private instruction represents an educational opportunity that cannot be duplicated in a classroom setting. It is highly recommended, but not required, that you consider studying privately with an expert on your specific instrument.
2. Jazz Improvisation Lessons are a real thing! They can be taken in addition to general instrument lessons where improvisation and music theory are studied and applied.
3. Your director has information regarding private teachers and plenty of information to assist you in finding and selecting an appropriate private studio. Several excellent teachers live in or near the Bel Air area.

**Formal Concert Attire**

**Concert Attire (Grades 9-12)**

Students are expected to wear professional concert attire for all concert season performances. You may wear any of the following items as long as they meet the listed requirements:

* **Black dress shirt or blouse:** dress shirt must be button-down with a collar and blouse must have sleeves past the elbow

Flip-flops, Sandals, Jeans, Corduroys, Leggings, Yoga Pants, and Long Fingernails are **NOT** Permitted!

* **Black skirt or dress:** Must be floor length
* **Blank dress pants:** Must be loose-fitting dress pants and must be worn with black socks.
* **Black Shoes:** Must be dress shoes. No toes should be out. Avoid wearing high heels.
* **Tie:** Blue CMW tie provided

**Everyone wears all black from head to toe!**