Course Title: Jazz Band Honors

Course #: 1821-1822

Course Description:
Jazz Band Honors is a highly select group of musicians designed for the advanced player. Special emphasis is placed on solo, improvisation and combo performance as well as regular instrumental studies. Students accepted into this program will be expected to expand their mastery of music theory, music history, and composition. The music will consist of professional level commercial and jazz music. Students will be expected to improvise with some skills and to know and understand the harmonic structure of the music that is played. The jazz band will perform on many occasions for the general public and at competitive music festival around the state. Attendance at performances in a mandatory class requirement. Membership in the group is by teacher recommendation from a prepared audition to ensure that the students have high level of musical skill and to maintain a balanced instrumentation.

UC/CSU Approval: “f” approved

Grade Level: 10-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: Students should be practicing their instrument consistently, about 60 minutes most days / 5 hours a week.

Prerequisite: Advanced Band (3-4) or audition for non-freshmen.

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Students enrolled in Jazz Band Honors should have two-three years experience in a high school band ensemble or should demonstrate advanced proficiency on their instrument, as well as with musical literacy. This includes being able to perform at least 6 major scales, memorized, at a brisk tempo. Students should be able to comfortably sightread Grade 3 literature and perform Grade 4-5 literature when preparation time is provided. Students do not necessarily need experience with Jazz repertoire in order to be successful in this course, but should have a strong interest in that idiom.
Course Grade Scale:

- Practice and Rehearsals: 25%
- Assessments/Quizzes: 15%
- Written Assignments: 20%
- Performances: 25%
- Final Exam: 15%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

This is a performance-based course.

- Scales, techniques and sections of music can and will be assessed, via video or live performance.
- Students also demonstrate their knowledge and connection to the subject through music literacy (note reading/writing), as well as written expression (essay/journals).
- Additional grades are determined by rehearsal participation, effort and etiquette as well as ensemble performances at school events/concerts.
- Students in advanced ensembles may also earn credit for extra event participation and for helping to mentor more novice students on their instrument.
- Students will also show progress on their instrument through solo performance at the end of each semester.