 Jazz Band

Mr. Pfeil

2009-2010

***Room:*** A116

***E-mail Address:*** [epfeil@gjsd.net](mailto:epfeil@gjsd.net)

***School Phone Number:*** (814) 533-5601 Extension 1116

***Course Overview:***

The focus of this course will be teaching music through performance in jazz. The interaction between teacher and student is almost solely in jazz rehearsals and performance settings. My first and foremost job is to be a music teacher. It is during these rehearsal times that I have the opportunity to address the academic role of school jazz bands by teaching you not only the performance skills and knowledge that jazz band students need to perform specific music, but also by teaching for understanding “about the music” and music in general.

Every skill that you will learn and continue to practice in this course will not only help you as a performer, but a student as well. The areas of reading, vocabulary and math are most likely subjects you have separately throughout the day and are extremely important for the PSSA test. However, did you know that during a music rehearsal ALL of these subjects are taught to you through performance in band? Reading is happening every time we play. New musical terms and vocabulary are taught almost every week and rhythm studies constantly improve your basic math skills.

This is a year long course and one of the few courses where what we do in school is displayed to the community. Therefore, it is important to put time into your instruments outside of school and over the weekends.

The main concepts that we will cover in this course include:

* Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
* Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
* Reading and notating music
* Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
* Evaluating music and music performances
* Understand relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts
* Understanding music in relation to history and culture
* Scales and technique
* Tuning – the 3 stages of listening
* Sight Reading/Rhythm studies
* Concert etiquette

***Supplies Needed:***

1) Musical Instrument

2) Music Folder (provided)

3) Music (MUST be returned at a designated time)

3) Pencils **(never use a pen to mark music)**

***Attendance:***

It is extremely important to attend class on a regular basis. We strive for perfection as an ensemble and each and every player is needed everyday to make that happen. If you happen to miss a day you must return to class with an excused absence slip. Do not enter the room without this.

Everyday there are participation points given. An unexcused absence will result in a zero for participation on the day you missed.

***Tardies:***

You must arrive to class early! Unlike other courses that you may just be able to sit down in order to be ready, concert band requires instruments being put together, reeds being on, and valves being oiled. You must do this promptly and be ready to go in order for us not to lose time.

Every late arrival with result in 3 participation points being deducted for that day. Also, if you are late to class two times, a phone call to your home will be made. If you are late 4 times a phone call home will be made and a log will be written. Be safe, be early!

***Classroom Behavior:***

I expect everyone to have all materials each and everyday. Always have a pencil with you or keep one in your music folder. I expect there to be NO talking during rehearsals unless you have a question. The great thing about a music rehearsal is you can always learn something even if you are not being worked with. Listen during rehearsals and be respectful.

***Dismissal from class:***

Students will not be leaving class to go to the bathroom. If there is a medical condition that requires you to leave often I must be notified by the nurse. If you expect me to give you a few minutes at the end of class to get instruments put away, I expect you to be there for the entire rehearsal.

***Participation:***

No quizzes or tests will be given for this course. Therefore, participation is documented everyday and a maximum of ten points will be given each day. More details are given under grading procedures.

***Performances:***

ALL performances are mandatory. There will be two concerts throughout the year. All performance dates will be given in plenty of time for you to schedule around them. Missing a concert will result in a failure of the course. Only a doctor’s excuse or death in the family will excuse you from participating in the concerts.

It is possible we might do a community concert or event.

**WE WILL BE PERFORMING AT 2 OR 3 BASKETBALL GAMES**

\*These dates will also be given in plenty of time.

***Performance Dress:***

ALL performances will be black pants and white top. Guys, you must always where an **ALL BLACK OR WHITE** tie and a **LONG** sleeved button down shirt. Ladies, you may where a dress or a skirt and blouse. All black dresses are fine. NO jeans or denim materials are allowed. No sneakers. **Failure to comply with this dress code will result in HALF of your concert points being deducted.**

***Grading Procedure:***

Participation points will be given everyday. There is a maximum of ten points per day that you can receive. It is extremely hard to fail this course, however, it is also takes a lot of effort to get 100%. 450 Points per 9 weeks will be given for participation and 900 points will be given for **EACH** concert.

Participation 50%

Concert Attendance 50%

Grades can be determined at any time throughout the term using the following scale:

100 – 93% A

92 – 82% B

81 – 70% C

69 – 60% D

59 – 0% F

Participation points will be given based on the following rubric:

**Exemplary (9-10 points per day)**

**The student has:**

1. Shown effort to demonstrate a clear, complete and unambiguous understanding of all assigned music.
2. Shown complete understanding and compliance with the processes and procedures involved with the program.
3. Shown positive leadership and interest in his/her section and the ensemble as a whole.
4. Shown outstanding effort in self improvement through consistent individual practice.
5. Demonstrated rehearsal conduct that is consistently positive.

**Competent (8 points per day)**

**The student has:**

1. Shown effort to demonstrate a fairly clear, complete and unambiguous understanding of all assigned music.
2. Shown a fair understanding and compliance with the processes and procedures involved with the program.
3. Been a positive contribution to his/her section and the ensemble as a whole.
4. Shown interest in self improvement through consistent individual practice.

5. Shown rehearsal conduct that is generally positive.

**Some Flaws (6-7 points per day)**

**The student has:**

1. Shown minimal effort to demonstrate a clear, complete and unambiguous understanding of all assigned music.
2. Not shown understanding and does not comply with the processes and procedures involved with the program.
3. Participated in and contributed to a minimum of activities.
4. Shown minimal individual effort in self improvement through consistent individual practice.
5. Shown rehearsal conduct that is sometimes positive, sometimes negative.

**Unsatisfactory (4-5 points per day)**

**The student has:**

1. Participated in but shown a lack of effort to demonstrate a clear, complete and unambiguous understanding of all assigned music.
2. Shown a lack of effort to gain an understanding of and comply with the processes and procedures involved with the program.
3. Not participated in and contributed to a minimum of activities.
4. Shown a lack of effort in self improvement through consistent individual practice.

5. Shown rehearsal conduct that is erratic and often negative.

**Fails to complete commitment and obligation (3 or less points per day)**

**The student has:**

1. Shown no effort or interest in assigned music.
2. Contributed in a negative manner towards the processes and procedures involved with the program.
3. Participated in and contributed to a few or no activities.
4. Shown no effort in self improvement.

5. Shown rehearsal conduct that is disruptive and negative.

***Progress Reports:***

Progress reports will be sent home in the middle of the nine weeks for those students not achieving at least a C.

***Extra Help:***

Do not be afraid to ask for extra help. Ask if I am available to stay after school on a specific day and I will be more than willing to stay and do a mini lesson. There is no tutoring available for music students so please, ask for extra help!

**Code of Conduct Contract**

## Mr. Pfeil

2009 – 2010

* **All Greater Johnstown regulations, responsibilities, and disciplinary options stated in the Code of Student Discipline book will be expected and followed for every student in this classroom.**
* **Point values will be assigned to each infraction.**

1. **Respect yourself, classmates, administration, faculty, staff, and**

**property of JHS.** *Treat others as you wish to be treated.*

1. **Students will arrive early in order to have instruments ready on time! Sleeping or inactivity will not be tolerated.**
2. **Students will raise their hands to talk**
3. **Students need to be prepared for EVERY class. No one will be**

**permitted to leave the classroom after the bell rings.**

1. **Students are expected in class EVERY DAY!**
2. **Please leave food, candy, and drinks at home.**
3. ***All* electronic devices are prohibited in the classroom. Specifically, cell phone possession is severely restricted. Students caught with cell phones in their possession will have them confiscated and they must be picked up by a parent/guardian in the main office.**

Please return this paper to Mr. Pfeil no later than Friday, September 4, 2009. Thank You!

I have read and understand the overall course structure as well as the student requirements and responsibilities. I have also read the rules in the Code of Conduct Contract and understand them and the consequences that result if not followed.

Student Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly

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

Parent/Guardian Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Relation\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Please write any questions, comments, or concerns that you may have about this course below:***