

SKYLINE JAZZ ENSEMBLE

“Anything great *requires* time, patience, perseverance, dedication, and discipline.”

Description of Course Objectives:

The Skyline Jazz Ensemble is a high profile, advanced, *auditioned-only* class. The highest standards of excellence are expected. Students will primarily focus on aspects of musical performance. Students will study and perform a wide variety of jazz styles as well as develop improvisational skills. We will have several performances throughout the year. ***Participation is mandatory!*** Students will develop a love for music and prepare to be productive and successful members of the community. They will acquire the necessary musical and technical skills that will enable them to actively participate in the Skyline Performing Arts Program. Additionally, students will learn many non-musical skills such as dedication, discipline, positive attitude, critical thinking, self-esteem, confidence, and respect.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined using the following criteria:

Participation: You will receive daily participation points. They will be received through things such as class attendance, practice, and preparation. You *must* have your instruments in class every day. I *will* know if you have been practicing! You **MUST** be to rehearsal **ON TIME!!!** Be at school by 6:30 AM. Downbeat is at 6:40.

Assignments: Various assignments will be given throughout the year. Assignments will include playing tests, scales/exercises pass-offs, concert reports, written tests, etc.

Performances: We will plan to have at least one concert each term. A calendar of events for the entire year has been furnished and is also available on the SHS website. It is strongly recommended to write these dates on your home calendars *immediately*. You are expected to attend every concert and performance – no exceptions. Attendance at concerts and performances cannot be made up and is heavily weighted and will affect your grade substantially.

Grading scale:

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 100-94 % = A | 82-80 % = B- | 69-67 % = D+ |
| 93-90 % = A- | 79-77 % = C+ | 66-63 % = D |
| 89-87 % = B+ | 76-73 % = C | 62-60 % = D- |
| 86-83 % = B | 72-70 % = C- | 59-0 % = F |

Citizenship will be graded according to SHS and Granite District policy as outlined in the “Skyliner” student planner handbook. In reference to class attendance, please realize that in a performing organization it is indeed impossible to “make up” a rehearsal or performance. They only happen once! When it’s over, it’s over! However, *excused* absences will not count against the student’s point total.

Fees:

The Instrumental Music Participation Fee will only be \$30 for the entire year. This includes *all* classes. If student is participating in more than one instrumental music class they will need to pay the fee only once. This money helps our program survive! We use it to purchase music, equipment, bus transportation, etc. **The fee is due during the first week of the school year.**

If a student will be playing a school owned instrument (percussion excepted) the district requires a \$60 rental charge for the year to supplement the cost of maintenance and repair. Please see Mr. Larson to obtain the proper paperwork. **This fee is also due the first week of the school year.**

Uniforms:

Male members of the Skyline Jazz Ensemble will need to purchase a uniform. (The ladies will continue to wear their “concert black” as they do in Wind Ensemble and Orchestra). Gentlemen will need to purchase a dark navy blue dress shirt and golden neck tie to wear with their tuxedos. We generally get these through the Van Heusen store in a bulk order. The price has been about \$40 for the shirt and tie set. We will order the sets the first week of school. Please let Mr. Larson know your dress shirt size (i.e. size 15 neck with a 34/35 sleeve) by the end of the 1st week of school.

Expectations:

Again, please remember that the Jazz Ensemble is one of the top performance organizations of the school. Public performances, **which may and will be outside of school time**, are *expected* of all students and will be considered a major part of your grade! These performances include all concerts, competitions, region and state festivals, athletic events, assemblies, and other special occasions. Be aware that we will most likely be asked to participate in many extra events. All students are expected to follow the rules, practice, participate, and **have fun!**

Additionally, you can expect me to be organized, communicate effectively, provide an accurate calendar of events, be understanding, grade fairly, be consistent in what I do and say, and not make any unnecessary last-minute changes!

There are many wonderful things planned for this school year! If you have any questions feel free to contact me at alarson2@graniteschools.org, at the school at 385-646-9663, or via our department website – www.skylineperformingarts.org.

Thank You!

Adam D. Larson
Director of Instrumental Music
Skyline High School

Remember – “Hard Work is FUN!”