

Jazz Ensemble and Grading Policy

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Mission Statement

The goal of the Liberty High School Instrumental Music Program is to present polished musical performances of a professional caliber. We perform the highest quality wind and string literature of a diverse and varied repertoire. Our audience may range from groups within the school to the community at large. We rehearse as an ensemble and practice individually in a way that continually stretches the outer boundaries of our musical abilities, and we seek outside opportunities to grow as musicians.

Grading Policy

- 40 % Performance Evaluations
- 35 % Practice and Participation
- 15 % Performance Critiques (two per quarter)
- 10 % Written Assignments

Performance Evaluations: Performance evaluations are conducted on a biweekly schedule but may be given at any time in order to assess student preparedness, progress or retention of learned skills. Performance evaluations may be formally announced or unannounced and will include, but not limited to, current repertoire, warm-ups, or scale studies. Evaluations will be used as chair placement auditions to determine seating. Students are expected to adopt a practice schedule and work at home to learn their assigned part. (Twenty minutes of practice time per day is strongly recommended.) Class time is reserved for ensemble development and mastery of skill.

Participation:

Five points are earned daily for each successfully completed rehearsal. A successful rehearsal demands promptness, preparedness, on-task behavior, effort and retention. Students are expected to arrive on time to class with their assigned music, a sharpened pencil, individual instrument accessories, and an instrument in good working condition.

Students without music and/or an instrument lose all participation points for that rehearsal period. Two unprepared rehearsals result in lunch or after school detention. Students are expected to get a rental instrument if their instrument is undergoing repairs, or they may borrow an instrument from Ms. Jason (please ask in advance). Students may also present “proof” of repair from the repair service in order to be excused from rehearsal. Students who are unable to play an instrument due to medical illness will be excused from rehearsal with a handwritten note from a parent or legal guardian.

As with all performance classes, students must be in attendance in order to actively participate. Students with an unexcused absence forfeit their participation points for that class period. Excused absences will be given the opportunity to makeup for lost rehearsal time.

Performance Critiques:

All students must complete one live performance critique and one recorded performance critique per quarter. (Please see Performance Critique handouts.) Critiques are to be one page, double-spaced, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Students must incorporate appropriate use of music terminology. Live performance critiques must be accompanied by a program and/or ticket stub as “proof” of attendance. Recorded performance critiques must be accompanied by a photocopy of the CD, tape, or record cover, or clearly list the website from which the music was downloaded as “proof” of listening. A reduction of 15 points will be taken for critiques submitted without “proof.” Additional points may be deducted for incomplete work. No critiques will be accepted late.

Written Assignments/Music Theory:

Students are responsible for completing written class work and homework on time. In case of excused absence, all work must be submitted within two class periods in order to receive full credit. Students will take a midterm and final written music theory exam.

Required Performances

CCPS require students to receive a grade for all curricular concerts. The graded concert consists of a performance evaluation, concert critique (completed in class), and concert attendance. Below are the required performances for this course:

- 12/11 LHS Orchestra and Jazz Ensemble Concert
- 1/24 State Jazz Festival (TU during school day)
- 2/16 *Red, White and Blue* Pops Concert
- 5/14 LHS Orchestra and Jazz Concert

After School Rehearsals

Below are the mandatory after school rehearsals required for this ensemble. Students must fill out an Absence Request Form (at least) a week prior to the missed rehearsal. The Instrumental Music Director will determine if the absence is excused or unexcused.

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| 12/5 | 6-9 pm | Band Room |
| 12/10 | 6-9 pm | Auditorium |
| 5/6 | 6-9 pm | Band Room |
| 5/11 | 6-9 pm | Auditorium |

Extra Curricular Opportunities

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| 10/22 | <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> NYC trip |
| 5/23 | Hershey Park Trip |
| All-State Jazz Band | LHS Talent Show |
| Solo and Ensemble Festival | McDaniel College Jazz Ensemble |
| Pep Band (Football games) | CCC Jazz Ensemble |
| LHS Musical | |