



**Beloit Memorial High School
Jazz Orchestra (Jazz Band I)
Course Syllabus
2018-2019**

Schedule: M-F, Term 1-4, Block 1
Instructor: Mr. Chris Behrens
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jazz Band I is the premiere jazz course for advanced-level jazz musicians which offers students the opportunity to study and perform a variety of jazz styles and further develop improvisational skills. A strong emphasis is placed on the learning and developing basic jazz vocabulary through active listening, memorization of jazz standards, and basic jazz theory and improvisation. All students enrolled are required to participate in all performances.

Concurrent enrollment in Wind Ensemble or Concert Band is a prerequisite for participation (see exception below).

Seniors who are taking a Porter Scholar class at Beloit College are excused from participating in the Wind Ensemble, HOWEVER they are still REQUIRED to be a member of the BMHS Pep Band (which includes ALL Pep Band / Marching performances).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1) Learn fundamentals of jazz improvisation, knowledge of jazz theory, and vocabulary
- 2) Strengthen fundamentals of jazz improvisation and expand knowledge of jazz vocabulary
- 3) Refine elements of proper instrumental technique
- 4) Listen to, analyze, describe, and evaluate music using specific criteria for quality and effectiveness
- 5) Strengthen sight-reading abilities

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

- Students are expected to contribute positively in rehearsals by coming to class prepared, with all materials, and being prepared to start class on time.
- Students will always focus on the success of the group by eliminating distractions. All phones, books, and electronic devices should be left in your backpack.
- Rehearsals are time to work collectively, not individually. Rehearsals (daily classes and/or evening rehearsals / clinics, etc.) are not to learn your part – rather they are to learn everyone else's part and therefore, the music. At this level, learning your part is your responsibility. This is the professional standard.

TARDY POLICY

Tardiness affects the performance and learning environment of all band students. Students will be given a verbal warning and lose participation points after their first unexcused tardy. After the first offense, ensemble contribution grades will be lowered.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- **Instruments**

Students are encouraged to rent or buy an instrument for daily use. Students that do not own an instrument may check out an instrument from the BMHS instrument inventory, if available. There is not enough inventory to supply students with two instruments (one for home use and one for school use).

- **Sheet Music, Folders & Pencils**

Music and folders are supplied and on loan to students for the duration of the school year. Students are responsible for all loaned materials and must replace any missing or damaged items. Students are responsible for having a pencil in class at all times. Folders must be stored away in the designated folder slot at all times unless the folder is taken home. Students should not leave folders in their lockers under any circumstances.

- **Saxophone Players**

Sax players are required to purchase their own reeds. Doubling may be required of saxophone players. Instruments for doubling will be checked to students by the director. It is the responsibility of each student to bring all doubles to EVERY rehearsal.

- **Brass Players**

Brass students should own a bottle of valve oil and/or slide grease. Brass players must bring all mutes and doubles (Flugelhorns) to ALL rehearsals.

- **Rhythm Section Players**

Drummers should own their own pair of (jazz) drumsticks. Bass/guitar players are required to provide their own patch chords for EVERY rehearsal.

- **Lockers**

Students will be checked out a locker in the band room. It is everyone's responsibility to put their instrument in their locker after every rehearsal. **Instruments may NOT be left out in the band room or studio** under any circumstances. Lockers should be used for music class only.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Concert attire for all performances is as follows:

Girls: Conservative black dress pants or skirt (must cover knees when seated), black dress shirt, and DRESS SHOES.

Boys: Black shirt or suit, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes.

GRADING

- **Rehearsal Contribution**

In addition to coming to class prepared by knowing your music, you are expected to be in your seat with your folder, instrument, and pencil on time.

- **Homework**

It is expected that each student practice for AT LEAST 2 hours a week (30 minutes a day).

Students that are showing little to no improvement over the course of the semester will be placed on a practice card. Practice cards will require a parent signature and turned in on a weekly basis until the end of the quarter. In addition to individual practice, students will also receive written homework assignments as determined by the Director.

- **Exams**

Students should be prepared to demonstrate the ability to play parts by themselves or in a small group at any time.

- Playing Exams will be graded on accuracy, intonation, tone quality, dynamics, and musicality.
- Written Exams / Assignments, Essays will be on musical terms, music theory, music history as well as self-reflection / written critiques of performances and / or rehearsals.

Sectionals

Sectionals for BMJO will be scheduled as needed. These may meet outside of the regular scheduled class time, as well as during class.

Clinics / Masterclasses

Each year we bring in several professional jazz musicians / educators to work with the ensemble. These rehearsals are held outside of the school day and are scheduled to avoid other school-related activities when possible. Generally, these sessions last 3-4 hours. Participation / attendance at clinic rehearsals are required. Please see the class calendar for a list.

PERFORMANCES

Jazz Band I is a performance-based class. Application of material covered in class is demonstrated in performance. All performances are MANDATORY and are a part of the student's grade. Performance dates will be given to students in a timely manner well in advance and are always available online.

Work conflicts, extra curricular sport activities or conflicts within your control, i.e. family vacations and/or trips, are not excused absences. Missed performances due to illness are excused but require a doctor's note for verification. All other conflicts will be handled individually on their own merit and must be cleared with the Director PRIOR and WELL IN ADVANCE of the performance. Missed performances will affect a student's grade by at least one full letter grade. No make-up work can or will be assigned for missed performances.

GRADING BREAKDOWN

Final grades will be based on the following weighted categories and percentages for each quarter/semester:

REHEARSAL CONTRIBUTION: 35%

PERFORMANCES: 35%

PLAYING EXAMS / WRITTEN ASSESSMENTS: 30%

Festivals, Concerts, and Performances for the 2018-19 school year (subject to change):

Due to only having one person on a part (in most cases), it is extremely important that all members attend all events listed. Even one person missing can be detrimental to the entire group. When scheduling, we do our best to avoid other conflicts, such as athletics, theater, etc. Inevitably there will be some conflicts. However, most coaches and teachers know that we travel and participate at these events and in the past, have been very understanding with missing an occasional game or practice for an important jazz event. Make sure you communicate possible conflicts well in advance (at least a month or two) with all parties involved. Approximate costs for jazz festivals have been included.

September 30	BMJO performance at The Butterfly Club Time: 5:00-7:00pm
October 22	BMJE / BMJO performance at The Grand Avenue Pub 6-8pm
October 26	BMJO performance at the Wisconsin Music Educators Conference 1:30pm Monona Terrace, Madison WI
November 2 & 3	BMJO / BMJE performance at the Lawrence University Jazz Festival Time: Depart 8am on 11/2; return 11/3 at 11:00pm Cost: \$85
November 12	BMJO / BMJE Fall Jazz Concert at La Casa Grande Restaurant, Beloit Time: 6:30pm
December 2	BMJE / BMJO performance at Voigt Music Center Time: 1:00-3:00pm
December 17	BMJE / BMJO performance at The Grand Avenue Pub 6-8pm
January 18 & 19	BMJO / BMJE performance at Purdue Jazz Festival (West LaFayette, IN.) Time: Depart 11am on 1/18; return 11:00pm on 1/19 Cost: \$85
January 28	BMJE / BMJO performance at The Grand Avenue Pub 6-8pm
February 1	BMJO / BMJE performance at UW-Platteville Jazz Festival Time: Depart 7:30am; return 9:30pm Cost: \$35
February 11	BMJO / BMJE performance at "Knight of Jazz Spaghetti Dinner" Location: Eclipse Center Time: 5:00-8:00pm
February 23	BMJO / BMJE performance at "Jazz in the Meadows" – Rolling Meadows, IL. Cost: \$30

March 2	BMJO performance for the BIFF Silent Film 7:00-8:00pm Dress Rehearsal at 10:00am
March 11	BMJE / BMJO performance at The GAP 6-8pm
March 24	BMJO performance at The Butterfly Club 5:00-7:00pm
April 3-9	BMJO / BMJE trip to Orlando, FL. (Festival Disney) Time: Depart 4/3 at 8am; return 4/9 around 10am. Cost: \$900
April 15	BMJE / BMJO performance at The GAP 6-8pm
April 28	BMJO performance at The Butterfly Club 5:00-7:00pm
May 21	BMJO / BMJE Spring Concert at La Casa Grande Restaurant Time: 6:30pm
May 24	BMJO / BMJE Performance at "Music in the Park" (Downtown Beloit) Time: 11:30am-1:30pm

LINK to the GOOGLE BAND CALENDAR: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6h4qa8>

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPT. 7!

BMJO Syllabus STUDENT / PARENT AGREEMENT FORM

Please read and sign below as indicated:

I have read the BMJO Syllabus and agree to abide by all the policies stated. I realize that it takes full cooperation, a willingness to make sacrifices, and dedication from 100% of the students and parents to make our band the best it can be. I further realize that failure to follow the stated policies in this syllabus or failure to follow directions from the band director will result in disciplinary actions, which could lead to dismissal from the program. I will do my best to cooperate and represent the BMHS Band program with integrity at all times.

(Student Signature)

(Date)

I have read the BMJO Syllabus carefully; I understand its contents, what is expected of my child, and agree to support the policies. If I have any concerns or questions, I will contact my student's teacher by **email or phone**.

(Parent Signature)

(Date)

E-MAIL

As budgets become tighter, it will become more difficult to send communications through the mail. In an effort to go "paperless", we are asking all band students and parents/guardians to give us their email address:

Please print CLEARLY.

Student E-mail _____

Mother's E-mail _____

Father's E-mail _____

Additional E-mail _____

*** ☐ I do not have an email account. Please send communications through U.S. Mail.

Current Address: _____