

# Jazz Band Course Outline

Jazz Band will be offered during both semesters. One semester of jazz band will be worth .25 credits and would fulfill the music requirement for graduation.

## Eligibility

Students who play any of the following instruments are eligible to sign up for jazz band: electric guitar, bass, keyboard, drum set, trumpet, trombone, and saxophone.

Throughout the course of one semester in Jazz Band, students will study the following topics:

1. Rhythm
2. Style
3. Articulation
4. Listening
  - a. Overall sound, solo style, grooves
5. Solfege singing
6. Improvisation
  - a. All students will learn to improvise on their instrument
  - b. All students will perform at least one improvised solo for an audience
7. Music Theory
  - a. Reading chords
8. Form
  - a. 12-bar blues, ABA, etc.
9. Tuning
10. Practice techniques
11. Composing and arranging

## Repertoire

The repertoire for the jazz band will be drawn from the different style periods of jazz music including Dixieland, big band, bebop, jazz fusion, and jazz rock. Learning a variety of songs will provide the opportunity for the application of several of the topics mentioned above.

## Grading

Grades are based on rehearsals, weekly lessons, and performances. Students are expected to have their instruments at all rehearsals and come prepared with a pencil. Assignments will be given during lessons and are expected to be completed at the time specified by the instructor. This could be by the next rehearsal or by the next lesson. The performance requirement is a minimum of one concert per semester but is open for other opportunities if they present themselves.

Attachment XVII-3A-3

**Wellsboro Area High School Jazz Band  
Course Syllabus**

**Materials:** instrument, music, lesson materials, and pencil (every day!)

**Course Objectives:**

The main objective of the Wellsboro High School Jazz Band is to challenge and encourage students to grow in their knowledge and understanding of diverse jazz styles through daily rehearsals, performance opportunities, and concert attendance. In addition, small group instruction is offered to provide students with skills necessary for mastery of their individual instrument. These small group lessons also allow students to perform as a member of a smaller chamber ensemble.

**Attendance Policies:**

Concerts – Students must attend all scheduled performances *without exception* (barring student illness or death in the family). Absence from a performance will result in a 0% for the concert portion of the overall grade.

Lessons – Students should make every effort to attend lessons as scheduled. It is understood that academic responsibilities may prohibit a student from attending a lesson. It is the responsibility of the student, however, to contact the director *prior to missing a scheduled lesson*. The minimum number of lessons required is *six per marking period*. Missed lessons must be made up *before the next scheduled lesson*. Allowances will be made in the case of extended absence from school.

**Grading Procedures:**

Concert Performances: 100 pts.

Rehearsal Attendance/Participation/Attitude: 100 pts (approx. 5 pts/rehearsal)

Lessons: 90 pts.      15 points/6 lessons = 90 points total

**Bandroom Rules:**

1. Arrive to rehearsal *on time*.
2. Get out instrument/music, look at the board for that day's objectives.
3. No food, drink (except water), or gum.
4. No electronic devices of any kind.
5. Pick up after yourself, i.e. belongings, trash, etc.

WINTER BAND CONCERT – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009 @ 4:30 p.m.

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Please sign below and cut on the line above to return **ONLY** the bottom portion of this page.

I have read and understand the course syllabus for the band program at Wellsboro High School.

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Student Name

Date

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Parent Name

Date