

June 16, 2009

EWHS Jazz Ensemble Audition Information

Edmonds-Woodway High School Jazz Auditions are held in the fall for the 2009-10 year. All students interested in participating in the Jazz Bands at EWHS should sign up for Jazz 2. Current Jazz 1 members may sign up for Jazz Ensemble I but will also need to audition. Jazz Band students must be in the co-requisite large ensemble. For more about this, read the band handbook posted on our website: www.ewhsmusic.com

Auditions will be held on **Tuesday August 25 and Wednesday August 26**. Show up and play on a first come, first served basis beginning at 8:00 AM. Each audition should take about 15-20 minutes. There will be no audition from 11-12 and then resume until 3 PM. Feel free to email with questions.

This fall all freshman band students will be invited to participate in EXTRA-VA-BAND-ZA on Thursday, August 27th. More about this in a separate memo.

Tips for success: play all summer, sign up for a camp (check our website for good ideas – www.ewhsmusic.com), **take private lessons, listen to jazz every day**, listen to one or two recording repetitively, go out and hear live jazz as often as you can afford to. Incoming freshman should sign up for Concert Band. All participants should have successfully completed 8th grade band or orchestra. All band members are expected to participate in class activities and performances including athletic event performances and assemblies.

We are currently offering two jazz groups and hoping to expand to 3. **Jazz Ensembles I and II** will be selected by **audition** so **all interested students should sign up during registration for Jazz Ensemble 2**. Then show up in August. In the unlikely event that Jazz Ensemble III will be offered, it will be for any students that are looking for the jazz band experience but don't wish to audition (standard instrumentation). This group could operate as a club for an additional membership fee and will only be offered if we have enough interested students.

Jazz Ensemble I plays advanced level music and performs frequently. **Jazz I and II rehearse before school at 6:30AM**. Jazz I (advanced group) will meet daily while Jazz II will meet Monday, Thursday mornings and Tuesday evening for 2 hours from 5:45 to 7:45 PM. This year Jazz II will be co-taught by Mr. Bergevin and Mr. John Sanders (Edmonds Community College).

Students are expected to take private lessons on their instrument, practice daily and attend an out of school sectional (small group rehearsal) each week.

Many IB students have taken this class and enjoyed it. Do not be intimidated by the apparent work load – you can do it!

Jazz Students should strongly consider subscribing to Smartmusic program (downloadable from smartmusic.com) for \$25 for one year. I have found it to be an amazing practice tool when combined with a home computer. It includes rhythm drills, as well as “play along” recordings that can be slowed down and transposed.

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Auditions may be recorded for director review and archiving.

Print and complete the attached contract and bring it with you to your audition.

EWHS Jazz Ensemble APPLICATION/AUDITION FORM

Jazz Ensemble is an **elective** program. Students wishing to be involved need to commit to being dedicated participants. In the past we have attended several band festivals, held retreats and guest-artist concerts and produced many high achieving graduates. Your interest in joining means you will be called upon to attend extra rehearsals, a more rigorous performing schedule and an attitude of leadership with other Jazz Ensemble band members. Jazz Members will need to read and sign this form to be granted an audition.

I, _____, do understand that this class will require me to contribute at a high level and that not meeting these guidelines may result in removal from the group or opening of your position to challenges from other interested players. Here are the basic expectations:

- Daily practice
- Regular and punctual attendance
- One sectional per week – to be determined
- A commitment to listening to jazz recordings regularly
- Additional cost for traveling opportunities
- Parental volunteer involvement from all members
- Maintaining C grades or better in all classes while enrolled in the program
- Private lessons are highly encouraged
- Abiding by all school rules and WIAA activity guidelines just like athletes (no smoking, drinking, legal troubles, etc)

Signed _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Instructions: read the form and complete it (notice the rubric below). Upon arrival at the EWHS Music Department, sign up for a time slot on the sign-up sheet and wait for your turn. Plan to be on campus for as long as it takes to get in – likely no longer than 2 hours.

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Name _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Grade next year _____

Jazz Ensemble instrument: _____

How long have you played? _____

Other instruments you play: _____

What do you plan to play in pep band (if different than primary focus)?

Do you or have you taken private lessons on your instrument?

_____ currently taking lessons

_____ have taken lessons in the past but not currently

_____ never had private lessons

How long? _____ Name of teacher _____

What did you do for continued summer music study/development?

Will you be a positive contributor to all aspects of the band experience including pep band, full orchestra, chamber groups (solo and ensemble), fund raising, volunteering, etc.? _____

Tone: 1 2 3 4 5

Scales: 1 2 3 4 5

Comments: _____

Prepared piece: 1 2 3 4 5

Sight reading: 1 2 3 4 5

Ear Training: 1 2 3 4 5

Percussion Drills:

Attitude/Direction Following: _____

Additional Comments:

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Please prepare the following for Jazz Ensemble Auditions in the fall:

Horn Players

- 1) Full range chromatic scale
- 2) 12 major scales, to 9th scale degree, 8th notes, legato tongue, mm = 120
- 3) Play the melody and improvise over **any song of your choice** from Jamie Aebersold vol. 34 (Jam Session) Play the melody (or head) one time (memorized), then improvise a solo.
- 4) Purchase the “Jazz Conception **Intermediate**” by Jim Snidero and learn any of the medium tempo swing tunes focusing on your jazz tonguing and swing feel.
- 5) Sight read a short selection
- 6) Saxophones **interested in Jazz I** must bring your doubles (flute and clarinet) and be prepared to play Bb, Eb, F, Ab major scales and some simple sight reading.

Piano/Guitar/Vibraphone and Bass Players

- 1) All instruments other than drums be prepared to play the above requirements as well as the following – pianists need 4 octaves – double unison (not to 9th)
- 2) Bass players will play scales arco 2 octaves. Piano, 2 octaves, double handed
- 3) Play Bb blues and trade 4's with themselves – unaccompanied
- 4) Pianists and guitarists will need to demonstrate chord “comping” using a variety of voicings from a standard lead sheet with chord symbols only.
- 5) Bass players sight-read a simple head chart creating a useable bass line from chord symbols only.

Drummers will demonstrate the following:

- 1) **several tempos** of swing, bossa, samba
- 2) trade 4s soloing with themselves over a 12 bar blues at several tempos
- 3) prepare to play “The Biggest Wagon” from Bobby Gabriele’s book called the “Chart Reading Workbook for Drummers” along with the play along CD. Please consider buying this book. It is published by Hal Leonard and can be ordered from most music stores or online from jwpepper.com
- 4) sight read a short selection
- 5) demonstrate basic brush technique

Musicians will be evaluated on the following:

- Technique and finesse
(including range for brass players)
- Intonation
- Ability to keep a solid pulse (time)
- Attitude/direction following
- Improvisation
- Sight Reading