

## Specific Requirements of Jazz Ensemble 1

The requirements for Jazz Ensemble 1 are actually more simple than they look in the handbook – here is what is required of a student, distilled to one page.

- The performances for this group are November 20 (Winter Jazz Concert); February 7 (New Trier Jazz Festival); February 24 (Mardi Gras Benefit Concert); April 21 (Spring Jazz Concert); May 21 (Pops Concert). These performances are required of the band members. Any other performance that might become available to us would be discussed with the band members before deciding we would accept it. There are no after-school or evening responsibilities for this group except for the dates listed above.
- I ask that each student study privately. These lessons constitute 40% of the quarter grade. Students who are not studying privately outside of school – which is what I certainly recommend as the best way – can most likely be set up for a lesson once a week during a lunch period with our paraprofessional instructors. (I can only offer these as long as the paraprofessionals still have time in their schedules.) The expectation is that each student accumulate 140 minutes of lesson time per quarter for full credit. We have lesson certification sheets we ask the students to take to their teachers to sign to verify their lesson time.
- To help students understand jazz in a historical context, I ask that each jazz ensemble member study one unit of jazz history web pages per quarter. They can be found at [tunes.hcjazz.org](http://tunes.hcjazz.org). After studying the text, images, and sound files, a test will be available on SharePoint that may be taken at home. For example, for first quarter the students will study Unit 1. This constitutes 20% of the quarter grade. (The other options for this part of the grade each quarter are for members of Jazz 2 and 3.)
- The section in the handbook on demerits was originally written for concert/marching band as well as jazz ensemble. I have *rarely* had to use it with jazz band members, but it provides a framework should discipline of a student be necessary. The “Attendance” portion of the quarter grade is generally a “gimme A” unless a student has a significant behavior issue. (Actually, last year almost every student ended up getting an A in Jazz 1. I had one student who was not very reliable about showing up for his private lessons.)
- There are also some music theory and improvisation worksheets that will be assigned during the course of the year. The grades from these worksheets will become a part of the same 40% of the grade as the private lessons. Exactly when those will be assigned and how many there will be is difficult to judge right now, since I have not worked in the alternating-day environment before. I cannot predict how quickly this particular group of students will progress.