

Canyon Hills High School Jazz Band

Mr Michael Fiedler, Director (pronouns: He/Him/His)

Google Classroom Invite Link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MTg3MDY4MDQ3MDU2>

Google Classroom Add Code: 5w4kjl

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CREDIT: Satisfies the district's Fine Arts requirement.

Students in their 4th year of the class can opt to enroll in the Honors Section (receiving a 5.0 "A")

DESCRIPTION: The purpose of the CHHS Jazz Ensemble is to give students a place to learn about music theory, improvisation, and modern literature while expanding their skills on their chosen instrument in a group setting.

TEXTBOOK/MATERIALS: Students are routinely issued sheet music and will also (eventually) be issued a formalwear for concerts at no charge. Students are responsible for maintaining the music and the clothing during the course of the school year and will be financially responsible for any missing or damaged school property loaned to them.

PREREQUISITES: A desire to play an instrument and play modern (20th/21st century) music. A basic understanding of how to read music is also suggested – but beginners with minimal experience are still encouraged to join.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The student will perform a wide variety of modern literature on their chosen instrument and learn music theory and extended technique as it relates to that instrument, participate in performances with the string orchestra, and collaborate from time to time with the other music groups at CHHS and its cluster middle schools

TO MEET THESE OBJECTIVES STUDENTS MUST...

Have their instrument ready to be tuned (or already tuned!) shortly after class begins, participate actively in class every session, respect each other, respect the space, and communicate any concerns or questions to the teacher as they may arise

UNIFORMS:

Students are required to wear "black tie" formal wear for most performances. Guidelines for what to wear are online on the department's website. Students are encouraged to purchase their own personal formal wear, but acceptable "loaners" are available for students who are unable to do so.

INSTRUMENTATION: Jazz Ensemble students may choose from saxophones, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, string bass, or percussion. Extended instrumentation is offered on an individual basis. Instruments are available to borrow on a first come first served basis and may be taken home.

INSTRUMENTS:

Students are required to put away their instruments (in cases and/or back on the rack) following each class session (and will be given sufficient time to do so at the end of class). Percussionists are not required to bring their own drum set, pianists are not required to bring their own piano, and bassists/guitars will be provided amplifiers.

Students who borrow school instruments should consider this syllabus their contract for borrowing said instrument.

Each student borrowing an instrument is responsible for the care of the instrument and damaged or missing instruments will incur similar fees to damaged or missing textbooks (the cost of replacement). Students are responsible for reporting the serial# of each borrowed instrument to the teacher for purposes of record keeping.

CURRENT GRADING POLICY:

70% **Major Projects/Coursework**, 20% Assessments, 10% Reflection Assignments

90-100%: A 80-89%: B 70-79%: C 60-69%: D 50-59%: F/No Credit

NOTE: This year will continue the shift to "Standards Based Grading". Nothing will be graded that does not reflect the state and national standards for this course subject and no extra credit is allowed.

Students WILL be allowed to make up missing work contingent that there isn't a performance involved that has already passed. They may also re-do work that is a "D" or below based on the same criteria. A shift to the "1-4" system (as opposed to the "A" through "F" system) will begin as soon as power school allows - and some grades will start to reflect this before the end of the year.

PRACTICE/THEORY RESOURCES:

These are routinely posted to the department website and to the google classroom

HELP OUTSIDE OF CLASS:

Please reach out to me if you need help outside of class. Email is the best way to contact me.

If you have any concerns do not ever hesitate to contact me for any reason, I will always respond within 24 hours and will ALWAYS make time for you.

PERFORMANCES:

Are listed and updated routinely on the department website/calendar. Students should prioritize performances as they learn about them and communicate those dates and times to the organizer of any conflicting activities that may occur. Likewise - when a student learns of a music performance AFTER they have already committed to a conflicting event, I expect that information communicated to me so I can excuse them from the music event.

CITIZENSHIP: Citizenship marks follow the school's Citizenship Rubric

Attendance is a major part of citizenship marks –

so please make sure student absences are EXCUSED if/when they happen

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zkUVNnfzPC4czSdLfj3CHGd7U6ZWYs1-pGauMOprmtw>

DRESS CODE: Students are expected to follow the CHHS progressive dress code policy

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17IQqx81uLydlwRalakGX7KVDMG9v7FV3/view>

CELL PHONE POLICY:

The CHHS music department adheres to the SDUSD Cell Phone Policy

https://www.sandiegounified.org/about/policies_procedures/student_cell_phone_use

Cell phones may only be used during class for authorized purposes with teacher permission (generally for tuning).

Cell phones should be put away out of sight at all other times.

LATE WORK POLICY:

I accept nearly all late work **for the semester**– no matter how “old” the assignment.

As long as the work was assigned during the current semester, you can get it in.

You can also make up any assignment you've already done that semester for a better grade.

I do not take off “late points”. For the most part, it's not about WHEN you learn it, it's THAT you learn it.

This includes all tests, coursework, and reflection assignments.

Very few assignments are exempt from this policy, and I will be up front about it when they are.
The Friday PRIOR to the last week of the semester is the final day to turn in any late work/makeups.

No late work is accepted the week of finals/midterms – I need time to grade it.

Late work turned in immediately prior to progress reports may not show up on said report

– but will always be graded prior to the term grade.

NOTE: I always prioritize grading work that is turned in on time first. This means that students who turn in work late will need to wait to get their grades updated from “0%”

HOMEWORK:

Students are encouraged to practice their instrument at least a half an hour each day, 5 days a week.

Individual home practice will be necessary to master the music we will be playing in class. Additionally, there will be several homework assignments in the google classroom to complete. Check it regularly!

The more practice a student does at home the more advanced their skills will be by course's end!

CLASS PACING:

September: Skill levels are assessed. Basic theory work and scales are covered. Lit is distributed

October/November: Continued work on scales/theory/practice, focus on improvisation, rehearsal of literature

December: Winter Concert prep/performance and Prep

Spring Semester: Diving deeper into chord theory/improvisation, More challenging literature assigned, Spring Performances

BOOSTER MEETINGS:

All Music Department Parents are by DEFAULT a member of the boosters! Please consider attending meetings.

<http://www.chhsmusicboosters.org/>

WEBSITE/EMAIL LIST:

Please visit the website at your earliest convenience and sign up for the mailing list

All students and parents/guardians of students should be on the email list to get updated information.

<https://mfiedler0.wixsite.com/serramusic>

SOCIAL EVENTS and FIELD TRIPS:

Organized social events and field trips are tentatively planned for the year and will be added as opportunities arise

Check the music department calendar for updates.

Thank you! There will be a link in the google classroom that students will need to click on in order to confirm they (and their parents/guardians) have read the syllabus.