

Sherwood High School

Jazz Ensemble I Auditions 2019

Information about Auditions

- Practice Sessions & Help will be provided to band students between 7:00am-7:50am on September 5 & 6.
- Auditions will be held on June 10-11 & again on September 9 & 10 (if needed or if spots are still available). Sign up for an audition time inside the band room. Be sure you have the audition handout for your instrument.
- Results will be posted at the end of school on Wednesday, June 12.
- Students who make it into the ensemble will start rehearsing as a full ensemble on September 16. Mr. Stai will contact the counseling office to make sure that the jazz class is added to the student's schedules.
- Jazz Ensemble I will meet every morning from 7:00am-7:50am.
- Jazz Ensemble I auditions are for enthusiastic musicians who are committed to preparing their parts and showing up on time and ready to play every rehearsal and every gig!
- Jazz Ensemble I is a graded class.
- Feel free to email Mr. Stai questions at bstai@sherwood.k12.or.us

Things we'll be listening for

- **Confidence** - Did you show up on time, prepared, and ready to give your best.
- **Assigned Prepared Pieces** - Work up the prepared pieces to the best of your ability in one week. Think about key signature, steady tempo, and style.
- **Your Choice Prepared Piece** - During jazz auditions, you will have the opportunity to perform something extra. Pick something that you are comfortable with that showcases your talents.
- **See the reverse side** of this handout for extra tips & notes specific to the instrument you are auditioning on.
- **Lessons** - Be sure to mention if you are taking lessons or went a jazz camp or played in a combo group over the summer. These decisions show a lot of dedication & determination.

Saxes & Brass:

- Scales – Major, Minor, Dominant 7, B-flat & F Blues. Show me how much you can perform.
- NAFME All NW Audition Packet
- Optional – Solo over a backing track or Aebersold recording.
- What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Jazz Style.
 - Articulation should be clear and appropriate.
 - Beautiful Tone.
 - Musical shape & line. Play the music like you listen to jazz and know the language.

Rhythm Section specifics on backside

Drums:

- NAFME All NW Audition Packet
- What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Style
 - Consistent Time & Rhythm
 - Kicks, hits & fills
 - Balance between all drumset components

Piano:

- Demonstrate major and minor scales, 2 hands, 2 octaves. If Possible, demonstrate ability to read chord symbols, showing knowledge of major, minor and dominant 7 (or 9s) chords, at least in root position.
- Using both hands, demonstrate major, minor and dominant chords (all keys) in root position, 1st and 2nd inversions, and root position without the root. If possible, demonstrate 2 handed "open" voicings of major, minor and dominant chords, if possible.
- NAFME All NW Audition Packet
- Optional –Solo over a backing track or Aebersold recording.
- What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Style.
 - Articulation should be clear and appropriate.
 - Consistent Time & Rhythm
 - Musical shape & line. Play the music like you listen to jazz and know the language.

Guitar:

- Demonstrate pentatonic scales, as well as scale patterns for major and minor scales.
- Demonstrate major, minor and dominant chords, at least 2 different voicings for each chord.
- Play a basic 12 bar blues chord progression (Either in key of F or B-flat).
- NAFME All NW Audition Packet
- Optional –Solo over a backing track or Aebersold recording.
- What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Style.
 - Articulation should be clear and appropriate.
 - Consistent Time & Rhythm
 - Musical shape & line. Play the music like you listen to jazz and know the language.

Bass: *Being able to play both upright and electric bass is huge.*

- Demonstrate pentatonic scales, as well as scale patterns for major and minor scales.
- Demonstrate a simple 12 bar blues walking bass line (Either in key of F or B-flat). Demonstrate ability to keep your place while reading chords by walking using roots and 5ths; keep a steady tempo.
- NAFME All NW Audition Packet
- Optional –Solo over a backing track or Aebersold recording.
- What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Style.
 - Articulation should be clear and appropriate.
 - Consistent Time & Rhythm
 - Musical shape & line. Play the music like you listen to jazz and know the language.