

# Jazz Band Auditions 2021



## What is Jazz I Band?

- Jazz I is composed of a select group of advanced students that perform a wide variety of jazz literature. The jazz style and improvisational techniques are explored, developed and refined. The Jazz Ensemble performs at regional festivals and competitions in the winter and spring. In addition to performing standards, the jazz ensemble is always experimenting with newly composed jazz material from internationally known artists.
- Jazz I will meet every morning from 7:30am-8:20am and is a graded class.
- Jazz 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!

## Information about Auditions

- Submit a video recording of your audition to [bstai@sherwood.k12.or.us](mailto:bstai@sherwood.k12.or.us) by Friday, June 11.
- Results will be posted on Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Mr. Stai will contact the counseling office to make sure that the jazz class is added to the student's schedules.
- Feel free to email Mr. Stai questions at [bstai@sherwood.k12.or.us](mailto:bstai@sherwood.k12.or.us)

## Things Mr. Stai will 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.
- **Jazz Experience** - 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 know and can play.
- Play the melody from “A Warm Breeze” using the backing track from Aebersold, Volume 37.
- Play the melody for one chorus of “Switch in Time” from Aebersold, Volume 37, followed by two choruses of improvisation using the backing track from Aebersold, Volume 37.
- *(Optional)* Improvise a solo playing 3 choruses of up tempo Bb blues using a backing track or Aebersold, Volume 2, track 5, left channel only.
- 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.

## Drums:

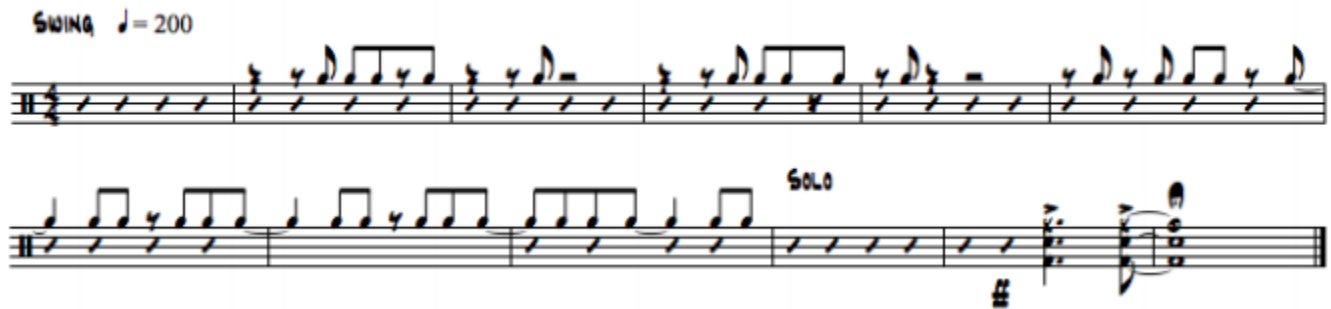
All drummers will be asked to play five (5) separate sixteen (16) bar phrases as follows: 16 bars at the appropriate tempo, in the appropriate style “trading 4’s” divided alternately as 4 bars of time, 4 bars of solo, etc.

1. Medium Swing at quarter note = 120
2. Fast Swing at quarter note = 180
3. Bossa Nova at quarter note = 152
4. (Optional) Shuffle at quarter note = 152
5. (Optional) Contemporary Straight 8th (ECM/fusion) at quarter note = 100
6. (Optional) Jazz Waltz
7. (Optional) Funk or Funk Shuffle

Please play time and figures along with appropriate solo fill and set-ups to the Big Band Excerpt below.

### Big Band Excerpt - #1

SWING ♩ = 200



The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled 'SWING ♩ = 200' and contains 16 measures of music. The second staff also contains 16 measures, with the word 'SOLO' written above the final four measures. The key signature is one sharp (F#).

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.
- Play the first 16 measures (Letters A-C) from the written piano part from “A Warm Breeze” (Aebersold, Volume 37).
- Comp with melody and chords for one chorus of “Switch in Time” from Aebersold, Volume 37, followed by two choruses of improvisation. *You are free to use the backing track from Aebersold, Volume 37.*
- (Optional) Improvise a solo playing 3 choruses of up tempo Bb blues using a backing track or Aebersold, Volume 2, track 5, left channel only.
- Play any additional example of your choice not to exceed one minute.
- What I am listening for:
  - Appropriate Jazz 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 scale patterns for: pentatonic scales, major, and minor scales.
- Demonstrate major, minor and dominant chords, at least 2 different voicings for each chord.
- Comp chords for one chorus of “A Warm Breeze” using the backing track from Aebersold, Volume 37.
- Play the written melody and chords for one chorus of “Switch in Time” using the backing track from Aebersold, Volume 37, followed by two choruses of improvisation.
- *(Optional)* Improvise a solo playing 3 choruses of up tempo Bb blues using a backing track or Aebersold, Volume 2, track 5, left channel only.
- What I am listening for:
  - Appropriate Jazz 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:**

- Demonstrate scale patterns for: pentatonic scales, 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.
- Play the written bass part from the first page of “April in Paris”.
- Play the written melody for one chorus of “Switch in Time” using the backing track from Aebersold, Volume 37, followed by one chorus of walking bass line (you create your own bass line), and one chorus of improvisation.
- *(Optional)* Improvise a solo playing 3 choruses of up tempo Bb blues using a backing track or Aebersold, Volume 2, track 5, left channel only.
- What I am listening for:
  - Appropriate Jazz 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.