

Brunswick School Department  
Music  
Grades 9–12: Academic Jazz Ensemble

Adopted: June 2019

**Course Overview**

This course is designed as a supplemental ensemble to the Concert Band. This class will serve as an introduction to the rich history of jazz music. Through ensemble rehearsal, individual practice, and a variety of performance opportunities, the student will gain an understanding and appreciation for this great art form. Emphasis will be placed on not just performance technique, but also rudimentary improvisational skills, musicianship, and a sense of personal accountability. This ensemble is a skilled effort in which each student is expected to show technical and musical growth throughout this course.

**Essential Understandings**

- Culture and historical events have had an impact on jazz.
- Improvisation plays a critical role in the performance of jazz.
- Jazz encompasses many styles which require different techniques to perform

**Priority Standards and Performance Indicators**

(as based on Maine Learning Results)

**P.S. VPA-1 Disciplinary Literacy: show literacy in the arts discipline by understanding and demonstrating concepts, skills, terminology, and processes.**

Music –

- a. Perform music that requires technical skills, attention to phrasing and interpretation, alone and with others.
- b. Demonstrate the ability to perform various meters and rhythms, alone or with others.
- c. Demonstrate the ability to perform in a variety of keys, alone or with others.
- a. Demonstrate understanding of disciplinary vocabulary.
- b. Use disciplinary terminology to analyze and evaluate works and performances
- d. Demonstrate the ability to perform while modeling proper posture and technique, alone or with others.
- e. Identify and apply knowledge of musical notation, symbols and terminology.
- f. Listen to, analyze and evaluate using music terminology.

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**P.S. VPA-2 Creation, Performance, and Expression: Create, or perform, and express ideas through the arts discipline.**

Music -

- a. Perform music of various styles and genres that requires well-developed technical skills.
- b. Demonstrate attention to phrasing and interpretation and various meters and rhythms in a variety of keys.
- c. Accurately apply the accumulated knowledge and skills of: proper posture and technique, musical notation, symbols and terminology.

**P.S. VPA -3 Creative Problem-Solving: Approach artistic problem solving using multiple solutions and the creative process.**

Music -

- a. Apply creative and/or critical thinking and problem solving skills as related to the process of performing and reflecting upon musical works.

**P.S. VPA-4 Aesthetics and Criticism: Describe analyze, interpret, and evaluate**

Music -

- a. Demonstrate understanding of disciplinary vocabulary.
- b. Use disciplinary terminology to analyze and evaluate works and performances

**P.S. VPA-5 Visual and Performing Arts Connections: Understand the relationship among the arts, history and world culture; and they make connections among the arts and to other disciplines, to goal-setting, and to interpersonal interaction.**

Music -

- a. Model team and collaborative skills while engaged in class/rehearsal
- b. Demonstrate a sense of responsibility for themselves and for others as part of the ensemble
- c. Organize needed materials and be ready to perform
- d. Analyze the purposes and products of the performing arts to understand history and world cultures.

**Examples of Formative / Summative Assessments**

- Performance and assessment at the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival
- Performance and assessment at the Maine Music Educators Association District 1 Jazz Festival
- Performance and assessment at the UNH Clark Terry Jazz Festival
- Performance at school concerts three times throughout the year
- Regular guest clinician visits to rehearsals to provide feedback and formative assessment to students

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**Sample Texts and Materials/Resources**

- Belwin Jazz Band Publication Series
- Sack of Woe - Mike Kamu
- Dat Dere - Erik Morales
- Such Sweet Thunder - Mike Kamuf
- Along Came Betty - Alan Baylock
- Alfred Jazz Classics for the Young Ensemble
- Birk's Works - arr. Mark Taylor
- Freddie Freeload - arr. Les Hooper

**DIGITAL RESOURCES:**

- Smart music
- Sight Reading Factory