

**St. Benedict's Preparatory School
Jazz Band
Fall 2018**

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Course Syllabus

Introduction

The Jazz Band is participating in this year's interdisciplinary project called "Why Vote?", which focuses on social justice issues. Much of the music will be drawn from jazz and popular protest song repertoire.

Instruments:

St. Benedict's has a large (but limited) number of instruments that are available for student use. In order to use a school instrument, students and their parents must sign a statement of responsibility. Students may also use their own instruments or rent one for personal use. Dr. Fletcher can assist students in locating a music store from which to rent. Other materials, including reeds, swabs, and cork grease, will be provided by the school.

Grading Scale:

A	94-100
A-	91-93
B+	88-90
B	85-87
B-	82-84
C+	79-81
C	76-78
C-	73-75
D+	70-72
D	67-69
D-	64-66
F	00-63

Grading:

40% - Classroom Participation and Behavior
20% - Final Performance Participation
15% - Music Proficiency Test 1 (midterm)
15% - Music Proficiency Test 2 (final exam)
10% - Reading and Writing class assignments

Class Participation Rubric

A (95%) - The student almost always:

B (86%) - Most of the time, the student:

C (77%) - On average, the student:

D (68%) - Some of the time, the student:

F (63%) - The student almost never:

- enters the room quietly and goes to his assigned seat.
- sets up his own music folder and instrument without delay.
- waits for instructions and prepares for class both mentally and physically.
- avoids playing common area instruments like the drums, piano, or percussion.
- listens while the teacher is speaking and does not practice or play.
- follows directions quickly without questioning or arguing.
- is polite and respectful of other students during class.
- cleans his area before leaving and picks up any trash whether or not it's his.
- collects all his personal materials at the end of class.
- returns his music folder to the appropriate area.
- returns his chair and music stand to the correct position.
- returns his instrument to correct area of storage room.

FAQ

1. **Why is an A equal to 95% instead of 100%?** Nobody is perfect.

2. **Are there plus or minus grades?** Yes, this either adds or subtracts 3 points. For example, a B+ = 89% and an A- = 92%

3. **How do alert slips affect my class participation grade?** An alert slip related to class participation lowers your grade by 3%. One alert slip drops you from an A (95%) to an A- (92%).

Attendance:

In ensemble classes, attendance is extremely important. Most of the work is not written and therefore is impossible to make up. Even if a student learns the music on his own, an absence still negatively impacts the quality of a rehearsal for the other students involved. As a result, unexcused absences and or cutting class will lower a student's class participation grade by 6% for each instance. Notification by the student or his parents of the intent to be absent does not guarantee that the absence will be excused. All school-sanctioned events (such as athletic events and field trips) will count as excused absences upon receipt of a student list from the coach or trip moderator.

Late Policy

Every third time a student is late to class, his OVERALL grade will be lowered by 3%. The total will be reset to zero at the end of each marking period.

Field Trips

The Jazz Band has traditionally taken a field trip in addition to the competition in Boston. This year, the band is scheduled to go to the Kennedy Center on January 18th to hear the Bobby Sanabria Multiverse Big Band perform their version of West Side Story on Friday, January 18th at 7:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TAKES PLACE AFTER THE CLASS IS OVER.

Final Performance

The Jazz Ensemble will perform in concert on Tuesday, December 11th in Conlin auditorium. Please mark the date in your calendars now. Participation is mandatory and counts as 20% of a student's class grade. This year's professional guest artist is TBA, who will perform alongside the students on the final concert.

Christmas Program

Although not required as part of the class, jazz band horn players have traditionally helped out with Fr. Albert's Christmas program. This year's program will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 19th in the evening. The expectation is that if asked to play and available, the student will perform.

Jazz Competition

The jazz band is tentatively scheduled to attend the Berklee College High School Jazz Band Festival in Boston, MA on Saturday, January 26th. This is the premier jazz band festival in the country. Students interested in majoring in music can request to speak to a Berklee representative while attending the festival. Students will leave on Friday the 25th and return on Sunday the 27th in the afternoon. There will be a \$100 cost to students. The payment will be due one week before the trip on January 18th. PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS TAKES PLACE AFTER THE CLASS IS OVER. REHEARSALS WILL CONTINUE AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL THE FESTIVAL.

Music Proficiency Test

Jazz Band students will be required to take two proficiency exams that each count as 15% of a student's overall grade. This is an opportunity to measure individual achievement on the student's instrument and to make suggestions for future improvement. Typically, the exams involve a combination of scales and exercises, sight-reading, and selections from the ensemble repertoire. Students will have ample notification of specific exam requirements. Each exam takes approximately ten minutes and to administer the exams to all students usually takes a period of two or three days. These will take place on Oct. 18-20 (midterm) and Dec. 17-18. During the second exam period, students not being tested may use the time to study for exams in other classes.

Required Listening

Students will have weekly listening assignments that are directly related to the music that they are learning in class. There will occasionally be a related writing assignment.

Late Work

For any written work that is not turned in on time, a student loses a full letter grade (9%) for each day the work is late. If a student is absent when the assignment is given, he will have one day after his return to complete the work before it is considered late. If a student is absent on the day the work is due, but received the assignment in advance, it must be handed in the day of his return.

Extra Help

Extra help is available after school between 3:15 and 4:15, Tuesday through Thursday. Advanced notice is appreciated.

Project Acceleration:

Students are able to get college credit for Jazz Band from Seton Hall University through a program known as Project Acceleration. Interested students must have cumulative GPAs above a 3.2, be active in the community, and be of good character. There is also an additional cost of \$100 per credit. If accepted, the student will write a five page research paper on a jazz great such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, or any past or current artist of the student's choice with prior approval from the instructor. The paper should discuss the personal history of the artist as well as influences on their development and the impact that they had on others. Specific influential recordings should be referenced. In addition to the written paper, the student will be responsible for learning and performing three songs by the artist either for a panel of jurists or in concert.

Google Docs and Student Email

In order to receive and submit many assignments and other documents (such as this syllabus), students must have the ability to share Google Docs. This means that they must have a functioning Google email account provided by the school that they check and maintain regularly. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that this is working. If a student knows or suspects that his school provided email is not working, he should contact Dexter Lopina in person, by phone at 973-643-4800 x5727, or from an outside email account sent to pchelp@sbp.org.

Discipline:

1st offense – warning & possible phone call.

2nd offense – asked to leave teaching area and escorted to Mr. Rowe, who may prescribe additional consequences including JUG and/or community service.

3rd offense – phone call home & possible request for parent conference.

Academic Honor Code

Lying, cheating, and stealing are considered unacceptable violations of the Academic Honor Code and are subject to disciplinary action.

Lie: a false statement made with deliberate intent to deceive; an intentional untruth; a falsehood.

Cheat: to take an examination or test in a dishonest way, as by improper access to answers; to violate rules or regulations.

Steal: to take (the academic property or work of another or others) without permission or right, especially secretly or by force.

Community Commitment Code

“Benedict’s men are persons of integrity. Whatever helps my brother helps me. Trust is the virtue by which we build our community, violation of the community’s trust is grounds for dismissal.”

We respect the property of others and of the community. It is our responsibility to ensure that we care for our own belongings, the possessions of others, and the shared property of the community. Benedict’s men do not steal.

We are truthful with ourselves and with our brothers. Benedict’s men do not lie.

Band Room Rules:

1. Respect the band room.
2. Respect others.
3. Respect yourself.

Band Room Policies

1. The computers are only for use on music class assignments. All other activities must be approved by Dr. Fletcher.
2. Students are not permitted in the band room without an adult employee of SBP present. Anyone found in the band room without an adult present will be cited with a Community Commitment Code violation.
3. If your instrument breaks, let Dr. Fletcher know immediately. Do not try to fix it yourself and do not take someone else’s equipment. Try to make sure that you save all the little parts.
4. Cell phones and tablets may be used for class assignments only by permission. Device charging is not permitted in class.
5. No food. It will be collected and thrown out.

PARENTS:

YOU DO NOT NEED TO SIGN THE SYLLABUS. INSTEAD, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO jfletcher@sbp.org THAT SAYS:

“THIS IS (**parent’s name**) AND I AM THE PARENT OF (**your son’s name**). I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE SYLLABUS”