



East Greenwich
High School

Curriculum
for the
Jazz Program
at
East Greenwich High School

300 Avenger Dr.
East Greenwich, RI 02818
(401) 398-1300

www.eghsmusic.weebly.com

Brendan Carniaux (bcarniaux@egsd.net)

Music fulfills the creative aesthetic, and emotional needs of every student by finding and directing the power of personal creativity through exploration, improvisation and self-expression. Music is an active and engaging process of perception, reflection, and judgment requiring basic performance and aural skills on the part of all participants if it is to be successful. The ultimate goal of the East Greenwich High School Music Department is to develop thinking and feeling musicians that are capable of making informed and independent decisions about music.

The East Greenwich High School Core Values;

Academic Success

Supportive Environment

Personal Responsibility

Integrity

Rigor

Excellence

provide the foundation for our curricular goals in the band/orchestra/jazz ensemble setting. Unlike other academic pursuits music demands both individual and group achievement in order for all ensembles to be highly successful. Because music is primarily an aesthetic education it has the power to develop empathy, compassion and understanding in our students as a natural outcome of music making.

About the Ensembles

Jazz Ensemble I

This ensemble which meets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 6:30 - 7:30am is for the most advanced performers. The ensemble performs "concert oriented" jazz literature, often recorded by college or professional bands, with emphasis on improvisation and advanced ensemble techniques. This ensemble will perform in various festivals and concerts outside the town, state, or country. Concurrent enrollment is required in a wind ensemble for wind and percussion players, and an orchestra for bass players. Exception: piano and guitar players, though they must study privately. A textbook (*Advanced Jazz Conception* by Jim Snidero) and a metronome are required. *Students in this performing group are required to audition for RIMEA All-State.*

Jazz Ensemble II

This beginner/intermediate ensemble that meets Tuesday and Thursday from 2-3 pm is for performers who need to develop their jazz performance skills beyond the basic level. Emphasis is on ensemble skills and style development. Videotapes and audio recordings are used to create a formal study of jazz appreciation and listening skills. Concurrent enrollment, though not required, is strongly recommended in a wind ensemble for wind and percussion players, and an orchestra for bass players. Exception: piano and guitar players should study privately. A textbook (*Basic Jazz Conception* by Jim Snidero) and a metronome are required.

OBJECTIVES of Jazz Program

- 1) Any student at East Greenwich High School may participate in the Jazz Studies Program, regardless of the instrument they play.
- 2) Every student who qualifies through audition to be in a EG Jazz Ensemble will be placed in an ensemble of musical peers with equal ability.
- 3) A student will exhibit professional attitude and behavior during rehearsals and performances.
- 4) A student will become an independent thinker and self-motivated worker while becoming a team player through directing and/or taking part in productive sectional rehearsals, and performing, whenever possible, without a conductor.
- 5) A student will become aware of his or her skill level on their instrument in relation to their potential.
- 6) A student will be instructed in basic jazz history.
- 7) A student will appreciate the efforts of their peers and/or have an opportunity to be appreciated by their peers.
- 8) A student will become aware of the “pros” and “cons” of competitive and noncompetitive performance events.
- 9) A student will understand, appreciate and perform a wide variety of jazz ensemble literature.
- 10) A student enrolled in a jazz ensemble must be concurrently enrolled in a band (wind ensemble) if they play wind and percussion instruments, or in an orchestra if they are bass players. (Pianists and guitars are exempt.
- 11) A student will learn how to become a proficient sight-reader of music.
- 12) A student will learn to take care of the printed musical parts issued to them.
- 13) A student will learn an amount of music theory related to the proficiency level of improvisation they seek to attain.
- 14) A student will perform all twelve major and relative dorian minor scales on their instrument.

- 15) A student will be encouraged to use or purchase “play-a-long” recordings to help develop improvisational ability. Students will be required to purchase the appropriate “Jazz Conception” book by Jim Snidero.
- 16) Saxophonists, whenever possible, will also be able to perform on either the clarinet or flute.
- 17) A student will identify by ear the difference between major, minor, dominant seventh, augmented, and diminished chords, and perform those chord structures on his or her instrument.
- 18) A student will engage in performance tours or off-campus concerts whenever possible.
- 19) A student will perform with professional musicians.
- 20) A student will either perform a well-crafted improvised solo, or know what constitutes such an improvised solo.
- 21) A student will be given the opportunity to perform in a combo setting.
- 22) A student will have the opportunity to become aware of the skill-level of other jazz musicians their age and of high school jazz ensembles outside of East Greenwich, and to interact with students from other high schools.
- 23) A student will be informed of the opportunities for summer music camp experiences.
- 24) A student will have the opportunity to be exposed to the teaching styles of other music educators.
- 25) A student will be encouraged to arrange or compose music and will be exposed to new music by guest composers.

Audition Requirements

Every student who qualifies through audition to be in the EGHS Jazz Program will be placed in an ensemble of musical peers with equal ability.

Why is this important? Students who perform with other students of equal ability in a performance group will move at the same pace and eventually achieve a greater level of proficiency.

Activities: Two full and viable jazz ensembles with complete instrumentation will be provided and taught by a certified music teacher with expertise in jazz. *Jazz Ensemble II* will primarily study and perform music at a "Grade 2 & 3" level of difficulty. *The Jazz Ensemble I*, will study and perform music at a "Grade 4, 5, & 6" levels of difficulty.

Evaluation: Two jazz ensembles will be provided by the school comprised of students of equal ability.

Audition Dates

Rhythm Section - September 3, 2013

Saxophones - September 4, 2013

Trombones & Trumpets- September 6, 2013

Audition Material will be posted on the EGHS music Department Website. And available from Mr. Carniaux, Mr. Levesque or the EGHS front office.

www.eghsmusic.weebly.com

Password: AvengerJazz

Audition will be in front of a panel of two East Greenwich Music Educators and one outside professional musician (tbd).

The audition will include the following;

Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano

- 1) Prepared big band chart
- 2) Jazz Etude from Advanced Jazz Conception
- 3) Sight Reading
- 4) Major and Minor scales
- 5) Improvisation

Guitar

- 1) Prepared big band chart
- 2) Jazz Etude from Advanced Jazz Conception
- 3) Sight Reading
- 4) Demonstrate Various Comping Styles and Chords
- 5) Improvisation

Bass

- 1) Prepared big band chart
- 2) Jazz Etude from Advanced Jazz Conception
- 3) Sight Reading
- 4) Improvised Walking Bass Line over a blues or standard
- 5) Improvisation

Drums

- 1) Prepared big band chart
- 2) Jazz Etude from Advanced Jazz Conception
- 3) Sight Reading
- 4) Demonstrate Various Grooves
 - 1) Swing, Funk, Latin etc..

Students who cannot read standard music notation will not be considered for the Jazz Program. Tab notation, is not considered a form of standard music notation.

**INSTRUMENTATION
FOR CURRICULAR JAZZ
ENSEMBLES**

Whenever possible, the instrumentation of the jazz ensembles at East Greenwich High School will be as follows...

2 alto saxophones
2 tenor saxophones
1 baritone saxophones

4 or 5 trumpets
4 or 5 trombones

2 pianists
2 guitarists
2 bassists
2 drummers
1 vibraphonist
1 auxiliary percussionist

====

23-26 members