

Chiddix Jazz Band Handbook

2010-11

If you're interested in joining the Chiddix Jazz Band this year, please read this information carefully. You will find specific information about audition requirements and rehearsal schedules. There are also some important policies and expectations you need to be aware of. After you have read everything, sign the back page (have one of your parents sign, too), and return it to Mr. Masterman. You can then pick up audition materials in the band office and start practicing!

Membership / Instrumentation

The Jazz Band is open to any Chiddix music student who plays a standard jazz instrument (saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, drum set, vibraphone, guitar). The instrumentation of the band and number of players on each instrument will be determined after the auditions.

- All woodwind players who wish to participate in the jazz band must learn the saxophone and acquire/have access to an instrument.
- Euphonium players are highly encouraged to learn the trombone but may still play the euphonium in jazz band. Euphonium players must learn to read bass clef.
- Guitar players must be able to read music notation, chord changes, and should understand basic chord construction.
- Bass players must be able to read music notation. They may play either acoustic or electric bass, but are highly encouraged to learn both.
- Drum set players may also audition on vibraphone.

Auditions

Jazz Band auditions will be held November 15-17. An audition sign-up sheet will be posted one week before the auditions. Students may sign up for an after-school time (3-5 p.m.) on the appropriate day. Please sign up for the earliest available time on the day of your audition. Auditions are held in the band room and will last approximately five minutes.

Saxophones: Monday, November 15

Trumpets and trombones: Tuesday, November 16

Rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass, drums): Wednesday, November 17

Audition Requirements:

- Required selection: **Front Burner** by Sammy Nestico
- Perform an **F blues scale** from memory
- Students are **encouraged** to perform an improvised F blues solo if they wish. (A play-along accompaniment CD recording—piano, bass, and drums—will be provided for the improvisation part of the audition.) Performing an improvised solo is **optional**, but students who try it can add points to their audition score. NOTE: Improvisation is not a required part of the audition.

Drum Set: In addition to performing the required selection, drum set players should be prepared to demonstrate the ability to play a swing pattern and a rock beat.

Audition results will be posted on Thursday, November 18th. The first rehearsal will be Monday, November 22nd at 7 a.m.

Rehearsals

The Chiddix Jazz Band will rehearse Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school from 7:00 to 7:40 a.m. Sectionals will be held on Monday mornings on a rotational basis (saxes one week, brass the next, etc.). Rehearsal attendance is mandatory. A student can have no more than three excused absences during a semester; more than three will result in dismissal from the ensemble. Excused absences include serious personal illness or family emergency. Exceptions will be rare and made at the director's discretion. Out of courtesy to other band members, students are asked to schedule make-up tests in other classes and teacher-help sessions on non-rehearsal days or after school.

Performances

The Jazz Band usually performs once or twice a month at venues that include Chiddix band concerts, school and community events, and high school/college jazz festivals and clinics. The band also performs at special "Jazz Night" concerts presented by NCHS and NCWHS. A tentative performance schedule for each ensemble will be available soon.

Performance attendance is mandatory. An unexcused absence from a Jazz Band performance will result in dismissal from the organization. Excused absences include serious personal illness or family emergency.

Chiddix Jazz Blog: <http://cjhsjazz.blogspot.com/>

The Chiddix Jazz Blog is the place to go for up-to-date information concerning all aspects of the Jazz Band. Important information, schedules, and pictures from events can all be found there.

Directors

The Chiddix Jazz Ensemble will be directed by Alex Teater (adteate@ilstu.edu) and Jodi Slagel (jmslage@ilstu.edu). Alex and Jodi are both music majors at Illinois State University, and we're excited to have them join us! Mr. Masterman will be assisting the band at various points throughout the year.

If you have read this packet and have additional questions about jazz band or concerns about the audition, please contact Mr. Masterman (mastermj@unit5.org).

Good luck!

STUDENTS:

I have read the 2010-11 Chiddix Jazz Band Handbook and understand all of the policies and expectations contained within.

Student Name

Date

PARENTS:

I have read the 2010-11 Chiddix Jazz Band Handbook and understand all of the policies and expectations contained within. My student has my permission to audition and, if accepted, participate in the Chiddix Jazz Band.

Parent Name

Date