

Foothill High School

Instrumental Music Department

The jazz program at Foothill High School is designed to teach student many skills and life lessons that will benefit them well into adulthood. Among the primary benefits a student will receive is the confidence they acquire from independence of parts. When someone is in jazz band, they are playing *their* part. The performance of that part isn't dependent on anyone but them. Therefore, it is important to me that we keep doubling of parts to a bare minimum.

Auditions can be nerve-racking and a bit intimidating, but they are a very normal part of music programs all over the world. Here at Foothill, they have become necessary because of the growing number of motivated musicians in our program. They are designed to offer a fair and open opportunity to students each and every year.

Auditions will take place on the following days:

- Winds: Tuesday/Wednesday, May 29-30
- Rhythm Section: Thursday/Friday, May 31/June 1

More information on audition requirements is covered in detail in the individual instrument pages that follow. "Other" is: Piano, Bass, Guitar and Auxiliary Percussion. Results of all auditions will be posted on Monday, June 4th.

Lastly, a danger of an audition process is that after a student has been accepted into a position, they develop an attitude of superiority – or they become passive. Both students and parents need to keep in mind that when they are accepted into a position, it is not a license to be tardy, skip sectionals, cut back on practice, or in any way act bigger than the ensemble. If a student was in a starting lineup, and they were no longer hustling and were a lousy teammate, they would be benched right away by any coach *that cared about the integrity of the team*. I reserve the right to move students at the quarter/semester if this is the case. Students/parents will be notified well in advance if I am even considering this move.

Thank you for your interest in FHS Jazz,

Mitch Bahr

(530) 547-1700 Ext. 13530
mbahr@suhsd.net

Jazz Band Audition Form

(Please return to the audition committee at the Audition Date)

Name: _____ Instrument: _____ Grade: _____

- I understand that I must be co-enrolled in Band II or Band I (or Orchestra for the guitar, bass or piano positions) to be eligible for consideration into the jazz program.
- I understand that auditions are necessary and are designed to offer a fair and open opportunity to all students every year.
- I understand that all decisions made by the audition committee are final and are not subject to debate, conference, etc...

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Saxophone Auditions for Foothill Jazz A, 2018-2019

Date: 5/29/18 or 5/30/18

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for Foothill High School Jazz A (The Club Cougar Orchestra). This is a demanding, challenging, and exciting class to teach – because there are so many motivated musicians. I will be selecting 5 saxophones. In addition, I *may* offer a full position to a clarinet player/saxophone doubler.

Students that do not make the cut will be given the option to: Join Jazz B, consider selecting an alternate instrument to fill the needs of Jazz A, or *they* may opt to not do jazz at all in 2018-2019.

I will be asking students to play:

- 1 prepared etude/selection in a jazz style (swing, ballad)
- Sightreading
- A few scales (major/minor/modal/blues)
- Improvise over the blues or a standard of your choice – (youtube track, iReal Pro app, Aebersold CD, etc...)

Auditions will be 15 minutes and are closed auditions (not open to the public). See Mr. Bahr for a time slot (3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45...if we need more slots, I will open more after 6pm...). You can also E-Mail Mr. Bahr and a 15 minute time slot will be assigned to you...first come, first served.

Audition Extras:

- Please be early to auditions so that we can keep the auditions moving.
- In addition to Mr. Bahr we will have one or two additional helpers (alumni/local musicians) to evaluate the auditions.

Thank you for your interest in FHS Jazz,

Mr. Bahr

Drum Auditions for Foothill Jazz A, 2018-2019

Date: 5/31/18 or 6/1/18

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for Foothill High School Jazz A (The Club Cougar Orchestra). This is a demanding, challenging, and exciting class to teach – because there are so many motivated musicians. Due to the number of “motivated musicians,” we need to audition the drum set position in Jazz A. I will be selecting 1 drummer (possibly 2).

Students that do not make the cut will be given the option to: Join Jazz B, consider selecting an alternate instrument to fill the needs of Jazz A, or *they* may opt to not do jazz at all in 2018-2019.

Students will need to demonstrate:

- Swing style (with appropriate fills)
- Swing style with brush work (with appropriate fills)
- Shuffle style (with appropriate fills)
- Latin groove (your choice: samba/bossa/rhumba)
- Funk groove (with appropriate fills)
- Sightread a rudimentary snare part
- Show off a bit and play a chart, exercise or rudimentary pattern you’ve been working on

Auditions will be 15 minutes and are closed auditions (not open to the public). See Mr. Bahr for a time slot (3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45...if we need more slots, I will open more after 6pm...). You can also E-Mail Mr. Bahr and a 15 minute time slot will be assigned to you...first come, first served.

Audition Extras:

- Please be early to auditions so that we can keep the auditions moving.
- In addition to Mr. Bahr we will have one or two additional helpers (alumni/local musicians) to evaluate the auditions.

Thank you for your interest in FHS Jazz,

Mr. Bahr

Brass Auditions for Foothill Jazz A, 2018-2019

Date: 5/29/18 & 5/30/18

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for Foothill High School Jazz A (The Club Cougar Orchestra). This is a demanding, challenging, and exciting class to teach – because there are so many motivated musicians. I will be selecting 4 trumpets and 4 trombones.

Students that do not make the cut will be given the option to: Join Jazz B, consider selecting an alternate instrument to fill the needs of Jazz A, or *they* may opt to not do jazz at all in 2018-2019.

Prepare to play:

- 1 prepared etude/selection in a jazz style (swing, ballad)
- Sightreading
- A few scales (major/minor/blues)
- Improvise over the blues or a standard of your choice – (youtube track, iReal Pro app, Aebersold CD, etc...)

Auditions will be 15 minutes and are closed auditions (not open to the public). See Mr. Bahr for a time slot (3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45...if we need more slots, I will open more after 6pm...). You can also E-Mail Mr. Bahr and a 15 minute time slot will be assigned to you...first come, first served.

Audition Extras:

- Please be early to auditions so that we can keep the auditions moving.
- In addition to Mr. Bahr we will have one or two additional helpers (alumni/local musicians) to evaluate the auditions.

Thank you for your interest in FHS Jazz,

Mr. Bahr

“Other” Auditions for Foothill Jazz A, 2018-2019

Date: 5/31/18 & 6/1/18

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for Foothill High School Jazz A (The Club Cougar Orchestra). This is a demanding, challenging, and exciting class to teach – because there are so many motivated musicians. Due to the number of “motivated musicians,” we need to audition all positions in Jazz A. I will be selecting instrumentalists for piano, bass, guitar and auxiliary percussion based upon need.

Students that do not make the cut will be given the option to: Join Jazz B, consider selecting an alternate instrument to fill the needs of Jazz A, or *they* may opt to not do jazz at all in 2018-2019.

I will be asking students to play:

- 1 prepared etude/selection in a jazz style (swing, ballad)
- Sightreading
- A few scales (major/minor/blues)
- Demonstration of several types of comping patterns.
- Improvise over the blues or a standard of your choice – (youtube track, iReal Pro app, Aebersold CD, etc...)

Auditions will be 15 minutes and are closed auditions (not open to the public). See Mr. Bahr for a time slot (3:15, 3:30, 3:45, 4:00, 4:15, 4:30, 4:45, 5:00, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45...if we need more slots, I will open more after 6pm...). You can also E-Mail Mr. Bahr and a 15 minute time slot will be assigned to you...first come, first served.

Audition Extras:

- Please be early to auditions so that we can keep the auditions moving.
- In addition to Mr. Bahr we will have one or two additional helpers (alumni/local musicians) to evaluate the auditions.

Thank you for your interest in FHS Jazz,

Mr. Bahr