

Foothill JAZZ Syllabus 23-24

1. WORK - Music is tough. It requires grit, determination and an acceptance of delayed gratification. It is assumed that as a member of this class *you are practicing*. The motivation to practice should come from inner drive and positive peer pressure. Work so that you know all the music in your folder. This will help you authentically earn respect from your peers. Don't work to get in this class, and then coast...keep the pedal down.

2. TIME - Rehearsals are the backbone of our class. We have a lot of work to get done, and we have to start on time. Showing up on time is the action of a mature musician. It demonstrates respect for the ensemble and the instructor. Grades will lower and quick steps will be made to remove the student from the course if this becomes a problem. Recognition of time continues with performances. A performance begins does not begin at downbeat...it begins at call time. In addition, a performance ends when *all* members of the ensemble have helped one another pack and load equipment fully.

3. COMMUNICATION - Jazz Ensemble is a featured performance group here at Foothill. Each chair is vital; as there is no "back-up plan." Simply put, missing a performance is not an option as a member of this class. There may be a time when an unavoidable family conflict (wedding/funeral), a Foothill athletic game/tournament (not club...Foothill), or a medical emergency arises. In these instances, please let me know as soon as possible, and I will work with families to find a solution, get a replacement player, hire a professional...whatever needs to be done. Bottom line? If we communicate, a lot of problems can be solved!

4. LISTENING - One of the first questions a pro asks a student musician is "Who do you listen to?" It is already assumed you are listening...Are you? Cause, when you play...it will be obvious if you are or you are not! Listening is such a HUGE part of the game because the language of jazz is so unique. Yes, it is written down...but you can fully write down the language of music; particularly jazz. You learn through your ears. So, learn to love the language of jazz; make it a part of your life and commit time/energy to it...it will pay huge benefits.

FHS JAZZ PILLARS

Truth be told, pretty much everything you need to know about Grading and Conduct are imbedded in the previous 4 points. Of course, none of these "pillars" matter if they don't rest upon the foundation of **respect**. The respect for one another, and the director that oversees all musical decisions, **MUST** be paramount. A student who displays a lack of respect for peers and/or director will be dealt with swiftly. Often, lack of respect first shows up in oneself. So, please begin with caring about yourself: your punctuality, care for instrument, desire to practice and your overall mood and disposition. It matters.

PERFORMANCE ATTIRE

In Jazz, we have several different things we wear: Polos, Jazz Blacks or CC. "Polos" (with whatever complimentary attire...shorts, jeans khakis) are the most casual...events like Honeybee Festival. "Jazz Blacks" is exactly how it sounds: all black (a "pop" of red/silver, like a tie is fine). Lastly, "CC" is our Club Cougar outfit. Charcoal vest, red tie, white long sleeve shirt and black from the waist down. Students will know before an event what we wear. I often post it to their Google Classroom a few days prior.

COMMUNICATION

The Department Syllabus and 23-24 Performance Calendar will help with many immediate questions you may have for now. Information will be updated monthly on our website (www.fhscougarband.com). Assignments and reminders will be communicated through Aeries and Google Classroom and Parent Square...parents, please make sure you are on the Parent Square email list.

CLUB COUGAR

Being in Jazz Band means that you are in the Club Cougar Orchestra. As such, it is important that each member (and their parents/guardians) understand that Club Cougar IS the reason we have a jazz program on this campus to begin with. For your reference, on our website, under the About tab, under Courses you can find the CC Handbook from last year. It will be updated soon. Should you not know about the show, or have reservations about committing to this, please read it fully, so that you can be in the know. And, should you have questions or *want to get involved in volunteering*, I am an email away! mbahr@suhsd.net

CONCLUSION

There is no way this can be an exhaustive syllabus...I would be just as "exhausted" writing it as you would reading it! It is my hope that we can build upon these four pillars of our jazz band and give these students the structure and resources to make this school year a fantastic experience for them!

Looking forward to a great year,

- *Mr Bahr*

I have read and understand the 23-24 Jazz Band Syllabus.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Questions? Things to put on my radar? _____
