

Jazz Band FAQ

What to expect in TJMS Jazz Band

What's the difference between jazz band and concert band?

In jazz band you will see the same notes and rhythms you've learned about in your band or orchestra classes. The big difference is how we interpret rhythm. There are some articulation syllables that we will help us learn how to perform these rhythms.

When are rehearsals?

Thursday's 2:30 - 4:00.

What will I need for rehearsals?

Anything you would typically bring for a concert band or orchestra rehearsal. Reeds, neck strap, valve/slide oil, drum sticks, pencil, etc... If you play an electric instrument such as electric guitar or electric bass, it's always good to have an extra quarter inch cable in your case. In addition, I will give you a folder where you can keep jazz band music. Please remember to bring this to all rehearsals.

What is the rhythm section?

The "rhythm section" is piano, guitar, bass, drums, and often auxiliary percussion for latin songs such as bongos, congas, and timbales. Some tunes even call for a vibraphone or other mallet instruments!

Do I need to improvise?

No, but I encourage all students to try improvising in rehearsal and practice. Creating melodies using a specific collection of notes is a great way to improve your instrumental abilities, your listening skills, and your composition skills! We will work together to create strategies for how to improvise and how to practice improvising at home.

Is playing jazz more challenging?

Not more challenging, just different! You will likely see more syncopated rhythms and we'll spend a lot of timing learning about how to count and articulate those rhythms.

Can I be in jazz band even if I don't play a traditional jazz instrument?

Sure! Traditionally, a jazz band includes saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, and drum set - but all instruments can play jazz are welcome to join!

What will I know by the end of the year?

1. An understanding of style and how to interpret rhythms.
2. Articulation syllables (for wind players).
3. How to accompany a jazz soloist (for rhythm section).
4. Strategies for improvising.
5. Jazz forms (such as the 12-bar blues).
6. Famous recordings of jazz standards.