

Culver City High School and the Academy of Visual & Performing Arts
M u s i c D e p a r t m e n t

AVPA Jazz Ensemble
West Los Angeles College, Music 775
Fall 2015

EXCELLENCE

is the result of **caring more** than others think is wise,
risking more than others think is safe,
dreaming more than others think is practical and
expecting more than others think is possible.

Undoubtedly we all agree that MUSIC is a viable and integral part of our culture and provides an aesthetic experience unlike any other. The primary goal of this music program is to provide an opportunity for students to learn and enjoy the art of music-making; an asset which will last a lifetime, whether it be as a performer or audience member, or even in the day-to-day living as an involved citizen.

Students enrolled in the AVPA music ensembles will immediately sense that the term “ensemble” truly means a cohesive and unified group of individuals re-creating works of art in musical form. Participation provides many benefits, such as team building, responsibility, discipline, achievement, and accomplishment. But it is *making music together* that is the primary benefit—it is the essence of our program.

An integral aspect of the music program is the **Culver City Academy of Visual and Performing Arts**. A broad-based program intended to give students exceptional study in particular areas of the arts, it is my continuing goal to integrate the music program throughout the Academy. We have had new and innovative programs because of the Academy and I encourage students, parents, and community members to continue to help it grow. Jazz Ensemble is a West Los Angeles College course, Music 775. Students will receive credit through WLAC. Transcripts are available from WLAC directly. The class will continue through the spring semester.

This syllabus is designed to give each student an organized view of guidelines that have been developed to create and maintain the excellence this music program demands. Please read it carefully and share it with your parent(s). The last page is a form stating your understanding and support of the procedures outlined in this syllabus as well as some informational questions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Jazz Ensemble consists of all instrumentalist and vocalist who wish to learn and perform music in the jazz genre. This will include music from a variety of periods and styles, as well as varying instrumentations. A Jazz Combo will also be part of the ensemble with select members rehearsing music with a higher emphasis on improvisation. The Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo are committed to many performances throughout the semester, including school concerts, assemblies, school district functions, community events, and private fundraising gigs.

MUSIC GOALS

The process of making music is a rewarding experience that requires each member of the program to participate fully and work towards the following musical and non-musical goals:

1. Development of an understanding and appreciation of the **art of music**, including history and theory, and the vast range of musical styles and cultural influences.
2. Development of the individual's **self-confidence** through participation as a *team member*.
3. Attainment of **self-discipline** through the development of **individual skills, ensemble growth, and pride**.
4. **Respect and consideration** for fellow musicians and classmates.
5. *Love and Respect* for the process of **making music** as an ensemble.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Learn and use jazz terminology appropriately.
2. Learn basic song forms and standard styles in the jazz genre.
3. Develop improvisation skills.
4. Demonstrate jazz language as it applies to a student's instrument or vocal technique.
5. Perform jazz repertoire for school and community events.
6. Understand and demonstrate proper concert etiquette as a student and performer.

REHEARSAL FACILITIES

The Culver City High School **Music Room** is Room 94. It is imperative that musicians and students who use this room understand it is a unique place deserving of pride and respect. Handling of equipment should be associated with the purpose of each item. Any destructive treatment of music equipment and facilities will require appropriate action to be taken. Food, drinks, and candy will **not** be allowed in the rehearsal room unless permission is given. Please treat the rehearsal facilities with pride and respect because this is the home of our performance ensembles.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

As a member of the various performance ensembles at Culver City High School, you are in the spotlight of the school and the community! There will be several opportunities to perform both on and off campus throughout the school year. Because of the high visibility of the performing arts, each musician must always demonstrate the **high quality of musical achievement** that is expected of our program. You must always strive to reflect the positive image of our school, community, and especially **yourself**.

UNIFORM CONCERT DRESS

Concert Band, Concert Choir, and Chamber Singers will also have a "uniform." **We will use an outside vendor to purchase parts of the concert dress uniform.** The following will be required for each student:

Men: (tuxedo available from Friar Tux)

Black pants/slacks (not blue, black!)

Black socks and dress shoes (not sneakers!)

White long-sleeve tuxedo dress shirt for formal concerts

Black long-sleeve black dress shirts and red tie for Jazz Combo gigs

Women:

Alonda dress (marine blue) – we will order

All-black dress or top for Jazz Combo gigs

Black hose or socks optional

Black Dress Shoes

There is also a Music Department T-shirt or Polo shirt that each performing student is asked to wear for certain casual performances (assemblies, community events, etc). They are \$10 for t-shirt, \$20 for Polo, and more can be ordered for family members and friends.

GRADING AND DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Grades will be determined using the following criteria:

1. **Instrumental Performance (approximately 25%):** Instrumental music students will be individually tested in class periodically to determine personal progress. Areas subject to testing will be scales, key signatures, chords (guitar), music from class, and sight reading.
3. **Participation and Effort (approximately 75%):** We expect all our students to attend class regularly and to arrive on time, ready to participate, learn, and achieve. Participation consists of, but is not limited to, arriving to class on time with all appropriate materials, ready to be a positive and productive member of the class. **Daily Participation** will contribute a minimum of **15%** towards the student's total grade. **Active Participation** for rehearsals and performances in and out of class time will make up **60%** of the student's total grade.

Class attendance is mandatory. Performances are the culmination of the rehearsals. We can only achieve the highest level of musical ensemble by **100% participation** in rehearsals and performances. Each unexcused absence from class will result in a loss of 10 participation points. Being tardy to class will result in a loss of 5

participation points each infraction. 3 or more unexcused absences may result in expulsion from the class and/or AVPA program.

4. **Lack of Materials:** Students who forget instruments and/or materials will risk losing credit for their daily participation.

Please Note:

The grade scale will be an accumulation of points and averages based on the total number at the end of each quarter and semester. The point system will cover the following:

- Daily participation/attendance = 10 points (250 points each 5-week progress report period)
 1. **unexcused absence** [truancy] = 0 points; each **tardy** will result in a 5 point deduction (3 or more may require detention or other disciplinary action, including Saturday School)
 2. participation is subjective – unruly or disruptive behavior, lack of participation, will result in points being deducted
- Concert attendance/participation = 500 points
- Performance tests = variable, depending on the test
- Signed syllabus, progress reports, etc. = 50 points
- Extra performances, assemblies, gigs, etc. = variable, but usually 100 points
- **Having food, drink, or gum will result in points being deducted for each offense (up to 100 points), as well as detention and/or referrals being assigned**
- Miscellaneous = variable, depending on assignment, extra credit, etc.

Please note: There will be **no excused absences from performances or extra rehearsals**. Students may make up points lost due to any absence. Written explanations will be required prior to an absence so that the Director is notified. Emergency absences should be explained in writing and given to the Director within two days of the absence. Make up work is subject to the Director's discretion.

The following grade scale will be used:

**A = 92-100% A- = 90-91% B+ = 88-89% B = 82-87% B- = 80-81% C+ = 78-79% C = 72-77%
C- = 70-71% D+ = 68-69% D = 62-67% D- = 60-61% F = Below 60%**

It is my expectation that discipline will not be a problem, considering the commitment and energy the students will give to making this a successful musical experience. Any disruptive behavior affects the entire ensemble and will be dealt with personally for the good of all the musicians.

PERFORMANCES

Performance obligation: All members of the Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo are expected to attend all required performances, including but not limited to:

Jazz Combo performs at Fiesta La Ballona – Aug. 28
Culver City Affair of the Arts event (Jazz Combo) – Sept. 20
Culver City Sister City event (Jazz Combo) – Oct. 4
CCEF Sip for Our Schools Event (Jazz Combo) – Oct. 17
Fall Music Concert (Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo) – Oct. 29
L. A. County Arts Education Summit at the Skirball Center (Jazz Combo) – Dec. 4
Winter Concert (Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Combo) – Dec. 11

Spring performances include:

AVPA Jazz Cabaret and Festival – Jan. 22, 23, 24
CCUSD Music Festival – Feb. 18
Music in the Parks Festival – April or May TBA
AVPA Music Showcase – May 20
Spring Concert – May 27
AVPA Java Gala at Kirk Douglas Theatre – June 4

Congratulations for becoming a member of the Jazz Ensemble!

Best wishes for a great semester!
Dr. Tony Spano, Jr., Music Director

Please return to Dr. Spano by Friday, September 25, 2015 for 50 points

please print

date _____

STUDENT NAME

Instrument/Voice

We have read the contents of the 2015 Jazz Ensemble Syllabus, and agree to the terms of membership in the Jazz Ensemble and AVPA program.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

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Parents: Please complete the following information:

PRINT Parent/Guardian Name(s)

Address

City

Zip Code

Telephone (home)

(cell)

E-mail and other contact information (best time to reach you)

Please indicate all that apply by placing a check next to each selection of interest:

___ I am available to chaperone various off-campus music-related events.

___ morning ___ afternoon ___ evening ___ all day

___ I am interested in participating in any fundraising events for the Music Department.

___ I am interested in becoming involved with the AVPA Foundation to help our school's arts programs in various ways.

___ I am available to volunteer for various projects and activities during the year.

Thank You!!