**RSS Jazz Band 10/11/12**

Course Objective; to give students the experience and skills needed to play an instrument in a Jazz Band setting; to gain an appreciation of music of different genres and the roles of musicians and instruments in ensembles; to prepare students for college, university and professional level music and musical challenges.

**Grading**

60%- Participation

20%- Concerts and other Performances

10%- Quizzes

10%- Small Project/Self/Peer Evaluation

**Attendance**

Jazz Band is a performance based class and to meet the standards of the course students must attend class regularly and be at all scheduled performances. Students that are frequently late or absent will receive a significantly lowered grade. There may be additional rehearsals scheduled outside the timetable in preparation for a performance. Notice will be given well in advance and students will be expected to attend these rehearsals.

**Daily Expectations**

Students are to arrive to class on time with:

* their music in a folder or binder and method book (if applicable)
* instrument and accessories (mouthpiece and reeds for wind players, sticks and mallets for percussionists, patch cables for guitar/bass players)
* a pencil

Students should be prepared to play and or listen to instruction by the start of the class. That means arriving a few minutes early to set up! When students leave the class at the end of the period the room should be left as it was found. That means chairs; stands and any trash are put away before being dismissed.

**Instrument Storage**

Instruments can be stored in the student's locker or in the music storage room. They should be clearly labeled with the student's full name. They should not be left in the hallways, classroom or practice rooms at any time.

**Instrument Rental**

There are many reputable music stores in the area that rent instruments.  Additionally, students should purchase their own mouthpieces, reeds, neck straps, and other accessories relative to the upkeep of their instrument. As we have a limited supply of school-owned instruments available for student use, it is recommended that parents arrange to rent, lease, or purchase their child’s instrument.  School-owned instruments are issued based upon availability and at the director’s discretion.   Fees for school instrument rentals are handled through the main office and *School Cash Online*.

**Extra Help and Support**

Student support is readily available by appointment with Mr. Kafka. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or schedule a meeting. Open communication is encouraged between the teacher, students and parents. Contact information is available below and at the music department website. Mr. Kafka will do his best to respond to emails in a timely manner, however as we approach concerts and reporting periods responses may be delayed.

**Suggested Materials and Routines for the Home**

* Regular structured practice is essential for student improvement and the development of the ensemble. Every day if possible. It is better to practice 10 minutes per day than one hour once per week.
* A quiet location where the student will not disturb or be disturbed by anyone is essential. Practice rooms are also available at school.
* A music stand and metronome.
* Find a **safe** location to leave your instrument out of its case. You are more likely to pick it up and play if it is handy.
* Private lessons will ensure success and enjoyment of all the band program has to offer.

**Students looking for extra musical challenges** are encouraged to see Mr. Kafka. Extra materials and activities can be made available.

**Consumption of food and beverages** is not permitted at any time in the band room or practice rooms.

**Use of electronic devices** during class time is frowned upon. Unreasonable use at the teacher's discretion will result in having the device taken away and returned at the end of class. A third offence will require a parent to reclaim the device from the principal's office.