

Northwest Guilford High School Band
Jazz Ensemble Course Syllabus
Brian McMath, Director
Drew Brooks, Assistant Director

Mission:

The Northwest Guilford High School Band exists to:

Help students develop musical skills such as a precise sense of rhythm, proper tone production, and an accurate sense of tuning, proper response to conductor, and a fundamental understanding of music theory and sight-reading.

To expose the student to a variety of musical styles order to develop tastes and appreciate for those styles

To expose students to advanced band literature

To cultivate in each student an enjoyment of performing which will in turn produce a self-motivation on their part of the student to work and learn in rehearsals

To provide opportunities which prepare students for collegiate level literature

Expectations:

Students will perform academically in taking written tests and playing tests. Written tests will be announced. Playing tests will be announced and unannounced and due through Canvas or in person.

Conduct guidelines, which must be followed:

1. Follow all directions
2. Raise your hand to be recognized to talk
3. No Food, Candy, or Drink is allowed in the band room
4. No homework or class work from other classes is to be done during band class
5. Respect our facility and all equipment in it
6. Respect each other
7. Be on time to all events
8. Electronic devices are not allowed in class. These will be taken on sight and turned into the office. A parent must retrieve item from office after 24 hours has passed
9. All Northwest and Guilford County School rules apply

Contact Information:

The most efficient way to reach me is through my school email address: mcmathb@gcsnc.com
School phone number is 605-3300 ext. 20696

Grading:

The grading policies for band classes are as follows:

The student will receive 20 points per day of school. Five days a week equals a grade of 100 for that given week. Students are required to have daily materials (instruments, music, sticks, mallets, pencils, folders, etc) and participate in class.

Participation is the main objective in this course. If you come to class without an instrument, reed, mouthpiece or sticks, 15 points will be deducted from your daily grade. Students will copy out of the Harvard Dictionary of Music for each offense.

Points are deducted for not having materials and especially for the disruption of class. Talking to others during rehearsal is the largest challenge. Class size is usually over 50 students, so any form of talking is a distraction.

CONCERTS ARE GRADED EVENTS!!!!!! If a student does not show up for a concert, then **50 points will be deducted for their final 9 week grade.** ALL concerts are considered exams. Students must show up **ON TIME** and **DRESSED APPROPRIATELY** or they may not be allowed to perform and will suffer the same point deduction consequence.

Extra-Credit Options:

1. Take private lessons (documentation from teacher is required)
2. Audition for All-County, All-District
3. Selection for the bands named above
4. Attend other arts performances (chorus, drama, orchestra, etc.)
program from performance required

Tutorial Times:

My tutorial times vary throughout the week during FLEX Lunch but will be announced and students are welcome to have private lessons or small group rehearsals.

Private Teachers:

It is recommended that all students seek private lessons. These lessons will count as extra credit points toward their overall band grade and will be of benefit in developing your musical ability. To perform within the top ensemble here at Northwest, is very competitive. We have a set instrumentation within this ensemble. Taking private lessons are needed to be placed within this ensemble, not to mention in preparation for All-County, All-District and All-State Band.

A good private teacher is perhaps one of the most valuable investments a parent can make for a child. Band directors are trained in the instruction of every orchestral instrument, but that knowledge cannot compare to that of a professional musician who makes a living playing one instrument. The entire idea can be linked to specialists in the medical profession.

Private teachers are excellent for the serious music student who wished to grow faster, or for the average student who is having isolated problems which would benefit from the knowledge of a specialist. These private lessons help the student gain more confidence and move to the higher levels of the band program faster. Students are chosen for the higher performing ensembles due to their skill on a given instrument and participation in music outside of the classroom.

Tardy Policy:

1st Accrued Tardy

2nd Accrued Tardy

3rd Accrued Tardy

4th Accrued Tardy

5th+ Accrued Tardy

Begins Tuesday, Sept. 7th

Teacher Issued Warning

Teacher Issued Warning

Teacher assigned WIN Detention / Parent Contact

Teacher assigned WIN Detention / Parent Contact

Admin Referral and ISS All Day

Daily Procedure:

The following is the daily class / rehearsal procedure for all Northwest Bands:

- Band classes / rehearsal begin each day with students arriving on time; prepared for class with music, mouthpiece, reeds, sticks, mallets, pencil and instrument
- Students should be in their assigned seat after the tardy bell rings
- Students will warm-up properly on their own
- NO ONE is to talk or leave his / her seat during class without permission
- Students will return all instruments and equipment to the proper storage areas
- ALL CASES will be latched and placed ON SHELVES in assigned locations
- Students are to keep the band room and storage areas clean and neat at all times.
- Trash containers are provided throughout the band room
- If in doubt: PICK IT UP, PUT IT UP and STRAIGHTEN IT UP!!!!

Class Participation Policy:

All students are expected to be playing in band class each day. Class participation is vital to your quarter grade. Below are the “top-four” excuses I hear for not playing in band class. Each excuse is followed by my policy on the subject.

1. **Braces** – Many students have braces and I realize that these can sometimes be painful, especially when the orthodontist tightens your appliances in the morning and you have band in the afternoon. I will work with you on this as long as I do not feel that you are taking advantage of the situation. Follow your doctor’s instructions, but I will need a note from the doctor once an appointment has finished.
2. **‘I Forgot My Horn’** – This comment will allow you to copy out of a musical theory / dictionary book for the entire class period and receive 15 points off your grade for the day. Anything that keeps you from playing, no reeds, mouthpieces, etc has the same consequences. Then you will take the assignment you’ve completed for the day and have your parents sign it that evening and return to me the following day.
3. **‘My horn is in the shop’** – If your instrument is in need of repairs, you **must** bring a note from the shop with the date taken, the work requested, the estimated pick-up date, and a shop phone number where I can confirm the repair. Students will be allowed two days without penalty for shop repairs. If the repair lingers, I will handle on an individual basis. If the repair runs close to a performance, then the student may be removed from the concert due to a lack of rehearsal time with the ensemble. Make up work will be given and a possible concert jury performance may be in order.
4. **‘I don’t feel good’** – In general, if you are well enough to be at school, you are well enough to participate. However, I realize that sometimes this is not the case. All incidents of this nature will be handled on an individual basis.

Class Supplies:

The following is a list of required class materials for students in the Northwest Bands. In general, everything you need to play your instrument.

- Reeds for all woodwind players (size 3 – 4; NO Rico reeds allowed)
- Valve oil for brass players
- Instrument in good playing condition
- Step-up mouthpiece is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** for all woodwind and brass players
- Specified concert attire for all band members
- Music folder (provided by school)
- Pencil at all times

Parents are **STRONGLY** encouraged to purchase a step-up mouthpiece for your student. They cause a noticeable improvement in the quality of sound produced by the player and are an appealing option when compared to the cost of a step-up or professional grade instrument. A beginner instrument with a set-up mouthpiece will often sound like a professional instrument. A professional instrument with a beginner mouthpiece will sound like a beginner instrument. A complete list of recommended mouthpieces is provided below:

Instrument	Suggested Mouthpiece	Approx. \$
Clarinet	Vandoren B-45 w/ Rovner Ligature	\$ 80.00
Bass Clarinet	CM 344 w/ Rovner Ligature	\$173.00
Alto Sax	C Star w/ Rovner Ligature	\$123.00
Tenor Sax	C Star w/ Rovner Ligature	\$138.00
Bari Sax	C Star w/ Rovner Ligature	\$244.00
Trumpet	Bach 1 ½ C or Benge 3C	\$ 45.00
French Horn	Holton Farkas 179	\$ 43.00
Trombone, Baritone, Euphonium	Bach 6 ½ AL (check shank size)	\$ 58.00
Tuba	Bach 18	\$ 73.00

Note: All prices are approximate quotes. Parents are encouraged to check with several stores to find the best prices on mouthpiece purchases.

Concert Attire

Jazz Ensemble attire will have 2 different uniform options:

Each member will pay a rental fee of \$55.00

#1 – will be fitted for tux pants and jacket. Each person will purchase a white tux shirt and bow tie from the boosters at fitting for \$25.00. Black dress shoes and socks are required. Hair color must be a natural color for all performances given.

#2 – will be fitted for a dress. Each person will purchase a top for \$25.00 at fitting, which will be worn during all performances. Each person will provide CLOSED toe black dress shoes. Jewelry must be kept at a minimum. Hair must be out of face and of a natural color.

Students who do not follow the guidelines for correct concert attire may NOT be allowed to perform with the ensemble and thus will not satisfy the performance component of their grade.

Concert Performance Dates

Holiday Concert – Thursday, December 15th 7:00 pm

MPA Concert – Thursday, March 9th 7:00 pm

Spring Concert – Thursday, May 25th 6:30 pm

The plan and hope is to perform many community events throughout the year, during school, week nights and even weekends. These dates are solidified as they become available and students' schedules allow.

Make sure your child AND yourself has Downloaded the 'Band App' onto your phone, created an account and searched *NWG Jazz Ensemble*. Request to join and answer Security Questions. This is how ALL information is disseminated throughout the year.



Please check the band website www.nwvikingband.org for ALL important information: Charms, Dates are located under the calendar drop menu. All-County, All-District, All-State Auditions and clinics are listed within the calendar as well.

My child and I have received a syllabus for the Jazz Ensemble at Northwest Guilford High School. We understand and AGREE to the guidelines and expectations of this course. Both parties sign and return to Mr. McMath

(Student Name Printed) Date

(Student Signature) Date

(Parent Name Printed) Date

(Parent Signature) Date

(Parent email address) (Parent Phone #)