

Shivela Middle School
Extracurricular Activity Description

Activity: Jazz Band

Grade Level(s): 6-8, by audition only

Length of Course: 1 year

Description: This activity is offered for students who wish to learn to play basic styles of jazz. Emphasis is placed on the swing style and improvisation using the blues scale. Auditions are held in late August and will be posted in the Shivela band room. Any Shivela student may audition, but preference is given to those students enrolled in one of the regular concert band classes and to eighth graders. Jazz Band performs at school concerts, for the student body, community and at festivals. Only traditional big band instruments are used in this course (saxophones, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, euphonium, electric guitar, bass guitar, piano and drum set).

Objectives:

1. Each student will learn and apply proper concert etiquette during rehearsals and performances.
2. Each student will complete performance assignments involving scales, rhythms, articulations, dynamics, and other performance techniques due as assigned. These may be from the method books, concert music, or handouts.
3. Each student will understand proper breathing techniques for good tone quality and phrasing.
4. Each student will understand and be able to explain concert pitch, transposition, and clef identification as it applies to his/her instrument.
5. Each student will properly care for his/her instrument, music, folder, method books, storage room, and the rehearsal room.
6. Each student will practice outside of class time to ensure that all music and assignments are completed in a timely manner. Each student will sign a Jazz Band Contract.
7. Each student will learn the basic jazz musical terms and their definitions as listed in the text.
8. Students will abide by the guidelines of the Shivela Band Contract as well.

Requirements:

1. Each student is required to bring his/her instrument and music/materials to all rehearsals and performances.
2. Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals and performances outside school hours. Regular rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 7:45am to 8:45am.
3. Attendance at festival is a mandatory part of this activity.
4. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 75 additional minutes per week outside of group rehearsals.
5. Each student will acquire the required method book(s), as designated by the director.

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Attendance and preparedness at all rehearsals and performances.
2. Participation, collaboration, and teamwork.
3. Preparedness of music, scales, and playing fundamentals.
4. Students who are continually unprepared or missing rehearsals or performances may be barred from participating in this activity.

(revised July, 2013)