Cody High School Jazz Band Syllabus

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I. Course Description…

The CHS Jazz Band is an audition ensemble with advanced musicians only. You must audition and have director approval to be in this course. Those enrolled in jazz band must also be enrolled and be an active participant in the CHS concert band. This requirement may be waived at the discretion of the director depending on what instrument you play and what conflicts exist. In this class we will focus on jazz, rock, pop, funk, latin, and swing styles as well as improvisation. Private lessons are STRONGLY encouraged for all members of the jazz band (see Mr. French to find an instructor).

II. Grading…

Daily Participation:

This is based on your participation and behavior during our daily rehearsals. This includes the following; make sure you always bring your (working) instrument, music, and a pencil each day as well as having everything you need to make your instrument work correctly (cork grease, valve oil, reeds – ALWAYS have extra). Be ready to work, have a good attitude about band!

Part Check:

You're in high school band and as such you are accountable to the entire ensemble to know your part. Personal practice and private lessons can greatly benefit you personally as well as the entire band. You should practice at least 30 minutes each day or 3 hours minimum each week. Part checks will be given periodically to see how well you have prepared your music. This may be in front of the entire band, your section, or just one on one. This is all up to the person giving you the part check (Mr. French or section leader). It is very important that you are prepared and know your music.

Performances:

This is band…performances are what we do! Make sure you put these events on your home and work schedule. This includes both home concerts and jazz festival. Note: We attend at least two jazz festivals each year (ex. UW Jazz Festival, Kinser Jazz Festival, or the NWC Jazz Festival). For information on the excused/unexcused absence policy see bullet III below.

Final Exam & Performance Assessment:

There will be two final exams, one in December and another in May. There will also be two performance assessments given, one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester. Each final exam and performance assessment must be completed during the semester they are assigned in to receive your full Fine and Performing Arts graduation credit at CHS.

III. Excused and unexcused absences from performances:

There are two levels of performances, concerts and pep band. Regardless of which event it is, we expect and *need* all band members to be at our performances. The CHS activity department carefully schedules athletic and band concerts so there are not conflicts. If one arises we will deal with it on a case-by-case basis realizing good communication generally solves the problem. If your absence is unexcused you get a zero for the missed event.

An absence will be excused if communicated correctly for CHS sanctioned events (sports and activities), serious illness, or a family emergency. Please communicate with me directly as soon as you know there is a conflict. In case of serious illness or a family emergency, students or parents need to contact me at: 307-250-8021. This is important so we know where you are and that you are safe.

Make up for a concert performance:

If you miss a concert performance at home in Cody or on the road and your absence is excused, you will need to complete the following assignment within two weeks after you return to school.

- Make a video recording of yourself playing all of the pieces from the missed event.
- Select two people (one must be an adult) to watch your video, interview them about your performance.

Note: if you miss another event you must interview different people.

- Write a 500 word review of your performance based on the interview notes and turn it in with the video.
- Stay within the word count, points will be deducted for being under or over the count.

Make up for a pep band performance:

If you're involved in a WHSAA *competition* you do not need to make up any points, it's a freebee, have fun and good luck. If you miss a pep band performance for a WHSAA event *practice*, you are still excused but you need to make up the points for the event you missed within one week after you return to school. Following is the make up assignment that must be completed within one week to make up the missed points. Note: Please come and talk to me before you miss an event, communication is key here.

- Write an essay between 300-350 words on a music icon or example that you think is successful. This essay should discuss how they got involved with music and what has made them successful.
- Stay within the word count, points will be deducted for being under or over the count.

IV. General Rules and Consequences…

Rules:

1. Students will show respect for themselves, other students, and all teachers and adults.
2. Students will stop talking and playing when the teacher gets on the podium or ask them to be quiet.
3. Students will participate fully in class unless prior arrangements have been made.
4. No cell phones out or making noise during class. Keep them out of sight and in your bag.
5. Food and drink will not be allowed during class time, water is great!

Consequences:

I believe that the only true discipline is self-discipline. Students will be responsible for taking care of themselves. The less I have to address an individuals' behavior, the happier everyone will be.

1. One verbal warning will be issued.
2. If the student continues to disrupt, the student will be removed from the class and the parents will be contacted.
3. If the problem continues, the student will be referred to the office.

V. Lettering…

Any student within the CHS Jazz Band program who meets the following criteria will be awarded a letter, a gold bar, and a pin. Each year thereafter, if the student continues to meet the lettering criteria, he or she shall receive a gold bar to be placed below the pin for each year of his or her endeavors. Citizenship is a big part of lettering. Students that have repeated bad behavior or poor attitudes regarding the ensemble, etc. will not be awarded a letter regardless of meeting the requirements.

Requirements:

To letter in jazz band you *must* attend and play with our jazz band at the two jazz festivals, district festival in April, and you *must* play a solo or participate in a small ensemble at district festival in April. Missing one of these items will disqualify you from lettering no matter which criteria you have met below.

You will receive a CHS jazz band letter award if you meet ONE of the following criteria:

- Selection for participation in the All-Northwest Jazz Band.
- Selection for participation in the Wyoming All-State Jazz Band.
- Perform in a combo that receives a "SUPERIOR" rating at a jazz festival or district festival.
- Be selected as an outstanding soloist or performer at a jazz festival.
- Special recognition (to be determined by the CHS jazz band director).

Band Members and Parent(s),

Please read this syllabus information carefully and thoroughly. Once you and your son/daughter have read the material together, please sign and date the agreement form below and return it to Mr. French by the due date. By signing the agreement form, you are stating you have read and understand this syllabus and have seen our performance calendar.

I look forward to a wonderful year of making, creating, and sharing music together. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Wade A. French
Director of Bands
Cody High School

Cody High School Bands

AGREEMENT FORM

By signing this agreement form, both parent and student have read, understand, and agree to follow the procedures outlined in the attached syllabus and calendar.

Student Printed Name_____ Date_____

Student Signature_____ Date_____

Parent Signature_____ Date_____

*10 Points will be deducted from the student's grade each day this is late.