



# Madison County High School Jazz Improvisation Syllabus

1st Semester, 2nd Block

*Sarah Humphreys, Director*

## Ms. Humphreys' Contact Information

The best way to reach me is by email. I will respond within 24 academic hours.

Email: [shumphreys@madisonschools.k12.va.us](mailto:shumphreys@madisonschools.k12.va.us)

School Phone: (540)948-3780 Ext. 4105

GoogleVoice Text: (540)407-8511

## Course Overview

Jazz improvisation is a performance based class. In class, we will learn how to play over chord progressions, how to improvise, how to transcribe music by ear, and how to play in a Jazz Combo Ensemble. Throughout the semester, we will also be listening to and watching famous Jazz performances and learning about the history of the Jazz genre.

## Required Date

The winter concert (the final exam grade) will be held in December. This date is TBD at this time, as we are still navigating conflicts with the winter sports schedule and the SOL testing schedule. Please mark your calendars, and you will be notified of an official date as soon as possible.

## VDOE Music Standards of Learning

See "*High School Instrumental Music*" at the Intermediate and Advanced levels.

## Canvas

Canvas will be used in the class to post links to pages and activities, assignments, tests, quizzes, formative assessments, projects, rubrics, etc. Class Canvas link:

## Class Values

1. No food or drink other than water is permitted in the music room.
2. Treat each other with respect.
3. Treat instruments, equipment, and other class materials with respect.
4. Arrive at each rehearsal prepared to the best of your ability.
5. Always try- even if you're afraid and even if you fail. Trying is the only way you learn!
6. Build each other up- we are all developing musicians!

## Expectations

Students are expected to arrive each day with a positive attitude and a readiness to learn, and to be the best version of themselves every day. All school rules are to be followed as outlined in the student handbook. All students are performers in this class, and will treat each other with respect, and encourage each other to grow both on and off the performance stage.

## Grading Policy

**Formative Assessment: 40%** (homework, classwork, daily participation )

- Daily participation is graded on a 15 point scale
  - 5 weekly rehearsals, valued at 3 points each

- 3 points: 1)student is on time, 2)student is prepared with proper materials, 3)student is actively engaged in rehearsal

**Summative Assessment: 60%** (playing/performance quizzes, theory quizzes, projects)

- Individual practice time will be necessary to score well on playing/performance quizzes. Practice logs are not required, but the quiz score will reflect the practice spent on that material.

**Final Exam (E1)**

- The final exam will be the Winter Concert. This class will perform as a Jazz Combo.

### Required Materials

- Working instrument
- 3 ring binder
- Pencil
- Chromebook and headphones

### Care and Responsibility of Instrument

Students are responsible for the care and maintenance of their instrument, whether it is owned by the school, or owned by the student. Keep record of the brand name, model, and serial number of your instrument. We will review how to clean, handle, and maintain the instrument in class. Make sure your instrument is clearly labeled with your name. Each student will be assigned a storage space for their instrument on the first day of school. School instruments can be rented for \$20, and require a separate contract.

**\*\*\*DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REPAIR YOUR INSTRUMENT AT HOME\*\*\***

If you think your instrument is broken, put it back in the case and bring it to Ms. Humphreys. If it will not fit in the case, wrap it in a towel and be very careful when you bring it to school.

***While it is not required, students enrolled in Jazz Improvisation are strongly encouraged to participate in Jazz Band after school. Jazz Band will begin in November.***

# Contract

**\*\*Sign and return to Ms. Humphreys on Wednesday, August 17h, 2022.\*\***

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Jazz Improvisation course syllabus. I have read the syllabus thoroughly and agree to adhere to the schedule and expectations that have been given.

Student Name

Date

Guardian Name

Date