

NORTHGATE HIGH SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Greg Brown, Director
Northgate High School
425 Castle Rock Road
Walnut Creek, CA 94598
(925) 682-8000 ext. 3548 or (925) 938-0900 ext. 3548
browng@mdusd.k12.ca.us
NIMB website: www.northgatehs-pfc.com/nimb.html

Jazz Band Course Information

The success of a musical group depends upon its members giving 100% of themselves every day. I expect this of you, and I expect this group to perform with excellence. Excellence comes from hard work and dedication. This group depends upon you to help reach for excellence every day. Below is a phrase that I refer to whenever I think about the positive attitude and dedication required when striving for excellence:

“Success is assured when everyone pitches in with a will.”

I'd like to thank you in advance for your positive efforts whenever they reflect the spirit of the motto above.

Course Objectives

1. All students will develop the basic fundamentals of playing a musical instrument.
2. All students will develop an understanding of the musical elements.
3. All students will develop musicianship and musical interpretation skills through the rehearsal and performance of high quality music literature.
4. All students will expand their knowledge of musical form and texture as well as develop a sense of historical perspective through selected musical literature.
5. All students will attend and participate fully in all rehearsals and performances.

Course Content – course content will focus on the following musical knowledge and skills:

1. Posture/Breath Support/Tone/Timbre
2. Dynamic Balance
3. Intonation
4. Rhythm/Subdivision/Groove
5. Articulation
6. Sight Reading Skills
7. Improvisation
8. Musical Elements
9. Expression in Jazz/Latin/Rock Styles
10. History – America's Art Form

Traits Demonstrated by Successful Students

1. They prepare for rehearsal as soon as they arrive.
2. They consistently model exemplary posture and constantly work to develop their breathing skills.
3. They have a pencil on their stand during every rehearsal and mark their parts whenever appropriate.
4. They have plenty of extra reeds, oil, grease, strings, sticks, mallets, rosin, etc.
5. They have their own copy of their part on the stand, even if they are sharing a stand with a partner, so they may mark the part for aid in home practice.
6. They arrive at rehearsals and performances on time.
7. They utilize the five item “listening checklist” at all times.
8. They constantly strive to subdivide and feel the groove while playing.
9. They listen to all instructions given, even if their section is not being addressed directly.
10. They respect other musicians, audience members, facilities, equipment and sheet music. They play only those instruments that they own, that they have checked out to them or that they need to perform with the ensemble.
11. They listen for instructions immediately following each cut off.
12. They store their music and instruments in/on their assigned slot, locker, or shelf.
13. They never leave a mess where they have been rehearsing or performing.
14. They assist others in set up and clean up whenever possible.
15. They come to class with a cooperative attitude and a willingness to work.
16. They strive to have fun while they strive to do their best.
17. They talk only when it is appropriate to do so.
18. Once they know how their part is to be played, they strive to always perform it in that manner.
19. They work closely with the section leader to coordinate section rehearsal dates and times.
20. They turn in their listening assignments.
21. They practice daily to develop improvisational skills, strength, and endurance.

Assessment of Performance and Written Skills

1. **Playing Tests/Participation:** Students will be tested on scales and music covered in class. These tests will be announced in advance. You receive participation points for each class period in which you participate. Participation points are not awarded for classes that you do not attend.
2. **Written Tests and Assignments:** Students will be given written tests and assignments on occasion. Tests will also be announced in advance. (Evidence of practice through performance, written tests, and playing tests are worth a combined 20%. See Course Work: under Grading Criteria and Values below.)
3. **Concert Attendance:** Performances are one of the most important assessment tools that can be utilized in a performance class. You are expected to attend all performances. You are expected to check the performance/rehearsal calendar (found on the NIMB website) against your personal schedule. You must give written notice of unavoidable conflicts as soon as you have compared schedules (by September 13, 2011). You will be given an alternative assignment if a requested absence is considered excused. An unexcused absence from performance or failure to complete an alternative assignment for an excused absence will subtract 20% from your overall quarter grade.
4. **Listening Assignments:** Each student will listen to jazz listening assignment downloaded from the NIMB website (about ten per semester). The student will then have a week to listen to the recorded tracks, fill out an assignment form and submit the filled out form (due dates and forms found on the NIMB website).

Grading Criteria and Values

1. **Punctuality and Preparedness:** You must be seated in your assigned seat with your instrument, music, and a pencil within three minutes after the bell rings. (20%)
2. **Section Rehearsals:** Attend eight to ten, one hour section rehearsals, outside of class time, each quarter. (20%)
3. **Course Work:** Prepare (practice) your parts and successfully complete written and playing tests. (20%)
4. **Class Participation:** Perform to the best of your ability in class every day. Always execute new instructions to the best of your ability. Class attendance and participation is required. (20%)
5. **Listening Assignments:** Successfully complete all listening assignments. (20%)

Grade Percentages

90% – 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
Below 60%	F

Take this course information home with you and read it with your parents. After reading the course information, sign below and return it by Thursday, September 8, 2011. By signing below, you acknowledge reading the information and agree to abide by the information and guidelines described herein. Retain this information for future reference.

Best Regards,

Greg Brown
Performing Arts Department Chairman
Instrumental Music Director

Cut here (Due by Thursday, September 8, 2011)
Jazz Band

Print Student's Name: _____

Student Signature and Date: _____

Parent Signature and Date: _____