

Course Name: **Jazz Ensemble**

Course Description: It is the intent of the North Scott Jazz Department to provide a well-rounded learning experience for all participating students. This includes performing many pieces from the standard jazz repertoire in both large and small group settings, learning and practicing the many facets of jazz improvisation, studying jazz historically and culturally, becoming familiar with key figures in the evolution of jazz, and listening to key recordings of those artists.

Student Proficiencies:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Recognize and demonstrate musical characteristics of the following styles:
Swing, Latin, Funk, Fusion, Ballad, and Rock
- Improvise over blues and other basic chord progressions
- Identify key figures in jazz history
- Display proficiency on jazz instrument
- Perform scales appropriate to common chord progressions
- Demonstrate role within large and small group settings
- Sing examples of stylistic concepts
- Enjoy and appreciate this American art form

Text and Resources Required: Binders (provided) with artist information. Music and folders will also be provided.

Assessment and Grading: Attendance at all rehearsals and performances, along with preparation and attitude, counts for 80% of the total grade. The other 20% is determined by artist quizzes, CD write-ups, and other assignments. Each student will be evaluated based on their ability, improvement, work ethic, and commitment to the program. There isn't one set standard that is applied to all, due to varying ability.

Grades are assigned according to the following scale:

90 – 100	A
80 – 89	B
70 – 79	C
60 – 69	D

Student Responsibility: Attendance and discipline will follow the rules of the school handbook. Students are expected to complete all assignments and are required to take all test and quizzes. They are responsible for preparing the music at home individually, so that rehearsals can be used for full group instruction.

Contacting the Directors: Mr. McMann and Mr. Kessinger are available from at least 7:30 am to 4:15 pm. Further time is available by appointment. Please feel free to contact us.

Mike McMann

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Bill Kessinger

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