

**TIMPANOGOS HIGH SCHOOL
JAZZ BAND
DISCLOSURE DOCUMENT**

INSTRUCTOR: Mr. LeVar, room 104 - 223-3120 x104. Parents are welcome to visit during my preparation hours (A1, B3) as well as after school ***with a prior appointment.***

OBJECTIVES: Members of the Jazz Band represent an advanced level of musical achievement. Students study styles of jazz including swing, Latin, be-bop, rock, ballad, etc. Each student is expected to study and experience improvisation, which is the essence of jazz. Emphasis is placed on improvement of individual skills and understanding of individual responsibilities to the ensemble.

EXPECTATIONS: Members of the Jazz Band are expected to:

- Participate at all home football games and 50% of the home basketball games.
- Uphold the THS Band/Orchestra Room Guidelines (see handbook)
- Uphold the THS Band/Orchestra Standards of Excellence (see handbook)
- Maintain concurrent membership in the Symphonic Band, Concert Band, Orchestra, or Percussion class.
- Maintain Member/Performance Eligibility Standards (see handbook)
- Pay all required fees
- Practice at least 1/2 hour each week.
- Listen to Jazz Music regularly

MATERIALS: Clean instrument in good working condition; pencil; staff paper; and notebook.

ATTENDANCE: The Timpanogos High School Attendance Policy applies to this class.

DISCIPLINE: Refer to the THS Band/Orchestra Discipline Statement and Expectations in handbook.

GRADING: The final grade is based on the four areas listed below.

Playing Tests/Sectionals (500-600 points)

1. There will be a playing test every due every Friday class is in session. (100 pts each)
2. Weekly 1 hour sectionals outside of class (students may miss 2/term). (20 pts/week)

Class Participation Points (400-450 points)

All students will be expected to engage in all classroom discussions and activities. Participation points will be given for responsible student behavior and, of course, classroom participation. Ten points will be available each day. **At the teacher's discretion, points may be withheld for classroom disturbances, inattention, violation of rules, inappropriate behavior, or any lack of participation.**

Required Performances/Rehearsals (550-900 points)

Because performance plays an integral role in any fine music program, all students are expected to be at every concert. If a student is missing from a concert, so is that student's part.

Additional Early Morning/After School rehearsals will be announced well in advance and will be worth 50 points each.

Each concert is worth 500 points. Each Pep Band Performance is worth 100 points. Points will be earned in the following manner:

1. Promptness. Unless otherwise noted, you will be required to arrive prepared for the performance 30 minutes before starting time. Late arrival will automatically deduct 50 points.
2. Attending the entire concert. Leaving early will result in a loss of 50 points.

3. Proper concert or performance etiquette.
 - A. proper concert dress
 - B. staying seated at all times
 - C. moving in and out of the theatre/concert location during applause only
 - D. proper, courteous applause and recognition
 - E. consideration and sensitivity to performers. Please avoid talking, whispering, and pointing (even if you are making positive comments).

Concert Report/Transcription/Discography (200 points)

Students are required to attend one concert each term that is classical in nature and includes their instrument. Concerts must be of a high school, college, or professional caliber. A one-page type-written concert report is due three weeks before the end of each term that is worth 100 points. Each day late removes 10 points from the report grade (1 day = 90 points possible, 2 days = 80 points possible, etc.)

Students are required to listen to five jazz CDs and write a report on one of them during the first term of each semester. The report follows the same guidelines as the concert report above.

Students are expected to listen to jazz music frequently, and will choose a solo to transcribe and perform for the class each semester. Transcriptions will be worth up to 100 points, graded on the basis of solo length and preparation quality. A hard copy for Mr. LeVar and each member of the jazz band of the transcription is due on the day of performance.

Transcription Solos must be pre-approved by Mr. LeVar.

Academic Make-Up/Extra Credit

All make-up work will be approved on a case by case basis and must be approved and completed within one week of the point loss; however, points lost for disruption or improper preparation cannot be made up.

Any make-up work necessary from a planned absence must be completed **prior** to the absence.

Extra Credit:

Students may gain extra credit by attending all of their sectionals.

Students who take at least 6 private lessons (1/2 hour or more each time) in a term may have their grade raised one level (A- to A, B+ to A-). Students must submit their lessons for approval by the last week of each term.

THIS IS THE ONLY EXTRA CREDIT WORK AVAILABLE. I do not believe in allowing students to pass a class through extra credit, but I feel that encouraging extra practice and private lessons is an academically sound policy.

Grade Scale

A = 94 - 100% of total points possible
A- = 90 - 93%
B+= 85 - 89%
B = 80 - 84%
B- = 75 - 79%
C = 70 - 74 %
D = 65 - 69%
F = 64 % and below

Transportation Policy

It is the policy of the THS Instrumental Music Department to provide appropriate transportation to all required events. There are the rare occasions; however, that because of the individual nature of different events among other mitigating circumstances it would be better for the student or parent to provide transportation to events within Utah County. In these situations, the students will be notified well in advance, and it is the responsibility of the student/parent to provide transportation. In these situations, it is not appropriate for students to ride with anyone besides their parent/guardian. If it is not possible, or agreeable, for the parent or student to provide transportation, arrangements can be

made to avoid any penalty to the student's individual grade. These arrangements should be worked out with Mr. LeVar **in advance** of the event.