

# Jazz Band Disclosure Document

Ben Major, Director  
ben.major@nebo.edu  
www.springvilleband.com

## **DESCRIPTION OF CLASS**

A jazz band is a band with the standard Big Band instrumentation, i.e., saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and a rhythm section. The jazz band rehearses and performs jazz, rock, funk, and Latin music. The band participates in quarterly concerts and annual festivals. Admittance is by audition and approval of the director.

## **FEES**

A one-time participation fee of \$60 is required of members participating in any band ensemble. Students who participate in marching band are covered by the marching band activity fee. All students using an instrument owned by the school are required to pay a \$50 rental fee.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance during classes, rehearsals, and performances is an essential component for effective learning in band: **THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR BEING THERE!** Excessive absenteeism will be dealt with on a case by case basis with administration involvement. Members of the band are expected to perform at **ALL** scheduled performances. A student may be excused from a performance by contacting Mr. Major in writing no later than **THREE WEEKS** prior to a scheduled performance.

## **ELECTRONIC USE POLICY**

Personal electronic devices are not acceptable during rehearsals. They are to be left in student's backpacks for the duration of any rehearsal. Failure to follow this policy will result in confiscation of the device for the remainder of the rehearsal. Multiple infractions will result in administration involvement.

## **CONCERT DRESS**

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain the appropriate concert attire. The approved concert dress is formal all black. Guidelines are as follows:

- Gentlemen: **Black** slacks, black long sleeve shirt, black dress shoes, and black socks.
- Ladies: A predominantly **black**, conservative (w/sleeves and below the knee) evening dress, black hose, and black dress shoes.

## **CHARMS USE**

The band program at Springville High uses the Charms program to help organize office work and inventory, as well as facilitate quick and easy communication. A calendar of the year can also be found on Charms and should be checked regularly. Students will be given information on how to set up their Charms account at the beginning of the year. This needs to be completed by the end of the first week of school.

## **GRADING POLICY**

The students earn points by passing tests, practicing regularly, behaving professionally in class, having good attendance, participating in concerts and other performances, and participating in any worthwhile musical experience. Grades will be determined by the following scale:

A=93%, A-=90%, B+=87%, B=83%, B-=80%, C+=77%, C=73%, C-=70%, D+=67%, D=63%, D-=60%, F=59% & below.

Assignments will be weighted according to the following five categories:

- **Playing Tests (35%):** This includes various scales, arpeggios, and passages of music.
- **Professionalism (20%):** Students are expected to demonstrate punctuality, attendance at all performances, being courteous during rehearsals, and taking care of music, equipment, and facilities.
- **Practice (20%):** Students are expected to practice 30 minutes a day, 5 days a week. Practice will be recorded on a practice record and turned in at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> weeks of the term. Students are also expected to complete one extra practice assignment every three weeks.
- **Written Tests and Assignments (15%):** Students will be tested on various aspects of musical theory and listening skills at the end of each term. They will also be required to maintain a clean and properly equipped instrument.
- **Daily Attendance (10%):** This part of the grade is automatically calculated as part of a student's SIS attendance.

**MR. MAJOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES AS NEEDED**