



*“Igniting a passion for
the arts in every learner”*



Dear DGS Musician,

We are so excited that you're interested in our Jazz Program!! This PDF will outline our ensemble offerings, class attendance expectations, audition information, and draft schedules.

The Downers Grove South Jazz Program for 2024-2025 will be separated into two bands. Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Band. We are a “no-cut” program, therefore, all are welcome to join! Auditions are used to figure out where each student fits best and what combinations of students sound best. All wind players must be enrolled in a concert band class in order to audition.

Jazz Ensemble will be the premiere ensemble where students prioritize their jazz experience highly and travel to perform. If you are interested in this group, you must be willing to commit to all calendar dates.

Jazz Lab Band will play at all of the concerts and join the Jazz Ensemble at one festival. You will still need to be committed and excited about your jazz experience.

A draft schedule for both groups is attached.

Attendance Expectations for all are as follows:

- Jazz Early Bird is a class that runs everyday from 7:30am to 8:12.
- It is a year-long course.
- Downbeat of your warm-up will begin at 7:32am.
 - If you are past that time, you will be marked tardy, no matter the reason.
 - Chronic tardiness will result in a phone call home to see if there's any way we can help!
- Directors will communicate any emergencies in the morning via Google Classroom, so check there if you are questioning.
- ACADEMIC HELP SESSIONS will only be an excused absence if they occur once a month or less and are communicated to the director 24 hours in advance. If you go more than once a month, it will be marked as an unexcused absence. If you do not let us know 24 hours in advance, it will be marked as an unexcused absence. We understand how important your grades are, however, Jazz is a course, as well. If you are a member of this program, you are expected to keep up with your grades and use the allotted monthly help session wisely.
- If you will not be in attendance due to an appointment or family situation, your parent or guardian must email the night before rehearsal in order for it to be an excused absence.
- If you receive a detention due to unexcused absences, you must serve this detention after school.
- If you miss too many rehearsals and are not keeping up with the repertoire, you may be asked to “sit out” of a chart or of an entire performance.

*Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Lab Band are both rehearsing ensembles and **daily classes**, which we know might be a change from your previous experience. We are SO LUCKY that our school prioritizes jazz education enough to build it into the school day. Please honor your jazz experience by showing up on time and ready every morning. When in doubt, communicate, communicate, communicate!*



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Audition Dates for the fall:

August 26, 2024 - Rhythm Section Auditions

August 27, 2024 - Sax Auditions (with a select rhythm section)

August 28, 2024 - Trombone/Trumpet Auditions (with a select rhythm section)

August 29, 2024 - Callbacks in AM/Results posted in PM.

August 30, 2024 - First day of rehearsals

Audition Components for Winds (in order):

- 12 bar blues in Concert Bb. Please play roots first time and 1,2,3,4,5 pattern swung at 126bpm second time.
 - Directors will be listening for
 - correct notes
 - articulation
 - swing-style
- 12 bar blues in Concert Bb solo
 - Directors will be listening for
 - Phrasing (Is there a beginning, middle, and end?)
 - Blues scale/pentatonic scale
 - Chromaticism
 - Any quoting from different charts
 - Any embellishments (explained [HERE](#))
 - Rhythmic confidence
 - Swing style
- Performance of Chabootie transcribed solo linked [HERE](#). Recording linked [HERE](#) (0:52 seconds)
 - Directors will be listening for
 - How much does it sound like the recording?

Auditions for Rhythm Section:

- All rhythm section members will audition using their ILMEA etudes linked [HERE](#).
 - Directors will be listening for
 - Correct notes
 - Steady beat
 - Appropriate style
 - Technique

Auditions for Vocalists: Choose a jazz piece to sing for us. Audition must be scheduled.

If you are called back, you will be asked to play the ILMEA etude for your instrument. These are brand-new and are linked [HERE](#).

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QR Code for Audition Materials that were linked above:



Draft Lab Band Schedule:

October 30th, 2024 - Concert at 7PM

December AM Hot Cocoa in the Commons Performance

February 25th, 2025 - Concert at 6PM (possibly Jazz Cafe)

March 8th, 2025 - Mundelein Jazz Festival & dinner with Ensemble

April 15th, 2025 - Concert at 7PM

Draft Jazz Ensemble Schedule:

October 10th, 2024 - Evening clinic w/guest director

October 30th, 2024 - Concert at 7PM

November 16th, 2024 - ILMEA Jazz District 1 Festival (select students via audition)

November date TBD - Evening gig with Brasstracks

December AM Hot Cocoa in the Commons Performance

January 16th, 2024 - Evening clinic w/guest director

February date TBD - New Trier Jazz Festival

February 25th, 2025 - Concert at 6PM (possibly Jazz Cafe)

March 8th, 2025 - Mundelein Jazz Festival & dinner with Lab Band

April 15th, 2025 - Concert at 7PM

May date TBD - Evening gig at Fitzgerald's with family & friends outdoor dinner

Any questions can be sent to Ms. Robbi Hicks's email: rhicks@csd99.org

Don't hesitate to reach out and we hope to see you soon!

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