**Somerset Middle School**

Jazz Ensemble - Handbook – 2015-2016

Mrs. Justine MacKechnie, Jazz Ensemble Director & 7th & 8th Grade Concert Band Director

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Office is in Room 40

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Instrument: Saxophones should have horn and at least 3 working reeds.

Brass must have access to mutes if needed.

Rhythm section must have sticks, extra strings and CORD for amp.

Folder: A take home folder will be distributed with copies of the jazz ensemble music. Students are required to bring this folder with them to EVERY rehearsal. Failure to do so will affect grade.

Concert Attire: Students will be asked to purchase their own “SMS Jazz” polo shirt. They will wear them at every concert and event with *either* black pants or tan pants- depending on occasion.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The SMS Jazz Ensemble is dedicated to performing the finest of jazz literature from varying

standards of the past to new contemporary charts. The class is made up of 7th and 8th grade

students who audition in the Spring of the previous year. All saxophone, trumpet, trombone

and drum set players are required to be a member in good standing of the 7/8th Grade Concert

Band. All piano, guitar, and bass players are encouraged to participate in another performing

ensemble at the Somerset Middle School. The SMS Jazz Ensemble rehearses during period

8 on E days and EVERY Thursday morning before school from 7:30-8:00 in room 44.

**COURSE GOALS:**

1. Students will develop a greater understanding of his/her role as a member of a performing group.
2. Students will develop and articulate musical ability in varying jazz styles.
3. Students will broaden their musical perspectives and listen or play a varied number of unique musical styles.
4. Students will participate in concerts that will be beneficial to the community.

**GRADING POLICY:**

Effort and Preparedness: 35%

Class Participation: 35%

Concert Attendance: 30%

**NOTE:** Attendance at all rehearsals will be recorded. Before school rehearsals are included. Please make every effort to attend all rehearsals and be prepared. Remember, so as to make the most of our time together, be ready to play at 7:30 NOT ARRIVING at 7:30.

* *Effort and Preparedness:* Students are expected to review their music for jazz ensemble before each rehearsal. The more prepared each student is, the better the entire group will be. There are times in rehearsal where playing alone or as a section occurs; being prepared for such occasions is noted as a part of this grade. Additionally, bringing all materials counts towards this grade.
* *Class Participation:* Participation as a soloist or improviser during the “Blues Warm-Up” is an important part of growing as a jazz musician. Volunteering to improvise as often as possible is the easiest way to achieve a good grade in this category. We play the “Blues Warm-Up” every day.
* *Concert Attendance:* Performing is a pivotal part of this ensemble. We perform at a varied number of concerts each year. If for some reason you cannot attend a concert, proper notification to the teacher must be made with a note from a parent/guardian.

**PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Time | Location |
| December 9, 2015 | 7/8 Winter Concert | 7:00 pm | SMS Auditorium |
| March 2016 | SBRHS Jazz Festival | 5:00 pm | SBRHS Auditorium |
| April 13, 2016 | 7/8 Spring Concert | 7:00 pm | SMS Auditorium |
| May 2016 | Great East Music Festival | 7:30 am | Marshfield MS &  Six Flags |

Please return this slip to me by **Tuesday, September 22, 2015.** Returning this form on time (or early) with both a parent and student signature is considered part of you Effort and Preparedness Grade for Term 1.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ GRADE LEVEL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the syllabus and acknowledge what is expected of me.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read the syllabus and acknowledge what is expected of my son/daughter.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**POLO SHIRT ORDER FORM:**

The SMS Jazz Ensemble wears a uniform of a black polo shirt with blue lettering that reads: *SMS Jazz*. If you do not have one, you lost your old one, or it no longer fits - YOU NEED A NEW SHIRT!!! Please fill out the form and order. The cost is $22.00. Cash is the preferred form of payment, but if you write a check, please make it out to **Justine MacKechnie**.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I do not need a polo shirt. Mine from last year fits.

My polo shirt size is (circle one):

Mens Small Mens XL Womens Small

Mens Medium Mens XXL Womens Medium

Mens Large Womens Large