

# Chiddix Jazz Band Handbook

## 2009-10

Jazz is back at Chiddix! Last year was a huge success, and this year promises to be the best yet! Jazz Band members enjoy playing music in various styles ranging from swing to funk. They also display their creativity by inventing jazz solos on the spot during performances (improvising). Jazz Band also gives students the opportunity to perform in front of huge crowds!

If you're interested in joining the Jazz Band this year, please read this information carefully. You will find specific information about audition requirements and rehearsal schedules. There are also some important policies and expectations you need to be aware of. After you have read everything, sign the back page (have one of your parents sign, too), and return it to Mr. Masterman. You can then pick up audition materials in the band office and start practicing!

### Membership / Instrumentation

The Jazz Band is open to any Chiddix music student who plays a standard jazz instrument (saxophone, trombone, trumpet, piano, bass, drum set, vibraphone, guitar). The instrumentation of the band and number of players on each instrument will be determined after the auditions.

- All woodwind players who wish to participate in the jazz band must learn the saxophone and acquire/have access to an instrument.
- Euphonium players are highly encouraged to learn the trombone but may still play the euphonium in jazz band. Euphonium players must learn to read bass clef.
- Guitar players must be able to read music notation, chord changes, and should understand basic chord construction.
- Bass players must be able to read music notation. They may play either acoustic or electric bass, but are highly encouraged to learn both.
- Drum set players may also audition on vibraphone.

### Auditions

Jazz Band auditions will be held November 10-12. An audition sign-up sheet will be posted one week before the auditions. Students may sign up for a before-school (7:00 – 7:30) or an after-school (3:00 – 4:00) time on the appropriate day. Please sign up for the earliest available time on the day of your audition. Auditions are held in the band room and will last approximately five minutes.

Saxophones: Tuesday, November 10

Trumpets and trombones: Wednesday, November 11

Rhythm section (piano, guitar, bass, drums): Thursday, November 12

Here are the audition requirements:

- Required selection: **Orange Sherbet** by Sammy Nestico
- Perform an **F blues scale** from memory
- **Sight-read** a short selection.

- Students are **encouraged** to perform an improvised F blues solo if they wish. (A play-along accompaniment CD recording—piano, bass, and drums—will be provided for the improvisation part of the audition.) Performing an improvised solo is **optional**, but students who try it can add points to their audition score. NOTE: Improvisation is not a required part of the audition.

**Drum Set:** In addition to performing the required selection, drum set players should be prepared to demonstrate the ability to play a swing pattern and a rock beat. Drum set players should also be prepared to sight-read a tune, playing all rhythmic figures in the part and setting up the figures with short, improvised fills.

Audition results will be posted after school on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. The first rehearsal will be on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 a.m.

### **Rehearsals**

The Chiddix Jazz Band will rehearse Tuesdays and Thursdays before school from 7:00 to 7:40 a.m. Rehearsal attendance is mandatory. A student can have no more than three excused absences during a semester; more than three will result in dismissal from the ensemble. Excused absences include serious personal illness or family emergency. Exceptions will be rare and made at the director's discretion. Out of courtesy to other band members, students are asked to schedule make-up tests in other classes and teacher-help sessions on non-rehearsal days or after school.

### **Performances**

The Jazz Band usually performs once or twice a month at venues that include Chiddix band concerts, school and community events, and high school/college jazz festivals and clinics. The band also performs at special "Jazz Night" concerts presented by NCHS and NCWHS. A tentative performance schedule for each ensemble will be available soon.

Performance attendance is mandatory. An unexcused absence from a Jazz Band performance will result in dismissal from the organization. Excused absences include serious personal illness or family emergency.

**Chiddix Jazz Blog:** <http://cjhsjazz.blogspot.com/>

The Chiddix Jazz Blog is the place to go for up-to-date information concerning all aspects of the Jazz Band. Important information, schedules, and pictures from events can all be found there.

### **Directors**

The Chiddix Jazz Ensemble will be directed by Heather Hojnacki (hlhojna@ilstu.edu) and Alex Teater (adteate@ilstu.edu). Heather and Alex are both music majors at Illinois State University, and we're excited to have them join us! Mr. Masterman will be assisting Heather and Alex at various points throughout the year.

If you have read this packet and have additional questions about jazz band or concerns about the audition, see Mr. Masterman. You can also email him at [mastermj@unit5.org](mailto:mastermj@unit5.org). Good luck!

**STUDENTS:**

I have read the 2009-10 Chiddix Jazz Band Handbook and understand all of the policies and expectations contained within.

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Student Name

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Date

**PARENTS:**

I have read the 2009-10 Chiddix Jazz Band Handbook and understand all of the policies and expectations contained within. My student has my permission to audition and, if accepted, participate in the Chiddix Jazz Band.

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Parent Name

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Date