

**The Department's Educational Philosophy**

Education in the Arts plays a major role in three general areas of education. Students gain knowledge of events and historical movements that shaped society. The arts help to develop critical and creative thinking skills. The arts can provide the means for communicating thoughts, emotions, and ideas that cannot otherwise be expressed.

**Guiding Principles**

For those students interested in developing skills in voice, instrumental, and drama performance, the Performing Arts Department offers courses and activities of considerable variety. Performance material is selected to: meet the varied needs and skill levels of the students, provide cultural enrichment for the students, help students develop aesthetic, make provision for technical growth of the students, provide for school and community service, and create interdisciplinary relationships.

## **ABRHS JAZZ BAND: COURSE #884**

**Course Frequency:** Full year course, one day per week for two hours after school

**Credits Offered:** 2.5 credits

**Prerequisites:** Audition required

### **Background to the Curriculum**

Our high school jazz band is a long-established course offering. It has played an integral role in the development of the individual musical skills of our students and has provided our school and community with an outstanding support vehicle. Jazz Band is offered to students interested in learning to play jazz, popular rock and swing music in a Big Band setting. Improvisation will be encouraged. Performances include three formal concerts and other school and community events. All participants are expected to perform at all events scheduled by the director.

The jazz band curriculum is aligned with standards 2 (Reading and Notation), 3 (Playing Instruments) and 5 (Critical Response) of the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework. In addition to the framework, our band program encourages tremendous personal growth in the form of teamwork and leadership skills.

### **Core Topics/Questions/Concepts/Skills**

#### ***Students will:***

- Apply musical concepts to their performances
  - ~ Dynamics
  - ~ Phrasing
  - ~ Tempo
  - ~ Intonation
  - ~ Tone quality
- Continue growth in
  - ~ Music reading
  - ~ Playing technique
  - ~ Acquired overall skill level
- Become acquainted with the jazz idiom
  - ~ Understand the different interpretation of music notation in Jazz
  - ~ Perform music of the Big Band Era through present day selections
  - ~ Understand concepts of solo improvisation
  - ~ Appreciate music of the jazz, Latin and rock idioms
  - ~ Use musical techniques of jazz performance

## **Course-end Learning Objectives**

### ***Students will:***

- 1] Apply musical concepts to their performances
  - Dynamics
  - Phrasing
  - Tempo
  - Intonation
  - Tone quality
- 2] Continue growth in
  - Music reading
  - Playing technique
  - Acquired overall skill level
- 3] Become acquainted with the jazz idiom
  - Understand the different interpretation of music notation in Jazz
  - Perform music of the Big Band Era through present day selections
  - Understand concepts of solo improvisation
  - Appreciate music of the jazz, Latin and rock idioms
  - Use musical techniques of jazz performance

## **Assessment**

Students will be assessed on their preparedness, musicianship, attendance, attitude and care of equipment.

## **Materials and Resources**

An ever-changing series of jazz band arrangements will be selected each year to support the educational and motivational needs of the ensemble. Included in these selections will be music of the Big Band Era, repertoire, contemporary original jazz band arrangements, and present day popular selections that offer substantial educational benefit in addition to its popularity of the day. Other consideration will be given to stylistic influences and mood of programming.