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# PETERS TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL

## COURSE SYLLABUS: JAZZ BAND

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### COURSE OVERVIEW AND ESSENTIAL SKILLS

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Jazz Band is an ensemble comprised of saxophonists, trumpeters, trombonists, keyboardists(pianists), guitarists, bass guitarists, and percussionists (drum set emphasis) Students are selected through an audition. Literature is comprised of a variety of genres and difficulty levels.

The focus of the course is geared towards individual/group musical performance. Students perform swing, bebop, funk, latin, and various styles. The introduction of improvisation is a central component of this ensemble.

Technology is used regularly to develop fundamental skills: intonation, tempo accuracy, technique

#### **Course Textbook and Required Materials**

- Band Literature : TBD each year based on ensemble balance and skill - provided
- Tuner and metronome - provided or permitted on personal device via apps
- Music stand & folder - provided
- Personal instrument (personally owned, borrowed, rented or school issued)
- Additional Supplies - reeds for large wind instruments provided, mallets for percussion, amplifiers, keyboards provided
- Percussionists provide own sticks

#### **Course Outline of Material Covered:**

<b>Unit or Topic</b>	<b>Concepts/Skills/Resources</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Tone Production Intonation	Embouchure and air support via oral cavity, lips, jaw, and diaphragm support Use of digital tuner	2 weeks
Scales and Technical Development Basic improvisation	Major, minor, chromatic, blues, pentatonic Application in 3rds, etc. Use of digital metronome Call & response used to generate improvisation skills Scale application to improvisation	4 weeks

<p>Articulation and Dynamics Rudiments Head Chart Performance</p>	<p>Staccato, legato, slur, jazz accents - all addressed through appropriate air support Volume spectrum from <i>pp</i> through <i>ff</i> Dynamic production assisted by air support Percussion/drummer style knowledge and demonstration on set (swing, bossa nova, samba, rock, funk, etc.) Learning songs by rote (head chart)</p>	<p>8 weeks</p>
<p>Ensemble Literature Music Vocabulary</p>	<p>Application of previous concepts applied to literature performance Appropriate genre interpretation Musical terms applied towards performance expression</p>	<p>20 weeks</p>

***\*The course outline is subject to change based on the class skill level and/or school district calendar changes.***