

Mission Bay High School

**Music Director – Mr. Balmat**

Room 113

# **HANDBOOK FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**2011-2012**



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Dear Mission Bay High School Band Families,

I would like to welcome you to the 2011-2012 Music Program. I am very pleased that your child has taken an interest in music and wants to join the Music Program at MBHS. This program will challenge your child and make them better musicians. Along with musical improvement many studies show that young people who participate in music are among the most academically gifted in their schools. Musical experience helps students achieve: self-discipline, better group cooperation, higher self-esteem, an understanding of teamwork, development of a sense of persistence and performance confidence. Music should be a fundamental part of any well-rounded education.

Music, my main love, is my outlet for self-expression. I intend on teaching everyone in class to tap into their inner creativity through the music we perform. This creativity lies in us all and music serves as the stepping-stone to personal growth and development.

As parents, I encourage you all to be a huge part in your children's musical experience at Mission Bay. Your love and support leads your children to success in their lives. There will be many opportunities to help with the music program throughout the year. If you are interested in joining the booster organization or just being involved please fill out the interest form and return it along with the signature page.

This Handbook is your reference on all guidelines, activities, class policies and procedures for the school year. Please review the handbook with your child and send back the signature page acknowledging that both of you have read it thoroughly. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns. My door is ALWAYS open. This year is going to be great! Thank you for sharing it with me.

Sincerely,

Jean-Paul Balmat

**About this course:** The Jazz Ensemble is open to all 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Students must have taken at least one year of band in order to enroll in this course. The class focuses on performing intermediate to advanced level jazz band music in addition to learning music notation, theory, and history. Students will be required to participate at all home Varsity Football and Basketball games, jazz festivals, and school concerts. Performances will most likely take place outside of normal school hours. A calendar of events can be found online at [missionbaymusic.com](http://missionbaymusic.com). This class should be taken for the entire school year and is required for students that want to participate in the Dixie Jazz Band.

**Class Rules:** The musical experience should be a positive one. The classroom rules are to provide an equal opportunity to learn for everyone. To have a positive and productive experience the rules are as follows:

1. Be in class with instrument ready, music out, pencil in hand and positive attitude when bell rings.
2. Be respectful of the teacher, fellow classmates, and **all** equipment in the room.
3. Stay on task and follow directions when given.

**Consequences:** The consequences if these rules are broken are as follows:

1. Verbal warning
2. Private meeting with student
3. Written warning and call home
4. Referral to office

**Grading:** Attendance and participation during class time are of the utmost importance. However, this class is not without its written work, class work, homework, tests, quizzes and projects, which are also part of your grade. Playing skills will be evaluated through individual and small group performance assessments. Unexcused absences affect both your attendance and participation grades. Performance attendance is mandatory. Your absence/dismissal could result in failing the class altogether.

A 100% - 90%	Classroom Attendance and Participation.....	60%
B 89% - 80%	Written Tests/Quizzes.....	10%
C 79% - 70%	Playing Assessments.....	15%
D 69% - 60%	Practice Logs.....	15%
F 59% and under		

**Attendance and Participation:** Each student is awarded 5 points per day. The student will lose points for the following reasons:

- Unexcused absence, truancy, removal from rehearsal for misbehavior, or lack of participation. (-5 points)
- Arriving tardy to class without a pass, forgetting music, disruptive behavior. (-2 points)
- Not bringing instrument to class (-3 points)

The school's policy regarding discipline, including cheating, truancy, behavior, cell phones or other electronic devices, and dress code will be followed at all times.

**Citizenship Grades:** Students will be evaluated for a citizenship grade based on the respect they show to the teacher, the other students, themselves, and all property. These behaviors include politeness, attentiveness, in-class language and a positive attitude. Consistent attendance, preparation and participation (including tardiness and truancy) are large parts of both the academic and citizenship grades. There will be no food, drink, or gum in class.

**Tests/Quizzes and Playing Assessments:** Playing assessments and written quizzes will be given with at least one week's notice prior to the assessment/quiz date. Playing assessments will be based on current playing materials that have been covered up to the assessment date. Written quizzes will be based on music knowledge (theory, notation, and/or history) that have been covered up to the quiz date. Written tests will be given twice in the first semester and will cumulatively cover music theory, notation, and history covered up to the test date.

**Practice Logs:** Your success in band depends on the time and effort you put in outside of class. Students are expected to take their instruments home daily. At the end of every day students are to sign out their instruments in the band room. Each student will be awarded 5 points per day that they take their instrument home.

**PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY.** There will be at least one performance per semester. If a student cannot perform due to unpreparedness or is removed from a performance for any reason, the student will receive no points for the performance. Each absence will result in the lowering of the student's letter grade by two full letter grades (Example: A to C, or B to D). Missing two performances without excuse will result in the student failing the class. Students who fail the class once cannot enroll in music again. Students may be excused from a performance if parents contact teacher at least two weeks before the concert with a reasonable excuse.

**Performance Dress:** Each musician needs to have the appropriate attire in order to participate in performances.

**Boys – Black pants (no jeans), black dress shirt (long-sleeved), black socks/shoes, gold tie (provided by teacher)**

**Girls – Black skirts or pants (no jeans), black shirt/blouse, black shoes, gold tie (provided by teacher)**

**School Instruments:** The school has a limited amount of instruments and we encourage students to rent their own to make sure they get their first choice. Instruments will be provided by the school based on our inventory.

**Band Text:** The text we will be using in class is Foundations for Superior Performance published by NEILA KJOS Music Co. Students will receive this text in class and are responsible for turning it in at the end of the year. If the book is lost or damaged the student is responsible for replacing the book.

**Recommended Texts:**

“The Jazz Theory Book” by Mark Levine

“Rhythms Complete” by Charles Colin & Bugs Bower

“Jazz Exercises” by Lenny Neihaus

“Charlie Parker Omnibook” transcribed by Jamey Aebersold

Any CD Play-Along Books by Jamey Aebersold. These are GREAT!!!!

**Music Website:** Please become familiar with the music website. It contains links to a full calendar of events, homework assignments for each lecture, all handouts, all music recorded by the Dixie Jazz Band, and other useful items that will help you succeed in class. Students will be provided with the username and password to access certain locked pages.

**Missionbaymusic.com**