



# Jazz Messengers Syllabus 2024-2025



**Mr. Steger**

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Room M122

## Welcome

Welcome OR Welcome Back to the wonderful world of High School Jazz Band. I am so excited about the things that we have planned this year! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Let's have a great year!

## Jazz Messengers

This is the introduction to jazz class. That being said, if you take it multiple years, there's always something new to learn. You will be learning the basics of improv, blues, and the basic history of the big names of jazz. You will be learning new scales, basic jazz rhythms, basic jazz rhythms and harmonies, and you will play traditional big-band music. This class is recommended for underclassmen, musicians who are currently in a symphonic band, or people playing a secondary instrument. If you want to be Jazz Ambassadors your dedication, efforts, and resilience will get you there - this whole year will be your audition!

## Attendance

Your attendance is crucial to the tradition of musical excellence in Fort Atkinson. I have attached every single calendar that you will need for the whole year. Request off of work now. Plan your vacations around these events. Everyone in this group is counting on you to be at all of the events that you choose to take part in.

If you have to miss any rehearsal, have your parents email me **as soon as you know**.

If you have to miss any performance, **I ABSOLUTELY need a parent email a month ahead of time - this is a must.**

## Grading

**25% Performances:** Performances are by far the most important summative assessment we have in a band. It shows me the comprehensive learning that you have done this past concert cycle. If you have to miss a concert, I need to know FAR ahead of time - and we can find a way for you to make it up.

**25% Scales and Fundamental:** You will be given warm-up packets that have items such as scales and arpeggios. Some of which will be assessed.

**25% Sight Reading and Summative Assessments:** These are where I figure out what you know. It could be from recording assignments, scales tests, or on very rare occasions - standard assessments. You will know about these assessments far ahead of time - and for the most part, will get ample time in class to do them.

**25% In Class Discussions/Work:** Do you participate in our in-class discussions? This category is to encompass our in-class discussions, projects, and assignments.

## The Ball Is In Your Court

I am so excited to get the ball rolling. In the end, the band is what YOU choose to make it be. My job is to never obstruct creativity or involvement. Your involvement is crucial and your dedication is valued and appreciated. Each and every one of you is important to the group and as an individual. My office is always open, let me know if you ever need to talk about anything.



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## Course Materials Needed

### Reed Players

#### **Reeds**

- Clarinet: Vandoren Blue Box/V21/V12 Sizes - 3, 3.5, 3.5+, 4
- Saxophones: Vandoren ZZ, Red Java, Green Java - Box Reeds Sizes - 2.5, 3, 3.5

#### **Mouthpieces**

- Clarinet: Vandoren B13, with a M/O or optimum ligature
- Saxophone: Vandoren Jazz mouthpieces - try them out first A4, A5
- Jody Jazz - new models every year great brand
- Meyer - 5M, 6M
- Otto Link - metal or hard rubber

*Talk to me if these may be out of your budget, I have a few other suggestions.*

#### **Brass**

Recommended Mouthpieces (you should own your own mouthpiece along with your instrument)

- Trumpets – Bach or Blessing 3C or 1 ½ C
- Trombone – Bach or Blessing 4 or 5G Schilke 51 or 51D

#### **Rhythm Section**

Percussionists should own several pairs of wood tip drum sticks – 5A and 5B, and brushes. In addition, please have a pair of yarn mallets if we need a cymbal roll or if you are playing vibraphone.

Basses are responsible for their own set-up. Mr. Spitz is a great resource.

Guitarists and Electric Bass must provide their own ¼ inch to ¼ inch amp chord. I will supply the amp, but make sure to bring in your own chord. They are cheap but they seem to walk away sometimes...

## Concert Attire

Students will dress for concerts as follows unless otherwise notified:

- Black bottoms (socks, shoes, pants, and/or long skirt)
- Black top (polo, button-down, etc.)

All clothing must be in accordance with school dress code policy. Please ask if you have questions or need assistance in acquiring this clothing.

## Classroom Expectations

- “To be early is to be on time.” Attendance will be taken at the bell
- NO food, drink, or gum -- bottled water is fine. No food or drink in the Music Pod.
- Breaks - Only one person is to leave the room at a time.
- Cell Phones - 1 warning, 2nd time; email home, put phone on my desk for the rest of the hour, minor write-up, 3rd time; put phone on my desk, office referral. 4th time -- Office referral with larger consequence
- Sometimes you come to school with drinks. Absolutely no drinks are allowed in the carpeted area.
- Please reset the room when you are done, this room is shared between 6 groups and everyone deserves a properly set-up room.
- Mostly every piece of music you get in this class is going to be an original. Which means if you lose it, you must buy it. It is generally no more than 10 dollars for a piece of music, some as low as 2.50 - but you are responsible for all that I hand to you.
- All performances are required. No work excuses, no sports excuses. If you have a family emergency please contact me.
- Be Empathetic in class discussions

## Fort Atkinson Band Boosters

All Band Families are automatically part of the Fort Atkinson Band Boosters. We encourage you to attend our meetings to see how you can help support Fort Atkinson Band students and provide us with your ideas. Meets are held weekly in the High School Music Pod.

## **Acknowledgement – Jazz Messengers**

I have read the syllabus and classroom procedures including all behavioral expectations and the attendance policy.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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