



# Jazz Ambassadors Syllabus 2024-2025



**Mr. Steger**

StegerJ@fortschools.org  
(920) 563-7833 x1120  
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 Ambassadors**

This is an advanced jazz class. You are expected to improvise every day, know basic jazz rhythms, be able to switch between swing and straight without losing time, and must be somewhat versed in jazz. You will also learn a whole bunch more names in jazz. You are an ambassador - "a person who acts as a representative or promoter of a specified activity." It is your job to take this class seriously and be ready to help others. Egos will not be tolerated, your job more than any other is to be a promoter of jazz. Everyone always has something to learn and something to give. If you take something and leave something daily - the group will grow - and that is the point! This group will get pushed as far as they want to go - and should be packed with resilient and eager individuals who want to push themselves as far as they want to go.

## 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.



# Jazz Ambassadors Syllabus 2024-2025



## 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. Callaway 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 Ambassadors**

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

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

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

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