



MEAD
High School

302 West Hastings Rd
Spokane, WA 99218
MeadHS.Mead354.org
@MeadHighSchool
Facebook.com/MeadHS
509.465.7000

Jazz Choir

Second Semester 2018-2019

Michael Saccomanno
Director of Choral Activities
Mike.Saccomanno@Mead354.org
509.465.7046
www.TheChoirRoom.org

Welcome back to Jazz Choir! Second semester of this class continues to build upon skills, healthy singing habits, individual appreciation for jazz styling and technique, and service-minded performances from first semester and culminates with our participation in the Reno Jazz Festival.

Remember, YOU belong @ Mead High School.

We will have the following performance landmarks this semester:

- National Anthem performances
- DeMiero Jazz Festival
- Winter Recognition Assembly performance
- Next Generation Jazz Festival [Monterey, CA]
- Fusion Vocal Jazz Concert (with Northwood Middle School)
- Spring Recognition Assembly performance
- Possible performance with Spokane's FUNKY UNCLE

Grading Policy

It is my belief that although we learn and perform as an ensemble, students must be evaluated individually in order for grading to be authentic and meaningful for each member of the department.

Student learning will be assessed using a variety of methods including (1) student self-evaluation; (2) individual recording; (3) teacher observation; (4) service performances and sectional rehearsals; and (5) student work.

Grades are not given; they are earned based on a specific set of criteria. It is imperative that students be involved throughout the grading period in providing honest and accurate feedback about their individual learning in class.

Assessment Methods

Student Self-Evaluation - Throughout the rehearsal process students may complete one of several forms providing feedback on their individual learning and giving the opportunity for comments about the ensemble's progress on the music. Each form is short, usually taking less than two minutes to complete. However, students should be specific about their learning and areas in which they need additional assistance. This feedback not only allows for the student to reflect on their progress but will also provide the instructor the opportunity to make the learning process as efficient as possible.

Individual Recording - Once the ensemble has learned a song selection, the whole group will sing the music while eight students at a time digitally record their singing for a brief section of the song. This method of recording does not amplify the sound, but simply records individuals.

Teacher Observation - Every day, Mr. Saccomanno expects each member of the ensemble to be contributing to improving the group. Students who remain on task throughout the rehearsal will earn maximum points each day.

Service Performances and Sectional Rehearsals - Spring semester is less busy with National Anthem performances than the fall, but we are still a service-oriented organization. Each member of jazz choir is expected to do his or her part in serving the Mead community by performing in a small group for assembly anthems, community service projects, and recruiting performances. Students will schedule a minimum of six (6) performances with their small group and be available for each of the full group anthems as outlined at the beginning of the semester.

Additionally, in preparation for competition season, each student will be required to schedule and attend a minimum of two (2) sectional rehearsals with Mr. Saccomanno. At least one of these must be before the DeMiero Jazz Festival and the second must be completed before the Next Generation Jazz Festival.

Student Work - Although there are very few assignments given, students are expected to keep pace with the learning and memorization of notes, rhythms, and lyrics for every song the ensemble undertakes. Student work also includes being fully prepared for each class with assigned music and a pencil; participation and maintaining a positive attitude at rehearsals, workshops, retreats, and performances; arriving on time for all scheduled events (class, bus departure, concerts, performances etc); having a complete uniform for all performances; and adhering to all district, school, and classroom rules, regulations, and expectations at all times.

Statement on Achievement

Teamwork and healthy communication are essential to the success of our class. Every person has something valuable to contribute to this ensemble, and each member is expected to offer his/her best on a daily basis. Your grade this semester will be based on your individual growth over the course of the grading period.

Requirements

- Audition and instructor approval.
- Current membership in ASB.
- Yearlong membership in Jazz Choir and concurrent membership in another major performing ensemble.
- All course fees paid according to payment schedule. Please contact the Performing Arts Administrative Assistant or the Business Office with questions or to make adjustments. **ALL COURSE FEES MUST BE PAID BY SPRING BREAK.**

Notice on Attendance

I do not believe in docking student grades for schedule conflicts, assuming that students have actively worked to avoid the conflict and been timely in their communication. Students must be proactive in alerting Mr. Saccomanno to any conflicts that arise during the semester. I will deduct points if a student does not provide enough advance notice about his/her absence to allow the ensemble to adjust without his/her presence.

Students will receive a schedule of choral events at the beginning of each semester, and are expected to make every possible effort to be in attendance at every event. I understand, however, that students are very busy with other school-related activities, work, and family life. While sporting events are an important social opportunity for students, sports are extra-curricular activities and performance arts are part of the graded curriculum.

Tardy Policy [from Student Handbook]

It is expected that students will be to class on time. Habitual tardiness creates a disruption to the educational process in the classroom. Notes from home do not excuse tardies. Tardiness to class of more than ten minutes is treated as an absence as students miss essential instruction and objectives. Teachers will record tardies. Tardiness will be dealt with by teachers according to the following procedure:

Step One: Tardies 1 through 5 per semester. Teacher will handle the situation individually with the student.

At 3 tardies the student will be required to schedule an additional sectional rehearsal (30 minutes).

Teacher will initiate, no later than the third tardy, some disciplinary action, including scheduling a 15-minute time outside of class to serve the choral program in some way (cleaning, filing music, etc).

Step Two - 6th and following tardies each semester. Teacher will refer to the administration to follow the same procedures as trancies.

Classroom Expectations

1. Always do your best. Your personal best will change from moment to moment, but under any circumstance do your best and find a way to add to the ensemble in some way.
2. Respect your peers. Teamwork is essential to the success of our class, and we all must take on the responsibility of creating and maintaining a healthy, safe environment for each person in our community. Remember, we are all doing our best!
3. Take pride in your efforts. Be aware of the entire process, and remember that every day is an opportunity to improve. Quality performances are the result of quality rehearsals.
4. Set personal goals for improvement. Work to develop your individual musical skills to the best of your ability, and to share your talents in a collective process.

Travel Policy

Throughout the year, Jazz Choir will have the opportunity to travel away from school for festivals, competitions, performance tours, workshops, or recruiting trips. All students enrolled in Jazz Choir are expected to participate in these opportunities, as they are a part of the curriculum. Students will adhere to all district, school, and classroom rules, regulations, and expectations at all times.

Travel opportunities are an invaluable resource for student learning, promote ensemble growth and camaraderie, and widen the scope of Mead High School's role in the community. Students are to be aware and respectful of their responsibility as representatives of Mead High School at all times.

eDevice Policy

Think of class as a boardroom for our classroom business. We are in the business of learning. If your productivity goes down, you may get "fired." Electronic devices will be used occasionally to HELP us learn. Anything deemed "distracting your productivity" (Mr. Saccomanno's call) will result in the following:
#1: Get it back after 6th Period [even if you have early release]
#2-thereafter: Mr. Saccomanno's discretion. Usually given to administrator AND referral if disruption (parent contact and/or holding device will occur).

Academic Integrity Policy [from Student Handbook]

Academic Integrity - Plagiarism is the use of another person's work (this could be his or her words, products or ideas) for personal advantage, without proper acknowledgement of the original work. Most often the phrase is used to denote deliberate intent of passing it off as one's own work. Subject to Progressive Discipline.

NOTE: Copying/Cheating of any sort will result in a 0 for that project and a referral.

Technology

Using the technology (i.e. laptops, cameras, network tools, myMead, and other items) is a privilege and a fundamental part of this course. Failure to comply with the technology agreement from the school will result in the removal of this privilege. Your grade will be affected by the choices you make.

Students need to have functioning technology, and check them regularly, on the following platforms:

1. Dropbox
 2. SLACK
 3. Remind
-

Signature Page

Please review, sign, and return no later than Friday, February 15, 2019.

Acknowledgement and Agreement of the Course Syllabus

Signing below agrees to follow classroom and school policy, including putting forth the effort necessary to be successful in this class.

Student Name (print) _____ Date _____

Student signature _____

Parent Name (print) _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature* _____

Department Handbook

In the fall, you signed your agreement of the policies and procedures outlined in the Department Handbook (found online at www.TheChoirRoom.org), including the expectations for attendance at all scheduled events, the payment schedule for course fees, and the eligibility requirements to travel with the department.

A copy of this document is available at www.TheChoirRoom.org for your review.