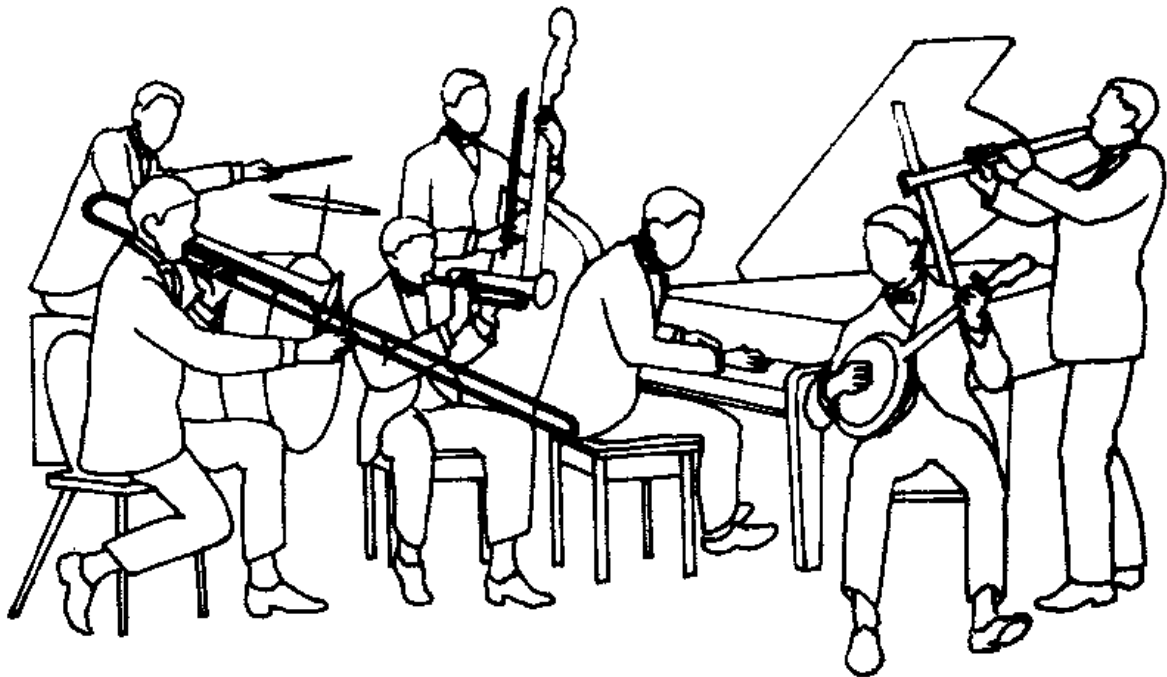


Middletown High School Jazz Ensemble

Student and Parent Handbook 2015



"Music is your own experience, your thoughts, your wisdom. If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn."

– Charlie Parker

Brian Endlein, Director
302-376-4141 x5008
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Philosophy:

The goal of the Middletown High School Jazz Ensemble is to provide students with a musical experience in the traditional and modern jazz styles. This endeavor will strive to be both educational and enjoyable for the members of the band as well as the audience. Students will be introduced to and begin to identify stylistic traits of traditional and modern jazz. They will also begin a development of certain jazz idiomatic concepts such as the swing style and how it varies historically within Jazz, it's performers, and their ensembles. This ensemble also seeks to introduce students to improvisation and provide them with strategies for success in improvising a solo. Other musical skills which will be addressed include intonation, blend / balance, and technical development. Ultimately, through these studies, students will more thoroughly understand the cultural and artistic relevance of jazz through performance.

Ensemble Description:

The MHS Jazz Ensemble will be open to all Middletown HS Students who play trumpet, trombone, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, drums, bass, guitar, and piano. The **minimum** instrumentation for the jazz ensemble will be as follows, **but is not limited to:**

1 1 st alto sax	1 1 st trombone
1 2 nd alto sax	1 2 nd trombone
1 1 st tenor sax	1 3 rd trombone
1 2 nd tenor sax	1 4 th trombone
1 bari sax	2 drummers
1 1 st trumpet	1 aux. percussion player
1 2 nd trumpet	1 bass
1 3 rd trumpet	1 piano
1 4 th trumpet	1 guitar

There is a **possibility** of creating a second jazz ensemble (“Lab Band”) in order to facilitate a large number of students wishing to perform in a traditional big band setting but who may have less experience. If our numbers warrant it, “auditions” will be held to determine placement in an ensemble. This audition will most likely happen after school and will be determined at a later date.

Costs:

ALL students participating in the MHS Jazz Ensemble will pay a \$50 participation fee. This fee goes to helping offset the various costs incurred by all of the activities (music, transportation, etc.) over the course of the season. This check is made out to MHS Band Boosters.

Any student who uses a Middletown High School instrument in the Jazz Band will pay a \$40 instrument usage fee. This fee goes to help offset the cost of maintenance, repairs, and other assorted costs associated with maintaining a school-owned instrument. This check is made out to Middletown High School.

Our Championships are a 4-day event held in Wildwood, NJ and will be a separate cost. This will be detailed in another handout.

Attendance:

Each member of the Jazz Band will be expected to attend all rehearsals and performances including Jazz Festivals and Atlantic Coast Championships in Wildwood. Failure to attend rehearsals may result in removal from the group. Absences from rehearsals will only be excused with the direct permission of the director prior to the rehearsal being missed (the earlier, the better). Sending notice in with another student that you will not be attending rehearsal **WILL NOT** be considered an excused absence.

Except for extenuating circumstances, excuses submitted after an absence will not be excused. If you know that you are going to be absent, you must communicate to Mr. Endlein ASAP!

In order to insure that we have full participation in rehearsals and performances, we have established the following list of attendance requirements.

- Our schedule can be found ONLINE at www.middletownband.com. All attendance requirements are based on the expectation that you will commit to these dates at this time. **In other words, if something else “comes up”, you are already committed to your performing ensemble.**
- Keeping in mind that everyone in the jazz band is a “varsity starter” (there are no reserves or substitutes) your attendance at all rehearsals and performances is necessary and critical to our success.
- Once the season begins, attendance is mandatory at all functions.
 - If you have an **unexcused** absence from rehearsal during the week, you will not perform in the performance that week.
 - If you have a second **unexcused** absence from a rehearsal, you will be dismissed from the jazz band.

- An **unexcused** absence from a performance may result in your dismissal from your performing group at the discretion of the director.
- For the parents: While we recognize the importance of discipline, we would ask that you do not punish your child by not allowing them to attend a practice or a performance. Doing so punishes the entire group and hurts the group's chances for success. We would request that you please choose disciplinary measures that limit the punishment to your child only. A practice missed because of punishment will have to be considered **unexcused** and may result in your child's dismissal from the group. We ask that you please take this into consideration before allowing your child to join this activity.
- If you have anything on your current schedule that may conflict with the rehearsal schedule, please discuss it with the director(s) **BEFORE** you commit to the activity.
- Emergency situations that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis by the director.

Behavior:

The Appoquinimink School District Student Code of Conduct is in effect at all times. This includes at rehearsals, competitions, and bus rides to and from performances. A copy of the Code of Conduct is maintained in the Director's office should any student or parent need to reference specific items.

Remember, in and out of uniform, you represent the best that the Appoquinimink School District, and specifically, the Middletown High School music program has to offer. Be sure to conduct yourselves in a manner that is becoming of a young professional!

Requirements / Expectations:

1. BE PUNCTUAL! "To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is not to be." The set practice time is when rehearsal begins. Arrive at the school before this scheduled time to allow you to:
 - Get your instrument
 - Prepare any equipment (amps, drums, etc.)
2. Learn a demanding list of repertoire over the course of the year.
3. Practice all assigned repertoire as well as assignments outside of rehearsal.
4. Come prepared to rehearse at each rehearsal. (Music, pencil, instrument, mutes, valve oil, reeds, water, etc.)

5. You must have a PENCIL at every rehearsal!
6. Behave appropriately at all rehearsals and performances. Remember, you not only represent yourself at various rehearsals and performances, but you represent your school and the MHS Music Department! At the director's discretion, inappropriate behavior may lead to dismissal from the ensemble.
7. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory! Exceptions would include...absence from school due to illness, family emergency, etc. Please refer to the "Attendance" section of this packet.
8. Maintain the minimum grade point average for eligibility. Manage time efficiently so that schoolwork and jazz practice do not conflict. (Don't wait until the night a project is due and make the choice to skip rehearsal to complete it.)
9. Practice teamwork and good sportsmanship at all times:
 - Try your best at every practice and during performances; to learn from your mistakes, accept constructive criticism, and not get angry with yourself or other for making a mistake.
 - Pay attention to and respect all instructors.
 - Accept parts that I have assigned.
 - Be positive and encourage fellow jazz band members.
 - Take pride in our team, regardless of score or placement.
10. Work hard and make good music!

Parent Support And Responsibilities:

The participation of your student in this program will hopefully prove to be not only rewarding for your student but for you, the parents and guardians, as well. Please help us in establishing the proper attitude, showing support for what your child is doing by attending performances of the ensemble, and encouraging your son or daughter to practice at home.

The Band Booster organization is another great way to get involved with your child's activity. We will need help chaperoning, moving equipment, etc. More information will follow!

Most of all, we welcome parent support as a "cheering section" when we perform. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to come at the end of rehearsals to listen. We are proud of what our students accomplish and we know that you will be also!

If at any point you have a concern about any aspect of the program, please communicate directly with the director either via email brian.endlein@appo.k12.de.us or calling 302-376-4141 x5008.

Uniforms:

Gentlemen will wear the tuxedo and tie they were issued for their curricular performing group. Students will need to purchase their own white shirt. Tuxedos should be clean and neatly pressed. Shirts should be clean and neatly fitting. Bowties and vests will be worn at all times with the top button of the shirt buttoned when in uniform. Students will be required to provide their own black shoes and socks. Jackets may be removed at the Director's discretion for warm performances.

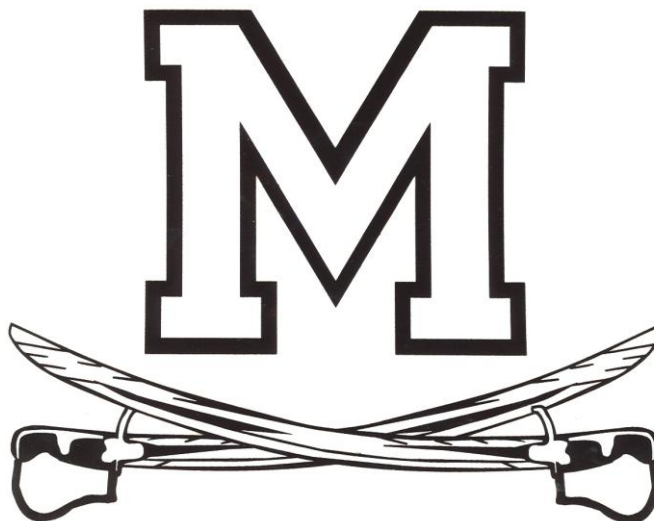
Ladies will wear the black gown, they were issued for their curricular performing group. Black shoes should be worn with the female uniform. Jewelry may be worn so long as it is tasteful and does not detract from the professional appearance of the group.

Any student not in a curricular ensemble needs to see Mr. Endlein to get issued a uniform.

If a second "Lab Band" is created, its uniform will be detailed at a later time.

Fundraising and Trips:

By participating in band, students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of performances. Some of the costs associated with these performances involve travel and expense beyond the normal scope of the school budget. In order to participate in these events, students may be asked to help raise funds for **THEIR** portion of the costs. However, *at no time* will a student be required to participate in a fundraiser. If a student decides not to participate in a fundraiser, that student will need to find alternative means for contributing toward the trip cost.



Middletown HS Indoor Drumline, Colorguard, and Jazz Band Contract

In order to insure that we have full participation in rehearsals and performances, we, the MHS Instrumental Staff, have established the following list of attendance requirements.

- Attached is a schedule of your appropriate group as of the date listed. All attendance requirements are based on the expectation that you will commit to these dates at this time. In other words, if something else comes up, you are already committed to your performing ensemble.
- Keeping in mind that everyone in guard, drumline and jazz band is a “varsity starter” (there are no reserves or substitutes) your attendance at all rehearsals and performances is necessary and critical to our success.
- Once the season begins, attendance is mandatory at all functions.
 - If you have an unexcused absence from rehearsal during the week, you will not perform in the performance that week.
 - If you have a second unexcused absence from a rehearsal, you will be dismissed from your performing group.
 - An unexcused absence from a performance may result in your dismissal from your performing group at the discretion of the director and Mr. Endlein.
 - For student leaders, 1 unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in loss of student leader status.
 - For the parents: While we recognize the importance of discipline, we would ask that you do not punish your child by not allowing them to attend a practice or a performance. Doing so punishes the entire group and hurts the group’s chances for success. We would request that you please choose disciplinary measures that limit the punishment to your child only. A practice missed because of punishment will have to be considered unexcused and may result in your child’s dismissal from the group. We ask that you please take this into consideration before allowing your child to join this activity.
- If you have anything on your schedule that may conflict with the rehearsal schedule, please discuss it with the director(s) BEFORE you commit to the indoor activity.
- Emergency situations that arise will be dealt with on an individual basis by the appropriate staff.
- Signatures are required for participation. **ONE** copy of this form **PER GROUP** is to be returned to Mr. Endlein by 11/25/14. Failure to do so will result in your dismissal from your respective group.

(please detach at dotted line)

PLEASE LIST GROUP THIS CONTRACT IS FOR HERE _____

We have read AND understand the requirements as put forth in the above document. Furthermore, we understand that membership in these ensembles is a commitment and a privilege. Please detach and return to Mr. Endlein by 11/25/14.

Student Name

Student Signature

Parent Name

Parent Signature

Date