

JMHS Jazz Lab

Mr. Eric Ficarra, Director
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"You've got to learn your instrument. Then, you practice, practice, practice. And then, when you finally get up there on the bandstand, forget all that and just wail." – Charlie Parker

The primary goal of this ensemble is to expose Jackson Memorial students to the genre of jazz, for the first time or for experienced players looking to further their knowledge of jazz music. The group looks to cultivate those skills necessary to be successful in the jazz idiom, such as the development of improvisation techniques, the acquisition of appropriate music theory knowledge, or learning to play the instruments associated with the jazz big band (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, vibes, etc).

Entry into the ensemble is not based on audition, however Mr. Ficarra may invite students to come down and play their instrument for him to see where they fit best within the Jazz Lab.

The ensemble is also not reserved for music students only – anyone can join!

The Jazz Lab will be performing at the **Jackson Memorial Spring Band Concert** on May 21, as well as the annual **Jackson Liberty Jazz Festival** on April 21!

MEMBERSHIP/ATTENDANCE POLICY

As per district policy, if you have been late to school 7 or more times, you cannot participate in the ensemble or any extra-curricular activity.

- The Jazz Lab rehearses every Thursday in the band room from 2:15 to 4:00pm. Be aware that some rehearsals are not on Thursdays due to usage of the music wing for other activities. Please refer to the Google Calendar on my page.
- You can remain a member of the ensemble so long as you continue to show up! Excused absences from rehearsal are the same as outlined in the JMHS Student Handbook (Sickness, death in the family, etc.)
- **(3) unexcused absences/no call-no shows will result in dismissal from the ensemble.**
- **(2) excused absences equal 1 unexcused absence (as in, 6 excused absences will also result in dismissal).**
- Special considerations **may** be made on a case-by-case basis at Mr. Ficarra's discretion, **but only when ample notice is given. AT LEAST 24 HOURS QUALIFIES AS AMPLE NOTICE.**

If you are committing to the ensemble, please return the bottom portion signed by our next rehearsal, December 7th.

I Agree to the following Jazz Lab Attendance Policy: (2) Excused Absences equals (1) Unexcused Absence, (3) Unexcused Absences equals dismissal from Jazz Lab

Name

Instrument

Grade