

**The Duke Ellington School Of The Arts**  
**Jazz Orchestra**  
**Davey S. Yarborough-director**

**Course description/Syllabus**

**Code: UD 5-6-7-8-/01 I-IV**

**Credit 1:00**

**Grades: 9-12**

**One year**

**M-W-F**

**Office Hours: By Appointment**

Offers the study and performance of jazz ensemble literature, development of relevant styles, improvisational techniques, concepts and appropriate stage decorum. Instructional levels will involve the use repertoire of grade 2 through 6.

**Pre-requisites:** Students in this class are exclusively selected by the director and remain only at his discretion. Any students in this class receiving a grade of “F” in any class may not be allowed to perform live concerts with this group. Students in this ensemble not making the honor roll will be put on probation for one advisory. Failure to achieve honor roll two consecutive advisory will render the student ineligible to perform or travel with the ensemble until honor roll status is achieved.

**Requirements:** Students are to perform at all concerts, recitals, scheduled rehearsals and festivals as these are evaluation activities. Any student not on honor roll status must interview with the director, parents, and teachers of failed courses within two weeks of report card receipt to discuss probationary status. Failure to meet will not stop the probation process. (Unscheduled rehearsals may be required for special performances and will be announced with as much advance notice as possible.)

This class is a performing group that will have opportunities to perform and /or compete in various venues through outside jazz organizations. This requires the commitment to being available for travel during class time, after school and sometimes during school vacation days. Professional performers and clinicians will make themselves available to the combo class throughout this school year. This may include after school and weekend clinics based on the artists availability. Advance notice will be rendered when these events occur.

Memorization of some repertoire is a requirement for this class.

**Performance dress** will be (men Black suit with white dress shirt and black bowtie with polished black dress shoes) (ladies- black and/or white formal) unless otherwise instructed by the director.

**Sectional rehearsals:** These rehearsals are arranged with notice to parents and students at least one week prior to the activity.

**Materials:** All students are to maintain a notebook for repertoire and a second one for written work. Each jazz combo student will be required to submit one essay or research paper each semester. All students are responsible for maintaining their instruments and all accessories needed for performance. Oversized instruments and secondary instruments may be provided to students needing them due to performance repertoire.

**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on attitude, repertoire, concert/recital performance and décor, class participation, attendance, behavior and all written assignments, research papers, essays, performance and written exams. Failure to perform in any competition, concert or festival can result in failure of this course..

Grades will be calculated as follows: Participation-10% Practice and Application – 50% Assessments – 40%

**Grading percentages for assignments within each category will vary by arts department based on the processes and assessments specific to each discipline. It is a requirement to pass a course that students participate and attend all rehearsals and performances as these are also adjudicated activities.**

**I have read and fully understand the above course description for the jazz orchestra class.**

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_