2025-26 VMHS Instrumental Music Program Jazz Ensemble Placement Audition Packet

Enclosed you will find everything you need for your placement audition. Based upon the strength of your audition, you will be placed in one of the following Jazz ensembles:

Jazz I

(Made up of the top players on campus)

Jazz II

(An intermediate group; typically made up of Seniors, but is mostly Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen)

Jazz III

(Designed to develop musical skills and prepare students for the more advanced ensembles.

Typically made up of Juniors and Sophomores but is mostly Freshmen)

Music auditions will take place after school Monday, May 5th in the VMHS Band Room.

Go to the band website, click on the QR Code for your instrument and sign-up for an audition time. Mark the audition time in your day planner and coordinate with your family so that you don't forget or miss your audition.

*Remember, jazz band is a separate audition from concert band and marching band.

All audition results will be posted on the "Audition Results" link on the "Resources" page of the band website www.vmhsband.com.

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

* Part of your audition is seeing how well you follow the instructions below.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WIND PLAYERS

Your audition will consist of five different components. All audition materials can be found on the "Auditions" link found on the "Resources" page of the band website (www.vmhsband.com).

Wind players, Guitarists, Pianists and Mallet players should play the following:

- 1. All 12 Major scales in under 2 minutes.
- 2. The melody to the song Ceora (Sheet music provided below. Slow tempo is ok!)
- 3. A jazz tune, etude, or transcription of your choice or an excerpt from a jazz band chart (Something you believe shows you at your best!)
 - Lead Trumpet Players: Consider showing your range with this excerpt.
- 4. Solo improvisation to the blues in F or Bb concert (to a recorded track that will be provided) **Optional, but required for Jazz 1**
- 5. Sight Reading (music will be provided at the audition)

Guitar and Piano Players: Demonstrate your knowledge of chord voicings on a ii-V-I chord progression in the keys of Bb and F. Also play a Bb or F blues progression (memorized).

Bassists:

- 1. Play a walking bass line to the chord changes of a blues in Bb or F.
- 2. A jazz tune, etude, or transcription of your choice or an excerpt from a jazz band chart.
- 3. All 12 Major scales in under 2 minutes.
- 4. Sight Read (music will be provided at the audition)

Drummers play the following:

- 1. Swing time at quarter = 60, 120, & 240
- 2. Swing Time on Brushes = 120
- 3. Bossa Nova groove at 120, Samba groove at 240
- 4. Funk at 60
- 5. Rock groove at 120
- 6. Play with a recording on a song of your choice.
- 7. Sight Read (music will be provided at the audition) Please read the attached rubric (how you are graded) carefully each component of the audition will be scored on a scale of 1-10 based on the rubric.

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