



Archbishop MacDonald Catholic High School

Course Instrumental Jazz 15 - 3 Credit

Year 2025-2026

Term Full Year

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Resources

Required Materials:

- Materials required: pencil, music folder (provided), loose-leaf paper, music manuscript paper, blue or black ink pen(s).
- Students will bring a pencil, binder, and the required materials (folder, repertoire music, etc.) to each class. No student may leave to go to lockers after class has begun.
- Handouts must be dated and kept in the notebook as they form part of the notes.
- Students must bring their mouthpieces, instruments, and accessories to all classes.

Recommended Materials:

It is recommended that all instrumental music students have:

- A metronome that can subdivide beats. While a smartphone can be a metronome and tuner – it can be distracting while practicing.
- A tuner
- **Brass and Woodwind** students are encouraged to purchase high quality mouthpieces. A good mouthpiece will cost between \$75 and \$300 depending on the instrument. The most important part of the



instrument is the mouthpiece (and for woodwinds, the reed).

- **Brass players** should purchase Harmon mutes, cup mutes and straight mutes. The school has a limited supply of these.
- **Percussion** players will be assigned stick bags and drum Pads for at home practice and assignments.
- Students are also encouraged to purchase or rent intermediate or professional quality instruments (at the school we own student models which do not play as easily or sound as nice as the better instruments).

Textbooks

- Each student will be provided with a music folder containing the repertoire for the class. Each student must have a part his or her instrument for each piece studied in class. Students are not to share music folders or to trade parts. **The student will be charged \$5.00 per part for every part that is lost or damaged beyond repair.**
- It is the student's responsibility to keep his or her folder in order and to return all music in good condition (pencil markings erased, no ink markings, minor repairs completed, etc.).
- Any notes made on the parts should be done in pencil and **MUST** be thoroughly erased before returning the music.

Program of Studies Locally Developed Curriculum

Overview

Instrumental Jazz 15 is co-curricular course. Students must be enrolled in Instrumental music 10, 20, 30 or General music 10, 20, 30 to receive credit for this course. The curriculum has been developed in such a way that it builds upon the musical concepts taught in these other courses. Instrumental jazz introduces concepts and develops performance skills that are required to perform a variety of instrumental jazz styles.

The three levels of Instrumental Jazz are combined at Archbishop MacDonald High School to form one group. To see the differentiated expectations for each level, refer to the extracted material in the addendum to this course outline.

IB Philosophy

MAC's courses use the IB philosophy to encourage the holistic development of all students. The Learner Profile and Approaches to Teaching and Learning are used at all levels so that students develop a better understanding of curriculum objectives. This course will focus on the Learner Profile for THINKERS because we use critical and

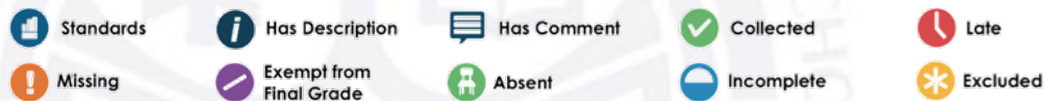
creative thinking skills to act on complex problems. Our Approaches to Learning skill will be THINKING because we emphasize skills such as reflection and critical thinking.

Assessment

The assessment plan for the course will be a balance of assessment for learning, assessment as learning, and assessment of learning. Your summative grade will be calculated **cumulatively** throughout the semester with the following:

Attendance and Ensemble Skills	30%
Homework and Practice	15%
Improvisation	15%
Performance Skills	40%

The code NHI may be used to represent coursework that has not been handed in. It is representative of a zero. In addition, the following may appear for a student in PowerSchool instead of, or in addition to, a numeric grade:



Disclaimer

A wide range of assessment information is used in the development of a student's final grade. At Archbishop Macdonald Catholic High School, individualized assessments provide specific information regarding student progress and overall performance in class. Student assessment may vary from student to student to adapt for differences in student needs, learning styles, preferences, and paces. It should also be noted that not all assignments are used to determine the final grade, and that scale factors may have been used to determine the weight of individual assignments.

Personal Mobile Device Standards

Mobile Devices and Social Media Use:

- Personal mobile devices are to be silenced or turned off and stored in the student's assigned locker during the day, which must be locked.
- No personal mobile devices are to be used during the day except for at lunch.
- No social media is to be accessed during the school day.
- The standards for Personal Mobile Devices includes cell phones, SMART watches, earbuds, and headphones
- Non-compliance with the standards will result in consequences of a suspension or loss of privileges such as participation in school trips, or activities, sports teams, and extracurricular activities.

Expectations

Expectations of students

1. Students will attend all scheduled classes, rehearsals, concerts, and festivals.

It is imperative that all students attend all classes. The repertoire of the jazz band demands that there is one person on a part in most arrangements and therefore the presence of all members of the band is crucial. Your commitment to the group must be a priority—if you feel that you cannot honour this commitment please let another student take your place.

- Medical, dental, and other appointments should, wherever possible, be made outside of class time.
- A note or phone call from a parent/guardian is required for all absences. The note must be turned into the office to gain a “class admit” slip.
- Attendance is very important to student achievement and to the student’s understanding of the complex nuances of the music studied in each class. Because this class meets once a week as a group and every other week in sectionals, students must make every effort to attend all classes and performances. Poor attendance will inevitably result in poor grades. **Any student who has 3 or more unexcused absences may be counseled to drop the course.**
- All students must participate in the scheduled concerts. The dates for these concerts are listed in the student agenda. Students who cannot attend should let the instructor know six weeks in advance; these students will be expected to make alternate arrangements for performance evaluation with the instructor.

2. Students will be prompt to class.

- Students are expected to arrive on time and to set up quickly.
- If time permits, students should use an electronic tuner to check their intonation.
- Students should warm up quietly until the teacher approaches the podium.
- Tardiness will be recorded and students who are habitually late will be dealt with in accordance with the school attendance/discipline policy.

3. Missed Exams and Assignments.

- If a student is ill on the day of an exam or the due date of an essay or other type of major evaluation, it is the student’s responsibility to see me on the day of return to see if and when it is possible to take a make-up exam.
- Acceptable reasons for missing an exam (such as illness, extended leave, tragedy, etc.) must be verified with a note from a parent, or guardian, or physician, etc, to obtain an excused absence.
- No penalty will be assessed for exams or assignments missed due to an

excused absence.

- A mark of zero will be assigned for exams or assignments missed due to an unexcused absence.
- Absolutely no exams are written once the corrected exams are returned.

4. Homework and Assignments

- Practice is homework! An ongoing assignment is to master, and, ideally, to memorize, the repertoire. All students are expected to devote a reasonable amount of time to practicing exercises and repertoire. Regular (daily) practice is recommended as it is the only way to develop the physical and aural skills required to perform at higher levels.
- All theory and research assignments must be completed and handed in on time.

5. Behavior and Participation

- Students are expected to participate in a cooperative manner in all classroom activities and to play all exercises and pieces.
- Students are expected to remain on task and to refrain from disrupting the class by talking or playing out of turn or engaging in other disruptive activities.
- Students are expected to participate in all concerts and festival performances.
- Students are expected to take their own notes during lectures and class discussions.
- As Catholic educators, teachers will respect the dignity and inestimable value of each individual; students are to show the same respect for others in the class.
- Verbal and physical abuse will not be tolerated.

6. Problems and Difficulties

- It is the student's responsibility to make an appointment with the instructor to discuss any difficulty that he or she is having with any section of the course.
- The student should report any problems with equipment or with other members of the music program that arise during the scheduled music classes, rehearsals, or on field trips.

7. Creative Work

- By its very nature Instrumental Jazz is a creative art form. This is epitomized in the act of improvisation. All students are expected to improvise and to develop improvisation skills through learning and performing written solos, transcribing and performing recorded solos and studying jazz related theory such as scales, chord construction, form, jazz styles, etc.

- Students may be asked to transpose, compose and/or arranged music as part of the course requirement.

Unexcused absences and/or lates are unacceptable and may have a negative effect on the grade. Missed coursework may be expected to be completed and may be scored as zero or NHI until submitted (see disclaimer).

Student Handbook [LINK](#)

Academic Integrity [LINK](#)

