



West Liberty High School Band

310 W. Maxson Ave., West Liberty, IA 52776-1039

Phone: 319-627-2115 | Fax: 319-627-2046

asmith@wl.k12.ia.us

What is a jazz band?

Jazz Band is a 18 to 20 person extracurricular band composed of saxophones, trombones, trumpets, piano, guitar, bass guitar, and drum set. There are some opportunities for additional instruments including tuba and vibraphone. Jazz Band learns and performs music of the following genres: Swing (Big Band era), Latin jazz, Rock, Pop, and Funk.

How will jazz band be safe this year?

- Rehearsals will be held in the auditorium with one section per side of the space (saxes, trumpets, trombones, rhythm section). Within each section, students will be placed with 6 ft horizontal spacing from each other.
- All students will have their temperature checked upon arrival. Please enter and exit using the doors behind the band room, adjacent to the gravel parking lot behind the Fine Arts shed. Doors will be propped open so you will not need to touch any handles.
- All wind players will wear an instrumentalist mask and use a nylon bell cover. All rhythm section players will wear a regular mask.
- Seating charts and attendance will be consistently used in case the need for contact tracing arises.
- We will utilize a 15-minute break halfway through practice to allow for the air to be exchanged and filtered by the HVAC system.
- All stands, chairs, amps, and other surfaces will be disinfected before and after rehearsal.

What are the expectations for jazz band?

- Attend rehearsal weekly from 5:30 to 7:30 pm on Mondays (or notify Ms. Smith in advance if you will be absent)
- Practice your music outside of rehearsal until you can play with consistently accurate notes, rhythms, articulations, and dynamics
- Listen to jazz music weekly outside of rehearsal*
- If the IHSMIA moves forward with a competition season this year (January through March), we will likely audition the jazz band into JV and Varsity bands.

Who is eligible for jazz band? How do I join jazz band?

- Some fundamental music knowledge and skills will be necessary in order to be successful in jazz band. Students in grades 8-12 who can play [*Instant WarmUps*](#) by Michael Sweeney should have the skills needed to be successful in jazz band. If you're not sure, talk to Ms. Smith and we can decide together what is needed to help you be ready for jazz band.
- Pick up a folder of jazz band music from Ms. Smith on Friday (9/18) or Monday (9/21), or let her know you would like music, and she will find a way to get a folder to you.
- Students are required to meet district eligibility requirements in order to maintain participation in Jazz Band (ie, enroll in at least 3 classes per trimester; follow Student Good Conduct guidelines in the WLHS Activities Handbook).

What if I am not able to attend rehearsals in the building yet? Is there virtual jazz band?

- Much of jazz band rehearsal requires live musical interaction between players in order to achieve adequate balance, blend, style, and improvisation. Replicating this experience virtually will not be 100% possible, but we will do our best to include any student that wants to learn to play jazz music.
- Ms. Smith can email PDF sheet music to you, record rehearsals for you to listen and play along with, and send many of our jazz songs to you via SmartMusic for at-home practice. Please let Ms. Smith know if you have additional ideas for how we can create a valuable virtual experience for you.

*Jazz music, like language, is best learned by listening and repeating. Listening to jazz is critical to developing your ability to play with correct style and articulation. Ms. Smith will periodically post listening playlists for you on the band website at wlhscmetband.com/for-students/jazz



West Liberty High School Band

310 W. Maxson Ave., West Liberty, IA 52776-1039

Phone: 319-627-2115 | Fax: 319-627-2046

asmith@wl.k12.ia.us

WLHS Comet Jazz Band Fall Calendar 2020

October						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mondays Rehearse 5:30-7:30 pm

Weds, Oct. 14 Perform: 4 to 5 pm
WL Farmers Market

Weds, Oct. 21 Perform: Time TBA
Homecoming Assembly
(Memorial Field)

November						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Mondays Rehearse 5:30-7:30 pm

Sun, Nov. 22 Perform: 3 to 4 pm
WL Holiday Open House

In your folder...	By ...	Listen to these similar charts....
Instant WarmUps	Michael Sweeney	N/A
Blue 'N' Moody	Michael Sweeney	Count Basie - Moon River Benny Golson - An Afternoon in Paris
C-Jam Blues	Duke Ellington (Rick Stitzel)	Duke Ellington - C Jam Blues Oscar Peterson - C Jam Blues
Oye Como Va	Tito Puente (Paul Murtha)	Tito Puente - Oye Como Va Santana - Oye Como Va
Calle Ocho	Jeff Jarvis	Mason Jazz - Cha Cha Cha Jazz at Lincoln Center - Cha Cha Toda la Noche
Coco Walk	Victor Lopez	Victor Lopez - A Night in Havana Chucho Valdes & The Afro Cuban Messengers

Mission statement: "We are here to become better leaders and community members, by making music we love with people we care about."



West Liberty High School Band

310 W. Maxson Ave., West Liberty, IA 52776-1039

Phone: 319-627-2115 | Fax: 319-627-2046

asmith@wl.k12.ia.us

Mission statement: "We are here to become better leaders and community members, by making music we love with people we care about."