

HOLLY GROVE MIDDLE  
**BULLDOGS**  
**JAZZ BAND**

## **Audition Packet**

Students interested in auditioning for the 2023-24 Jazz Band need to go to the band website ([www.hollygrovebands.com](http://www.hollygrovebands.com)), read all of the audition information, print out the audition material, and sign up online for an audition spot. Only students who sign up online will be allowed to audition.

Auditions are August 23 (Individual Audition) and August 24 (Callback/Ensemble Audition). Individual auditions will begin after school and students are free to leave once they have auditioned. Callback auditions will begin at 3:10 and will end at 4:00. Results will be posted on August 25 on the band website. Track 2 students that will be out of town during the audition must contact Mr. Capps ([acapps@wcpss.net](mailto:acapps@wcpss.net)) and arrange to audition BEFORE August 23. There will not be a second set of auditions.

### **Audition Requirements**

Individual Auditions 8/23, Ensemble Auditions 8/24 (upon call back)

#### **Wind players will be asked to...**

1. Play the Head from Blue Monk – Page 52 of Real Book 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (12 measures)
2. Play the etude for the appropriate instrument on the HGMS Band website (24 measures)
3. Improvise for 2 choruses (24 measures)
4. Stop Playback track

#### **Piano/Guitar players will be asked to...**

1. Play the Head from Blue Monk – Page 52 of Real Book 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (12 measures)
2. Play the comping etude for the appropriate instrument on the HGMS Band website (24 measures)
3. Improvise for 2 choruses (24 measures)
4. Stop Playback track

#### **Bass players will be asked to...**

1. Play the Head from Blue Monk – Page 52 of Real Book 6<sup>th</sup> Edition (12 measures)
2. Play the walking bass line supplied on the HGMS Band website (24 measures)
3. Improvise for 2 choruses (24 measures)
4. Stop Playback track

#### **Drum players will be asked to...**

1. Perform the drum styles and improvisation as listed on the file on the HGMS Band website.
2. Play the drum part for *Manhattan Dance Party* with the background.



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## **COMMITMENT**

JAZZ BAND will run for the entire length of the school year. Please make sure that you are communicating with me when you will not be at rehearsal. Students who do not come to rehearsal for any reason may be pulled from or not included in the group or a performance depending upon the circumstances. JAZZ BAND is an ensemble. When one person is missing it affects everyone. Rehearsals and performances are expected to be a priority. We will meet every Thursday afternoon from 3:00-4:30. Students are also asked to attend K-9 sectionals during the week. This will allow us to practice with everyone. If you are tracked out, you are expected to attend 2/3 of the Thursday afternoon rehearsals during your track out. Please make every effort to be at those rehearsals. You are not required to attend the K-9 rehearsals during track out.

## **TRIPS AND PERFORMANCES**

JAZZ BAND will have several performances throughout the school year, both in and outside of school. JAZZ BAND members are expected to be available for all performances.

## **INFORMATION PACKET**

Please read through and fill out the papers in the information packet. The packet is due back to me on the Individual Audition Day (August 23).

## **STAYING IN TOUCH**

I hope this gave you the information you needed to help you understand the commitment level required for JAZZ BAND. I look forward to seeing all of you at auditions! This is going to be a great year!!

**Communication is the key to success. You can reach me by several methods:**

Email: [acapps@wcpss.net](mailto:acapps@wcpss.net)

School Phone: (919)567-4177 Ext. 20470 (Band Room Office)

**Please feel free to contact me at any time. Email is the best way to reach me quickly.**

Adam Capps  
Band Director  
Holly Grove Middle



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**1. What is JAZZ BAND?**

Jazz Band is an elite group of musicians from Holly Grove Middle who show excellence in their musical skills, academics and behavior. The Jazz Band performs at school and community events, representing the best of Holly Grove.

**2. I'M IN 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE. CAN I AUDITION?**

Yes! All grade levels are welcome to audition.

**3. WHAT DO I NEED FOR AUDITIONS?**

You will need the instrument you plan to audition on. This includes any amps/accessories needed for your instrument. Make sure you are available to attend both days of the audition. There will be a list posted on the band room door as well as on the band website of the students who will need to return for the second day of auditions.

**4. DO I NEED TO PREPARE SOMETHING TO PLAY?**

Yes. Each instrument will have specific music to prepare for the audition. Please see the Jazz Band Audition page on the band website ([www.hollygrovebands.com](http://www.hollygrovebands.com)) to find out exactly what you will need to prepare on your instrument to play at the audition.

**5. WHEN WILL WE HAVE PRACTICES?**

We will practice during K-9 time all year long. Jazz Band members are expected to attend 3 days of K-9 rehearsal a week. We will also practice on Thursday afternoons from 3:00-4:30. You are allowed to miss 1 Tuesday practice during track out. You are not required to attend the K-9 rehearsals during track out.

**6. CAN I PLAY SPORTS OR BE IN DRAMA CLUB OR OTHER CLUBS AND BE IN JAZZ BAND?**

JAZZ BAND will practice during the day (K9) and every Thursday afterschool. Your sports teams practice after school almost every day of the week. If you really want to participate in a one season sport (not cheerleading) then we can probably work something out. Just remember that your teammates and your fellow Jazz Band members are counting on you to be at practice and rehearsal. It really hurts the group when one person is missing. We rely on everyone in the group to share the same level of commitment. You may not want to stretch yourself too thin and wear yourself out. You will not be able to participate in other clubs/activities during enrichment time if you are in JAZZ BAND.

**7. WHAT KINDS OF MUSIC WILL WE BE MUSIC?**

Although the Jazz Band will mostly play music from the Jazz era including, but not limited to; swing, blues and cool jazz, the band will also play jazz funk, rock and pop. Students will have a chance to play classic music from the past as well as hits of today. Each member will need to fundraise or pay the \$100 cost to cover music that will help us add music to the Jazz Band Library. We will start our first fundraiser in the early fall (August/September).



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**8. WHERE WILL WE PERFORM?**

We will perform at the band concerts and in performances for the school. We will have our annual Grinch performance in December. This will be in combination with Drama.

**9. WHAT IS THE JAZZ BANDS CONCERT ATTIRE?**

Concert attire for Jazz Band includes: black dress pants, black dress shoes and black socks. A black dress shirt and tie that will be worn for all concerts will be ordered in August. This shirt and tie will be covered in the \$100 paid or fundraised by all Jazz Band members. Students who have previously been a part of Jazz Band will only need to pay \$80 to help cover the cost of music as long as their Jazz Band shirt still fits.

**10. DO I HAVE TO BE IN BAND CLASS TO AUDITION?**

No. You are welcome to audition if you are not in band class. Anyone who loves to make music and wants to perform should audition to be a part of the JAZZ BAND.

**11. HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE GOING TO BE IN THE GROUP?**

I plan to accept 15-20 people into the group.

**12. DO I NEED TO KNOW HOW TO READ MUSIC?**

Although reading music is very important in Jazz Band, being able to play your instrument well and play with others is also important. If you know your way around your instrument, but do not know how to read music do not be discouraged in auditioning. If you have something to add to the group, we will work with you to help you learn to read the music. There will also be opportunities in Jazz Band to play things that are not written down, such as improv solos.

**13. HOW LONG IS JAZZ BAND?**

JAZZ BAND will go from August – May. Please make sure that you are able to make a commitment to the group for the entire year. We are constantly working on new music and performing.

**14. WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?**

The judges will be looking at your technique, performance skills, style, and most importantly your attitude.

**15. I WOULD LOVE TO GO TO NYC, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN AFFORD IT. WILL YOU HAVE FUNDRAISERS? IS IT REQUIRED?**

We will have several fundraisers for the NYC trip. In previous years, most kids raised the money for half-off their entire trip through the fundraisers. Some have even raised their entire trip cost through fundraisers. NYC is not required; however, we would love to have all Jazz Band members attend this trip.



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1. **JAZZ BAND members must maintain a C average or above in all classes in order to be eligible to perform.**
2. **JAZZ BAND members must maintain excellent behavior in all classes and throughout the school. ISS and OSS will result in removal from the ensemble.**
3. **JAZZ BAND members need to have rides arranged ahead of time. Rehearsals will end at 4:30. All students must be picked up no later than 4:35. Students are allowed ONE late pick up per semester. Please inform Mr. Capps of transportation issues ASAP.**
4. **Mr. Capps must be notified by a parent/guardian of all absences from rehearsal. Excessive absences from class/rehearsals will result in removal from the ensemble. Students are allowed to miss ONE Tuesday afternoon rehearsal during their track out unless approved in advance by Mr. Capps.**
5. **All dress rehearsals and performances are mandatory. If a conflict arises, Mr. Capps must be notified by a parent/guardian of the conflict as soon as possible.**
6. **JAZZ BAND members are expected to participate in all fundraising activities. Members and their families will complete their fair share (\$100) of the fundraising efforts for the group.**
7. **JAZZ BAND members must arrive to all rehearsals and performances on time. If a student is going to be late to a performance or rehearsal it is their responsibility to inform Mr. Capps as soon as possible, preferably before the rehearsal or performance begins. Excessive tardiness will result in removal from the ensemble.**
8. **JAZZ BAND members must come to rehearsals with instrument and accessories, as well as all music, and to performances with proper concert attire.**
9. **Mr. Capps will gladly meet with parents to discuss questions or concerns by appointment only. Please do not disrupt rehearsal or a performance to discuss your questions/concerns.**

*I understand the requirements and expectations of the JAZZ BAND members. I agree to abide by the expectations and guidelines set in the contract. I agree to communicate with Mr. Capps should I have any questions, concerns, conflicts, etc. I understand that the JAZZ BAND is an ensemble. It is my responsibility to fulfill my commitment to the group. If I am unable to fulfill my commitment for any reason, it is my responsibility to inform Mr. Capps as soon as possible. I understand that if I fail to meet the guidelines or expectations of the contract, I may lose my privilege of performing or I may be removed from the group. I agree to do my best to set an example of excellence and to represent Holly Grove Middle and the band program well when I am at school and out in the community.*

**Student Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_