

## The Bromfield School - Music Department

### Jazz Improvisation Workshop - Syllabus

**Course Description:** Jazz is considered to be the one truly American style of music. Its origins are based here in the United States in places such as New Orleans, Chicago, St. Louis and across the South. This course will use the rich history of jazz to inform performance practice develop the following skills:

- Improvising over basic jazz forms and harmonic structures.
- Developing fluency in the melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic language of jazz.
- Using recordings to inform authentic performance of varied jazz styles.
- Understanding the history of jazz and its influence on music around the world.
- Listening and responding to great jazz recordings and how they influence personal performance.

"Jazz Improvisation Workshop" will introduce you to the world of jazz music through solo and ensemble performance. Students will develop fluency in the language of jazz including scales, modes, and rhythmic cells. As these skills are developed, students will use them in the performance of tradition jazz charts from a variety of styles.

Jazz has its roots as an aural art form passed down through sound rather than notation. The course will help you to become a discriminating consumer of jazz through attendance at live concerts in the local area, in-class performances, and through guided listening examples both inside and outside of class. These listening opportunities will be used to further inform performance in class.

Students will be strongly encouraged to join the after school jazz ensemble as this will further develop the skills taught in this course. However, participation in the jazz ensemble is not required.

*Students involved in the Music Program are expected to:*

- a. respect others, property, the learning environment, and him/herself in language, action, and dress.*
- b. exhibit honesty, integrity, self-control, responsibility, trust, concern for the well-being of others and oneself, and a striving toward excellence.*
- c. demonstrate consistency and purpose in his/her focus upon personal growth through the privilege of public education.*

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. You will need some type of audio device that plays compact discs.
2. Required Text issued from School: Jazz Styles: History and Analysis by Mark Gridley, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., Prentice-Hall Publications; Upper Saddle River, NJ. (2006)
3. You will need a three-ring binder with blank paper in it for note taking and saving class handouts.
4. You will need to attend one public concert each quarter that is pre-approved by the instructor.
5. A brief, two-page review of each concert will be required.
6. There will be one written test per quarter.
7. If you take this course seriously and put in honest effort, it should be a very rewarding experience for you.

### GRADING: (per quarter)

Individual Practice and Preparation: 40 points  
Concert Review: 20 points

Attitude and Participation: 40 points  
**Total: 100 points**