

## **Course Description**

### **Grades 9-12 High School Jazz Band**

**Philosophy Statement:** Sing to Him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. Psalm 33:3  
Music is a gift from God given to mankind to enrich lives and enhance man's expression of love to Him. Our desire is that our students focus their gifts and talents into expressions that glorify God and reflect His image.

**Course Objective:** To play jazz through a variety of different styles of jazz music. These styles are blues, shuffle, ballad, samba, and rock. Students will play and improve upon improvisation through chordal changes and alternative forms, including rhythm changes, and blues form. Finally, the members of the jazz ensemble will prepare for performances, festivals, and contests.

**Textbooks:** The Swing Classics for Jazz Ensemble  
Hal Leonard Corp.  
Copyright 1987

Authentic Sounds of the Big Band Era  
The Big 3 Music Corp.  
Copyright 1975

Exciting Sounds of the Big Band Era  
The Big 3 Music Corp.  
Copyright 1975

#### **Materials:**

- Musical instruments
- Improvisational selections

**Time Allotment:** 70 minutes per day, three days per week

The Des Moines Christian Jazz Ensemble begins rehearsal in late September. The first performance of the year is SCIBA Districts. This performance will qualify the band for the Iowa Jazz Championships. Between the months of January and March, the Jazz Ensemble will select various jazz festivals in the metro to attend. This will include festivals such as: UNI Tallcorn, Jack Oatts, Central College, Council Bluffs, Truman State, Hooverfest, and Woodward Granger. The state festival is in January and is attended annually. The Iowa Jazz Championships is the goal at the end of each year. The final concert is Jazz Night in April.

#### **Course Content:**

- Preparation for jazz competitions
- Preparation for concerts

#### **Areas to be evaluated:**

- Attendance at rehearsals
- Attendance at performances

#### **Additional Activities:**

- Students will be nominated for CJC and Drake Honor Jazz
- Try outs for All-State Jazz
- Members are encouraged to attend improvisation lessons at the Creative Music Studio by Susie Miget