



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About Joining the BMS Jazz Band

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### 1. What are the expectations for the students in Jazz Band?

- Our expectations for students in Jazz Band is to have fun playing their instrument since the music we play is quite different than in Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Band. The students that make up the jazz group are very committed band members since they have to give up another elective choice to join. They are also considered a “cut above” others since not everyone who auditions will make the group.

### 2. How is Jazz Band different from the concert groups (Wind Ensemble/Symphonic Band)?

- Jazz Band is a much smaller group since we only allow jazz-specific instruments (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and rhythm section). We learn about the history of jazz, and do quite a bit of music listening. We also start to learn improvisation where students get to create a solo as they play, even though the music isn't written down. We learn different jazz styles, such as Swing, Latin, Bebop, Blues, and Rock.

### 3. How many students are accepted into the Jazz Band?

- We strive to get 20-25 students, and only the top players who wish to join. In years' past, all of the Jazz Band members also made Wind Ensemble. This is not required, but it's the way it usually works out with instrumentation and student interest.

### 4. Does Jazz Band get different opportunities from the other groups?

- Jazz Band serves as our ambassador group that plays at various public functions, such as the Temple VA Hospital (October), Christmas On the Chisholm Trail (December), Temple Jazz Festival (March), Turtle Festival (April), as well as our regular band concerts in December and May at the Belton HS PAC. We've actually had to turn down invitations to play because we've gotten so busy, such as the annual Belton Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

As you can see, Jazz Band gets quite a few more performance opportunities, as well as its own contest at the Temple Jazz Festival in March. We also give out a Jazz Award at the end of the year. We have our own uniform shirt we wear when we perform as well.

We hope this answers your questions, and please let us know if you have more that we can answer. We hope you audition for the Belton Middle School Jazz Band!