

**2026-27 VMHS Instrumental Music Program**  
**Jazz Ensemble Placement Audition Packet**

Enclosed you will find everything you need for your placement audition. Based upon the strength of your audition, you will be placed in one of the following Jazz ensembles:

**Jazz I**

(Made up of the top players on campus regardless of grade)

**Jazz II**

(An intermediate group; typically made up of some Seniors, but is mostly Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen)

**Jazz III**

(Designed to develop musical skills and prepare students for the more advanced ensembles. Typically made up of Seniors, Juniors, and Sophomores but is mostly Freshmen)

**Jazz auditions FOR WIND PLAYERS will take place after school  
Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> in the VMHS Band Room**

**Jazz auditions FOR RHYTHM SECTION will take place after school  
Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> in the VMHS Band Room**

**Go to the band website, click on the QR Code and sign-up for an audition time. Mark the audition time in your day planner and coordinate with your family so that you don't forget or miss your audition.**

\*Remember, jazz band is a separate audition from concert band and marching band.

All audition results will be posted on the "Audition Results" link on the "Resources" page of the band website [www.vmhsband.com](http://www.vmhsband.com).

## PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

\* Part of your audition is seeing how well you follow the instructions below.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR WIND PLAYERS

Your audition will consist of five different components. All audition materials can be found on the "Auditions" link found on the "Resources" page of the band website ([www.vmhsband.com](http://www.vmhsband.com)).

**Wind players, Guitarists, Pianists and Mallet players should play the following:**

1. All 12 Major scales in under 2 minutes. (Total points will be awarded based on how many scales are played correctly)
2. A jazz tune, etude, or transcription of your choice or an excerpt from a jazz band chart (Something you believe shows you at your best!)
  - Lead Trumpet Players: Consider showing your range with this excerpt.
3. The melody to the song **Apple Jump** (Sheet music provided below. Slow tempo is ok!)
4. Solo improvisation to the blues in F or Bb concert (to a recorded track that will be Provided – use youtube) **\*\*Optional, but required for Jazz 1\*\***
5. Sightreading

**Additional for Guitar/Piano Players:** Demonstrate your knowledge of chord voicings on a II-V-I chord progression in the keys of Bb and F. Also play a Bb or F blues progression (memorized).

**Bassists:**

1. Play a walking bass line to the chord changes of a blues in Bb or F.
2. A jazz tune, etude, or transcription of your choice or an excerpt from a jazz band chart.
3. All 12 Major scales in under 2 minutes.
4. Sight Read (music will be provided at the audition)

**Drummers play the following:**

1. Swing time at quarter = 60, 120, & 240
2. Swing Time on Brushes = 120
3. Bossa Nova groove at 120, Samba groove at 240
5. Rock groove at 120
6. Play with a recording on a song of your choice or perform a song of your choice (from jazz band class or a "Real Book", etc.)

MY AUDITION DAY AND TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Band/Color Guard Grade Check

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period	Subject	Grade	ABS/ Tardies	Comments	Teacher INIT.
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					

Band Director Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Performance Standards / Audition Rubric – Scales and Etude

10	<b>There are no discernible flaws</b> to the most discriminating listener. The presentation takes on all positive characteristics of a <i>professional</i> performance.
9	The scale/etude is well in tune and the performance is perceived as effortless. Maximum tempo is used for the instrument on the chromatic scale. The performer plays the scale/etude melodically with proper phrase direction, shape, and tonal energy. <b>All elements of musicality are present.</b>
8	<b>Tone quality is consistent and well-developed over all ranges.</b> Tempo is approaching maximum for the instrument on the chromatic scale. Vibrato is refined and mature. Inconsistencies in pitch in extreme ranges may exist to a small degree. <b>Articulation is clear over the range of the scale and does not cause distraction.</b>
7	Takes on all positive characteristics of a "6" but at a <b>faster tempo</b> (scale) or the <b>marked tempo</b> (etude). There is <b>melodic direction</b> . Phrasing and dynamics are present in the performance. <b>The music begins to take on a refined feeling.</b>
6	<b>Starts and articulation are clear and tone quality is characteristic.</b> Technique is even and there is <i>no smearing</i> . The scale/etude is not perceived as slow/dragging. <b>Rhythm is completely accurate and subdivided correctly.</b> The scale/etude does not rush or drag (maintains a steady pulse). Octave tuning has been addressed though inconsistencies may exist in extreme ranges. Vibrato is present on long notes and <b>the last note of each phrase finishes musically.</b>
5	<b>All notes are correct.</b> <b>Tone is developing properly</b> , but may be inconsistent in extreme ranges. <b>Rhythm is even or very close</b> and the correct range was performed. Vibrato may or may not be present (clarinets do not use vibrato). Articulation is consistent but may be in need of further attention.
4	<b>Most notes are correct</b> but <b>rhythm may be uneven</b> or the music was played too fast for accuracy. Tone quality may not be refined but would not be considered poor.
3	<b>Some of the notes are correct.</b> Tone quality may be poor and the correct range may not have been performed.
2	Tone quality may be poor and <b>many of the notes are wrong</b> , or the student could not finish the etude/scale.
1	The student attempt to play the etude/scale is <b>unrecognizable.</b>

Concert Key Instruments:



# 4. Apple Jump



PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

The musical score for 'Apple Jump' is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 164 beats per minute. It consists of eight staves of music. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score includes various chords such as FΔ, F7, BbΔ, B°7, FA, D-7, G-7, Ab°7, A-7, D7, G-7, C7, BbΔ, B°7, FA, D-7, G-7, C7, FA, A7, A7, D7, D7, G7, G7, C7, C7, FA, G-7, Ab°7, A-7, D7, G-7, C7, FA, F7, BbΔ, B°7, FA, D-7, G-7, C7, FA. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings.



# 4. Apple Jump



PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

The musical score for 'Apple Jump' is written for Bb instruments in 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The key signature has one flat (Bb), and the tempo is marked as 164 beats per minute. The score includes various chord voicings such as GΔ, A-, Bb°7, B-, E7, A-, D7, G7, CA, C#°7, GA, E-7, A-7, Bb°7, B-7, E7, A-7, D7, GA, G7, CA, C#°7, GA, E-7, A-, D7, GA, B7, B7, E7, E7, A7, A7, D7, D7, GA, A-7, Bb°7, B-7, E7, A-7, D7, GA, G7, CA, C#°7, GA, E-7, A-7, D7, GA. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

*E♭ Instruments:*



# 4. Apple Jump



PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

DA E- F<sup>7</sup> F<sup>#7</sup> B7 E- A7

DA D7 GA Ab<sup>7</sup> DA B-7 E-7 A7

DA E-7 F<sup>7</sup> F<sup>#7</sup> B7 E-7 A7b DA D7

GA Ab<sup>7</sup> DA B-7 E- A7 DA F<sup>#7</sup>

F<sup>#7</sup> B7 B7 E7 E7

A7 A7 DA E-7 F<sup>7</sup> F<sup>#7</sup> B7

E-7 A7 DA D7 GA Ab<sup>7</sup> DA B-7 ⊕ E-7 A7 DA

*Bass Clef Concert Key Instruments:*



# 4. Apple Jump



PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

The musical score for "Apple Jump" is written in bass clef, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 164 beats per minute. The piece is composed by Dexter Gordon and consists of 24 measures. The score is presented in seven staves, with the first staff in a bass clef and the subsequent six staves in a soprano clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major). The score includes various chords and melodic lines, with some measures containing rests. The chords are: FA, G-, Ab°7, A-, D7, G-, C7, FA, F7, BbΔ, B°7, FA., D-7, G-7, C7, FA, G-7, Ab°7, A-7, D7, G-7, C7, FA, F7, BbΔ, B°7, FA, D-7, G-, C7, FA, A7, A7, D7, D7, G7, G7, C7, C7, FA, G-7, Ab°7, A-7, D7, G-7, G-7, C7, FA, F7, BbΔ, B°7, FA, D-7, G-7, C7, FA.