



R.D. PARKER COLLEGIATE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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Dear Jazz Band Students and Families,

Please find attached your homework for the extended school suspension weeks of school (April 13th – 24th). These assignments are also available on Parent and Student Connect, and will be on our website, www.rdparkermusic.com.

Students are asked to put in some practice time during the weeks off, to keep their playing skills and repertoire sharp during the off weeks. While our April performances have all been cancelled, we are hoping that it may still be possible for our groups to perform their current repertoire before the end of the school year. A practice log and instructions are included in the attachment.

Additionally, three assignments are attached. Due back on Friday, April 17th is the Maria Schneider NEA Jazz Masters question sheet. This worksheet and accompanying videos will give students some insight into the composer of *City Sunrise* and *Smooth Talk*. This assignment is quite short, and shouldn't take any longer than 15 minutes.

Due back on Wednesday, April 22nd is the History of Jazz – What is Jazz? Worksheet. It provides a very brief look at the History of Jazz, discussing social, historical and political factors in the development of the genre, including the impact of the North American slave trade. This assignment will likely take about 25 minutes.

Finally, the NPR Jazz Profiles assignment is due back on Monday, April 27th. The listening portion of this assignment will take about an hour, with a written component that should take no more than 10 minutes.

Please keep your playing sharp – I hope to see you back in rehearsals (and on stage) very soon!

Kevin Lewis

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Maria Schneider NEA Jazz Masters Video

Name: _____

Due Date: Friday, April 17th

In 2019, the National Endowment for the Arts bestowed its highest honour for a Jazz musician, the Jazz Masters Award, to Maria Schneider, composer of *City Sunrise* and *Smooth Talk*, part of the repertoire for our jazz ensembles.

Watch the following videos:

NEA Tribute Video (5min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhl1ZvTPrCk>

Maria Schneider Speech (6.5min): <https://youtu.be/oQBY5uYt2jM?t=4310>

The first video provides some background information on Maria and her development as a composer and bandleader, while the second video is of her acceptance speech at the NEA Jazz Masters Award.

“Lives are shaped by the encouragement of others, or lack thereof. In this ever-more disconnected world, we need to look away from our phones, and find ways to be a mentor for that moment.... with words, sharing experiences, moments of magic, showing a child they are important.” – Maria Schneider

Reflect on your life’s experience, and write about one experience where a mentor has encouraged you, whether in school, sports or a hobby/interest of yours. What importance did that connection have for you? How might have things been different for you had you not had that connection or encouragement?



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History of Jazz – What is Jazz?

Name: _____

Due Date: Wednesday, April 22nd

Watch the following videos:

What is Jazz? (5min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMgKXbtQwoo>

A History of Jazz (13min): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whN5PXsrP6E>

The first video is by the Smithsonian Museum of American History, asking (and enigmatically answering) the question of What is Jazz? The second video provides a brief overview of the History of Jazz.

From the video *A History of Jazz*, list one artist associated with each era of Jazz:

1. Early Jazz (Ragtime, Blues): _____
2. Dixieland: _____
3. Swing: _____
4. Bebop: _____
5. Post Bop (Modal, Cool, Hard Bop): _____

6. In the video *What is Jazz?*, the style of music called Jazz is described as being very hard to define. How would you define Jazz? (*Hint: Do NOT define Jazz as America!)



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NPR Jazz Profiles

Name: _____

Due Date: Monday, April 27th

Visit the following website, which is the main site for the NPR Jazz Profiles, produced by the National Public Radio in the U.S.:

<https://www.npr.org/series/10208861/npr-s-jazz-profiles>

The podcasts chronicle the lives of significant Jazz musicians, their big albums, and their impact on Jazz. Select one episode, and listen to the entire episode. You might consider selecting a famous player on your instrument, a player who you have recently listened to for a listening log that you enjoyed, or just someone you are interested in learning about. If you still can't decide, I might recommend listening to an episode on either Duke Ellington or Count Basie, as those two musicians had such an impact on the big band tradition, in which we play.

Answer the following questions:

1. Which Jazz musician/bandleader did you decide to listen to an episode about?

2. Why did you choose to learn more about that musician/bandleader?

3. In what time period of history, and what era of Jazz, did your chosen musician take part?

4. What did you learn about this musician? What were they like, and how did they contribute to their art and the world around them?

5. What did you think about this musician's music? Did it move you in any way?



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April 7th, 2020

Dear Jazz Ensemble Students and Parents:

Due Date: Monday, April 27th

During the suspended weeks of school, we are asking that students keep their playing skills and repertoire sharp with regular home practice. During a typical week of school, students play 2.25hrs in Jazz rehearsals and lessons, so at home they are being asked to practice at least 1hr for each suspended week, in addition to their concert band home practice. Audio files of repertoire are available on our website to practice along with: www.rdparkermusic.com/

Jazz Ensemble – Extended Suspension Weeks Student Practice Logs

Name: _____

Month: April

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sunday	Weekly Total
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

Total Practice for Extended Suspension Weeks: _____

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Date