

**The Duke Ellington School Of The Arts**  
**Saxophone Technique**  
**Davey S. Yarborough-instructor**

**Course Description**

**Code: UJ6-7-8-9G/07-08 ( I-IV)**

**Grades: 9-12**

**M-W-F**

**Credit 1:00**

**one year**

Offers the study and performance of saxophone literature, development of relevant styles, improvisational techniques, concepts and appropriate stage decorum. Instructional levels will involve the use of grade 2 through 6 repertoire.

**Pre-requisites:** Students in this class are exclusively selected through audition. Students must have a working saxophone that they can practice away from school on a daily basis.

**Requirements:** Students are to perform at all concerts, recitals, scheduled rehearsals and festivals as these are evaluation activities.

Attendance at all student recitals is mandatory. Any student found not attending a recital or jury will have their technique grade lowered for each offense.

Students will maintain two notebooks for technique class (written assignments and repertoire). After the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, students will also maintain a saxophone ensemble repertoire folder. It is requirement that all music be kept in sheet protectors within the notebook.

Students must comply with all requirements and directives in the community and student handbooks.

Students must create and maintain a basic resumé. (see student handbook for a sample resumé.

All saxophone students will be adjudicated each semester by a jury panel of their instrument family (woodwind). In the senior year their will be only one jury. The final solo performance for a senior saxophone student will be his/her senior recital. This performance will consist of a 20-minute program to include at least one grade V to VI composition to be selected by the technique teacher.

This class is performance-based and will require the students to perform and /or compete in various venues through outside music organizations. This requires the commitment to

being available for travel during class time, after school and sometimes during school vacation days.

Guest artists and clinicians of note will make themselves available to the saxophone technique class throughout this school year. This may include after school and weekend clinics based on the artists availability. Advance notice will be given when these events occur.

Students will be required to know and be able to discuss the history of the saxophone by the conclusion 1<sup>st</sup> advisory.

Memorization of some repertoire is a requirement for this class.

Performance dress will be (men- Black suit with white dress shirt and black bowtie with polished black dress shoes) (ladies- black and/or white formal) unless otherwise instructed by the director.

**Sectional rehearsals:** These rehearsals are generally scheduled at 7:30am, one day per week.

\* Students will be allowed to practice at Ellington on weekdays between 7:30 and 8:20am.

**Materials:** All students are to maintain a notebook for repertoire and a second one for written work. Each saxophone student will be required to submit one essay or research paper each semester. All students are responsible for maintaining their instruments and all accessories needed for performance. Oversized instruments and secondary instruments may be provided to students needing them due to performance repertoire. All saxophone students will be required to bring a working instrument, pencil, Pen, and all accessories needed to perform in class. All students will be required to purchase three technique books and all performance solos. Technique books will be required for all students within two weeks of the opening of school. Solos should be purchased within one week of assignment notification. If there is a problem with getting materials on time, the instructor must be notified by the parent or guardian within 48 hours after the assignment is given.

Required technique books: “35 etudes for saxophone” (Rene Decouais); “The Art Of Saxophone playing” (Larry Teal); “25 exercises for the Saxophone” (Klose); and “Solos for the Alto Saxophone Player” (Larry Teal)

- Additional saxophone technique and repertoire will be supplied by the instructor. It is suggested that the student obtain additional material for their personal library.

**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on attitude, repertoire, concert/recital performance and stage décor, class participation, attendance, behavior and all written

assignments (research papers, essays, performance and written exams). Failure to perform in any competition, concert or festival can result in failure of this course.

Senior instrumental students are required to perform at least one grade V composition or better on senior recital/jury. Students may not participate in graduation exercises without fulfilling this requirement.

Grades will be calculated as follows: Attitude 10%; Performance 30%; Class participation 20%; Attendance 25%; Assignments 15%.

**I have read and fully understand the above course description for the saxophone technique class.**

Student \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ legal guardian \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Duke Ellington School Of The Arts**  
**Saxophone Technique**  
**Davey S. Yarborough-instructor**

**Course objectives**

**Code: UJ 6-7-8-9-/07-08 (I-IV)**

**Credit 1:00**

**Grades: 9-12**

**one year**

**M-W-F**

**Office hours: By Appointment**

Offers the study and performance of saxophone literature, development of relevant styles, improvisational techniques, concepts and appropriate stage decorum. Instructional levels will involve the use of grade 2 through 6 repertoire.

**Pre-requisites:** Students in this class are exclusively selected through audition. Students must have a working saxophone that they can practice away from school on a daily basis.

**DCPS music performance content standards will be implemented as portrayed in their document.**

**The saxophone students will:**

**Semester one:**

- Read, write, recite and perform the chromatic scale.
- discuss the history of the saxophone
- read, write and perform all major scales
- read, write and discuss all key signatures
- read write and discuss all intervals and enharmonics
- perform any assigned grade II-III solo/ensemble or orchestral excerpt with 85% accuracy.
- Read, write and discussion any configuration of music notation up to sixteenth notes
- Name ten professional saxophone artists that they have listened to.
- Create and maintain a basic resume

**Semester two:**

All of the above mentioned plus the following:

- Read, write and discuss all forms of the minor scale
- Read, write and discuss all major and arpeggios
- Read, write and discuss all dominant and pentatonic scales.
- Perform at least one graded recital

- Perform with a saxophone ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, etc.)

### **Semester three:**

All of the above mentioned plus the following:

- Read, write, and discuss any configuration of music notation up to 32<sup>nd</sup> notes
- Read, discuss, and perform a selected grade III-IV solo or orchestral excerpt
- Read, write, perform and discuss the blues, whole tone and diminished scales
- Perform a selected grade 4/5 solo or orchestral excerpt on recital

### **Semester four:**

All of the above mentioned plus:

- Performance of at least one grade III-V solo/orchestral excerpt on student recital
- Performance with a saxophone ensemble in concert/festival and/or recital
- Discuss and perform traditional classical and jazz composition and or excerpts in various styles (Baroque, classical, romantic, impressionistic, twentieth century, New Orleans, blues, swing, straight-ahead, etc.)
- Senior recital material research
- College/conservatory audition preparation

### **Semester five:**

All of the above mentioned plus:

- Perform from memory two standard jazz repertoire compositions with improvisation using the chordal harmonic treatment
- Perform from memory all whole tone & diminished scales
- Selection of the top ten possible schools considered after graduation
- Performance of at least one grade IV-VI on student recital
- Sight-read music in various meters.
- Research professional saxophone players and composers of various styles. (15-20)
- Senior recital preparation.
- Introduction to saxophone instruction concepts
- College auditions

### **Semester six:**

All of the above plus:

- Senior recital
- Mentoring internship and coaching of freshmen and sophomores
- Senior showcase performance.
- Graduation performance preparation

**\* These skills to be developed to at least 85% efficiency with the aid of instruction using, ( but not limited) to the literary materials listed in the course description.**

**Evaluation:** Students will be evaluated on attitude, repertoire, concert/recital performance and stage décor, class participation, attendance, behavior and all written assignments .

( research papers, essays, performance and written exams.) Failure to perform in any competition, concert or festival can result in failure of this course.

No instrumental student will be allowed to participate in graduation activities without performing a senior recital/jury consisting of at least one grade V composition or better.

Grades will be calculated as follows: Attitude-10% - performance 30% - class participation 20% - attendance 25% - assignments 15%.

**I have read and fully understand the above course description for the saxophone technique class.**

Student:\_\_\_\_\_ date:\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ legal guardian\_\_\_\_\_ date:\_\_\_\_\_