



TARPON SPRINGS

LEADERSHIP CONSERVATORY

for the Arts

The Tarpon Springs High School Jazz Ensemble I is under the direction of Mr. Bob Barfield. The Jazz Ensemble I is known for its reputation of high standards and outstanding performances. The group has received straight superior ratings at every Florida Bandmasters Association event for the last 16 years, including both district and state level. In addition to many local, school, and community performances, the jazz ensemble has performed at several jazz festivals in the past. The Jazz Ensemble I was the Grand Champion band at the Lakeside Jazz Festival in Daytona in 2002, 2005, and most recently 2009. The Jazz Ensemble is an annual performer at the Suncoast Dixieland Jazz Classic in Clearwater Beach. In 2007, the jazz ensemble was selected as one of 8 jazz ensembles in the country to perform at the prestigious University of North Texas Jazz Festival in Addison, Texas. Last year, the jazz ensemble was very fortunate to perform on stage at the Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall in New York City. The group also participated in a workshop at the Jazz at Lincoln Center with world famous jazz saxophonist Ted Nash. In addition, the jazz ensemble was selected as one of only 10 groups from around the United States to be a participant in the 2009 Savannah Music Festival's Swing Central Jazz Festival in Savannah, Georgia, and was again selected to participate in the 2010 Swing Central Festival! On April 22nd, the Jazz Ensemble, along with the Wind Ensemble, traveled to Chicago to perform on stage at the world famous Chicago Symphony Hall.

Tarpon Springs High School is fortunate to have jazz as part of the curriculum. The jazz ensemble meets every other day during the school year as a class during the school day, and performs numerous times during the year. This ensemble performs the true American art form, Jazz. The styles of music range from big band, swing, bebop, funk, fusion, and rock. Students are exposed to music from 1900 to present time, and learn basic improvisation skills. During the year, besides working on performance skills, the students study basic jazz theory as it relates to jazz improvisation. They spend time studying the music of Duke Ellington, and do a project on one of the original band members from the Ellington group. They also complete several listening assignments each quarter.

Several of the past members of the Tarpon Springs Jazz Ensemble have gone on to enjoy active careers as professional jazz musicians, both locally and nationally! The band has been featured several times on Student Measures, the local Pinellas County School Board network that features outstanding performance ensembles.

Mr. Barfield has been the Associate Director of the Tarpon Springs High School Leadership Conservatory for the Arts for 11 years, and has taught in the state of Florida for the past 17 years. During his tenure, Mr. Barfield has directed all of the jazz performing ensembles. In addition to his jazz duties, Mr. Barfield also teaches the Marching Band, Music Theory, Wind Ensemble II, the Music Leadership course, and oversees the solo and ensemble process. Mr. Barfield graduated with honors from the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, and while there was a member of the prestigious Jazz Ensemble I. During his time there, he performed with such jazz greats as Louie Bellson, Pat Metheny, James Moody, Randy Brecker, Eddie Daniels, Marcus Roberts, Elaine Elias, Rich Matteson, Bunky Green, Bill Prince, the Airmen of Note, and the Count Basie Orchestra.

