

FINE ARTS - PERFORMING ARTS

Enduring Understandings & Essential Questions

Creativity

- What is music/drama's role in education?
- How is music/drama a lifelong skill?
- How do we communicate the important role of the performing arts to the non-performer?

Developing Ideas

- How are students fluent in the language of the arts?
 - communicating and understanding outside the spoken language
- What does lifelong participation in the arts look like?
- What is the balance between performance and understanding?

Thinking and Feeling

- What are the benefits of an "Art" education?
- What is art's role in the enrichment of the human spirit?
- What would life be like without art?
- What is the relationship between process and product in the arts?

Art and Culture

- What is the role of the performing arts in society?
- Why is it important to be literate in the performing arts?
- What is the relationship between the performing arts and other disciplines (science, math, etc.)?
- What is great art?
- What is the role of the performing arts in history?
- How do the performing arts "communicate" across language and cultural barriers?

PERFORMING ARTS - MUSIC

The music program is designed to provide meaningful experiences for interested students. There are opportunities in both performance and non-performance classes. The curriculum offers sequential learning and allows students to progress individually, challenging each student to reach his/her maximum potential. Courses are available for beginning music students as well as the most advanced students. Courses are designed to develop skills in musicianship, interpersonal relations, listening, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Sequential courses are offered in three performance areas: band, orchestra, and choir. Playing experience is a prerequisite in band and orchestra. Each performing group meets daily and receives full academic credit. Also offered for students interested in music are Electronic Music, Guitar, Piano, and AP Music Theory. These courses meet daily.

CONCERT CHOIR

9th Grade or assignment by Director
(Mixed Voices)
Credit - 1
Full Year

Prerequisite: Previous vocal experience/consent of instructor

Members of Concert Choir develop music reading and singing skills through the study and performance of a wide variety of choral music – from classical to jazz and Broadway. Choir participation gives students the skills and opportunities to audition for All-Suburban or All-District Choirs, as well as participate in area music festivals. Students are required to participate in the scheduled performances. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

CHAMBER CHOIR

10th - 12th Grade
(Mixed Voices)
Credit - 1
Full Year

Prerequisite: AUDITION ONLY

Chamber Choir gives advanced vocal students the opportunity to study challenging high school choral literature in a broad variety of styles. Students further develop their singing skills and musical knowledge. Members are expected to participate in area music festivals and are encouraged to audition for All-District and All-State Choirs. Students are required to participate in the scheduled performances. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

9th - 12th Grade
(Mixed Voices)
Credit - 1
Full Year

Prerequisite: AUDITION ONLY AND A CONCURRENT MEMBER IN A CHS MUSIC ENSEMBLE

This 12-24 member vocal ensemble studies and performs a variety of contemporary vocal styles including Broadway and jazz. This class meets during “zero” hour four days a week. Performances include both *a capella* and accompanied musical settings. Learning experiences often include interaction with other vocal jazz groups and instrumentalists. Students perform in a wide variety of venues and at all CHS choir concerts, and are required to participate in the scheduled performances. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

CONCERT ORCHESTRA

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: Previous instrumental experience/consent of instructor

Concert Orchestra is open to all string players who wish to study music through performance, increase their individual performance skills, and participate in a large ensemble. Concert orchestra meets daily, and string orchestra literature is studied. This ensemble is a performing group that presents concerts throughout the year and performs in festivals and clinics. All music and some instruments are furnished. Students are required to attend all performances and extra rehearsals, to supply certain parts of the orchestra uniform, and to supply accessories to their instruments. Grade evaluation is based on written examinations, skill improvement on instruments, daily participation, and attendance at performances. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: AUDITION ONLY

Symphonic Orchestra is selected by audition. String, wind, and percussion students will audition or be selected if needed to participate in this ensemble to perform symphonic literature. Students will focus on string literature and will have the opportunity for full orchestra literature. Symphonic orchestra meets daily and students are expected to perform at a mature level, have a good understanding of the fundamentals of music, and be proficient on their instrument. The ensemble is a performing group that presents concerts and participates at festivals and clinics and community service events. Students are required to attend all performances and extra rehearsals, to supply parts of the orchestra uniform, and to supply accessories to their instruments. Grade evaluation is based on written examinations, skill improvement on instruments, daily participation, and attendance at performances. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

CONCERT BAND

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: Previous instrumental experience

Concert Band is open to all wind instrument and percussion players who wish to participate in a performing group. Concert Band meets daily to refine the fundamentals of music and to expose students to a variety of music. The Concert Band is a performing group that presents concerts throughout the year. It also participates in festivals and clinics each year and performs as a pep band at various athletic and community events. All music and some instruments are furnished. Students are required to attend all performances and extra rehearsals, to supply certain parts of the band uniform, and to supply accessories to their instruments. Grade evaluation is based on written or playing examinations, skill improvement on instruments, daily participation, and attendance at performances. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

SYMPHONIC BAND

10th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: Concert Band

Symphonic Band is open to students who play wind or percussion instruments. Students are expected to perform at a mature level, have a good understanding of the fundamentals of music, and be proficient on their instrument. The Symphonic Band meets daily to explore a variety of music in the Wind Band tradition. The ensemble is a performing group that presents concerts, participates at festivals, and also performs as a pep band at athletic and community service events. Students are required to attend all performances and extra rehearsals, to supply certain parts of the band uniform, and to supply accessories to their instruments. Grade evaluation is based on written or playing examinations, skill improvement on instruments, daily participation, and attendance at performances. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

JAZZ BAND

9th - 12th Grade

Credit – 1/2

Full Year

Prerequisite: Previous instrumental experience, current membership in a CHS performing ensemble, and/or permission of director. Students are required to attend the initial zero hour rehearsals prior to CHS jazz auditions. Each student participating in Jazz Band and Instrumental Jazz Ensemble must participate in the jazz audition process in late August/early September, regardless of experience.

Jazz Band is offered for students wishing to learn and develop the basic skills and concepts associated with jazz performance. This can be done on a student's primary or secondary instrument. Standard big band instrumentation (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, upright/electric bass, keyboard, and percussion) is used. Jazz Band rehearses two mornings per week during the "zero" hour. The band presents concerts throughout the year and participates in festivals and clinics. Students perform various styles of jazz including swing, bebop, Latin, rock, and fusion. Improvisational skills are developed as well as an understanding of the historical significance of jazz music and musicians. All music and some instruments are furnished. Students are asked to supply certain parts of a jazz uniform, to supply accessories for their instruments, and to participate in performances through the year. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: Previous instrumental experience, current membership in a CHS performing ensemble, and/or permission of director. Students are required to attend the initial zero hour rehearsals prior to CHS jazz auditions. Each student participating in Jazz Band and Instrumental Jazz Ensemble must participate in the jazz audition process in late August/early September, regardless of experience.

Instrumental Jazz Ensemble is offered for students with advanced techniques on instruments commonly associated with jazz performance (trumpet, saxophone, trombone, guitar, upright/electric bass, keyboard, and percussion). Students perform various styles of jazz from ragtime to bebop to fusion. All music and some instruments are furnished. Students are asked to supply certain parts of a jazz uniform and to supply accessories for their instruments. Instrumental Jazz Ensemble rehearses four mornings per week during the "zero" hour. It presents concerts and participates in festivals and clinics. Students are required to participate in all performances throughout the year. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

CHAMBER MUSIC / SMALL ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - variable, 1/4 to 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: Performance skill on a Band or Orchestra instrument, piano, guitar, harp, or voice

Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance is a contract course that must be individually arranged with the Band Director, Chorus Director, or Orchestra Director. These ensembles include flute choir, percussion ensemble, wind ensemble, etc. Students will learn how to do the following: form a small ensemble; select appropriate music; research musical/performance style; and schedule, arrange, and publicize performances. All music and some instruments are furnished. Students will be evaluated on their performances and research on music performed. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

ELECTRONIC MUSIC I

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester - 1

Prerequisite: None

It's hip, it's cool, it's electronic music! Did you ever have a song in your thoughts and you want to figure out how to write it down? Do you like doodling on the piano or the drums? Did you ever want to learn how to use a synthesizer and create tracks of music? Then electronic music is the place for you! This introductory course designed for the novice emphasizes a "hands-on" working knowledge of the music recording industry through computer-controlled music systems. Software used in this class lets you create songs using your own compositions and pre-made loops. Students will work with MIDI piano keyboards and virtual instruments. They will also learn how to create their own CD label and cover jacket. Students are expected to complete projects, prepare compositions, pass quizzes, and prepare a complete CD recording of their music compilations. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

ELECTRONIC MUSIC - II

9th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1/2

Semester – 1 & 2

Prerequisite: Electronic Music I

This is a continuation of Electronic Music I, but this course emphasizes creating loops from scratch using MIDI hardware and virtual instruments to produce more complex musical compositions. Software used this semester is a virtual recording studio! Students will also study copyright issues for music production and how to market your music. Students are expected to complete projects, prepare compositions, pass quizzes, and prepare a complete CD recording of their music compilations. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

ELECTRONIC MUSIC - ADVANCED

9th - 12th Grade
Credit - 1/2
Semester – 1 & 2

Prerequisite: Electronic Music I & II

This is for students who have completed Electronic Music I & II. This is a performance-based Electronic Music class that may be repeated every year. Students are expected to take the knowledge learned from Electronic Music I & II to an advanced level. Students are expected to compose both vocal and instrumental compositions. Students will complete projects, prepare compositions, pass quizzes, and prepare a complete CD recording of their music compilations. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

GUITAR I

9th - 12th Grade
Credit - 1/2
Semester - 1

Prerequisite: Own or have access to an acoustic guitar

Guitar I is an introductory music course that is designed for students with little to no music performance and/or guitar experience. This class is largely self-paced and self-directed to allow for individual performance skills to progress at a pace that is most successful for the individual student. The curriculum will focus on basic music notation, chord symbol reading and music performance skills on guitar. The student will be expected to supply the required instructional method book and will be required to pass written and playing examinations. Development of a life-long skill for enjoyment and pleasure is the main objective of this course. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

GUITAR II

9th - 12th Grade
Credit - 1/2
Semester - 2

Prerequisite: Guitar I or consent of instructor and must own or have access to an acoustic guitar

A continuation of Guitar I, this course emphasizes increased performance ability and introduces improvisation. This class is largely self-paced and self-directed to allow for individual performance skills to progress at a pace that is most successful for the individual student. Students will focus on different musical styles including folk, jazz, pop, country, and rock. The student will be expected to develop an individualized plan and pass written and playing examinations. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

PIANO

9th - 12th Grade

(9th with consent of instructor)

Credit - 1/2

Semester - 1 and/or 2

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for the absolute beginner with little to no experience in playing piano. Development of life-long keyboard skills for musical enjoyment and pleasure is the main objective. This course will focus on building basic music reading skills, the fundamentals of keyboard performance, and introductory piano literature. The student will be expected to pass written and playing examinations. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**

AP MUSIC THEORY

11th - 12th Grade

Credit - 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: A working knowledge of music notations and membership in CHS music ensemble(s)

The musically talented student is challenged to recognize and understand the basic materials and processes of music. This goal is approached through the development of fundamental aural, analytical, and compositional skills. The course provides a solid foundation in intervals, scales, chords, metric/rhythmic patterns, and the terms used to describe these elements of music as related to the major-minor tonal system. With this foundation, the course progression includes more complicated tasks, such as the following: dictation of melodic and harmonic materials; the analysis of music, including the study of motivic treatment and the rhythmic and melodic interaction between voices; harmonic analysis of a functional chord passage; and the realization of figured bass. The course covers all topics necessary for the Advanced Placement test that all students are encouraged to take. Harmony text and workbook are provided. **(This course does not qualify for NCAA eligibility.)**