

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Graduation Goals:

Students will be able to:

- Identify distinctive elements of composition and of different genres of music;
- Analyze the ways in which a variety of musical selections communicate emotion and reflect culture;
- Understand the development of Western music over time.
- Develop instrumental or vocal skills and rehearsal habits to perform polished pieces for a range of audiences;
- Read music;
- Practice and perform effectively in an ensemble.

Beginning Band

236 Semester 0.5 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

This course is open to all students who would like to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (i.e., trumpet, trombone, sousaphone, French horn, baritone horn, clarinet, flute, saxophone, drums). Students will learn instrument techniques, reading music, instrumental performance practices and music theory. Performances outside class will be required.

**Freshmen will have the option of continuing this course in second semester. Those who plan to do so will take P.E. after school.*

Prerequisite: An instrument rental fee will apply to all students who do not own their instruments.

Wind Ensemble (Advanced Band)

238 Year 1.0 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

In this class, emphasis is placed on the development of performance skills through the study of music of a wide variety of styles and periods. Students in this course will have individual and group lessons and will be required to participate in the Marching Band. After-school rehearsals will be frequent and are mandatory.

Approval: An audition and an interview with the band director are required for all students who wish to enroll in this course.

Prerequisite: An instrument rental fee will apply to all students who do not own their instruments.

String Ensemble

239 Year 0.5 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

This course for students at beginning through advanced levels allows them to learn and develop ensemble performance practices for string instruments. Out of class performances are required. This class will meet outside the normal school day.

Approval: An audition and an interview with the band director are required for all students who wish to enroll in this course.

Prerequisite: An instrument rental fee will apply to all students who do not own their instruments.

Freshman Choir

242 Year 0.5 Freshman

This course provides a foundation in singing technique and performance skills through various styles of music. It is suitable for students who want to try choir for the first time and experienced singers. Second-semester freshmen may continue in Concert Choir with the approval of the instructor.

Concert Choir

248 Year 0.5 Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

This course places an emphasis on the development of performance skills through various styles of music, including gospel, traditional Catholic liturgical music, and secular works.

Honors Vocal Ensemble

250 Year 0.5 Sophomore, Junior, Senior

This course is intended for students with promising ability for vocal music and a dedication to developing their talent. The ensemble will study and perform a variety of musical styles from a range of time periods.

Approval: Prior choir experience, an audition and an interview with the choir director are required for all students who wish to enroll in this course.

Music Theory

220 Semester 0.5 Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Music Theory teaches concepts that explain the structure of music, such as harmony, melody, triads, chords, rhythm and style. This course is designed for vocalists or instrumentalists and is particularly recommended for those who wish to pursue advanced musical studies. *This course is required of all sophomores being considered for the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program who choose music as their fine art.*

Composition and Song Writing

222 Semester 0.5 Junior, Senior

This course will cultivate the creativity of budding songwriters, regardless of their musical experience or preferred genre. Basic techniques of musical composition will be taught. Students will create their own melodies, harmonies, beats, lyrics and rhymes; will share their creations with other students; and will engage in productive critiques of each other's work.

Approval: Students need the approval of either the band director or the choir director to register for this course.

I.B. Music 11

224 Semester 0.5 Junior

This course will guide students in acquiring musical knowledge and developing an awareness of the history, performance, and evolution of music from Western and non-Western cultures. Students will be able to research, identify, evaluate, and reflect upon the similarities and differences between any two musical selections. To do this students will need to have knowledge of the assorted scales, intervals, tonalities, modalities, key signatures, rhythms, and chords used by the various cultures and traditions that will be studied. The 11th grade I.B. course will examine Australian Aboriginal, Indian, Middle Eastern, Chinese, and Western European music from the Middle Ages to the Baroque period.

Approval: This course is required of all 11th grade I.B. students who have chosen music as their Group 6 subject. Music Theory is a pre-requisite; all I.B. music students are also required to take choir or band.

I.B. Music 12

226 Semester 0.5 Senior

This course continues the analysis begun in I.B. Music 11. Works studied will include European and American music from Beethoven through jazz, as well as the music of Indonesia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Americas.

Approval: This course is required of all 12th grade I.B. students who have chosen music as their Group 6 subject. I.B. Music 11 is a pre-requisite; all I.B. music students are also required to take choir or band.