

FINE ARTS – PERFORMING ARTS

Percussion Ensemble

This is a yearlong course designed for students who have had previous instrumental music instruction in the area of percussion. Students will perform a variety of literature and musical styles with curriculum based on technique, sight-reading, and music theory. Members of the Percussion Class will also perform with students from the woodwind and brass classes. Band courses are co-curricular, so activities and performances outside of the regular school day are required. These include rehearsals, concerts, athletic events, band festivals, a retreat, and a spring trip. Financial obligations for this course include the purchase of the band t-shirt.

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor or an entrance audition.

Concert Band

This is a yearlong course for students who have had previous instrumental music instruction in the area of woodwinds or brass. An intermediate level of literature will be performed with curriculum based on technique, sight-reading, and music theory. Members of the Concert Band will also perform with students from the Percussion class. Band courses are co-curricular, so activities outside of the regular school day are required. These include rehearsals, concerts, athletic events, band festivals, a retreat, and a spring trip.

Financial obligations for this course include the purchase of the band t-shirt.

Prerequisites: Permission of the instructor. A placement audition is required.

Symphonic Band

This is a yearlong course designed for experienced woodwind and brass players. An advanced level of literature will be performed with curriculum based on technique, sight-reading, and music theory. Members of the Percussion Class will also perform with students from the woodwind and brass classes. Band courses are co-curricular, so activities and performances outside of the regular school day are required. These include rehearsals, concerts, athletic events, band festivals, a retreat, and a spring trip. Financial obligations for this course include the purchase of the band t-shirt.

Prerequisites: Permission of instructor. A placement audition is required.

Concert Choir

This is a semester-long course for any student, regardless of previous music and choral experience. The class will be offered in both the fall and the spring semesters. Class instruction includes the study of vocal technique, sight-reading, and music theory. Emphasis will be placed upon expressivity and interpretation. An intermediate level of music in various contrasting styles will be performed. This is a co-curricular class, so some activities outside of the regular school day are required. These include two concerts and two after-school rehearsals. Financial obligations for this class include concert attire. This class is a prerequisite for all of the choral music courses.

Prerequisite: None.

Advanced Women's Choir

This is a yearlong course for experienced musicians where students will receive advanced instruction in vocal technique and music theory. Particular emphasis is given to the mastery of vocal interpretation, sight-reading, intonation, and breath control. This is a co-curricular class, so some activities outside of the regular school day are required. These include five concerts and two after-school rehearsals. Participation in all performances and rehearsals is required. Financial obligations for this class include the purchase of concert attire and the expense of the optional spring trip.

Prerequisite: Previous choir experiences, audition, and consent of the instructor.

Advanced Women's Chorale

This is a yearlong course for experienced musicians where students will receive advanced instruction in vocal technique and music theory. Particular emphasis is given to the mastery of vocal interpretation, sight-reading, intonation, and breath control. This is a co-curricular class, so some activities outside of the regular school day are required. These include five concerts and five after-school rehearsals. Participation in all performances and rehearsals is required. Financial obligations for this class include the purchase of concert attire and the expense of the optional spring trip.

Prerequisite: Previous choir experiences, audition, and consent of the instructor

Advanced Men's Choir

This is a yearlong course for experienced musicians where students will receive advanced instruction in vocal technique and music theory. Particular emphasis is given to the mastery of vocal interpretation, sight-reading, intonation, and breath control. This is a co-curricular class, so some activities outside of the regular school day are required. These include five concerts, three after-school rehearsals, and a spring choir trip. Participation in all performances and rehearsals is required. Financial obligations for this class include the purchase of concert attire and the expense of the optional spring trip.

Prerequisite: Previous choir experiences, audition, and consent of the instructor

Chamber Choir

This is a yearlong course for experienced musicians where students will receive advanced instruction in vocal technique and music theory. Particular emphasis is given to the mastery of vocal interpretation, sight-reading, intonation, and breath control. This is a co-curricular class, so some activities outside of the regular school day are required. These include two weekend retreats, six concerts, six after-school rehearsals, and many additional performances in the community. Participation in all performances and rehearsals is required. Financial obligations for this class include the purchase of concert attire and the expense of the optional spring trip.

Prerequisites: Previous choir experience, audition, and consent of the instructor.

Honors Music Theory

This is a semester long course that studies the fundamentals of music. Students will encounter the inner workings of written music dealing with notation of pitch and rhythm as well as markings of nuance. Students will be able to read and write music and have a basic understanding of melody and harmony. They will also do daily exercises in ear training, sight-singing, and rhythmic sight reading.

Prerequisite: Sophomore status and consent of the instructor.

Advanced Placement Music Theory

This is a year-long course designed to train students to read and produce music with a true understanding of its construction. Students will review the basics of music notation (pitch, rhythm, marks of nuance) and work with the materials of tonal music – harmony, counterpoint, and chord progression. Students will be able to compose and harmonize simple melodies and analyze the harmony and form of musical compositions. Students will also develop aural skills including melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic dictation as well as sight-reading music. Students will be required to take the AP Music Theory exam.

Prerequisite: Honors Music Theory and / or permission of instructor

Introduction to Guitar

This is a semester-long course for students who wish to study and learn the fundamentals of guitar playing and music reading. It is primarily intended for students with little or no formal guitar experience. Class instruction will be given on basic guitar playing techniques; reading and playing of melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic notations; basic solo and ensemble performing; and basic knowledge and care of the guitar as an instrument. Students will perform a variety of musical styles and will have the opportunity to participate in a concert at the end of the semester. Students will be responsible for providing their own acoustic guitar for the class. *Prerequisite: None*

Introduction to Piano

This course is designed to give students an introduction to the fundamentals of piano playing. Emphasis will be on quick, individualized mini lessons, with a large amount of practice time in class before the next informal or formal assessment. Students will become proficient in music reading, the basics of music theory, and good piano technique. The course will also focus on using the piano keyboard as a visual aid in understanding the written and aural aspects of music theory. This is a semester-long course. The course is recommended for beginning piano students. *Prerequisite: None*

Advanced Piano

In this semester-long course, experienced piano students will be encouraged to develop their skills at their own pace using the master class model. Daily class meetings will consist of a group warm-up period, in which topics such as technique, sight-reading, literature, and theory will be covered. The warm-up period will then be followed by supervised practice time, during which the students will work on individual pieces they are studying, while being periodically monitored by the instructor. At least one day of the each week will be dedicated to a master class, during which each student will present his or her pieces, in finished or unfinished form, for review. The class will learn how to give and receive constructive criticism. This class will give more advanced piano students the chance to study, regardless of level.

Prerequisites: Audition and instructor consent

Introduction to Drama

This semester course studies the structures and history of acting, improvisations, mime, and vocal interpretation. The course also introduces play production, scene designing, lighting, costuming, and makeup.

Musical Theatre

This is a semester-long course that will focus on the performance and history of musical theatre. This will be a performance-based class in which students will explore basic and advanced techniques of acting, singing, movement, character development, and script analysis. The history of musical theatre will be discussed, viewed, and read about to inform performance. This is a co-curricular class, so some activities outside of the regular school day are required. These include a culminating performance, attending three musicals, and supplemental instructional time after school twice a month.

Prerequisites: A drama, advanced drama, choir, or band course; audition; and instructor consent.

Stage Movement

This is a semester-long course during which the students will develop physical movement and presentation in dramatic and musical performances. Students will learn basic dance steps, stage directions, staging, and group choreography. This is a co-curricular class, so some activities outside the regular school day are required. These include but are not limited to a culminating performance and attendance at three area dance and theatrical performances. *Prerequisites: Drama or consent of instructor.*

Acting I

This is a semester-long course that will focus on developing acting skills. Students will work with monologues, scene work, and improvisation while learning about auditioning, script analysis, character development, acting techniques, and theater history. The course will introduce students to the historical acting methods as well as the techniques of Stanislavski, Hagen, Strasberg, and other twentieth century acting teachers.

Prerequisite: Drama

Acting II

This is a semester course that will continue to develop acting skills. Students will develop audition materials, scene work within a full-length play, and complete a performance within a full-length play. Students will complete an extensive research project on acting methods, develop their own philosophies of acting, and implement the philosophy in performance. *Prerequisite: Acting I and audition with instructor permission*

Arts and Humanities

These two semester-long courses will trace the development of the fine arts in the context of the history of western culture. Content will include the correlation between cultural history and the fine arts: dance, music, theatre, and visual art. These courses will be offered in two separate semesters divided chronologically – (Arts & Humanities: Ancient-Baroque; Arts & Humanities: Classical-Modern). *Prerequisite: None*

Theater Production I

This semester course introduces students to several aspects of backstage work in theater, including constructing sets, creating scale drawings, designing and building props, planning and implementing lighting designs, scene painting, and sound designs. Some attention is also given to front of house and marketing issues including poster and program design. Projects differ each time the course is offered.

Theater Production II

This semester course advances learning in the backstage world of theater. Students select projects in scene design, lighting design, scene painting, sound design, costume design and construction, and design of marketing materials. The course requires students who are knowledgeable in areas of theater production and capable of independently conceiving and implementing theater design projects.

Prerequisites: Theater Production I and consent of the instructor

Theater Seminar

This is a year-long course which focuses on a series of rotating topics related to full-scale theater productions, theater history, and dramatic literature. Each seminar will integrate elements of literature, history, acting techniques, and production techniques into a culminating production from a period of theater history.

Prerequisite: Two theater courses and consent of the instructor