



MUSIC AT DEPAUL PREP

Here at DePaul Prep, we are proud to offer a robust music curriculum to all of our music students. Students of all musical backgrounds and experience are encouraged to consider joining one of our many ensembles and sharing their musical gifts with the DePaul Prep community. In our program, students not only grow as musicians, but also as leaders, team members, and humans. We strive to create a welcoming yet challenging environment for our students to achieve their highest potential.

ENSEMBLES

INTRODUCTION TO BAND

Introduction to Band will provide students at DePaul Prep with an introduction to playing wind and percussion instruments. In this semester-long course, students will be instructed on technique for Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Trombone, and Percussion. After completion of this class, students will be encouraged to select an instrument to study moving forward into Intermediate Band.



INTERMEDIATE BAND



Intermediate Band is the middle level of band instruction at DePaul Prep. Students who have successfully completed Intro to Band or who have some instrument experience can enroll in Intermediate Band. In Intermediate Band, students will develop individual and ensemble playing ability and work toward performing diverse repertoire in the concert setting.

HONORS BAND

The Honors Band is the premier instrumental ensemble at DePaul College Prep. Students in Honors Band will develop individual musicianship and ensemble performance skills as they prepare music for school performances. The prerequisite for placement in this course is successful completion of Intermediate Band/audition/director approval. This is a full-year course that may be repeated.





BEGINNING CHOIR

Beginning Choir, a one-semester course, is designed for incoming 9th graders and other students with little to no experience in a choral ensemble. Students in this course will learn the fundamentals of reading choral sheet music, develop strong vocal technique, and sing a variety of increasingly complex repertoire. Students in this class will not perform publicly, but they will be prepared to join an advanced performing choral ensemble at DePaul College Prep. Upon completion of this course, students are strongly encouraged to enroll in a higher-level choral ensemble.



ADVANCED CHOIR



Students in Advanced Choir will build upon their foundations in basic singing technique to learn and perform more difficult repertoire at a faster pace. They will also develop a better understanding of general musicianship and music theory. Students in Advanced Choir will provide music at liturgies, host traditional concerts at school, sing for various school events, and seek opportunities to share music within our neighborhood and city. To enroll in Advanced Choir, a student must have successfully completed Beginning Choir with a recommendation from the director, or have had a successful audition. Students are encouraged to continue in this class beyond one year. This class can be taken up to 4 times throughout a student's career at DePaul College Prep.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Chamber Orchestra is the performing ensemble for string players at DePaul Prep. In Chamber Orchestra, students who play Violin, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass will be able to develop individual and ensemble performance technique. This ensemble will perform a variety of repertoire for string ensemble. This group will perform concerts and at school functions (school liturgies, prayer services, open houses, etc...) Students must complete an audition and receive director approval to join this course. This class can be taken up to 4 times throughout a student's career at DePaul College Prep.





JAZZ COMBO



Jazz Combo is a performing ensemble for piano, electric guitar, bass, and drums. In this class, students will learn the fundamental skills of playing jazz. Students will learn how to read lead charts, interpret chord symbols, improvise, and compose. The Jazz Combo class will learn instrument appropriate repertoire to be performed at concerts, open houses, school fundraisers, and other school events. Students interested in this class will need to demonstrate strong instrument technique and music reading skills by completing an audition with the director. This class can be taken up to 4 times throughout a student's career at DePaul College Prep.

F.A.Q'S

Q. Are music ensembles at DePaul Prep curricular or extra-curricular?

A. Music ensembles are curricular. There are many benefits to this model. Students who enroll in one of our ensembles earn STEAM elective credits, which are a requirement of graduation at DePaul Prep. Since our ensembles meet as a class in a student's schedule, students are able to preserve time before and after school to participate in other enrichment activities (ie. sports, clubs, work, volunteering, etc). Additionally, since ensembles earn academic credit, your child's commitment to a rigorous fine arts education is communicated clearly on his/her transcripts when they apply to college.

Q. How long do music ensembles last DePaul Prep?

A. With the exception of Intro to Band and Intro to Choir (0.5 credit classes), each performing ensemble is a 1 credit class which means that students who enroll are committed to the ensemble for the whole school year.

Q. What are the benefits of joining an ensemble at DePaul Prep?

A. There are many benefits to joining one of our performing ensembles at DePaul Prep. Our music classes offer our students a break in the day to do something fun, engaging, and a little different from their other classes. Joining music ensembles gives our students a space to build community with others who have similar interests. Finally, participating in musical ensembles at DePaul gives each student the opportunity to share their God-given gifts with the broader DePaul community.



REGISTRATION AND AUDITIONS

Students will register for classes in February and March with their counsellors. Incoming freshmen will register for classes on designated registration nights with an admissions representative. To register for a musical ensemble, simply indicate that your student is interested in taking a music class.

Following registration, Mr. Rocks (instrumental ensembles) or Mr. Braun (choral ensembles) will reach out via email to gather more information about your student (what instrument they play, type of experience, etc.). If the teacher believes an audition is necessary to place you in an advanced ensemble, details will be shared about that process. If you are interested in viewing audition material, please see our [audition website](#). Once communication has taken place with your ensemble director, your student will be enrolled in the appropriate ensemble for their experience and skill level.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

MR. JONATHAN BRAUN



My name is Mr. Braun, and I'm the Director of Vocal Ensembles at DePaul Prep. I also teach our Music Production course which is available to 10th-12th graders. I'm a native Chicagoan and the product of Catholic education from kindergarten through college. I graduated from DePaul University with a Bachelor of Music in Music Education. I recently returned to DePaul University, and I'm aiming to become a Double Demon as I pursue a Master of Music in Music Education.

I've been teaching music at DePaul College Prep since 2016 when I planted the seeds that have grown into our current music program. The Music Department has expanded to include the current eight courses we offer, and I'm grateful to work collaboratively with Mr. Rocks as we continue to grow.

When I'm not teaching, I serve as a liturgical musician and organist at several churches around Chicago. I love to cook, play golf, and explore Chicago! Reach me at jbraun@depaulprep.org.

MR. PATRICK ROCKS



Hello! My name is Mr. Rocks and I am the Director of Instrumental Ensembles at DePaul Prep. I earned my B.S. in Music Education from Xavier University in 2014. Since then I have directed bands at the high school and collegiate level. My former high school bands have earned Superior Ratings at the CPS Band and Orchestra festival in 2017, 2018, and 2019. I have also sought out opportunities for my students to collaborate with the Northeastern Illinois Wind Ensemble, the President's Own Marine Band, the Chicago Symphonic Winds, and composer Jack Stamp (ASCAP). In addition to my duties directing instrumental ensemble as DePaul Prep, I also serve as the director of the pep band at Loyola University Chicago.

I am a born and raised Chicagoan who attended Catholic school through college (St. Margaret Mary (K-8), St. Ignatius (HS), Xavier University). In my free time, I enjoy running, golfing, wood working, watching sports, and spending time with my family.

Reach me at procks@depaulprep.org