

MUSIC

The Music Department offers a multifaceted program to accommodate a wide range of student interest levels and abilities. Its objective is to develop cultural and aesthetic values of the student through the art of performance and musical study. Individual guidance, a major component of the program, broadens the student's background and promotes self-sufficiency in music. The Music Department also offers three co-curricular clubs that are available to all qualified students: Full Orchestra, Jazz Band, and a cappella Choir. Each club meets once per week.

COURSE OFFERINGS

- 103 ORCHESTRA**
- 108 SYMPHONIC BAND**
- 104 CONCERT BAND**
- 115 MIXED CHOIR**
- 105 CONCERT CHOIR**
- 117 SONGWRITING**
- 116 MUSIC THEORY**

103 Orchestra

Grades: 9-12
Unit of Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Prior enrollment or recommendation of Director

String orchestra is a course that provides a setting in which students will be able to display their ability on a violin, viola, cello, or double bass. While using an ensemble approach to learning, the student will be able to demonstrate the proper techniques of basic musicianship such as tone, rhythm, articulation, dynamics, pitch, style, and interpretation. Along with the enhancement of basic musicianship, the student will demonstrate the proper disciplines and attitudes of being a positive member of an ensemble. The course meets daily and runs for the duration of the school year. Performance opportunities include the winter and spring concerts, NYSSMA solo festival, and Music in the Parks at Six Flags. String orchestra repertoire from the Baroque era to the present is learned.

108 Symphonic Band

Grade: 9
Unit of Credit: 1
Prerequisite: EMS band or recommendation of Director

This course is a prelude to Concert Band. The Symphonic band will meet every day and perform at all concerts. Its repertoire will include: classic band literature, show and movie scores, and marches. Any student who does not have band experience should speak to the director.

104 Concert Band

Grades: 10-12
Unit of Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Prior enrollment or recommendation of Director

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to play significant band music from the Baroque Period to the Twentieth Century. The band rehearses every day and performs in concerts, parades, and at football games. Students receive instruction in their individual instrument and in ensemble performance. Students with limited or no experience should meet with the director. Pianists can enroll and play pitched percussion.

115 Mixed Choir

Grade: 9
Unit of Credit: 1
Prerequisite: EMS Choir or recommendation of Director

Mixed Choir is open to all students and serves as a foundation for choral singing at the high school level. This daily class serves as an introduction to sight singing, ear training, and vocal technique. These elements are emphasized through the study of basic solo and choral literature from a variety of musical styles. Students are required to participate in two concerts per year and to perform at the high school graduation ceremony. Those who wish to advance to Concert Choir must successfully complete this course.

105 Concert Choir

Grades: 10-12

Unit of Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Mixed Choir or approval of Director

Concert Choir is open to students who have mastered the foundational skills in Mixed Choir or, under certain circumstances, by the approval of the instructor based on an interview and an audition. This is a daily class in which moderate to advanced sight singing, ear training, and vocal technique are studied through moderate to advanced choral and solo literature. In addition to daily class instruction, students are to attend regularly scheduled voice lessons provided by the instructor during the school day. Students are required to participate in two in-house concerts per year, the high school graduation ceremony, and additional outside performances and competitive festivals.

117 Songwriting

Grades: 9-12

Unit of Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

This course utilizes critical thinking skills to examine trends in popular music for the purpose of understanding the formulas for successful songwriting. It also requires creativity to apply meticulous songwriting techniques onto something artistic. Students will learn elements of music theory, basic piano skills, lyric writing techniques,

and song analysis. These skills will culminate in the writing and production of an original song using Garage Band. Students should have regular access to an iPhone, iPad or MacBook in order to access these programs at home (please note: Garage Band is only available on Apple products).

This course will dissect many current popular songs, and will explore the history of western popular music, influential artists, music in politics, and other current social/cultural trends that impact contemporary songwriting. Students will also identify and examine various professions within the music industry that are important to song production, recording, and marketing.

116 Music Theory

Grades: 10-12

Unit of Credit: 1

Prerequisite: Basic Understanding of Music or Recommendation of the Director

In this year-long course, students will learn essential elements of music such as notation, major and minor scales, modes, key signatures, intervals, chords, non-chord tones, form, part-writing and score analysis will be studied. Aural dictation and ear training are also an integral part of the course and will be taught throughout the year. Students who are enrolled in band, orchestra, or choir are encouraged to take this course. Rudimentary knowledge of music is helpful, but not required.