

# PHILOSOPHY OF THE ART DEPARTMENT

The Lemont High School Art Department believes students should develop the following characteristics:

- Competence in the use of various tools and art media
- Appreciation of aesthetic values in productive, critical/evaluative, and historical areas of art
- Understanding of the basic elements of design and art principles
- Understanding of individuality, creativity and capabilities of self

Courses offered within the Art curriculum provide varied experiences in art media, which inspires the development of creativity and challenges students to solve problems and express themselves visually through various media.

**Based on their abilities and course level, students shall:**

- Demonstrate technical skills to execute drawing, printmaking, ceramics, painting, photography, sculpture, and computer graphics
- Critique works of art by using a frame of reference based upon knowledge of the influence of artists and their work throughout history
- Utilize the basic elements of design and art principles in mastery to complete original compositions
- Utilize past and present art experiences to create new and exciting studio projects and to create original works from written and verbal cues
- Analyze, select and critique personal artwork for a collection or portfolio presentation
- Evaluate, justify and present choices in the process of analyzing, selecting, curating, and presenting artwork for a specific exhibit

**Grading Standards:** Student grades may be determined by the following categories, depending on the individual course: daily work, journal/sketches, projects, quizzes, and the final portfolio. Grades for projects and sketchbooks are subjective, based on how well the student completes the assignment, creative individuality, and craftsmanship. Grades for quizzes and exams reflect the student's knowledge of historical facts and technical terms.

## CORE COURSES - ART

### Art I

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course is designed to give the beginning art student a basic foundation in art elements, principles and media. Students are introduced to art techniques and media through sketching, drawing, printmaking and painting assignments. The course expands students' art experience through studio art while recognizing the value of art history. Students are expected to look at and discuss both historical and contemporary works of art. Effort and participation are emphasized to foster a positive life-long appreciation for the visual arts. Students are encouraged to take this course for an entire year.

## Fine Arts - Art

### Digital Art

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course teaches students how to use the computer as an artistic tool. Students are introduced to Adobe Creative Cloud, which includes Photoshop and Illustrator. In Illustrator, students develop new skills that are useful in a demanding digital market. Through different assignments, students expand on concepts, techniques and an appreciation for the digital arts. Students also learn to manipulate photographs and create original works of art using Photoshop. Students are required to have access to a digital camera (which can include a cell phone camera) for assignments. Previous computer experience is not required. Students are encouraged to take this course for an entire year.

### Drawing & Painting I

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course provides students with a foundation in drawing and painting techniques. Students learn the elements and principles of art and how to incorporate them in their own creations, and develop drawing and painting techniques essential for understanding space, depth and form. Students are trained to become observers both of light and space, and how to apply what they see visually into a drawing or painting. Students are expected to develop their drawing and painting skills through accurate observation, and practice drawing techniques with various media. Students are encouraged to take this course for an entire year.

### Fashion Design Illustration

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 1.0

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course offers students who are interested in clothing and accessory design the opportunity to create digital and studio illustrations of garments and accessories. Students' knowledge of fashion design advances as they gain an understanding of how the elements and principles of design pertain to fashion. A focus is placed on both traditional and contemporary methods of fashion design. Students learn how to accurately render illustrations by hand and with digital illustration programs. The course also explores the history of costume and fashion design, drawing on historical movements in context for inspiration. Students ultimately design their own fashion collection, rendering it both digitally and through traditional art media, and create a portfolio of work.

## ELECTIVE COURSES - ART

### 2D Animation & Motion Graphics

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12    **Credit:** 0.5

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Digital Art

**Description:** This course builds upon skills learned in Digital Art, and explores animation, motion graphics, photography, and audio editing through compelling storytelling. Students learn storyboard creation and character designs using industry standard software and equipment. In-depth techniques, methods and programs all help students sharpen their skills. Students utilize Adobe Creative Suite, learn about the history of animation, and engage in critiques to provide feedback to their peers.

# Fine Arts - Art

## AP Studio Art: 2D

**Grades Course Open To:** 11-12      **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of three semesters of art classes and teacher approval

**Description:** This course is a college-level art-making, portfolio-development experience for serious junior and senior art students. Students develop college-ready portfolios using various 2D media which may include digital art, drawing, painting, photography, or printmaking. Creating the portfolio helps students develop works that foster diverse approaches to thinking and making art, which aligns with college, university, and contemporary disciplinary practices. Students are self-directed and engage in an ongoing dialogue within the course's "community of artists" to examine their art making process and progress. Portfolio development requires skill building in digital documentation. Students develop a sustained investigation, write an artist's statement, and critique their own work and that of others. Students are expected to work at least five hours per week outside of class while creating works that follow a series and are part of portfolios or exhibitions. Students are required to create four pieces of art over the summer; these pieces will be collected during the first week of class. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** fulfill the AP Studio Art: 2D requirements, which includes submitting up to 15 pieces of artwork combined to the College Board and to a college art program of the student's choice.

## Art II

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Art I or Drawing & Painting I

**Description:** This course builds upon prior knowledge as students review basic skills and attain new techniques. More time is spent on innovation and creativity within a given area. Art history is incorporated with studio projects to enrich the program and develop constructive criticism. Students work with a variety of media, including drawing, painting, sculpture and printmaking.

## Art III

**Grades Course Open To:** 11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Art II or Drawing & Painting II, or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** This studio course is offered to advanced art students who wish to enrich their background in art. Areas of study may include advanced drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and alternative media. Students explore current trends in contemporary art from Chicago and other major urban art scenes, and examine and discuss both historical and contemporary works of art. Students are challenged, both within and outside the classroom, to utilize past and present art experiences to create new and exciting studio projects from influences around them. For students interested in pursuing art in college, a portfolio of work may be developed. Each student's goal for this course will be to have his or her art displayed in a public setting.

## Art IV

**Grades Course Open To:** 11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Art III or concurrent enrollment in Art III with consent of Division Chair

**Description:** This studio course is offered to advanced art students who wish to pursue an intense study of advanced drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and alternative media. Students explore current trends in contemporary art from Chicago and other major urban art scenes, and examine and discuss both historical and contemporary works of art. Students utilize past and present art experiences to influence them in creating studio projects. Students at this level are expected to challenge themselves to grow in their personal creativity, problem solving, and artistic expression through advanced use of media. Each student's goal for this course is to have his or her art displayed in a public setting. Those students who plan to pursue art in college may continue to develop their portfolio of artwork.

# Fine Arts - Art

## Ceramics I

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of a core art course

**Description:** This course is designed to explore the three construction methods of ceramics. An emphasis is placed on originality, design and craftsmanship. Students research the history of ceramics and gain a basic understanding of the process and terminology specific to ceramics. Students are taught to combine three-dimensional construction methods and decoration to create sculptural and functional pieces.

## Ceramics II

**Grades Course Open To:** 11-12      **Credit:** 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Ceramics I

**Description:** This course is designed to enhance students' handbuilding skills and foster their creativity in the medium. Students are introduced to the process of throwing on the. Students drive their own progress by proposing designs based upon chosen concepts and themes. New decorative techniques are introduced to create both sculptural and functional pieces. This course may be taken up to two times, upon consent of the Division Chair.

## Digital Photography

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of a core art course

**Description:** In this course, students emphasize both the creative and technical processes of taking digital images using a DSLR camera. Students explore lighting, elements of art, and principles involving composition (selection and arrangement), and will edit, refine, retouch, and manipulate their photographs using professional editing software such as Adobe Lightroom and Adobe Photoshop. The history and appreciation of photography are explored by studying both historical and contemporary photographers. Students also learn how to output their photographs in both print and online formats for critique, exhibition, and display. The majority of photoshoot assignments are accomplished during class time. Students are encouraged to take this course for an entire year.

## Drawing & Painting II

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Art I or Drawing & Painting I

**Description:** This course builds on the techniques learned in Introduction to Drawing & Painting by allowing students to use their knowledge of the elements and principles of art while being challenged with more complex drawing and painting assignments. Students develop more advanced technical and observational skills in a wider range of drawing and painting processes and media.

## Drawing & Painting III

**Grades Course Open To:** 11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Drawing & Painting II or Art II, or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** This course provides advanced students with an opportunity to use knowledge and techniques gained in previous art courses while solving complex drawing and painting problems and developing their personal artistic style. Students plan, conceptualize and create projects using drawing and painting media. Students are encouraged to explore individual approaches to drawing and painting, and expand their technical skills and creativity.

# Fine Arts - Art

## Drawing & Painting IV

**Grades Course Open To:** 11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Drawing & Painting III or concurrent enrollment in Drawing & Painting III with consent of Division Chair

**Description:** This course provides advanced art students with intense focus on experimentation, process, thematic focus, and numerous drawing and painting strategies through independent classroom projects. Students continue to explore the nature, scope and principles of drawing and painting. Students are encouraged to explore individual approaches to drawing and painting, expand their technical skills and creativity, consider and experiment with alternative drawing and painting methods, and use the process of drawing and painting as a vehicle of personal expression and creativity.

## Graphic Design I

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Digital Art or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** This course builds on the foundation in the basic principles of design. Students develop digital art skills and discover their use in a potential career. Students use problem solving and creative thinking to create print-based media, and study the communication of ideas and information through the integration of typography, symbols, illustration, and imagery. The course familiarizes students with industry standard software and equipment (Adobe Creative Suite, Wacom Tablets, and more) and current methods, techniques, and technology employed in the fields of arts, advertising, and building a studio portfolio. Students are encouraged to take this course for an entire year.

## Graphic Design II

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Graphic Design I

**Description:** This course provides students the opportunity to further develop the skills they learned in Graphic Design I. Students develop advanced skills and explore careers and application of those skills in both individual and collaborative projects. The course is structured to emulate a professional setting with individual and group challenges. Students utilize cameras, lighting equipment, and drawing tables to aid in their creative process, and develop portfolio-ready artwork for college applications and future job prospects. Group and class critiques focus on design elements and principles, typography, imagery, and illustration for artwork based on the project's target audience and purpose. This course may be taken up to two times, upon consent of the Division Chair.

## Introduction to Jewelry Making

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12      **Credit:** 1.0

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course introduces students to traditional and experimental approaches in jewelry fabrication, as well as some of the different materials that may be used. It explores basic techniques and design concepts, as well as form and function applied to construction. Students focus on the creation of wearable jewelry, and develop an awareness of materials and processes and design originality. Students research artists, cultures, and processes, while guided projects explore materials such as beads, paper, leather, resin, wood, wire, metal, raku clay, and polymer clay.

### PHILOSOPHY OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Lemont High School Music Department believes creating, responding to, connecting with, and performing music are essential for holistic musical growth. All music area students will strive to satisfy their artistic desires and develop the following characteristics:

- Thinking, feeling and acting creatively with music
- Respect for music as art and an integral part of life
- Appreciation for skilled musical performances from varied styles and from various periods
- Knowledge of music resources
- Critical analysis regarding the personal worth of music
- Knowledge about the influence of music throughout history

Courses offered within the Music curriculum provide various experiences of music observation and appreciation, instruction in techniques and artistry in either playing an instrument or vocal performance, and opportunities for practice and performance.

**Based on their abilities and course level, students shall:**

- Demonstrate technical skills required to sing or play an instrument correctly
- Participate in school and out-of-school rehearsals and performances of various choirs and bands
- Demonstrate skill in singing techniques pertaining to rhythm, counting and reading music
- Demonstrate skill in musicianship in phrasing, terminology, sight-reading and interpretation of music
- Critique music and performance in a constructive manner, using a frame of reference consisting of knowledge about influential musicians and their history

**Grading Standards:** Student grades provide feedback and encouragement for students involved in any of the department's programs. The evaluation of students' efforts and the measurement of their participation should provide opportunities for students to continue to excel in musical studies, performances, or other forms of musical expression. As all students enter the music area's performance-based courses with a unique baseline ability, growth is strongly favored in grading, while the standards and procedures involved in attainment (performance) are modified in ability-based situations. Music area courses are conducted with the "whole" student in mind; opportunities for leadership, independence, responsibility, time management and social adaptation growth are at the core of curriculum, and in turn, grading. Wherever possible, attainment-based grading falls in line with state and regional level rubrics and performance expectations. While attendance and meaningful participation are part of every course, individual and group growth and achievement also are assigned grades.

### MUSIC PERFORMING ENSEMBLES

#### Choir

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** Choir is recommended for any student who has a love for music and wants to sing. No prior musical background or singing experience is necessary to join. Choir performs a number of musical styles, ranging from classical to popular accompanied repertoire. This ensemble performs several concerts throughout the year, takes part in various competitions at local high schools, and appears at multiple civic and community functions. Basic music theory, musicianship, vocal technique, warm-up exercises, vocal styles/phrasing and vocal patterns all are addressed.

# Fine Arts - Music

## Concert Band

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Participation in Marching Band or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** Open to qualified performers and incorporating students from all grade levels, the Concert Band strives for fine musical results and aims to develop each student's overall musical proficiency. With a full schedule of performances during the year, the Concert Band rehearses daily and one evening per week. An emphasis is placed on music reading, counting, tone production, ensemble playing, listening and intonation. Students perform music that they enjoy and from which they can learn, including marches, pop music, ethnic music, and traditional and contemporary band selections. Students are expected to practice outside of rehearsals in order to prepare for class. During the spring semester, the Concert Band may be divided into two separate ensembles based on playing ability, instrumentation and a first-semester audition.

## Symphonic Band Honors

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5 (Spring only) - Honors credit

**Prerequisite:** Participation in Marching Band or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** The Symphonic Band includes a select group of dedicated performers from all grade levels who possess strong musical ability and a positive mental attitude. The group lends itself to school and community events in various musical ways. Open to students by audition only, the Symphonic Band rehearses daily and one evening per week, playing material that includes marches, pop music, ethnic music, and traditional and contemporary band selections. Because they play the highest caliber of music, students participating in the Symphonic Band are strongly encouraged to take private lessons. Students are expected to practice outside of rehearsals in order to prepare for class. All music performed by the Symphonic Band is of college-level difficulty.

## Marching Band

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 0.5 (Fall only)

**Prerequisite:** Participation in Concert Band or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** The Marching Band is composed of instrumental students from the Concert and/or Symphonic Bands and color guard members. Open to qualified performers, it rehearses daily and one evening per week. The Marching Band performs at athletic events, school assemblies and other civic functions throughout the year, and also competes during both the fall and spring semesters. It performs music coordinated to moving drill forms that accentuate the music visually, so that an audience can both see and hear the music being performed. Varying techniques for marching and performing music are introduced. An emphasis is placed upon tone production and technique, as well as the proper method of marching, body carriage, step size and the use of equipment to perform the marching show material, which can include marches, pop, half-time music and other traditional or contemporary selections.

## Jazz Band

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12 **Credit:** 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Participation in Concert Band or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** Open only to qualified performers who have the Director's approval, the Jazz Band performs intermediate jazz literature in various styles, using proper instrumental techniques within the jazz idiom. The group rehearses daily and performs a number of times throughout the year at concerts, festivals and clinics. Advanced chord structure and scales in all modes are studied in order to assist with improvisation of jazz solos within a given composition. Students refine their skills and play a variety of material, including blues, pop, rock, and intermediate versions of classic and contemporary jazz selections.

# Fine Arts - Music

## Jazz Band Honors

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 1.0 - Honors credit

**Prerequisite:** Participation in Concert Band or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** Open only to select performers who have participated in the Jazz Band or have the Director's approval, the Honors Jazz Band performs and records college-level jazz literature in various styles, using proper instrumental techniques within the jazz idiom. The group rehearses daily and performs a number of times throughout the year at concerts, festivals and clinics. Alternative and complex chord structure and scales in all modes are studied in order to assist with improvisation of jazz solos within a given composition. Students work to perfect their skills and play a variety of advanced material, including blues, pop, rock, and classic and contemporary jazz selections. Members of the Honors Jazz Band receive skills necessary to prepare for college auditions and recording sessions, and may also receive instruction in the small jazz combo setting and extensive jazz sight-reading skills.

## Percussion Ensemble

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 0.5 per semester (Spring only)

**Prerequisite:** By audition only

**Description:** Open to all experienced percussionists, placement in the Percussion Ensemble is determined by a student's audition and the Director's recommendation. In some cases, percussion students may be placed in the Concert or Symphonic Bands. Incorporating both percussion ensemble music and Symphonic/Concert music, the course emphasizes developing technique, exploring the vast work of percussion music and sound, and the individual study of rudiments and exercises recommended by the Percussive Arts Society. Students perform in a variety of festivals, in addition to working with guest conductors. This class may be repeated for credit up to four semesters.

## MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AND FUNDAMENTALS

### AP Music Theory

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12    **Credit:** 1.0 - weighted for AP

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Music Production I, Concert Band, Marching Band, Jazz Band Honors or Symphonic Band Honors; or consent of Division Chair (after skills placement exam)

**Fees:** AP Music Theory exam (paid at fall registration)

**Description:** This course is the equivalent of an introductory college music theory course, and covers topics such as musicianship, theory, musical materials and procedures. Prior to enrolling in the course, students should know to read and write musical notation. Musicianship skills - including dictation and other listening skills - sight-singing and keyboard harmony all are considered an important part of the course. Throughout the course, students develop the ability to recognize, understand and describe basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. Development of aural skills is a primary objective, and performance also is also part of the learning process. Students gain understanding of basic concepts and terminology by listening to and performing a wide variety of music. Notational skills, speed and fluency with basic materials are emphasized. **Note:** All students enrolled in this course **must** take the AP Music Theory exam in the spring.

### Guitar I

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12    **Credit:** 0.5

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course is designed for students with any level of guitar experience. Students receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar at a beginning, intermediate or advanced level, learning many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include, but are not limited to: correct posture, note reading, tablature reading, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger-picking styles, musical forms, composition, improvisation, and performance experiences.



# Fine Arts - Music

## Guitar II

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Guitar I or consent of Division Chair

**Description:** This course is designed for students with formal training on guitar or for students who have completed Guitar I. Students receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar at an intermediate or advanced level, exploring advanced techniques, styles and skills required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include, but are not limited to: chord extensions, voicings, treble-clef-to-fretboard mastery (traditional notation), aural skills, rhythmic patterns, composition, improvisation, and performance experiences.

## Introduction to Music

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This is a general music course for students of all musical and non-musical backgrounds. It caters to the needs of students who do not play a musical instrument but still are interested in learning the basics of music through the use of basic composition and music theory, music technology and recording software programs, singing, and the ukulele, guitar and keyboard.

## Music Production I

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5

**Prerequisite:** None

**Description:** This course offers students – regardless of their experience or background – an opportunity to learn about popular music styles spanning from jazz to rock, as well as the technologies available to create and record their own music electronically. The study of various genres of music is used to explore the effective elements of sound, songwriting and performance. Students do not need to have a formal music background. The course caters to the needs of students who do not play a musical instrument, but are still interested in learning the basics of music through the use of composition and music theory, music technology and recording software programs, and introductory keyboard, ukulele and singing. Students have the opportunity to produce several examples of guided, self-generated music, making the class suitable and appropriate for all ability levels. The course also allows students to expand their prior knowledge of an instrument, voice, or other creative media.

## Music Production II

**Grades Course Open To:** 9-10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Music Production I

**Description:** This course allows students to individually study and develop the techniques of the production of music and multimedia presentation. Students further develop their music skills by pursuing the study of voice, acoustic or electric guitar, bass or string instrument, synthesizer, acoustics, digital information theory, music history, music literature, music composition and arranging, electronics, public address systems and audio-video equipment. Students generate music and multimedia presentations and are expected to complete a musical portfolio. The instructor works with each student to develop individual goals and ways to accomplish those goals.

## Fine Arts - Music

### **Music Production III**

**Grades Course Open To:** 10-11-12      **Credit:** 0.5 or 1.0

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Music Production II

**Description:** This course allows students to individually study and perfect the techniques of the production of music and multimedia presentation. Students further develop their skills by pursuing the advanced study of voice, acoustic or electric guitar, bass or string instrument, synthesizer, acoustics, digital information theory, music history, music literature, music composition and arranging, electronics, and audio-video equipment. Students generate music and multimedia presentations and are expected to complete a musical portfolio, using “Garage Band” and/or “Ableton Live.” The instructor works with each student to develop individual goals and ways to accomplish those goals.