



Vocal Music

The Vocal Music program provides students with opportunities to develop their singing voices, musical literacy, and artistic expression through performance and study. Students engage in a variety of choral and solo experiences that strengthen vocal technique, musicianship, and collaboration.

Location: Rosa L. Parks School of Performing Arts

Courses

Vocal Techniques I

The purpose of this course is to provide students with experiences in basic vocal production techniques and part singing. Students define musical terms, perform basic rhythmic values and meters and identify melodic lines. The course develops performance in ensemble through the study of widely varied, appropriate choral literature representing different genres. Attendance is required for rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours. Students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the mechanics of the voice in the body;
- Improve their singing through the implementation techniques presented in warm up and vocal exercise;
- Develop appropriate aesthetic responses to different vocal examples based on

their familiarity with the physiology of the voice. Concepts This course has been designed based on a Spiral Curriculum – all areas of study are practiced at the same time and at each student's individual pace, yielding the skills needed to be a successful vocalist on as both a soloist and as part of a choral ensemble. Because time is at the discretion of the teacher according to the needs of each individual performer, several

areas of this class, including performance, technical development, and composition follow at a pace unique to each individual learner.

Vocal Techniques II

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of healthy vocal production and part singing. Students will learn to define musical terms, perform basic rhythmic values and meters, and recognize melodic lines. Emphasis is placed on ensemble performance through the study of diverse and age-appropriate choral literature representing multiple styles and genres. Participation in rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours is required. This course follows a **Spiral Curriculum** model, in which key concepts—such as performance, technical development, and composition—are practiced continuously and revisited at progressively deeper levels. Students progress at their own pace under teacher guidance, ensuring that each individual builds the skills necessary to succeed as both a soloist and a member of a choral ensemble.

Vocal Techniques III

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of healthy vocal production and part singing. Students will develop the ability to define musical terms, perform basic rhythmic values and meters, and identify melodic lines. Ensemble performance is emphasized through the study of diverse, age-appropriate choral literature representing a variety of genres and styles. Attendance at rehearsals and performances beyond regular school hours is required. Throughout the course, students gain a foundational understanding of how the voice functions within the body while strengthening their singing through warm-ups and targeted vocal exercises. They also learn to respond aesthetically to different vocal examples, drawing on their understanding of vocal physiology to support interpretation and appreciation. The course is designed around a Spiral Curriculum model, in which concepts such as performance, technical development, and composition are practiced continuously and revisited at increasing levels of complexity. Instruction is tailored to the needs of each performer, allowing students to progress at their own pace while building the skills necessary to succeed both as soloists and as members of a choral ensemble.

Vocal Techniques IV

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive foundation in vocal production, part singing, and ensemble performance. Students will be introduced to the mechanics of the voice, the principles of healthy vocal technique, and the development of musical literacy. Instruction emphasizes the ability to define and apply musical terminology, accurately perform rhythmic values and meters, and identify melodic lines within a choral context. Central to the course is the study and performance of diverse choral literature, representing a broad spectrum of genres, styles, and historical periods. Participation in rehearsals and performances beyond the regular school day is an essential requirement, as it provides authentic opportunities for skill application and artistic growth. As students progress, they will strengthen their technical facility through structured warm-ups and targeted vocal exercises, designed to support breath control, tone production, intonation, diction, and vocal health. These technical skills are reinforced through ensemble practice, where students learn to balance, blend, and interpret music collaboratively. At the same time, students develop aesthetic awareness by analyzing and responding to vocal works, informed by their understanding of vocal physiology and stylistic interpretation. The course is grounded in a spiral curriculum framework, ensuring that key areas of study—performance, technical development, theory, and composition—are introduced early, practiced consistently, and revisited with increasing complexity as students advance. Instruction is differentiated to meet the needs of individual learners, allowing each student to progress at an appropriate pace while maintaining high standards of musicianship. This approach cultivates both independence and collaboration, preparing students to perform with confidence as soloists and as integral members of a choral ensemble.

Concert Choir I-IV

This course focuses on developing students' vocal skills, musicianship, and ensemble performance abilities through the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of choral music. Students learn to sing accurately, blend their voices, and interpret music effectively, while also gaining knowledge of music theory, history, and performance techniques. Attendance at after school rehearsals and performances is part of the course requirements.

Skills Developed

- Healthy and expressive vocal production
- Music reading, sight-singing, and aural skills
- Ensemble balance, blend, and collaboration

- Stage presence and performance confidence
- Discipline, focus, and creative expression

Careers & College Pathways

Students who complete the vocal music program may pursue further study or careers in:

- *Vocal performance (classical, musical theater, contemporary)*
- *Music education and conducting*
- *Composition, songwriting, and arranging*
- *Music therapy and vocal coaching*
- *Arts administration and production*