

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

(No music courses are NCAA approved)

To fulfill the requirements for a five-unit sequence in music (in lieu of foreign language) for a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation, a student must successfully complete five units of credits in:

- A. 2 credits of theory plus
- B. 3 credits ensemble (band, orchestra, chorus)

## MUSIC PROGRAM

| <i><b>INSTRUMENTAL</b></i>                                               | <i><b>VOCAL</b></i>                                                      | <i><b>ELECTIVE</b></i>                                         |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>SYMPHONIC BAND</b><br>9,10,11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit               | <b>CHORALE</b><br>9,10,11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit                      | <b>MUSIC THEORY I</b><br>10,11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit       |  |
| <b>WIND SYMPHONY</b><br>(By audition)<br>10,11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit | <b>CONCERT CHOIR</b><br>(By audition)<br>10,11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit | <b>MUSIC THEORY II</b><br>11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit         |  |
| <b>ORCHESTRA</b><br>9,10,11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit                    | <b>SWING CHOIR</b><br>(By audition)<br>10,11,12<br>40 weeks – .5 credit  | <b>MUSIC IN OUR LIVES</b><br>9,10,11,12<br>40 weeks – 1 credit |  |

## INSTRUMENTAL

### **SYMPHONIC BAND (6764)**

40 weeks - 1 credit

*Open to Grades 9, 10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite:** Open to any student who has prior experience playing a band instrument in a concert band setting. Director's approval is required. Preference is given to students who have been members of the Middle School Concert Band or Wind Ensemble.

Symphonic Band is a course designed to meet the needs of anyone interested in continuing their training on a band instrument. The ensemble also serves as a training group for the Wind Symphony. Symphonic Band meets daily and is devoted to performing a wide variety of band literature available, based on the ability of the ensemble. Weekly school music lessons, attendance at performances, practice, and musical progress are course requirements.

\*Members of the Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony form the Marching Band.

**WIND SYMPHONY (6752)**

40 weeks – 1 credit

*Open to Grades 10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite: Open to qualified wind and percussion players, with admittance by yearly audition.**

Wind Symphony is a course designed to meet the needs of the more advanced student interested in playing a band instrument. Wind Symphony meets daily and is devoted to playing a wide variety of more advanced band literature. Weekly school music lessons, attendance at performances, practice, and musical progress are course requirements.

\*Members of the Wind Symphony and Symphonic Band form the Marching Band.

\*\*Members of the Wind Symphony are selected to also perform in the Full Orchestra during various concerts throughout the year. Full Orchestra participation is based on seniority and seating within Wind Symphony. Wind Symphony students who participate in Full Orchestra are required to attend all Orchestra performances and will receive an additional Concert Performance grade as part of their Wind Symphony marking period average.

**ORCHESTRA (6754)**

40 weeks – 1 credit

*Open to Grades 9, 10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite: Open to any student who has prior experience playing an instrument in an orchestra setting. Director's approval is required.**

The Symphony Orchestra offers complete instrumentation, and repertoire including major works of classical, romantic and modern orchestral literature. The Orchestra performs several concerts throughout the year which include a Fall Harvest Concert, Winter and Spring concerts and annual NYSSMA festival participation. Weekly school music lessons, attendance at performances, practice and musical progress are course requirements.

# VOCAL

**CHORALE (6749)**  
40 weeks - 1 credit

*Open to Grades 9, 10, 11, 12*

***Student must be capable of singing one of the SATB parts.  
Director approval required.***

Chorale is a general entry mixed voice ensemble that performs a minimum of two concerts throughout the year. Emphasis is placed on learning basic vocal hygiene and techniques. The Repertoire includes introductory pieces of varying styles, including choral masterworks. Members are required to be able to match pitch vocally. Chorus requirements include participation at all concerts and rehearsals, two written reflection assignments per year and periodic voice testing.

**CONCERT CHOIR (6751)**  
40 weeks - 1 credit

*Open to Grades 10, 11, 12*

***Students must audition and be capable of singing one of the SATB parts.  
Director's approval and high audition scores are required.***

Concert Choir is a mixed voice ensemble of select, auditioned students that performs a minimum of three concerts, as well as other varied community and school performances yearly. Membership will include opportunities to participate in Erie County and NYSSMA festivals. Emphasis will be placed on improving the students' developing skill set and knowledge of differing vocal styles and genres of music. Chorus requirements include participation at all concerts and rehearsals, two written assignments per quarter, and periodic voice testing. All members are required to participate in the Senior High All County Audition held in January. Concert Choir travels on an occasional basis and trip attendance is strongly encouraged.

**SWING CHOIR (6757)**  
40 weeks - 1/2 credit

*Open to Grades 10, 11, 12*

**Students must audition for this highly selective ensemble.**

The Swing Choir is selected by audition and director's approval from those already participating in Concert Choir. Emphasis will be placed on the study of various vocal jazz/swing/rock/pop styles. This group will have multiple performances for school and community functions. The goal of this choir is to become performance-ready and independent from direction. Senior High All County quartet audition in January is required and will be part of the course grade.

# ELECTIVES

## **MUSIC IN OUR LIVES (6765)**

40 weeks – 1 credit

*Open to Grades 9, 10, 11, 12*

This course will give the student a general overview of the field of music as an art form, through the study of current musical developments, music & rock history, listening, and an independent instrument study with the choice between the guitar, ukulele, or piano. We will investigate the way music influences each and every one of us in our everyday lives. The student will practice, through directed listening, skills for critical analysis of several styles and genres of music, including current ones, their elements and influences. The student will study the impact of commercialization on music, and investigate current events in music today. Lastly, the student will be offered information on consumer musical concerns such as stereo systems, sound electronics, mp3's, copyright issues with downloaded music, free streaming apps, and an overview of possible careers in music

## **MUSIC THEORY I (6758)**

40 weeks - 1 credit

*Open to Grades 10, 11, 12*

**Prerequisite: Successful completion of the General Music Courses in the Middle School and/or membership in one of the performing high school groups.**

**\*\* Students without previous consistent ensemble or musical experience must have teacher approval.**

This course represents a major part of the requirements for the Regents diploma in the special field of music. Five credits are required for the music sequence - two of these credits must be in Theory. The pupils learn to (1) analyze music, (2) perform music through sight-singing, keyboard and other mediums. The fundamental items stressed are: staves, scales and key signatures, time values, rhythmic patterns, musical terms, melody, intervals, cadences, basic chords, transposition, and dictation.

## **MUSIC THEORY II (6759)**

40 weeks – 1 credit

*Open to Grades 11, 12*

**Prerequisite: Student must have successfully completed Music Theory 1**

This course consists of an intensive study of chords and their relationship and is directed toward the recognition of sound and sight of all chords. The chief topics covered are: principles and subordinate triads and their inversions in major and minor, dominate seventh chords and their inversions, second inversions of all principal and subordinate chords, dominate ninth chords, and incomplete and complete, secondary seventh chords, modulations, altered and mixed chords. There is an additional focus on student composition.

***The following are guidelines for students who are interested in receiving credit for enrollment in a secondary ensemble in the Iroquois High School Music Department:***

- Students are selected by invitation only for their superior skills in their discipline.
- Students performing in a lower-level ensemble as well as their primary ensemble are functioning very differently in each. In their primary (upper) ensemble, students are constantly challenged to grow and develop. In this way they gain superior skills. In their secondary ensemble, however, students are spending their time and energy mentoring and musically leading the younger students, largely freshmen, who enter the program with a much lower-functioning skill level. They do this primarily through sharing and displaying their learned skills, as well as a “can-do” attitude they may not have experienced before. They are not musically challenged and fed, as such, but rather are working in a much clearer leadership capacity. In this way they become providers. Peer mentorship and skill sharing, in combination with teacher instruction, goes way farther in developing students than either one or the other. This also directly benefits the music program in that it accelerates the learning curve of the younger students, who develop the required complex motor skills most effectively through peer mentorship and example. Students may earn a full or partial credit for their secondary ensemble. Please see your music performance instructor for any further clarification.