

2026-2027 ACADEMIC PROGRAM GUIDE

Achieving
Excellence,
Innovation,
& Empowerment
Together.

MUSIC

Instrumental

Concert Band
Concert Orchestra
Jazz Ensemble
Symphonic Band
Symphony Orchestra
Wind Ensemble
Sinfonietta

Vocal

Concert Choir
Freshman Boys Chorus
Freshman Girls Chorus
Freshman Chorus & Vocal Techniques
Senior Madrigals
Sophomore Mixed Chorus
Treble Choir
Varsity Choir
Advanced Vocal Techniques

Related Courses

Adaptive Music Leaders (2027-2028)
AP Music Theory
Music Design and Technology
Career Internship Program
Guitar - Beginning and Intermediate
Piano - Beginning and Intermediate

Office of Music

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Fine Arts Division Philosophy

Departments of the Fine Arts Division include the Visual Arts, Music, and World Languages. They all focus on the need for individual expression and communication with others. Each area nurtures the internal development of creativity, intuition, reasoning, and imagination and offers a unique means by which thoughts and feelings can be conveyed to familiar and foreign societies. It is the belief of the Division that through these timeless disciplines, students will come to appreciate civilization's past and to contribute to the future advancement of the individual and society.

Music Department Philosophy

Focusing on the production, understanding, and value of music, students will come to understand the written piece within its time and context and apply such to their own realities. The skills, knowledge, and habits formed will enrich students' life experiences.

Instructional Courses

Concert Band
Concert Orchestra
Symphonic Band
Symphony Orchestra
Jazz Ensemble
Wind Ensemble
Sinfonietta

Related Courses

Music Design & Technology
AP Music Theory
Adaptive Music Leader
Beginning Guitar
Intermediate Guitar
Beginning Piano
Intermediate Piano

Vocal Courses

Freshmen Boys Chorus
Freshmen Girls Chorus
Freshmen Chorus & Vocal Techniques
Sophomore Mixed Chorus
Concert Choir
Treble Choir
Varsity Choir
Advanced Vocal Technique (12)
Senior Madrigals

Music Department Standards

Standard I Music Performance

A. The student will demonstrate the ability to read music notation.
B. The student will demonstrate basic elements of tone production for voice and/or instrument.
C. The student will demonstrate well-developed ensemble skills.
D. The student will perform in a variety of venues and configurations.

Standard II Music Appreciation and History

A. The student will understand and explain music in relation to history and culture.
B. The student will critically listen to, analyze, and describe music.
C. The student will appreciate the creative process to express emotions and feelings.

All courses listed under Music apply toward the Creative Arts graduation requirement.

- The Music Theory AP course will prepare students for the AP examination in music.
- **Independent Study:** As outlined in the Independent Study section, under specific conditions, students may make an application for Independent Study. In all cases, students must secure parent, teacher, counselor, divisional, and building administration approval. Independent Study may not be taken as an 8th semester/annual course.



Related Courses

Adaptive Music Leader

Credit: 1/2
Level: III
Grade Offered: 10, 11, 12
Fall: 10 MU7106
Fall: 11, 12 MU7101
Prerequisite: None

This is a one semester course designed for any student who is interested in working alongside special education peers within a culinary arts/art/music/Applied Tech course. Students will develop an understanding and gain experience in: modifying activities to meet individual needs, developing lessons and assisting with instruction, and working alongside peers with special needs to develop meaningful connections. Students will be involved in partnering with and assisting students in acquiring skills through a variety of engaging activities. This course fulfills a creative/practical art elective requirement. (Offered again in 2027-2028).

Music Design & Technology

Credit: 1/2
Level: III
Grade Offered: 11, 12
Fall: 11, 12 MU3701
Spring: 11, 12 MU3702
Prerequisite: None

Designed for the student with no previous musical experience, in this course students will explore and understand music through the lens of creativity and self-expression. Initially, the course will focus on the elements of music, the nature of sound, and basic music notation. Next, students will explore a large variety of musical genres (including rock, pop, blues, world, classical and modern). Finally, with the aid of technology, students will manipulate prerecorded sounds and create a variety of projects utilizing looping, sequencing, recording and composing.

AP Music Theory

Credit: 1
Level: V
Grade Offered: 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU5811
Annual: 11, 12 MU5812
Prerequisite: Previous music training necessary

AP Music Theory is a course of study for the serious musician who aspires to a career in the music field. Students learn tonal harmonic functions through analysis, dictation, and some composition. The course includes ear training, melodic and rhythmic dictation, listening to a variety of styles of music, and analyzing representative music compositions. AP Music Theory utilizes Sibelius software to further student skills in composition and in arranging for all music genres.

Career Internship Program

Credit: 1/2 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 12
Fall: 11, 12 MU5551
Spring: 11, 12 MU5552
Summer: MU5558 or MU5559

This course is designed for a student who is seeking to complete an internship in partnership with LTHS. Detailed information about qualifying for a Career Internship Program class can be found in the Career Internship Guidelines for Approval section of the Guide. An application does not guarantee admission.

Beginning Piano

Credit: 1/2
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12
Fall: 9, 10 MU4616
Spring: 9, 10 MU4617
Fall: 11, 12 MU4611
Spring: 11, 12 MU4612
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to develop beginning piano techniques, regardless of prior music experience. Students will learn basic piano skills, including playing technique, music literacy, music theory, and concepts of melody and harmony. Students will explore a variety of genres from different cultures, while learning about influential musicians and developing self-discipline and good practice habits.

Intermediate Piano

Credit: 1/2
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12
Fall: 9, 10 MU4716
Spring: 9, 10 MU4717
Fall: 11, 12 MU4711
Spring: 11, 12 MU4712
Prerequisite: Beginning Piano

This course is a continuation of Beginning Piano. Students will learn intermediate piano skills, including playing technique, music literacy, music theory, and concepts of melody and harmony. Students will explore a variety of genres from different cultures, while learning about influential musicians and developing self-discipline and good practice habits.

Beginning Guitar

Credit: 1/2
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12
Fall: 9, 10 MU6616
Spring: 9, 10 MU6617
Fall: 11, 12 MU6611
Spring: 11, 12 MU6612
Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to develop beginning guitar techniques including flat picking and finger picking. Students will learn basic first position chords and first position notes. Each unit includes both playing activities and written assignments. Students will learn to read music and guitar tablature. Each student should have access to a personal instrument for home practice.

Intermediate Guitar

Credit: 1/2
Level: III
Grade Offered: 11, 12
Spring: 11, 12 MU6622
Prerequisite: Beginning Guitar

This course is a continuation of Beginning Guitar. Emphasis is placed on understanding music theory, learning moveable chords, and reading notes in fifth, seventh, and ninth position. The goals of the class are both performance-based and written. Students should have access to a personal instrument for home practice and should be able to read music, read guitar tablature, and play basic instrumental courses.

Instrumental Courses

Concert Band

Credit: 1
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9, 10
Annual: 9, 10 MU5016
Annual: 9, 10 MU5017
Prerequisite: Junior high/middle school band experience or audition with instructor

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Students in Concert Band study standard band literature, music fundamentals, and elementary theory. They continually strive to improve their performance in the areas of tone, intonation, technique, and musicianship. The band performs at home football games, parades, and concerts. The marching band component during the first quarter results in some required after school/night rehearsals. During the concert season, students are encouraged to prepare solos and participate in small ensembles for the class, and if they wish, for competition. Performance participation is mandatory.

Concert Orchestra

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9, 10
Annual: 9, 10 MU5226
Annual: 9, 10 MU5227
Prerequisite: Experience with orchestral string instrument and ability to read music

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This course is open to freshman and sophomore players of the violin, viola, cello, string bass, and harp. Class activities include the study of music fundamentals, sight-reading, standard orchestral literature, and public performance. The Concert Orchestra members are encouraged to prepare solos and small ensembles for concerts, community programs, and the state festivals and competitions. Concert participation is mandatory.

Symphonic Band

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 10 (audition), 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU5031
Annual: 11, 12 MU5032
Prerequisite: Participation in the Concert Band or audition with instructor

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Students in this course study music fundamentals and standard band literature. They continually strive to improve their performance in the area of tone, intonation, technique, and musicianship. The band performs at home football games, parades, and concerts. The marching band component during the first quarter results in some required after school/night rehearsals. There is an opportunity to audition for All State organizations. Band members are encouraged to prepare solos and small ensembles for concerts, community programs, and the state contest. Concert attendance/participation is mandatory.

Symphonic Orchestra

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 10 (audition), 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU5211
Annual: 11, 12 MU5212
Prerequisite: Experience with orchestral string instrument and ability to read music

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This course is open to junior, senior and auditioned sophomores who play the violin, viola, cello, string bass and harp. Wind and percussion players are selected from the Wind Ensemble. Class activities include a more advanced study of music fundamentals, sight-reading, standard orchestral literature, and public performance. The Symphony Orchestra members are encouraged to prepare solos and small ensembles for concerts, community programs, and local/state festivals and competitions. Performance participation is mandatory.

Jazz Ensemble

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU6111
Annual: 11, 12 MU6112
Prerequisite: Audition

This course offers an advanced instrumental jazz experience through the study of works by master jazz artists. The ensemble experience will focus on the performance of a variety of jazz styles within the jazz genre. Significant time will be devoted to the study of improvisation through the study of jazz standards and the building of a jazz vocabulary. Private study is strongly recommended. Participation is determined by audition.

Wind Ensemble

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 10, 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU5321
Annual: 11, 12 MU5322
Prerequisite: Audition and consent of instructor

Wind Ensemble offers an advanced instrumental experience through the study and performance of complex high school and college level works for winds and percussion. The course emphasizes advanced performance skills, musical interpretation and techniques. Through rehearsals, clinics and performances, students will broaden the musical repertoire with advanced literature of many styles and periods. Due to the soloistic nature of part assignments, there is a strong emphasis on individual preparation for rehearsals and performances. Private study on principal instruments is strongly recommended. The marching band component during the first quarter results in some required after school/evening rehearsals. Participation is determined by audition.

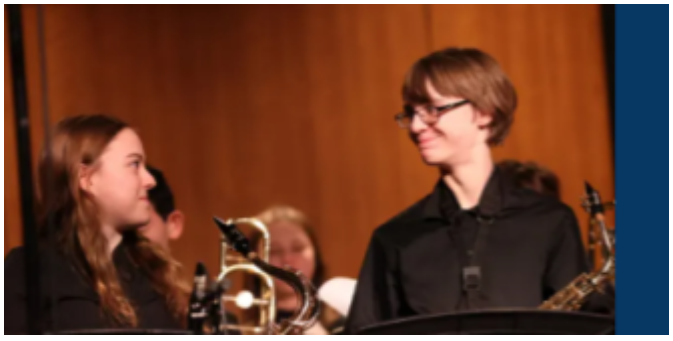
Sinfonietta

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU5231
Annual: 11, 12 MU5232
Prerequisite: Audition

Sinfonietta is determined by audition and is open to junior and senior students who play the violin, viola, cello, or bass. This course offers study and performance of advanced string orchestra literature and chamber music. Repertoire will be performed without a conductor, so soloistic playing and independent part mastery is expected. Private study on one's principal instrument is strongly recommended.

"One positive thought produces millions of positive vibrations."

~John Coltrane



Vocal Courses

Freshmen Boys Chorus

Credit: 1
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9
Annual: 9 MU4316
Annual: 9 MU4317
Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory course for freshman boys wanting to be involved in choral singing. All boys, regardless of previous musical experience, are welcome to enroll. Choral music from different cultures and historical periods is studied, as well as basic musical terminology and technique. In order to accommodate the unique attributes of male voices, the boys participate in both a mixed voice ensemble and a male chorus on alternating days. The Freshman Chorus performs during the school day as well as in the evenings. Concert participation is mandatory.

Freshmen Girls Chorus

Credit: 1
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9
Annual: 9 MU4416
Annual: 9 MU4417
Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory course for freshman girls wanting to be involved in choral singing. All girls, regardless of previous musical experience, are welcome to enroll. Choral music from different cultures and historical periods is studied, as well as basic musical terminology and technique. In order to accommodate the unique attributes of female voices, the girls participate in both a mixed voice ensemble and a female chorus on alternating days. The Freshman Chorus performs during the school day as well as in the evenings. Concert participation is mandatory.

Freshmen Chorus and Vocal Techniques

Credit: 1
Level: III
Grade Offered: 9
Annual: 9 MU4216
Annual: 9 MU4217
Prerequisite: None

This is an introductory course for freshman girls wanting to be involved in both ensemble and solo vocal music. All girls, regardless of previous musical experience, are welcome to enroll. The girls will rehearse choral music from different cultures and historical periods as well as learn basic musical terminology and technique. The large ensemble will present concerts along with the Freshman Boys and Freshman Girls Choruses. Concert participation is mandatory. The solo component of the class will involve individual monitored rehearsals with performances evaluated by class members and the instructor. Participation in the spring Solo and Ensemble Festival is encouraged.

Sophomore Mixed Chorus

Credit: 1
Level: III
Grade Offered: 10
Annual: 10 MU4516
Annual: 10 MU4516
Prerequisite: None

Sophomore Mixed Chorus is open to all sophomore boys and girls regardless of previous choral experience. Maturing vocal production and musical skills are developed through the rehearsal and performance of a wide variety of choral music from many cultures and historical periods. Public performances in the school and community during the school year require mandatory concert participation. Sophomore Chorus members may choose to audition for the IMEA District Chorus Music Musical Enrichment Groups 122 in the fall and participate in the Solo/Ensemble Festival in the spring. The Chorus presents its annual Chorus Assemblies in May.

Concert Choir

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU5411
Annual: 11, 12 MU5412
Prerequisite: None

Concert Choir is open to junior and senior men. Students in this class study and perform advanced male chorus literature (TTBB) of a variety of styles and historical periods. A developing sense of tone production, sight-reading skills, and musicianship are stressed in this course, resulting in growing confidence and musical independence. Concert Choir performs in school and in the community frequently during the year. Concert attendance/participation is mandatory for each performance. Students are encouraged to audition for the IMEA Illinois All-State Chorus in the fall, the musical, and Solo/Ensemble Festival in the spring to enhance their musical development.

Treble Choir

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 11, 12
Annual: 11, 12 MU5511
Annual: 11, 12 MU5512
Prerequisite: None

Treble Choir is open to junior and senior women. Students in this class study and perform advanced treble-voiced literature (SSAA) of a variety of styles and historical periods. The curriculum includes an emphasis on musicianship skills such as sight-reading, ear training, and vocal independence for the maturing female voice. Treble choir performs in school and in the community frequently during the year. Concert attendance/participation is mandatory for each performance. Students are encouraged to audition for the IMEA Illinois All-State Chorus in the fall, the musical, and Solo/ Ensemble Festival in the spring to enhance their musical development.

Varsity Choir

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 12
Annual: 12 MU5311
Annual: 12 MU5312
Prerequisite: None

Varsity Choir is an auditioned mixed choir that performs advanced SATB literature, both a cappella and accompanied. Frequent assessment of individual vocal skills requires the demonstration and application of advanced musical concepts. Advanced tone production, individual as well as group musicianship, and choral techniques are stressed. The Varsity Choir performs frequently in the school and in the community with mandatory attendance/ participation expected for performances. Additional concert activities are scheduled during the school year such as exchange concerts. Students are encouraged to audition for the IMEA Illinois All-State Chorus in the fall, the musical, and Solo/Ensemble Festival in the spring as enhancements to their musical development. Auditions for Varsity Choir are held in the spring of the junior year.

Advanced Vocal Techniques

Credit: 1 (dc)
Level: IV
Grade Offered: 12
Annual: 12 MU5911
Annual: 12 MU5912
Alternate Days
Prerequisite: None

Advanced Vocal Techniques, a class which meets every other day, offers individual students an opportunity to develop their voice through the study and performance of solo literature. Individual and monitored rehearsals are expected with performances evaluated by class members and the instructor. Experience in the spring Solo and Ensemble Festival is strongly encouraged. This class is often taken concurrently with Senior Madrigals. However, participation in Senior Madrigals is not required.

Senior Madrigals

Credit: 0
Level: None
Grade Offered: 12
Annual: 12 MU6941
Annual: 12 MU6942
Prerequisite: Audition

Current junior students in the choral program can audition for Senior Madrigals in the spring of their junior year. Students selected after auditions for the ensemble concurrently enroll in Advanced Vocal Techniques, but do not receive credit for Madrigals. Advanced vocal chamber music is studied, and performances in the school and the community are frequent. These singers are encouraged to audition for the IMEA All-State Chorus in the fall and the vocal Solo/Ensemble Festival in the spring. Performance attendance/participation is mandatory.

Musical Enrichment Groups

Students enrolled in music performance groups have several opportunities to be in special ensembles. These meet outside regular class time. Ensemble members are selected from the larger performing groups. An expanded performance schedule for these groups is maintained in the school and community. There is no credit for these ensembles: Sophomore Madrigals, Junior Madrigals, Senior Madrigals, Jazz Band, Jazz Lab Band, Chamber Orchestra, and A Capella Club.



Music Classes

When choosing Annual Courses, you will need the first and second semester codes.

Freshman Courses

Annual

MU5016/7 Concert Band
MU5226/7 Concert Orchestra
MU4216/7 Freshman Chorus & Vocal Techniques
MU4316/7 Freshman Boys Chorus
MU4416/7 Freshman Girls Chorus

Fall Only

MU6616 Beginning Guitar
MU4616 Beginning Piano

Spring Only

MU6617 Beginning Guitar
MU4617 Beginning Piano
MU4717 Intermediate Piano

Sophomore Courses

Annual

MU5016/7 Concert Band
MU5226/7 Concert Orchestra
MU4516/7 Sophomore Mixed Chorus

Fall Only

MU6616 Beginning Guitar
MU7106 Adaptive Music Leaders (2026-2027)
MU4616 Beginning Piano
MU4716 Intermediate Piano

Spring Only

MU6617 Beginning Guitar
MU4617 Beginning Piano
MU4717 Intermediate Piano

Courses requiring audition*

MU5321/2 Wind Ensemble
MU5211/2 Symphony Orchestra
MU5031/2 Symphonic Band

Junior and Senior Courses

Annual

MU5411/2 Concert Choir
MU5511/2 Treble Choir
MU5031/2 Symphonic Band
MU5211/2 Symphony Orchestra
MU5911/2 Advanced Vocal Techniques (12th Grade Only)
MU5811/2 AP Music Theory

Fall Only

MU3701 Music Design & Technology
MU6611 Beginning Guitar
MU7101 Adaptive Music Leaders (offered 2027-2028)
MU4611 Beginning Piano
MU4711 Intermediate Piano

Spring Only

MU3702 Music Design & Technology
MU6612 Beginning Guitar
MU6622 Intermediate Guitar
MU4612 Beginning Piano
MU4712 Intermediate Piano

Fall or Spring

MU5551/2 Career Internship

Courses requiring audition*

MU5321/2 Wind Ensemble
MU6111/2 Jazz Ensemble
MU5311/2 Varsity Choir
MU6941/2 Senior Madrigals
MU5231/2 Sinfonietta

***When students select a course requiring an audition at registration, they must also indicate alternates they would like if they do not make audition.**

Did You Know...?

The Arts are exercise for the brain. Scientific studies prove that 30 minutes a day with a creative activity builds dendrites - the brain's connectors.

www.artsed.org/Art-Facts

After nine months of weekly training in piano or voice, new research shows young students' IQ's rose nearly three points more than their untrained peers.

Yahoo News, HealthDay, July 13, 2004

The Arts promote individuality, bolster self-confidence and improve overall academic performance.

www.artsed.org/Art-Facts

Have you ever considered a career as...

Performing Arts
Symphony Orchestra
Administrative Personnel
Musician
Conductor Instrumental/Choral/Ballet
Accompanist
Armed Forces Music
Popular Music Performer
Restaurant/Lounge Performer
Wedding Performer
Music Education
General Music Specialist
Music Supervisor
Private Teacher
Store Studio Teacher
Band/Orchestra Director
College/Conservatory Professor
Choral Director
Business Retailing Distributing of Instruments
Sales Representative
Instrument Maker
Instrument Repair
Music Publishing
Piano Tuning
Recording Industry
Recording Artist
Producer
Songwriter
Studio Musician
Recording Engineer
Merchandiser
Disc Jockey
Music Industry Attorney
Music Theater, Opera, Film
Performer
Stage Manager D
Director
Costume/Set Designer
Tech Staff
Allied Fields
Music Librarian
Music Criticism
Music Communications
Publicity
Public Relations
Music for Worship
Church Organist
Concert Manager

Honor our tradition of excellence, foster innovation, and empower all students in their quest for a fulfilling life.



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