Course Offerings 2026-2027

DANCE

INTRODUCTION TO DANCE

This class is designed to be taken once. It is for all students new to the K-12 dance experience. Regardless of dance level or interest, students will engage in creating, performing, connecting, and responding to learn about the history of dance, its cultural context, and the various ways people participate in dance across the globe.

INTERMEDIATE DANCE

This class can be taken multiple times. It is highly recommended that Introduction to Dance is taken first due to the nature and content covered. Students study the creative process and engage with it in challenging and reflective manners. Students create works for the annual choreography showcase.

ADVANCED DANCE HONORS

This class can be taken multiple times. Intermediate Dance is the required prerequisite to this class. It is a continuation of creative process study. Students begin to develop the intrinsic tools necessary in synthesizing the knowledge gained in Introduction and Intermediate Dance in a more refined and intentional way.

IB DANCE *

This class is an upper level course and is eligible for seniors and IB-DP Juniors. There are no prerequisites, but Intermediate Dance is highly encouraged to ensure success. This class works at a post-secondary level and is driven by student inquiry and reflection in the creative process. Analysis/ synthesis with cultural dance styles through investigation, and performance quality exploration.

Students who take all four levels of dance will graduate with a portfolio of their own work that can be used for future auditions and applications. Intermediate Dance, Advanced Dance, and IB Dance participate in the annual choreography showcase in January each year. Our students have gone on to be recognized at the national level for their dance education and many pursue careers in dance performance, production, teaching, physical therapy, costume design, and kinesiology as a result of taking our class offerings.

* Students in IB will be expected to put in time outside of class. This course is meant to provide students with a new way of looking at dance in a collegiate compositional way. Students are encouraged but not required to submit internal and external assessments for grading to the IB panel at the end of the year. This course is good for any students with a strong work ethic, organizational skills, and are self-motivated to succeed. Previous/ introductory dance experience is helpful, but is not required. Advanced critical-thinking and reflective skills are necessary for this course.

For more information contact Crystal Shaffer at crystal.shaffer@wcs.edu

IB FILM

IB FILM I / IB FILM II

IB Film is a two-year course for juniors and seniors that aims to develop students as proficient interpreters and makers of film texts. Through the study and analysis of film texts, and practical exercises in film production, students develop critical abilities and appreciation of artistic, cultural, historical and global perspectives in film. They

examine concepts, theories, practices and ideas from multiple perspectives, challenging their own views to understand and value those of others. Students are challenged to acquire and develop critical thinking, reflective analysis and the imaginative synthesis through practical engagement in the art, craft and study of film.

Students experiment with film and multimedia technology, acquiring the skills and creative competencies required to successfully communicate through the language of the medium. They develop an artistic voice and learn how to express personal perspectives through film. The course emphasizes the importance of working collaboratively, international and intercultural dynamics, and an appreciation of the development of film across time and culture.

For information contact Ray Scheetz at rays1@wcs.edu

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

CONCERT BAND

The first performing ensemble in the Franklin Band program. Members consist of woodwind and brass instrumentalists. Concert Band members join with percussionists enrolled in Percussion for all performances.

SYMPHONIC BAND

The second performing ensemble in the Franklin Band program. Members consist of woodwind and brass instrumentalists. Symphonic Band members join with percussionists enrolled in Percussion for all performances. Audition required.

WIND ENSEMBLE

The third performing ensemble in the Franklin Band program. Honors-level course. Members consist of woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists. Audition required. Mid-State Audition Required.

PERCUSSION

The fourth course offering In the Franklin Band program. Members consist of percussion instrumentalists. Percussion members join with Concert Band and/or Symphonic Band for all performances. No audition required.

Students interested in band should consult a band director to identify the course that best suits their experience level. Course placement is determined by the band directors. Unenrollment from a band course requires advance director notification. Wind and percussion Marching Band participation requires enrollment in a band course.

All band courses study and perform wind band repertoire. All band courses may also be repeated each year.

For more information contact Director of Bands, Dr. Michael Holland at perry.holland@wcs.edu or Nick Blue at nicholas.blue@wcs.edu

ORCHESTRA

An intermediate level orchestra for students who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Membership in Orchestra is open to all students, who have developed proficiency on their instrument that enables them to play the repertoire of the ensemble. Orchestra shares many concert venues with the other Franklin ensembles, and on occasion combines focus with them. Infrequent after school or pre-concert rehearsals are required to this end. All concerts and rehearsals are mandatory. Participation in private lessons is encouraged.

HONORS ORCHESTRA

An upper-intermediate level orchestra for grade 9 - 12 students who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Membership in Honors Orchestra is by audition only, scheduled the prior school year through the students' orchestra director at the time. Provisional auditions can be scheduled at the director's discretion at other times for students who were not available for the initial audition. Honors Orchestra shares many concert venues with the other Franklin ensembles, and on occasion combines forces with them. Infrequent after school or pre-concert rehearsals are required to this end. All concerts and rehearsals are mandatory. Participation in private lessons is strongly recommended.

For more information about Orchestra please contact Brian Pinter at brian.pinter@wcs.edu

MUSIC THEORY

GENERAL MUSIC

This course enables students, regardless of their level of music experience, to develop skills in appreciating music of all genres. They will become familiar with important composers, musical words, basic music literacy and other influential music events from prehistory to the 21st century There is an emphasis on reading, writing, and memorization associated with this course.

AP MUSIC THEORY

AP Music Theory is an introductory college-level music theory course. Students cultivate their understanding of music theory through analyzing performed and notated music as they explore concepts like pitch, rhythm, form, and musical design. There is an emphasis on reading, writing, and memorization associated with this course.

Students will be expected to put in time outside of class. Reading, creating note-cards, watching videos, reviewing and studying notes. This course is meant to provide students with an advance understanding of music theory and how to apply it. While this is an AP course, students do not have to take the AP exam at the end of the year. This course is good for any students with a strong work ethic, organizational skills, and self-driven to succeed. The amount of content covered in this course requires students to show up everyday and be an active participant.

THEATRE ARTS

TECHNICAL THEATRE

This course is an introductory course dedicated entirely to investigating the technical side of theatre. Students will explore the various technical fields such as set design, costume design, sound, lighting, publicity, digital art and more! Those in this course will also gain hands on experience as they help build the set and costume pieces during class for upcoming after school productions. This course can serve as a general fine arts credit and is open to anyone remotely interested in discovering what occurs behind the scenes in a production.

THEATRE ARTS I

This course is an introductory course that acts as a general overview of the theatrical arts with an emphasis on creativity, collaboration, and perseverance. Students will explore all aspects of theatre including movement, acting, script analysis, and technical theatre and design. This course can serve as a general fine arts credit and is open to anyone remotely interested in discovering what occurs on or offstage in a production.

THEATRE ARTS II

This acting course builds on Theatre I by providing students with opportunities for learning the basic techniques and skills of dramatic and comic performance. Additionally, students gain a working knowledge of theatre history and the multiple forms of theatrical performance, as well as the technical aspects of theater and theatrical design. This course is open to all 10th-12th graders who want a deeper understanding of performance related skills.

THEATRE ARTS III HONORS

This course introduces students to the leadership side of theatre. Students delve deeper into the designing process and learn how to build original designs from the ground up for a theatrical production. They also begin to explore the directing process and build professional portfolios of their work. Students in this course are required to participate in after school productions in some capacity and will serve as designers for the student-directed one act at the end of the year. This course is open to 11th and 12th graders only and students need to have some theatre experience before joining the class. Exceptions can be made after communicating with Ms. Beene.

THEATRE ARTS IV HONORS

This is the highest level course in the theatre program and is a culmination of all the courses before it. Within this class, the students build and strengthen their professional portfolios after graduation. They also delve deeper into the directing process as they prepare to direct a full one act production at the end of the year. Students in this course are also required to participate in afterschool productions in some capacity. This course is for 12th graders only and students need to have some theatre experience before joining the class. Exceptions can be made after communicating with Ms. Beene.

For more information please contact Kayla Beene at kayla.beene@wcs.edu.

VISUAL ARTS

VISUAL ARTS I

This first year class is designed to be taken as an introductory course. It is for all students who are either seeking to earn their Fine Arts credit for graduation purposes or for those wishing to continue on to upper level Visual Arts courses.

VISUAL ARTS II

This class is the natural next step for young artists wishing to continuing on the Visual Art track. Due to the nature of techniques and processes, as well as content covered, students should take Visual

Arts I prior to taking this class. Students study the creative process and engage with many mediums, techniques, and processes, in challenging and reflective manners.

MEDIA ARTS I

In this course, students will learn to integrate traditional art forms through the integration of technology. They will develop both their artistic abilities and technology skills. Students will cover the study of human communications through various media, including visual arts, media arts, photography, interactive art, and much more. Students learn to use elements like color, light, time, and space to express their ideas, feelings, and perspectives. Students will understand media arts to be an important form of personal realization and well-being and make connections between media-arts, history, culture, and other learnings.

VISUAL ARTS III HONORS / IB VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts III Honors and IB Visual Arts, are upper-level co-seated courses eligible for juniors and seniors, regardless of whether students are on the IB-Diploma Program track. Visual Art III Honors students will create advanced work that similarly matches course work in Visual Arts I & II, as they complete the Visual Arts focus. While students are highly encouraged to take Visual Arts I and II prior, students may be placed in the IB Visual Arts course at teacher discretion. Students should reach out if they are seeking to advance without taking prerequisites. This class is driven by student inquiry and reflection in the creative process. VA III Honors students earn 3 extra points on each grading period and exam for both semesters.

AP ART & DESIGN

This class is the highest level of Visual Arts we offer and is a senior only course. Students entering this class are self-driven, have experimented with many mediums, techniques, and processes, and are ready to build a portfolio, either for personal or educational use. Students are utilizing their developed knowledge from prior Visual Arts courses through more refined and intentional art-making.

Students who take all four levels will graduate with a portfolio of their own work that can be used for future applications. Visual Art I, Visual Art II, IB Visual Arts, and AP Art & Design courses will participate in the annual Visual/Digital Arts Show in March, held during our FHS Night of the Arts event. Students are also encouraged to submit artworks to the annual Scholastic Art Competition through Cheekwood, beginning in September.
For more information contact Michael Boyle at michaelb1@wcs.edu or Rachel Berzina at rachel.berzina@wcs.edu

VOCAL MUSIC

FRESHMAN CHOIR

This choir is for any 9th grader entering the FHS choral program. Members will learn everything needed to be successful in concert or chamber choir including the basics of singing, reading music, multi-part singing, sight reading, and more!

CONCERT CHORUS

Concert Chorus is a choir open to all 10-12th graders who want to learn more about group singing and music. By singing a wide variety of music, students will solidify their music literacy ability and fine tune their singing skills. There are two required concerts (Winter and Spring). No audition required.

CHAMBER CHOIR

This is the highest level of the choral program and is a honors level class. It is open to 10-12th graders by audition or invitation only. This group not only performs at FHS events and concerts but travels around the community/state. They also represent FHS on the competitive chorus stage, frequently receiving superior ratings.

For more information please contact Angela Winter at angela.winter@wcs.edu