

Freshman Elective Options

9th-grade students take one elective in their freshman year. 9th-grade elective options are:

Intro to STEM

Dance 1

Men's Chorus

Women's Chorus

Art 1

Digital Art, Graphics, & Anime

On the Stage: Acting, Directing, Movie Making

Behind the Scenes: Set design, Construction, Sound, and Costuming

Concert Band*

Percussion*

*Concert Band and Percussion are yearlong electives.

Elective Course Descriptions

Introduction to STEM

Do you like building things? Do you tend to be curious about how things work? Are you interested in how technology is used to advance our society? Come visit the world of STEM to learn more about fulfilling careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. This course is designed to help students discern career interests in the world of STEM. Students will rotate through various STEM fields while completing hands-on activities and gaining understanding in a variety of fields of study. Students will research and present on various topics related to STEM, including career pathways available based on their interests. This course meets for a semester.

Freshman Men's Chorus

This course offers incoming freshmen men an opportunity to develop their singing voices through choral singing, correct breathing, sight singing, and vocal production techniques. The students will explore music from a variety of styles and genres. They will also experience vocal audition techniques, music reading, intervals, and learn musical listening techniques. This course meets for a semester and performs at two required curricular concerts.

Freshman Women's Chorus

This course offers incoming freshmen women an opportunity to develop their singing voices through choral singing, correct breathing, sight singing, and vocal production techniques. The students will explore music from a variety of styles and genres. They will also experience vocal audition techniques, music reading, intervals, and learn musical listening techniques. This course meets for a semester and performs at two required curricular concerts.

Art I

Art I is an introductory course focusing on fundamental art skills. Various media and tools are explored, including painting, drawing, and sculpture. An emphasis is placed on understanding the Elements of Art and developing technique through the art-making process. Key components of this class are color theory, one-point perspective, value gradation, and drawing from observation. This course meets for a semester.

Digital Art, Graphics, and Anime

How digital art and graphics, including anime took over the world. Students in this course will take a visual romp through the evolution of comics and advertising graphics, including the current anime craze, over the past century. From the beginnings of comic strips to sell newspapers in the late nineteenth century and the emerging use of graphics to create brand identities and advertising campaigns in the early twentieth century, to the evolution of art styles in strip comics, the emergence of graphic arts to tell extended stories (comic books), and the current craze for anime and related digital artistic styles, this course will review the phenomenal emergence of graphic designs, and more recently, digital graphic designs, in media. Through a series of visual case studies students will discover the evolution in artistic styles in comics and advertising. We will explore how these artistic styles became a dominant force in the culture. We will discover the origin of Japanese anime and how it came to be a vibrant force in Western comics and storytelling. Students will research individual strips, comic characters, and graphic advertising campaigns to discover novel artistic styles and investigate how they came to be so successful. This course meets for a semester.

On The Stage: Acting, Directing, Movie Making

Begin your journey to stardom as a student of the craft of acting, directing, and movie making. Students will learn what it takes to command an audience through performance. Why move here? Why was that line said just like that? Why am I now crying, laughing, confused? It's because someone applied the techniques you'll learn in this course. Students will also create their own digital shorts that can be submitted for contests all across the country. They will have the opportunity to participate in an annual theatre play festival. Students will learn what it takes to perform in front of an audience, whether on stage or on camera, and how to collaborate with actors to tell a compelling story. They will also develop the skills needed to effectively work on film projects, including filming, lighting, sound, editing, and marketing. This course meets for a semester.

Behind the Scenes: Set Design, Construction, Lighting, Sound and Costuming

Come see how we make it look easy. The world of stage craft is vast and can lend itself to numerous other career paths. Students will learn about the ins and outs of the stage, what it takes to engineer working structures, and how the elements of design are actually put to use. Students will be responsible for learning about all the audio/visual needs of a production and will apply that knowledge in a hands-on approach. Students will be able to design sets from the script to the stage and select costumes that enhance the story. They will assist in building school productions and events, use lighting, sound, and overall production elements to tell a story through their design, and support productions through backstage setup. This course meets for a semester.

Dance I

Dance I is an introductory course for incoming freshmen with little or no formal dance instruction, but offered to those interested in learning and possibly furthering their dance knowledge and technique. All areas of dance are studied including basic choreography skills and the study of dance history. This class enables the student to be prepared for performance level dance sophomore-senior year, if applicable. This course meets for a semester.

Concert Band

Students with playing experience are eligible for this class through an audition. Students accepted into this ensemble are expected to be proficient on their instrument, have a basic knowledge of music theory, and be fluent in reading music. Various styles of band literature and method books are used to develop individual and group performance skills. Emphasis is placed on tone quality, intonation, and advanced/ extended techniques. Students will be expected to attend after school rehearsals and performances. Members of the ensemble are expected to be in the marching band in the fall. Students who play wind instruments should sign up for this course. At home practice is a required aspect of class enrollment. Performance events related to class participation are mandatory. This course meets for a full year.

Percussion

This class is for members of the symphonic band who play percussion instruments. The class will cover the fundamentals of playing percussion instruments and application of musicianship skills to the genre. Members will perform as members of the Symphonic Band in all concerts. In addition, members will perform percussion ensemble literature throughout the year. Students will be expected to attend after school rehearsals and performances. Members of the ensemble are expected to be in the marching band in the fall. Students who play percussion instruments should sign up for this course. This course meets for a full year.