

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

*One full year of music course fulfills the art and/or music graduation requirement.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MUSIC THEORY

FULL YEAR – 1 CREDIT

THIS COURSE WILL RUN OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL DAY (EARLY MORNINGS, LUNCH AND AFTER SCHOOL)

AP Music Theory provides an opportunity for juniors and seniors who are serious about their musicianship to do rigorous college-level work in high school. Students in this course explore the structures that are universal to music. We develop mastery of music fundamentals such as notation, key signatures, chords, intervals, etc. A deep study of four-voice harmonization and functional harmony is central to the course. Ear-training activities include chord and interval recognition, sight-reading, melodic and harmonic dictation. Students who feel ready will sit for the AP Music Theory exam given by the College Board in May. Those who receive high scores may earn college credit and/or advanced placement.

Band Studies

SYMPHONIC BAND

FULL YEAR – 1 CREDIT - BAND LAB INCLUDED

PREREQUISITE: PRIOR MUSICAL INSTRUCTION/EXPERIENCE ON THE WIND INSTRUMENT THEY PLAY.

Symphonic Band meets period 5 and is open to students in grades 9 -12. The Symphonic Band will cover many of the great composers of 20th Century music. This band performs at home football games, school concerts, community events, intra-school concerts and State and Regional festivals/competitions.

Link to watch Band video:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XG-1RedghbWT4KDOPT6_hyhagn_x8g8e/view?ts=601bdf55

BAND LAB

FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

GRADES 9-12; MUST BE ENROLLED IN SYMPHONIC BAND

Students signing up for Symphonic Band will be enrolled in Band Lab. Once a week and on an assigned day, all band musicians will participate in sectional work during lunch with their Sections: ex: All Flutes/ All Saxophones. Lab work will be instrument specific, and goal oriented towards the needs of each section.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

FULL YEAR – 1 CREDIT - PERCUSSION LAB INCLUDED

PREREQUISITE: *NEW STUDENTS & FRESHMEN MUST AUDITION PRIOR TO SCHOOL YEAR

- MUST BE ABLE TO READ MUSIC ON HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL III.- IV.

-SHOULD HAVE FIRM FOUNDATION IN PROPER STICK TECHNIQUE, PLAY BASIC RUDIMENTS AND EXECUTE ROLLS

This group meets period 4. All students in Percussion Ensemble will take this class in place of Symphonic Band, but percussionists will still perform with the Symphonic Band. The conductor will arrange several additional “combined” rehearsals both at lunch and after school, prior to the performances. Percussionist curriculum will cover Contemporary Music, 20th Century music, core and battery drumming and classical percussion ensemble repertoire. This group will also perform as “The Force” – a self-contained drum-line at home football games, pep rallies, high school ensemble concerts and intra-school events, festivals and competitions.

PERCUSSION LAB

FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT - MUST BE ENROLLED IN PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

Students signing up for Percussion Ensemble will be enrolled in Percussion Lab. Once a week during lunch there will be a lab scheduled for students to work more on an individualized basis. Students will focus on improving their reading, roll/ grip technique rudimental growth, and ensemble skills.

JAZZ BAND

FULL YEAR – 1 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: AUDITIONS TAKE PLACE EACH FALL - WIND PLAYERS, BASS PLAYERS AND PERCUSSIONISTS MUST BE MEMBERS OF SYMPHONIC BAND/ORCHESTRA OR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE.

MHS Jazz Band is an advanced ensemble that performs a variety of styles from early blues and jazz (1930's) to contemporary works. Other styles include swing, funk, salsa, hip-hop, Afro-American, standards and ballads. The music varies from level IV to college-level music.

The focus of this group is to play music on a sophisticated level. Students must work individually on their playing skills. In class, students will focus on their ensemble skills and their ability to interpret the music. Listening, discussing, and analyzing music throughout the year, along with our guest Artists-In-Residence/ Master Series Sessions, will help foster this growth. This group meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7:00am– 7:50am and will meet one more time – lunch. MHS Jazz Band is a touring group that performs at community events, District-wide concerts, and state and regional festivals/competitions. Students are expected to rehearse additional evenings and days prior to festivals and competitions.

STUDIO JAZZ BAND

FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: AUDITIONS TAKE PLACE EACH FALL. WIND PLAYERS, BASS PLAYERS AND PERCUSSIONISTS MUST BE IN SYMPHONIC BAND, ORCHESTRA OR PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE - ALL STUDENTS MUST AUDITION FOR PLACEMENT - GUITAR, BASS, DRUMS, PIANO, AND HORNS - AUDITIONS TAKE PLACE EACH FALL

Lab Band is a beginner training ensemble that focuses on fundamentals of various styles of music: Swing, Ballads, Blues, Latin, Funk, and Contemporary Rock and Jazz. Students will be provided listening examples of music styles throughout the year. A strong emphasis is placed on finding the “beat,” “groove,” and “feel” for each style of music. Additional target areas will be: playing in tune, rhythmic accuracy, syncopation, beginning improvisation, strengthening ensemble playing and helping the student to further understand the role each instrument plays in each section. Students will work on Level III-IV music. This group meets Monday and Friday from 7:00am–7:50am. Performances include the High School

Choral Studies

MIXED CHOIR - FULL YEAR – 1 CREDIT - VOCAL LAB INCLUDED

Mixed Choir is a singing ensemble made up of Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices. This ensemble is open to all students in grades 9-12. Students will study a variety of choral literature. Genres and styles of music studied include but are not limited to: pop, contemporary choral, classical, and musical theater. Students will sing repertoire with a variety of accompaniment styles. The Mixed Choir performs at school concerts, and has various opportunities to perform at community functions and festivals. Students receive basic vocal and music literacy training. Mixed Choir members have an opportunity to audition for the “Swing Choir,” “In Treble” and “MAC” small ensembles. In addition, Mixed Choir singers may have an opportunity to attend the NYSSMA Solo Festival. This course may be taken as a second elective. Link to watch Choral video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oJ1HEf4eFk&feature=youtu.be>

ADVANCED CHOIR - FULL YEAR – 1 CREDIT - VOCAL LAB INCLUDED - GRADES 11-12

Advanced Choir is an extension of the Mixed Choir ensemble. 11-12th graders who have been in Mixed Choir for at least one full academic year are eligible for Advanced Choir, along with a recommendation from the choral director. Students in Advanced Choir are required to participate in NYSSMA

with a minimum of a level 5-6 NYSSMA difficulty. Advanced Choir members get unique opportunities to engage with their learning in a way that challenges them and showcases their areas of strength (student conductor, section leader, rehearsal track assistant, leading warmups, leading small group lesson, etc). Advanced Choir students also have the opportunity to audition for the “Swing Choir,” “In Treble” and “MAC” small ensembles. This course may be taken as a second elective.

VOCAL LAB - FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

Students signing up for Mixed Choir will be enrolled in a vocal lab. Once a week and on a rotating lunch lab schedule, all choir singers will get: one on one vocal training, sectional work with their own voice part, music theory and musicianship lessons and the opportunity to learn a solo and receive accompanied coachings.

IN TREBLE - FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT - PREREQUISITES: - UPPER VOICES IN MIXED CHOIR, BAND, ORCHESTRA, OR PACE -AUDITION REQUIRED

In Treble is a small, upper voice (soprano and alto) auditioned vocal ensemble for grades 9-12, where students perform with a limited number of singers on their part. This ensemble allows students to focus on vocal technique and music literacy skills through the performance of popular and a cappella music. In Treble performs at special concerts, the MHS Ensemble Concert, A Cappella Festival, and various external events.

SWING CHOIR - FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT - PREREQUISITES: MEMBER OF CONCERT CHOIR OR TREBLE CHOIR - ALL STUDENTS MUST AUDITION

In this small advanced group, students will study and perform a variety of jazz, pop, and contemporary works. During rehearsals, singers will focus on improvisation, vocal and microphone technique, and working with a rhythm section. The singers focus on blend, balance, intonation, interpretation and diction. Swing Choir performs at special events, the MHS Ensemble Concerts, and competitions. This class rehearses two times per week before school.

M.A.C. - MAMARONECK A CAPPELLA - FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT - PREREQUISITE: UPPER VOICES IN MIXED CHOIR, BAND, ORCHESTRA, OR PACE - AUDITION REQUIRED

In this group, students will study, perform and arrange a cappella music. During rehearsals, singers will focus on blend, part independence, and vocal technique. M.A.C. performs at special events and the MHS Ensemble Concerts. This class rehearses two times per week: once before school and once during extra help after school.

Orchestral Studies

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FULL YEAR – 1 CREDIT - STRING LAB INCLUDED

PREREQUISITE: APPROVAL OF MUSIC FACULTY IF NOT IN CONCERT ORCHESTRA - NO AUDITION NECESSARY

The MHS Symphony Orchestra is a 9th - 12th grade ensemble that rehearses 4 days a week and studies a variety of string and symphonic repertoire. The Symphony performs repertoire spanning from the Baroque to Modern Music era and is featured at the Winter and Spring Concerts. Symphony students get a chance to work with guest artists and conductors and combine with the wind, brass and percussion students. Sectionals and individual instruction will be scheduled at the student's request weekly throughout the year to give students an opportunity to work out any technical difficulties they may have in their orchestra, chamber orchestra, chamber music or NYSSMA Solo.

Symphony Orchestra is offered in three sections, either periods 4, 5, or 6.

Link to watch Orchestra video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mrj0OI8TvdjJVPNRYIax2jPZAVB3uOjr/view?ts=601bdf32>

STRING LAB

FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

Students signing up for Symphonic Orchestra will be enrolled in String Lab. Once a week and on rotating lunch lab schedule, all band musicians will participate in sectional work in their instrumentation, music theory and musicianship lessons.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: - MUST BE ENROLLED IN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
- AUDITION REQUIRED

The Chamber Orchestra is a Level 5-6 ensemble open to 9th - 12th grade string students (upon audition). Rehearsals are Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 7:00am-7:50am. An audition is required at the beginning of September to all interested in performing with the group (audition excerpts sent home in June). The Chamber Orchestra studies and performs music specifically written for the chamber orchestra.

MHS POPS ORCHESTRA

FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT

PREREQUISITE: - MUST BEENROLLED IN SYMPHONY OR CONCERT ORCHESTRA - VOCALISTS MUST BE ENROLLED IN MIXED CHOIR, SWING CHOIR, IN TREBLE OR MAC - AUDITION REQUIRED

MHS POPS Orchestra is an early morning group open to all 9th - 12th grade music students. Rehearsals Tuesday and Thursday mornings 7:00am-7:50am. This group performs a mixed variety repertoire, including Classical, Jazz, Showtunes and Rock. POPS Orchestra collaborates with the Hommocks Pops Ensemble for specific performances. This group performs for the local community and at various concerts throughout the school year.

SMALL STRING ENSEMBLES

FULL YEAR – 1/2 CREDIT - STRING LAB INCLUDED

PREREQUISITE: - MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OR CONCERT ORCHESTRA

String Ensembles will meet during a lunch period decided by the students teacher. In September, students will be assigned to a group and a specific day for chamber music. The ensembles will be coached based on the availability of the students. . Chamber Music techniques, balance and texture issues, and interpretation are addressed in each rehearsal. Students should sign up with Ms. Gellert in September. This group performs at the Honors Recital, Winter String Concerts, community concerts and at the Hommocks Music Showcase.



A.J. Vitti