

Fine Art – Performing Arts

Participation in Performing Arts courses can create strong educational outcomes, but also life-changing experiences that transcend traditional educational measurements. Music students enjoy having a creative outlet in their day to make music, increase their skills, and build relationships within their ensemble. Select students are able to participate in the All-Conference ensembles every year. Outside of the formal course offerings, students may take part in the following extracurricular groups: Red Knots A Capella, Midnights A Cappella, Jazz Band. These groups generally meet before or after school and do not satisfy a Fine Art requirement. In all music ensemble courses, faculty recommends registering for both semesters to ensure continuity, ensemble success, and stronger musical outcomes.

Choir (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This course is designed for students who like to sing. A wide selection of music is rehearsed and performed throughout the school year. Music includes sacred, classical, and contemporary tunes. Students will have an opportunity to work on solos and ensembles for a contest/festival. Attendance is required at all performances, including school liturgies, concerts and other performances scheduled by the director. It is recommended, but not necessary, to enroll in both semesters of choir. Based on enrollment and at the discretion of the instructors, students may be placed in one of the following choirs:

Concert Choir – traditionally a freshman ensemble, but open to other grade levels as needed for scheduling purposes.

Chamber Choir – open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Concert Band (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit, open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Prerequisite: A minimum of two years of band experience.

Concert Band is open to instrumentalists who want to further their study of instrumental music. Students will perform a wide variety of music: overtures, marches, lighter classics, and pop tunes. Students will work on improving their rhythm, technique, and style. Public performances will include concerts, athletic events, and a contest/festival with an opportunity for solo and ensemble playing. Attendance is required at major performances, athletic events and other events scheduled by the director. It is recommended, but not necessary, to enroll in both semesters of this course.

String Orchestra (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Weekly private lessons outside of school are strongly encouraged. String Orchestra participates in school liturgies.

This course builds upon the skills developed in junior high, continuing to increase musical awareness, refinement of technique, and performance skills, including various styles and periods of music. The repertoire studied covers a large spectrum from classics to pop to contemporary and liturgical music. Performances in a variety of venues including school mass, community and school events, and seasonal concerts with band and choir will require some after-school and before-school participation. Practice retreats are scheduled in the fall and spring. Extended weekend tours out of state are planned every other year.

Fine Art – Music

Half-time Band, Choir or String Orchestra during BSM hour (S1) and/or (S2)

Band, Choir or Orchestra: One semester, .5 credit

Open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who have completed one full year of regular Band, Choir, or Orchestra

This option is designed for students who desire to continue their participation as they maintain a full academic course schedule. Students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who have completed one full year of regular Band, Choir or Orchestra are eligible to enroll concurrently in .5 Band, Choir or Orchestra. Band, Choir or Orchestra meets Tuesday-Friday, with Monday scheduled as your BSM Hour. Attendance is required as needed for concert preparation or sectional work.

Band for Beginners (S1) and/or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Would you like to be in band, but missed the chance to learn an instrument? Is there a new instrument that you would like to learn? The objective of this class is to provide an environment in which nontraditional beginners can learn a musical instrument. The course focuses on the basics of instrumental music such as playing simple pieces, learning fingerings, developing a good tone, and understanding basic music vocabulary. Students can remain in beginning band as long as they wish, but also may transition into the main ensemble at the discretion of the director.

Garageband/ Music Studio (S1)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Are you interested in music production? Do you want to start a “rock” band? Are you interested in making your own beats? This class offers students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of contemporary commercial music. This student-choice driven class provides students with a space to experiment with ideas, grow in skills, and let their creative juices flow. Students will use programs like GarageBand to record their own tracks and experiment with mixing. Recommended skills: experience with one or more instruments like guitar, drums, bass, keyboard, or voice.

World Music Drumming (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

This innovative, active, hands-on course will introduce students to the drumming and music traditions of various cultures from around the world. Students will study drumming technique, rhythmic movement, and traditional songs while also improving teamwork, concentration, cultural understanding, and musical comprehension. The course will culminate in one performance at the end of the semester.

Fine Art – Performing Arts

Beginning Acting (S1) or (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Introduction to the techniques of acting. Students will use theater games and craft to build individual confidence, find new ways to express themselves, and connect with others. Students will perform basic scenes with partners as well as monologues throughout the semester. Students will be expected to see and review at least 3 live-theater performances during the semester (only 1 can be a BSM performance).

Acting: Shakespeare (S2)

One semester, one credit open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Students often read Shakespeare, but rarely do they have the chance to dig into what it's like to perform Shakespeare as he intended it to be performed. We will explore the staging conditions from Shakespeare's time and students will have the opportunity to perform monologues, sonnets, and scenes, as well as potentially staging a short reading out of a Shakespearean play. Students will view different versions of Shakespearean plays and compare and contrast the productions that use the same language, but come across differently.