

HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT COURSE OFFERINGS

All courses are ten credits each and meet daily

GRADE 9

MU-115 Jazz Ensemble
MU-120 Wind Ensemble
MU-125 Concert Band
MU-135 Music Theory
MU-145 Musical Theater
MU-155 Orchestra
MU-165 Concert Chorus
MU-175 Show Choir (by recommendation only)

GRADE 10

MU-215 Jazz Ensemble
MU-220 Wind Ensemble
MU-225 Concert Band
MU-235 Music Theory
MU-245 Musical Theatre
MU-255 Orchestra
MU-265 Concert Chorus
MU-275 Show Choir (by recommendation only)
MU-285 Advanced Musical Theatre

GRADE 11

MU-315 Jazz Ensemble
MU-320 Wind Ensemble
MU-325 Concert Band
MU-335 Music Theory
MU-345 Musical Theater
MU-355 Orchestra
MU-365 Concert Chorus
MU-375 Show Choir
MU-385 Advanced Musical Theatre

GRADE 12

MU-415 Jazz Ensemble
MU-420 Wind Ensemble
MU-425 Concert Band
MU-435 AP Music Theory
MU-445 Musical Theater
MU-455 Orchestra
MU-465 Concert Chorus
MU-475 Show Choir
MU-485 Advanced Musical Theatre

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Open to students approved by the high school instrumental music teacher. This course is designed to develop performance in the jazz idiom, training students in ensemble, sectional, and improvisational techniques. Musical styles of the various eras of jazz will be studied and performed.

WIND ENSEMBLE

Wind Ensemble is designed to focus on creating, performing and critiquing advanced concert band literature, as well as historical and cultural aspects of the performance genre. Wind Ensemble students will perform with the concert band and learn all music for full orchestral performances. All students will experience skill building, personal expression and self-confidence in all areas of performance. Admittance to the wind ensemble is by audition and/or the recommendation of the high school band director only.

CONCERT BAND

Open to all students who possess performance skills on band instruments. This course is directed toward the improvement of each student's individual performance, understanding, and interest in a recognized art form. The study of technique building exercise, transportation, sight-reading, and performance of a variety of symphonic band literature will be included in the course of study.

MUSIC THEORY

This course forms a foundation of knowledge and skill in music that is valuable to the vocalist, instrumentalist or

song writer. Students who plan to continue musical studies after high school will find the materials covered both necessary and useful. The grand staff, clefs, tetra chords, key signatures, cycle of fifths, intervals, triads, seventh chords, four-part harmony, voice leading, diatonic and chromatic harmony, rhythms, orchestration, composition, melody writing, and music calligraphy are included in the course of study.

A.P. MUSIC THEORY

This course builds on a foundation of knowledge and skill in music developed in Music Theory. Students who plan to continue musical studies after high school will find the materials useful, as the course is comparable to a first year college music theory curriculum. A more in depth analysis of melodic and harmonic structure will be explored, including counterpoint, voice-leading and four-part chorale writing, cadences, non-harmonic tones, texture, phrase structure, modulation, secondary dominants, and form.

MUSICAL THEATRE

This performance based course is open to all students regardless of experience. Studied in this course will be survey of the evolution of musical theatre beginning with the early American influences of vaudeville, burlesque, extravaganza, opera and operetta. Particular attention will be given to works of Jerome Kern, George & Ira Gershwin, Rodgers & Hart, Lerner & Lowe, Rodgers & Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim and Kander & Ebb. Activities will include a variety of “hands on” experiences with importance centered on process and actual performance. Students will have the opportunity to develop both their acting and singing skills. Emphasis will be placed on audition technique, scene study, technical theatre skill and basic theatre knowledge.

ORCHESTRA

Open to all students who possess performance skills on orchestral instruments. Here, students will discover the full range of orchestral and chamber music literature from various musical periods. Wind players are selected to rehearse with the strings on the basis of overall balance of instruments and instrumental teacher recommendation.

CONCERT CHORUS

This course is designed to guide the “non-musician” through a basic vocal training program. This full year course involves the basic fundamentals of music and singing technique and performance. Through the choral repertoire students will explore their vocal potential as well as develop their musical vocabulary and knowledge of music theory.

SHOW CHOIR

Show Choir is geared toward the student who possesses a proficiency in using the voice as an instrument and has experience singing in a choir. Students are selected for this course by audition or recommendation and should have an average knowledge of music fundamentals and vocal principles. This program will enable the student to make an appreciable contribution to the musical life of the community. Students will understand the style, period and compositional techniques of octavos performed and hone skills for sight singing.

ADVANCED MUSICAL THEATER

This performance-based workshop is designed for advanced musical theatre students ready to develop their skills on a professional level by refining students' vocal technique and expanding traditional, classical acting methods as required for the specialized techniques of musical theatre. Study includes larger scene-song forms including one-acts or new-works from the musical theatre. The course will challenge the musical actor through the study of repertoire from some of Broadway's most acclaimed productions, in a comprehensive range of American musical theatre; styles including Musical Comedy, Golden Age Musical Drama, Concept and Rock Musicals. This specialized class

allows for a more individualized approach, with students learning through a combination of coaching, master class setting, and small group rehearsal. Course also emphasizes creating a resume, types for interviews, obtaining an agent, personal appearance, and dress as well as work on audition material, ranging from musicals to stock productions. Students will explore contemporary musical theatre production through research, rehearsal and performance. Students will synthesize this learning by rehearsing and staging scenes and solo and ensemble numbers culminating in a performance of a student run and directed musical. It is auditioned.

