

## Music

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Music benefits the student because it cultivates the whole child, gradually building many kinds of literacy while developing intuition, reasoning, imagination, and dexterity into unique forms of expression and communication. This process requires not merely an active mind but a trained one. It introduces students to a variety of ways of perceiving and thinking.

Music and the arts cultivate the direct experience of the senses; they trust the unmediated flash of insight as a legitimate source of knowledge. Their goal is to connect person and experience directly, to build the bridge between verbal and nonverbal, between the strictly logical and emotional-the better to gain an understanding of the whole. Both approaches are powerful and both are necessary; to deny students either is to do a disservice to their complete education.

Perhaps most important, music has intrinsic value. It is worth learning for its own sake, providing benefits not available through any other means. To read Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy," for example, is to know one kind of beauty, yet to hear it sung by a great chorus as the majestic conclusion to Beethoven's Ninth Symphony is to experience beauty of an entirely different kind. Because such experiences open up this transcending dimension of reality, there can be no substitute for an education in the arts, which provides bridges to things we can scarcely describe, but respond deeply. In the simplest terms, no education is complete without the arts.

The High School Music Department provides opportunities for all students to participate because the variety of classes offered is structured to accommodate individual interests and ability levels. Although auditions are required for participation in the more advanced ensembles, each discipline makes allowances for open enrollment in other classes. Participation in the "curricular" music classes also affords the student with opportunity to take advantage of a variety of extra-curricular musical activities.

Music courses, if taken for two semesters will fulfill the visual and performing arts graduation requirement.

<b>Chamber Band</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This class is an entry-level band course oriented toward the less experienced player. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of music and instrumental technique. A wide variety of musical literature will be explored. A part of the course content includes required public performances of prepared literature. **Skills to successfully perform in a marching band taught during the 1<sup>st</sup> weeks of school will culminate in 2 required football half time performances.**

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Concert Band</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>10, 11, 12</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This is a mid-level ensemble. The students receive more advanced instruction in music fundamentals, instrumental technique and the interpretation of various styles of band literature. A part of the course content includes required public performance. **Skills to successfully perform in a marching band taught during the 1<sup>st</sup> weeks of school and culminate in 2 required football half time performances.**

**Prerequisite Courses:** Instructor Approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Symphonic Band</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This group is a balanced ensemble designed to facilitate student achievement to the highest possible standards of excellence. The course explores band literature of many eras. Various musical idioms are studied through analysis and rehearsal. A part of the course content includes required public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Audition and Instructor Approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>String Orchestra - Senior</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
<b>Chamber Orchestra - West &amp; Skyview</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This class is an entry-level orchestra course. The course is oriented toward the less experienced player. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of music and instrumental technique. A wide variety of musical literature will be explored. A part of the course content includes public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Instructor Approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Chamber Orchestra - Senior</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This class is an intermediate-level orchestra course. The course is oriented toward the average experienced player. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of music and instrumental technique. A wide variety of musical literature will be explored. A part of the course content includes public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Audition and Instructor Approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Philharmonic Orchestra - Skyview</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>10, 11, 12</b>
<b>Philharmonic Orchestra - West &amp; Senior</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This group is a balanced ensemble designed to facilitate student achievement to the highest possible standards of excellence. The course explores orchestra literature of many eras. Various musical idioms are studied through analysis and rehearsal. Full orchestra (including wind players) necessitates some rehearsals outside of the regularly scheduled class times. A part of the course content includes required public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Audition and instructor approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Cantus (Men's Choir)</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
<b>Chantrelles (Women's Choir)</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This is an ensemble for freshmen beginning singers. The course is oriented toward the developing vocalist. Emphasis is placed on the fundamentals of music and vocal technique. A wide variety of musical literature will be explored. A part of the course content includes required public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Concert Choir (Mixed Choir)</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This group is a balanced choir of intermediate to advanced singers. The students receive instruction in music fundamentals, vocal technique and the interpretation of various styles of choral literature. A part of the course content includes required public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Audition at Senior and Skyview and Instructor Approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Chamber Choir (Women's Choir)</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This group is a balanced choir of intermediate to advanced female singers. The group explores great literature for SA/SSA/SSAA voices of all styles and periods in history. A part of the course content includes required public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Audition at West and Instructor Approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Meistersingers Choir - West</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
<b>Chorale - Skyview</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>10, 11, 12</b>
<b>Varsity Singers - Senior</b>	<b>Credit 1</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>

<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1 &amp; 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** This group is a balanced (SATB) ensemble designed to facilitate student achievement to the highest possible standards of excellence. The course explores choral literature of many eras. Various musical idioms are studied through analysis and rehearsal. A part of the course content includes required public performances.

**Prerequisite Courses:** Audition and Instructor Approval

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Percussion Ensemble - West &amp; Skyview</b>	<b>Credit 1/2</b>	<b>9, 10, 11, 12</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:**

All percussionists (grades 9-12) are placed in percussion ensemble for the first semester of the school year. The course will focus on percussion techniques on both melodic and non-melodic instruments in the band and orchestra ensembles. The class will perform as a group on concerts during the fall semester. At the end of the first semester, students will be assigned to a band class for the second semester through an audition process.

**Prerequisite Courses:** None

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit

<b>Music Theory</b>	<b>Credit 1/2</b>	<b>10, 11, 12</b>
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<b>Course Name</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>	<b>Grade Level</b>
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**Course Description:** Music Theory is a second semester course open to all students (grades 10-12).

The fundamentals of musicianship are examined through visual and aural analysis. Principles of music notation, harmony and composition are explored, as well as harmonic and melodic dictation. Previous experience in music classes is preferred, but not required.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Applies Toward Graduation Requirements of:** 1 Visual or Performing Arts credit