

Course Description

This course is open to all students in grades 9 – 12 who have achieved reasonable proficiency on a band instrument. The band performs at school and community functions including, but not limited to: Band Competitions, Band Festivals, Parades, Football Games, pep rallies, concerts, showcases, and Graduation. A very wide variety of music literature is introduced, studied, and performed throughout the year. Attendance at performances and after-school rehearsals is required as these are considered exams and are an opportunity for the student to demonstrate the achievement that has taken place. Personal practice time outside of the regular school day is also required and is considered a graded activity that would parallel homework/quizzes in other classes. Class time is supplemented with summer season lessons to assist the students in gaining proficiency on the various instruments, to assist with basic marching skills, to facilitate switches to specialized instruments, and to introduce the annual NJMEA competition solo. First quarter generally covers Marching Band literature. Second quarter transitions from Marching to Symphonic while focusing on solo excerpts and audition skills, third and fourth quarters generally cover Symphonic Band literature.

Length of course

This is a full year course.

Prerequisite

Approval of the High School or Middle School Band Director.

Student Evaluation

Student evaluation based on proficiencies including but not limited to:

- Musical performance in the classroom and in performance
- Marching skills performance
- Preparation of placement audition
- Creation and maintenance of an online portfolio
- Performance based Midterm Exam
- Basic Music Theory Grades
- Written responses to reflective prompts and critique questions/projects
- Personal responsibility and equipment maintenance
- Long Term Project Grades (performance based and written)
- Performance Assessments that include concerts and dress rehearsals

Course Introduction

This course is open to all students in grades 9 – 12 who have an interest in popular music that is greater than the average listener. This course provides an overview of the four major areas of American contemporary music: jazz, rock, country, and musical theater. Each genre is approached chronologically with the emphasis on the socio-cultural aspects of the music and with a focus on career pathways in the industry. Students will come away with the fundamental skills needed to listen critically to a variety of popular music styles and recognize popular music as an industry unique to American culture. The class requires reading, listening, writing prompts (Google Suite materials), projects and applying critique skills to musical works.

Purpose

1. Interconnect like characteristics of various genres in popular music.
2. Interpret and articulate ways in which popular music has changed and shaped society.
3. Plan and present a system for evaluating works of art
4. Research outstanding composers and artists from the early 20th century through today.
5. Articulate structural elements of music, and the many ways they communicate ideas, feelings, and moods.
6. Evaluate various regional and ethnic traits found in popular forms.
7. Classify musical style/genres through analysis of textural elements.
8. Explore how technology influenced, and continues to influence, American Popular Music.
9. Analyze and present career pathways in the popular music industry

Assessments

Classwork, Homework, Listening Analysis/Critique, Classroom Participation, Projects, Quizzes, Tests
Midterm Exam, Final Exam

A study of the basic elements of music as practiced in Western Harmony. Students with an advanced interest in functional elements of harmony and rhythm will find this course useful. Students with the desire to continue the study of music beyond high school will find this course essential.

Overview of Units:

- Unit 1 - Pitch Notation - 4 Weeks
- Unit 2 - Basic Rhythm Notation and Execution - 3 Weeks
- Unit 3 - Symbols and Terminology - 3 Weeks
- Unit 4 - Chromatic and Major Scale Construction - 4 Weeks
- Unit 5 - Key Signature Identification and Construction - 4 Weeks
- Unit 6 - Intervals 1 (Quantity) - 2 Weeks
- Unit 7 - Intervals 2 (Quality) - 4 Weeks
- Unit 8 - Advanced Rhythm Notation and Execution - 4 Weeks
- Unit 9 - Minor Scale Construction and Identification - 2 Weeks
- Unit 10 - Triad Identification and Construction - 3 Weeks
- Unit 11 - Chord Analysis - 6 Weeks

Assessments:

Unit Exams:

- Cumulative assessments
- Analysis of existing works

Writing Assessments:

- Written Notation (non-computer generated)
- Critique strategies

Project-Based Assessments:

- Arranged/Analyzed Music
- Student Generated Study Guides