

MUSIC

Music Theory I

½ credit / 9-12

This course deals with the basic fundamentals of music. It is open to all students but requires the ability to read simple notes and rhythms. Scale and chord construction, ear training, sight singing, melodic and rhythmic dictation, and simple part writing are covered. The course is necessary for a three or five unit sequence in music.

AP Music Theory

Prerequisite: Music Theory I or equivalent (with instructor approval).

1 credit / 10-12

This course is for the student who is ready for an advanced level study of music theory. It will give the motivated student a comprehensive understanding of music and its structures. Topics of study will include, review of fundamentals, compositional techniques, historical perspectives of select composers, ear training; sight singing; form, structure and analysis. Study of these topics, along with class projects and assignments, will lead the student toward the acquisition of skills which are integral to the music experience, including, development of critical thinking, improved musicianship, greater aesthetic awareness, problem solving, and decision making.

Jazz Improvisation

½ credit / 10-12

This course is open to all musicians who wish to pursue the study of Jazz Music. Students must own their own instrument and be able to play at the NYSSMA grade 4/5 level. The course will cover the basic fundamentals and concepts of Jazz Theory and Jazz Improvisation. Chords and scales, along with their application to standard jazz repertoire will be studied and performed. This course is a hands-on course, and the student will be expected to have his instrument at all classes. Depending on the make-up of the class, playing will be done with the members of the class and/or play-a-long recordings. In addition to playing, the music of different periods of Jazz will be studied via articles and recordings.

Digital Music

½ credit / 10-12

This course explores the creating of music using a Mac computer with the programs Garage Band and Sibelius. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: creating digital songs, music of different styles and periods, fundamentals of music, creating and burning CD's, creating podcasts, publishing podcasts, and music for different applications. Prior knowledge of music is not necessary, but may be helpful.

Chorus

½ credit / 9-12

The chorus is a vocal ensemble open to all students, grades 9-12.

Students experience singing in various styles, learn the language of music and learn vocal technique. The chorus will perform in all school concerts. Choral participation helps students learn to perform and cooperate as a group.

Select Chorus

½ credit / 9-12

The Select Chorus, an advanced performance group, rehearses 9th period one day a week and Friday mornings before school. Select Chorus is open by audition only. Music performed includes not only traditional vocal literature, but Broadway and popular styles as well. The Select Chorus performs at all school concerts, special community events, and on tour in Europe and the United States.

Chamber Orchestra

½ credit / 9-12

Chamber Orchestra, an advanced string orchestra, meets twice a week. Classes take place Wednesdays 9th period, and Fridays from 8:10 am – 9:00 am. Students are accepted by audition only each spring for the following school year. Music studied is from the standard repertoire, as well as modern music and pop songs. There are opportunities to play solos too. Each year a few performances are given during the school day. All students are also required to attend sectionals for small groups.

Orchestra

½ credit / 9-12

This course is open to all students grades 9-12 who play stringed instruments. Music studied is from the standard repertoire, as well as modern music and pop songs. Students are required to attend sectionals for small groups.

Concert Band

½ credit / 9-12

The Ardsley High School Band is comprised of student musicians who are committed to participating in all phases of the Band program. This includes participation in the Pep Band performances, all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, concerts, and graduation. The program strives to develop improved musicianship from both the group and the individual, as well as discipline, leadership and cooperation.

Wind Ensemble

½ credit/ 10-12

The Wind Ensemble provides motivated students with the opportunity to play and perform standard band literature with an advanced group. Students are accepted by audition each spring for the following school year. Students must be committed to all aspects of the Wind Ensemble program. This includes participation in the Pep Band performances, all rehearsals, dress rehearsals, concerts, and graduation and other special events. Ninth graders will only be permitted to audition under special circumstances and with permission from the conductor. Attendance is required at all rehearsals. Rehearsals are Friday's from 8:10-9:00 AM, and Mondays from 2:15-2:50. Attendance at sectionals is also required.

Jazz Ensemble

½ credit / 9-12

The Jazz Ensemble provides motivated students with the opportunity for creative exploration in jazz and popular music. Students are accepted by audition each fall for the current school year. Jazz style, improvisation, and some of the history of jazz and popular music will be covered. The standard "big band" format is used which allows one player per part as follows: Alto I, Alto II, Tenor I, Tenor II, Bari Sax, Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trumpet III, Trumpet IV, Trombone I, Trombone II, Trombone III, Trombone IV, Piano/Keyboard, Bass, Guitar, Drum Set / Percussion. All wind and percussion players must be members of the high school band. Rehearsals are in the evening and after school.

Note: Participation in Intermediate All County, Area All-State, All County Jazz Band, All-State, All- Eastern, and the National Honors Ensemble is contingent upon membership in the corresponding musical performing group.