

2024-2025  
MUSIC COURSE GUIDE



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## Music Highlights

### Music Major

To successfully complete a 5-credit major in Music, a student must participate in an in-school musical organization for four years and earn one credit of Music Theory.

### Music Letter Criteria

- ✓ Satisfactory completion of 3 years of an In-school performing organization. This may include a combination of band, orchestra, or choir.
- ✓ Satisfactory completion of 3 years in an Extra-Curricular performing organization. These include any combination of:
  - Marching Band
  - Jazz Ensemble
  - Show Choir
  - School Musical
  - Steel Band
  - Musical Pit
- ✓ Performance at one NYSSMA/ECMEA sponsored solo festival
- ✓ Satisfactory completion of Music Theory

### Extra-Curricular Music Activities

- [Academy of the Visual and Performing Arts – Dinner Theatre Ensemble](#)
- [Brass Choir](#)
- [Jazz Ensemble](#)
- [Marching Band](#)
- [Tenor/Bass Choir](#)
- [Musical – Performing Arts](#)
- [Pit Orchestra](#)
- [Show Choir](#)
- [Stage Crew](#)
- [Steel Band \(CKSO\)](#)
- [Vocal Jazz](#)
- [Winter Guard – Varsity](#)
- [Woodwind Choir](#)



## Performance Ensembles

### Choral Program

All types and forms of music are studied and performed for the development of skills. Seasonal and competitive concerts involving mandatory attendance are held.

ALL CHORAL COURSES: 1 credit

#### *Concert Choir 6532*

- ⊗ Pre-requisite: Audition
- Advanced Ensemble – Grades 10-12

#### *Mixed Choir 6536*

- ⊗ Pre-requisite: Audition
- Training Ensemble – Grades 9(men), 10,11,12)

#### *Musical Theatre Ensemble 6533*

- Training Ensemble – Grades 9-12

### Instrumental Program

These groups study and perform all styles and types of music to develop skills. Four seasonal concerts, guest artists, competitions and festivals comprise the performance schedule. Participation during rehearsals, lessons and concerts is mandatory. Lessons once weekly required.

ALL INSTRUMENTAL COURSES: 1 credit

#### *Symphonic Band 6535*

- ⊗ Pre-requisite: Audition
- Advanced Ensemble – Grades 9-12

#### *Wind Symphony 6537*

- ⊗ Pre-requisite: Audition
- Intermediate Ensemble – Grades 9-12

#### *Concert Band 6531*

- Training Ensemble – Grades 9-12

#### *String Orchestra 6534*

- ⊗ Pre-requisite: Previous experience in orchestra playing a string instrument.
- This course is open to all string instrumental students. Orchestra will perform music from various genres including classical and contemporary. Grades 9-12

#### *Symphony Orchestra 6538*

- ⊗ Pre-requisite: Audition
- This course is an advanced orchestra for the more serious string student. The Orchestra will perform music from various genres including classical and contemporary. Students will have the opportunity to perform both string and full orchestra music. Grades 9-12



## Music - Course Descriptions

### Music Theory 1

6530 Grades 10,11,12

1 credit

★ **Recommended:** Band, Orchestra or Choir experience

This course helps students develop an understanding of the elements of music while putting those elements to practical use. Students will learn more about reading, writing, and analyzing music utilizing written and aural examples from all time periods of music. Basic piano skills, an overview of music history, and the incorporation of music technology will enhance each student's learning experience.

### AP Music Theory

6528 Grade 11,12

1 credit

★ **Recommendation:** Music Theory 1

AP Music Theory is an expansion and continuation of topics covered in Music Theory I. This college level course includes instruction in musical terminology as well as notational, compositional, musical analysis, and aural skills. Students may take the AP Music Theory Exam in the spring to earn college credit.



### Tech in Music

6543 Grades 11,12

½ credit

★ **Recommended:** Music Theory 1

This course is a hands on class that will expand your knowledge and skills in music technology! Students will learn to compose, arrange and edit with notation software. They will create multi-track compositions and recordings using a digital audio workstation (DAW). Ensemble experience and a background in music theory are highly recommended.

### Piano and Guitar Performance

6544 Grades 11,12

½ credit

★ **Recommended:** Music Theory 1

Are you currently enrolled in a performing ensemble? Have you always wished you could learn to play piano or guitar? This course is for you! This course is designed for students who have completed Music Theory I but have little/no experience playing piano and guitar. Students will have basic performance skills on both instruments and present a short recital (in class) at the end of the semester.



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## Music Composition and Improvisation

6545 Grades 11,12

½ credit

★ *Recommended: Music Theory 1 and Tech in Music*

Did you ever wish you could create a song to the melody in your head? This course is designed to introduce advancing music students to the creative world of composition and improvisation. Students will develop skills in the areas of writing and performing original music. The students will serve as the creators, critics and performers of their own material!! Students will learn the compositional elements of style and form as they explore the rhythmic, melodic and harmonic aspects of creating music.

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## Beginning Guitar

6546 Grades 9,10,11,12

½ credit

This class is an opportunity for students without performance experience to increase their knowledge and understanding of music while learning to play the guitar. Course topics include basic theory skills and guitar performance. No previous musical experience required! This course may be taken with other music courses to earn a ½ or full credit in music.

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## Beginning Piano

6547 Grades 9,10,11,12

½ credit

This class is an opportunity for students without performance experience to increase their knowledge and understanding of music while learning to play the piano. Course topics include basic theory skills and piano performance. No previous musical experience required! This course may be taken with other music courses to earn a ½ or full credit in music..

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## Musical Theatre Ensemble

6533 Grades 9,10,11,12

★ Students must be signed up for another choir to take part in this group. It is non-audition-based course.

This class has a concentration in ensemble singing, with additional elements such as dancing, blocking, and acting, based on students' interests. Focus is placed on development of healthy vocal technique, and the integration of character development into the performance of selections from the Musical Theater repertoire. Students will take part in musical theater vocal ensemble performances, as well as some small ensemble and solo performances in the spring.