

Jazz

Jazz Ensemble I-IV (one each year)

This is the primary ensemble in the Jazz Department. The group focuses on Jazz ensemble music from all historical eras of the genre with an emphasis on high-quality group performance through dedicated individual practice and musicianship. Jazz students also perform as part of the Harrison Wind Symphony. This group rehearses primarily after school.

Instrumental Techniques I

Instrumental Techniques I is designed to provide opportunities for the student to learn and apply the concepts and principles necessary for proper and positive contribution to both small and large ensembles. Students will practice individually and participate in small group discussions as well as receive information in the form of various reference materials. The goal of the course is to create better individual musicians because better individual musicians will create the opportunity for a better large ensemble. In addition, basic music theory is covered to give the student study in the concepts of functional harmony. Study will focus on why things work the way they work. Each student should leave the course with a better understanding of what goes into making music and how compositions are built.

Instrumental Ensemble I & II (Jazz Improvisation)

Improvisation I will include basic techniques of improvisation including diatonic and modal scales, scale choices, and basic major and minor harmonic progressions and is generally taken in the sophomore year. Improvisation II will include more advanced techniques of improvisation including diatonic and modal scales, scale choices, and advanced major and minor harmonic progressions and is generally taken in the junior year.

Music Theory II

This course includes a review of the fundamentals of rudiments; ear training; an extensive study in harmonic analysis; four-part writing; modes; and composition, which are essential in the development of your overall musicianship. The materials for this course are derived from several sources, which reinforce the necessary theory skills and fundamentals

AP Music Theory

Advanced Placement Music Theory serves as a culmination of your studies in Music Theory I & II, and Electronic Music Composition as it incorporates elements and information from each of those courses. Your mastery of music theory fundamentals cannot be overstated in relation to a successful *AP Music Theory* class experience as the academic pace will be more rigorous than Theory I & II. Course content applications employed will include critical listening through ear-training activities and recorded musical examples, musical analysis (Roman numeral as well as formal analysis), composing (four-part vocal writing as well as special composition projects), and independent music reading.

Music of the World (Music History)

The purpose of this class is to enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and appreciate how music is used in one's personal life as well as in varied cultures, societies, and historical periods.

Content should include, but not be limited to:

- Singing, listening, and playing instruments
- music analysis
- role and influence of music and musicians
- connections between music and other disciplines.