

# Performing Arts Elective Options for Ninth Grade Students

## Performing Arts



### Chorus

Chorus is a full year course that explores the singing of choral music written in two, three, and four part textures in a wide range of styles. It is open to students in all grades without audition and stresses vocal development, sight-singing, ear training and choral ensemble technique. Students study the nature and placement of the voice in both choral and solo settings. A broad spectrum of choral literature is studied and performed in a wide range of styles including folk, classical, popular, jazz and Broadway musicals.

### Concert Band

Concert Band is a full year course open to students possessing intermediate skills on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Students who do not perform at the intermediate skill level need permission from the instructor to register. Students in Concert Band study and perform music of an intermediate level (Grade II and III) with emphasis on developing technical ability, knowledge of phrasing, tone, balance, rhythmic accuracy, and interpretation.

### Orchestra

Orchestra is a full year course designed for students possessing intermediate to advanced performing skills on the violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Students perform authentic orchestral literature. The Orchestra explores and performs a wide range of the repertoire, representing a diverse musical styles and artistic and historical significance. Special attention is focused upon the music making process as it relates to tone, balance, rhythmic accuracy, and interpretation.

### Piano Lab

Piano Lab provides opportunities for students to start or to continue learning how to play the piano. Students will receive training in piano technique, music reading and, basic music theory and apply their growing knowledge and skills to playing pieces and songs ranging from classical to popular within their level of performance. In addition to learning to play the piano, students will be introduced to basic concepts in music technology. Students will learn to apply their piano skills from the first part of the year to some of the most current technology and software in music production and recording. Musical skills are taught on digital pianos and students learn at their own pace.

### Guitar Lab

Guitar Class will teach students how to play the guitar as well as the basics of musical notation, chord reading, and tablature. Students will learn to play scales, arpeggios, basic chord progressions, and simple pieces. Listening to “the guitar masters” of many different styles and eras will also be a focus of the class. Students will work independently during class on school acoustic guitars (unless they opt to bring their own instrument) and will also listen to each other play. Students will learn to play both alone and in ensembles with other students.

## American Musical Theater

This semester-long elective course will explore the rich and diverse history of musical theatre, from its roots in early American musicals to contemporary Broadway sensations. Students will delve into the evolution of musical genres, examining how social and cultural movements have shaped the stories told on stage. Key topics will include:

- **The Golden Age of Broadway**
- **The Age of Sondheim**
- **The Rise of Mega-Musicals**
- **Contemporary Musical Theatre**

Throughout the course, students will develop a deeper understanding of the historical and cultural contexts that have shaped the evolution of musical theatre. Students will analyze lyrics, musical scores, and dramatic structure and gain an appreciation for artistry and the cultural impact of musical theatre on society. This course will include listening to music, viewing theatrical productions (live and recorded), and engaging in creative activities.