



Performing Arts

Drama

The Drama Department offers courses in play production. In addition to the various course offerings, an ambitious co-curricular program in play production is mounted each year. Plays ranging from the large-scale fall musical to full plays, to children's theater are produced annually. The Drama Department participates in the annual NH State Festival. All PHS students are eligible to participate in the drama program either onstage or backstage. Introduction to Theater should be taken as a prerequisite for all other drama courses. All courses in Drama may be taken to satisfy the Fine Arts education requirement.

INTRODUCTION TO THEATER

Course No. 750

No prerequisite.

Grades 9-12

1/4 Year .50 Cr

This course will provide hands-on learning in many different areas of theatre. Students will work on writing and performing monologues, scene study, improv, movement for the actor, stage combat and text analysis. In addition, students will learn mask making and character development, set construction and tech theatre, as well as audition preparation and industry standards. Students should leave this course with a broader knowledge of the world of theatre and a more in-depth understanding of acting technique.

STAGECRAFT AND PLAYWRITING

Course No. 7510

No prerequisite.

Grades 9-12

1/4 Year .50 Cr

This class focuses on teaching the fundamentals of directing for the stage and writing for the stage. Students will be challenged to direct peers in performances. The class will culminate in a performance of a short work written and directed by the students in the class. Preparing students for the professional world of theatre.

MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMANCE

Course No. 752

Prerequisite: Introduction to Theater

Grades 9-12

1/4 Year .50 Cr

Students will be immersed in musical theater from the 1930's to current Broadway hits. Each week will be a study in a different period of Musical Theater History. Students will research, stage/choreograph, and perform scenes and songs from each era with partners and small groups. Selections from each era will be performed in a final showcase.



Performing Arts

Music

The Music Department offers a wide selection of courses in both performance and classroom areas of instruction. Music studied ranges from the classical tradition to popular to contemporary. Traditional instruments as well as music technology equipment such as keyboards, computers, synthesizers and sequencers are available in the Music Department. Members of the music performance groups also have the opportunity to audition for placements in All-State Music Festival, All-New England Music Festival, and New Hampshire Jazz All-State. In addition to the large ensembles, Band and Choir, which meet during the school day, the Music Department has several musical groups which meet outside the regular school day. These include Big Band, Jazz Combo, Mixed Instrumental Ensembles, Percussion Ensemble, Color Guard, Treble Choir, Madrigal Singers, and Men's Ensemble. No additional credits are given for participation in these performing groups.

All courses in the Music Department may be taken to satisfy the Fine Arts requirement.

PERFORMANCE COURSES

CLIPPER BAND

Course No. 773, 774

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

All Year 1.00 Cr

The Clipper Band is open to all students (previous band experience is strongly recommended). As musical ambassadors for the City of Portsmouth, the Clipper Band will

be expected to perform at various community functions during the school year. These performances include home football games in the fall, Portsmouth Holiday Parade in December, and the Memorial Day Parade in late May. The Band performs a variety of music ranging from traditional literature to contemporary and Broadway show medleys. In order to prepare for these events, there will be a week long Band Camp before school begins. Some fund raising activities may be scheduled throughout the year to help support the band activities.

CONCERT CHOIR

Course No. 775, 776

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

All Year 1.00 Cr

This large choral ensemble is open to all students regardless of previous vocal experience. Music performed is both sacred and secular in nature and ranges from classics to the Broadway stage and arrangements of popular music--all with an emphasis on choral and vocal tone quality development, diction, and balance and blend of voices. It is mandatory that students participate in concerts which occur in after-school or evening times. Some fundraising activities may be scheduled throughout the year.



Performing Arts

BAND/CHOIR
Course No. 777S1 & 777S2

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
All Year 1.00 Cr

Prerequisite: Instructor Recommendation

This course is designed for students who would like to participate in both band and choir.

CLASSROOM COURSES

FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC THEORY
Course No. 771

Grades 9, 10, 11, 12
1/4 Year .50 Cr

Open to all students regardless of musical background. Basic musical concepts such as rhythms, scales, key signatures, intervals and chords will be covered. The music technology assisted classroom is used for music history research, and provides an introduction to technology-based learning. If you want to learn how to read and write music, this is the class for you.

ADVANCED MUSIC THEORY
Course No. 777

Grades 10, 11, 12
1/4 Year .50 Cr

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Music Theory or instructor recommendation

Students interested in this course must have a background in basic musical concepts (Band, Choir or Fundamentals class). Advanced musical concepts such as melodic construction, harmonic analysis, chord progressions and proper voicing/part-writing techniques will be covered. Sibelius music notation software is used extensively to learn how to arrange and/or compose music.

JAZZ IMPROVISATIONAL STUDIES
Course No. 778

Grades 10, 11, 12
1/4 Year .50 Cr

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Music Theory or recommendation of instructor.

Students interested in this course must be able to read music and play an instrument to participate. The history of Jazz and the variety of styles will be explored through research and performance. Students will learn how to improvise using the "Jamey Aebersold" method. Students will learn about blues and jazz scales, solo construction, and performance techniques. Students will have opportunities to perform in small group combos.



Performing Arts

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
USING APPLE'S "GARAGEBAND"
Course No. 679

Grades 9,10,11, 12
1/4 Year .50 Cr

NOTE: This course will satisfy the computer requirement.

Students are introduced to the various hardware and software components located in the music technology lab. Using Apple's "Garageband" combined with midi-controllers from "M-Audio" and a fully networked keyboard lab, students will learn how to electronically compose, edit, record and mix their own musical creations. While a musical background is not a prerequisite, it is certainly beneficial. Students who successfully complete this course would be eligible for independent study consideration in advanced recording utilizing the various school concerts as source material. Space permitting, grades 9 and 10 may be considered per permission of the instructor. Course may be taken to satisfy computer or fine arts requirements. Course also listed in the Computer Section.