

VAPA Department Course Descriptions

Music Department	
Course	Description
Beginning Band (Instruments)	Beginning Band is a year-long class for students with no musical experience who are interested in learning one of the traditional band instruments. This group includes all the basic wind instruments: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone tuba, and percussion. Emphasis in this course is placed on contemporary and classical wind band repertoire suitable to concert band festivals and the concert stage. This group performs 3 times a year.
Beginning Orchestra (Instruments)	Beginning Orchestra is a year-long class for students with no musical experience who are interested in learning one of the traditional string instruments: violin, viola, cello, and upright bass. This class is for students with no previous experience on a string instrument. Emphasis on this class is learning standard string orchestra instruments and musical pieces. This ensemble performs 3 times a year.
Advanced Band	Advanced band is a year-long musical ensemble for the school's most advanced musicians. Students must have at least one year of playing experience and approval from the music teacher to join this class. Advanced band includes all wind instruments: flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, tuba, french horn, baritone, and percussion. There are two periods of advanced band, one for the wind players and one for percussion. This group performs at festivals and concerts of various types at set times throughout the year. This group performs 4 or more times per year.
Advanced Orchestra	Advanced Orchestra is a year-long class for students with at least one year of experience playing one of the traditional string instruments: violin, viola, cello, and upright bass. Emphasis on this class is learning intermediate to advanced string orchestra instruments and musical

	pieces. This ensemble performs 3 or more times a year. Students must have approval from the music teacher to join this class.
Jazz Ensemble	Jazz Ensemble is an advanced level music class where students study and perform music in the jazz idiom as arranged for the standard "big band" instrumentation of 4 to 5 trumpets, 4 to 5 trombones, 5 saxophones, and rhythm section consisting of at least piano and/or guitar, bass, and drums. Students will study musical terminology, rhythmic figures, musical interpretation/expression, and improvisation. The Jazz Band performs multiple times throughout the year for the student body, band concerts, and jazz festivals. Students must have at least one year of playing experience and approval from the music teacher to join this class.
Marching Dynamics	Marching Dynamics class consists of the students in the Marching Band, Colorguard and Drumline. This class meets after school and counts for PE credit for 9th and 10th graders, and elective credit for 11th and 12th graders. The Huntington Park Marching Band has won multiple awards and is the largest performing ensemble on campus. The focus of this ensemble is on learning a wide variety of marching band literature and contemporary marching techniques. The Marching Band and Colorguard performs numerous times throughout the fall at all home football games, away games, pep rallies, and several marching competitions. No experience in marching is necessary to join! We accept any student who is interested.
Beginning Guitar	The major emphasis of this course is to develop student achievement through beginning study of the guitar. The course develops the physical skills necessary to play beginning level music accurately and with good tone quality, develops skills in reading music notation, and develops an understanding of the historical significance of the guitar and its literature. The course also provides opportunities for growth in the understanding of musical elements as applied to the music played.
Mariachi	The major emphasis of this course is to develop student achievement through beginning level techniques in playing mariachi. The course develops the physical skills necessary to play beginning level music accurately and with good tone quality, and develops skills on typical mariachi instruments. The course also provides opportunities for growth in the understanding of musical elements as applied to the music played. Students cannot take Mariachi until they

	have taken either Beginning Guitar, Beginning Band or Beginning Orchestra first.
Beginning Piano	The major emphasis of this course is to develop student achievement through the study of advanced piano. The course develops the ability to perform with considerable skill, accuracy, and aesthetic sensitivity, develops skills in score reading, and develops understanding and appreciation of artistic expression. The course provides opportunities for increasing skill in the standard repertory of classical piano that is technically and qualitatively advanced. The student is provided with opportunities to examine and study the fundamental arts components including, where applicable, the perceptual, creative, historical, and critical.
Beginning Chorus	The major emphasis of this course is to develop student achievement through the study of beginning singing and beginning choral music. Students learn to sing by themselves and with others. The students in Chorus will perform 1-2 times a year.
Advanced Choir	The major emphasis of this course is to develop student achievement through the study of more difficult choral music. Students develop the ability to sing with considerable skill, accuracy, and sensitivity. The course provides for improvement in vocal tone quality through breath support and ear training, for increased skill in sight singing, and for more highly developed aesthetic appreciation and critical judgment. The course also provides for increased skill in ensemble singing in small and large groups, and enlarges students' acquaintance with standard choral literature. The students in the Advanced Choir will perform 2-3 times a year. Students cannot take Advanced Choir until they have taken at least one year of Beginning Chorus first.

Theater Department	
Course	Description
Intro to Theater	In this course, students will be trained in the fundamental skills of the theatre arts, including improvisation techniques, body control, voice, diction, pantomime, learning of lines, creation of character, projection of ideas and emotions and preparation and acting of scenes from plays. Acting projects will provide positive group experiences in collaborative assignments, developing

	self-discipline, evaluating the performances of others, and accepting constructive criticism.
Theater Ensemble	This course provides intermediate theatre students with the opportunity to study theatre through the process of planning, producing, rehearsing and presenting a variety of theatre projects, including short plays, scenes and monologues, storytelling or children's theatre performances. Continued growth and development of students' acting, directing and technical skills may be demonstrated through regular public performance events on campus, in the community or at theatre festivals. Students will develop writing skills through preparation of character analyses, performance critiques and playwriting. Opportunities for original work, improvisations, and individual or small group acting projects may be included. Students will explore the essential question of how the development of acting skills, an understanding of directorial and design concepts and the relationships among theatre company members influence the production and performance of plays. Students in this course will be expected to participate in either the Fall play and/or Spring musical.
Theater Company	This course provides advanced theatre students with the opportunity to plan, produce and present a semester or year-long performance schedule of plays and other performing arts events. The course is designed to facilitate a collaborative process among students and the teacher, beginning with the selection of scripts, directors, actors and designers and continuing through final performances before an audience. Students will explore the essential question of how the development of acting skills, an understanding of directorial and design concepts, and the relationships among theatre company members influence the production and performance of plays. Students in this course will be expected to participate in either the Fall play and/or Spring musical.

Dance Department	
Course	Description
Beginning Dance Choreography and Production	The purpose of this course is to promote a balanced dance program that enables students to develop an appreciation of the use of the body as a means of communication and expression. Students will receive instruction in basic dance techniques and choreographic principles as

	they engage in movement activities designed to develop an understanding of the elements of dance, develop balance, coordination, flexibility, strength and endurance.
Intermediate Dance	The purpose of this course is to continue to develop the dance techniques learned in the beginning dance class. Students in this class will learn specific routines to be performed. Once students have successfully completed intermediate dance they will be moved up to the Dance Company class.
Dance Company	This course is designed for advanced dance students and will focus on refining technical proficiency, artistic expression and creative fluency. Students are provided the opportunity to learn established choreography, as well as original works. Students will engage in the processes of creation, rehearsal, and performance of dance works; ensemble skills; repertoire maintenance, and performance disciplines. The end of the year culminates with a fully produced performance of completed works. Additional rehearsal time required.

Visual Arts Department	
Course	Description
Intro to Art	Introduction to Art provides a foundation of visual arts knowledge and skills and their connections to other subjects; and explores the discipline in depth both intellectually and experientially. The course serves as a prerequisite for all advanced visual arts courses in high school. Students will learn the Elements and Principles of Art, color theory, basic drawing skills and techniques, learning about different art materials/tools and introduction to the styles of art and artists.
Drawing	In Drawing class, students will develop skills and knowledge to improve object representation using line, value, shape, and composition. Students will learn about and apply the Elements/Principles in their original work of art. Some examples of art production may include: The Rule of Thirds, Perspective drawing, drawing from observation, the grid method and shading/texture techniques. Students will also learn about the color wheel and color theory, apply and practice to enhance their art.

Ceramics	In Ceramics 1AB, students are introduced to ceramics through a variety of studio experiences. The students will acquire knowledge of form, volume, and space relationships by constructing clay objects. Students will learn the basic hand-building techniques and begin to understand the process of completing a 3-dimensional project when working with clay. In the process of creating, students will begin to develop problems-solving skills when creating functional and/or decorative projects.
Painting	In Painting 1AB, students expand their knowledge of the visual arts through learning about historical foundations and aesthetic traditions of the arts and through studio experiences with an emphasis on painting.
Calligraphy	Calligraphy is a visual art related to writing. It is the design and execution of lettering with a broad-tipped instrument, brush, or other writing instrument. In Calligraphy class, students learn about the elements and principles of art and calligraphy, apply various fonts to express personal ideas and feelings, and have collaborative peer projects to build real-life career experiences.
AP Studio Art-Drawing	In Advanced Placement Studio Art - Drawing, students examine in depth the history, aesthetic traditions, process and content of drawing. Emphasis is placed on the quality, concentration, and breadth of the student's production and experiences in drawing. The course is for the highly motivated student interested in the serious study of art and may be accepted for college credit if the student qualifies on the Advanced Placement examination through successfully engaging in the portfolio process. Students must have approval from the art teacher and at least one year of a beginning art class to take AP Studio Art.