

PERFORMING ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS CAREERS		
Entry-Level	Technical	Professional
Club DJ	Song Writer	Music Producer
Band Member	Music Teacher	Record Producer
Vocalist	Radio DJ	Recording Engineer
Production Assistant	Conductor	Composer
Session Musician	Music Journalist	Music Therapist
Opera Singer	Booking Agent	Program Director
Actor	Personal Manager	Theater Director
	State Manager	
	Playwright	
	Theater Educator	

CLASSES AVAILABLE			
9 th – 12 th	10 th – 12 th	11 th – 12 th	12 th grade only
Concert Band	AP Music Theory		Performing Arts Practicum
Symphonic Band	Rhythmix		
Wind Ensemble	Song Writing & Arranging		
Jazz Band I			
Jazz Band II			
Drum Line			
Percussion Ensemble			
Piano			
Treble Choir			
Acapella Choir			
Music Appreciation			
Drama I			
Drama II			
Acting			

CONCERT BAND – Entry Level

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 Year of school band experience

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

The Concert Band is for intermediate high school band students. Students will continue to learn the skills necessary to achieve an advanced level of proficiency on their instrument. Students will study many different styles of music including marches, pep band, and selections for intermediate high school band. Any student with previous band experience is encouraged to take Concert Band. A strong emphasis will be placed on personal improvement and ensemble building. All freshmen percussion students must enroll in Drum Line for at least 1 semester. Concert Band students may participate in Pep Band.

SYMPHONIC BAND – Mid-Level

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 Year of school band experience

Plus audition

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

The Symphonic Band is for the intermediate to advanced high school band student. Students will learn a variety of different musical styles including: Marching Music, Pep Music, and selected literature for the advanced symphonic band. A strong emphasis is placed on sight-reading, individual proficiency, and personal musical growth and improvement. This band will compete in a number of local and regional contests.

WIND ENSEMBLE – High Level

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 Year of school band experience

Plus audition

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

Wind Ensemble is the most advanced instrumental performing ensemble at WAHS. Unlike symphonic brass and woodwind ensembles, a wind ensemble has a very specific instrumentation and a limited number of seats. The course will focus on concert and festival preparation. There are required weekly evening rehearsals during the second semester. Students in wind ensemble will learn a variety of musical styles and perform with a highly developed sense of musical aesthetic.

DRUM LINE (First Semester Only)

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 Year of school band experience

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

Drum Line is for serious percussion students with prior music experience either in band, percussion ensemble, or in private studies on percussion. The focus of the course will be on marching drumline music for football games and indoor performance. Students need to be able to read rhythmic and melodic music fluently. Students will also perform with symphonic band in concerts. All freshmen percussion students must enroll in Drum Line for at least 1 semester.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE (Second Semester ONLY)

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 Year of school band experience

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

Percussion Ensemble is for students with prior music experience either in band classes on wind instruments or in private studies on percussion instruments or piano. Students need to be able to read music (both rhythmic and melodic notation). Students will receive extensive direction and practice in concert and marching percussion techniques and instruments as well as other ethnic instruments. All freshmen percussion students must enroll in Percussion Ensemble for at least 1 semester.

JAZZ BAND I

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 Year of school band experience

Plus audition

Enrolled band or Percussion Ensembles

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

The Jazz Band I is for experienced, serious high school band students who would like to further their jazz studies. Students will learn to apply scales and theory to improvisation and written literature. A strong emphasis will be placed on learning jazz standards, sight reading personal musical growth. This class will meet 4 days a week during zero period.

JAZZ BAND II

Prerequisite: Minimum 1 Year of school band experience

Enrolled band or Percussion Ensembles

NO AUDITION

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

Jazz Band II is for intermediate level high school band students who would like to further their jazz skills. Students will learn jazz scales and jazz theory, begin work on improvisation over chord changes, and sight reading. A strong emphasis will be placed on learned jazz standards. This class will meet 3 days a week during zero period.

SONGWRITING & ARRANGING

Prerequisite: NONE (ability to read music and/or sing and/or play an instrument is preferred)

Elective Grade 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: .50

Do you want to write your own music during school? This course, for beginning-advanced songwriters, focuses on songwriting styles and techniques. Over the course of the semester students will study the elements of songwriting: lyrics, rhythm, melody, harmony, and song structure. Through various group and solo projects, students will compose multiple songs/pieces and find their own personal musical identity and develop critical listening skills. This course can serve as a stepping stone to AP Music Theory.

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AP MUSIC THEORY (OFFERED 2026-2027)

Prerequisite: 3-4 years of formal music training

LBCC Credit is available

Elective Grade 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

Students will receive rigorous training in intermediate and advanced level music theory concepts, including aural skills, sight-singing, notation skills, composition and arranging skills, analysis and music history. The course is intended to prepare students for the AP Music Theory exam and for college music theory courses.

PIANO

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

This class will provide students with the opportunity to learn and play piano repertoire as well as develop sight-reading, and music reading skills.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

LBCC credit available

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

This course will offer students the opportunity to take an in-depth look at different musical genres, time periods and musical elements. Students will learn how to critically listen and evaluate music from different cultures and different musical eras.

TREBLE CHOIR

NO AUDITION

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

Treble Choir is for the novice high school singer. Prior choral experience is helpful, but not necessary. More important is a desire to sing and a willingness to work with others in building a fine choral sound. While rehearsing varied styles of music in 3- and 4-part harmony for public performances, singers will also develop skills in note reading, ear-training, tone production, expression, and confidence.

A CAPPELLA CHOIR

Prerequisite: Audition, Director Recommendation

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

A Cappella Choir is for the student with an interest in choral music. Admission is by audition based on singing and note-reading skills, previous background, and attitude. A Cappella Choir will study varied styles of music, mostly unaccompanied, which will challenge the high school singer. This choir will travel and compete in a number of local and regional contests.

RHYTHMIX

Prerequisite: Audition, Director Recommendation

Elective Grade: 10, 11, 12

Year Course Credit: 1.0

Rhythmix will train the advanced singer in jazz as well as other styles of music including A Cappella, chamber, and popular styles. Students in the group will have the opportunity to perform extensively throughout the community and participate in multiple performances at West Albany. Students must be simultaneously enrolled in A Cappella Choir.

DRAMA I

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

This class will provide an introduction to all areas of theater and theatrical production, including but not limited to acting and acting styles, directing and producing, and all areas of technical theater. Providing hands-on activities including small play direction, improvisational acting, and lighting, sound, makeup, and set design, this class will give the interested student a broad understanding of theater.

DRAMA II

Prerequisite: Drama I

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

Drama II continues to strengthen the skills learned in Drama I, with particular attention to improvisation, pantomime, and performing before an audience. Students will also become more familiar with stage production and major playwrights.

ACTING

Prerequisite: Drama I

Elective Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

This course provides the opportunity for students to explore multiple acting methods and techniques. Students will work with a wide range of activities geared towards improving stage presence, dramatic range, and acting methodology. This course will provide dramatic experience for the young actor as well as the opportunity for self-exploration. This course is for students of all ages who have taken Drama 1 and intend to pursue either amateur or professional acting in the future.

PERFORMING ARTS PRACTICUM

Prerequisite: Instructor Approval

Elective Grade: 12

Semester Course Credit: .50

This course provides students with work experience in a field related to performing arts. Goals are typically set cooperatively by the student, teacher, and employer (although students are not paid). This course includes classroom activities as well, involving further study of the field or discussion regarding experiences that students encounter in the workplace.