

**Course Name:** Songwriting-Commercial Music Lab/\*Honors Songwriting-Commercial Music Lab

**Course Number:** FAR 4036/FAR 4136(College Prep)/\*FAR 4236(Honors)

**Brief Course Description:**

This course provides students with an ensemble experience that focuses on various commercial music genres. The group serves as a laboratory for performers to collaborate, arrange, compose and produce. This ensemble will provide students with an opportunity to develop technical skills, sight-reading ability, and knowledge of the repertory related to the ensemble. Students will gain experience in transcribing and creating simple arrangements, learning musicality, performance and group cooperation. It further allows students to synthesize musical, historical and cultural knowledge into meaningful artistic expression. Students will function as ensemble leaders and in collaboration with other ensemble members. This course allows commercial music students to apply theoretical knowledge learned in music classes such as ensembles, arranging, comprehensive music and other classes in a practical performance setting, emulating the demands placed upon working music professionals.

*Fine Arts Honors-level courses demand a rigorous study of artistic and creative concepts, advanced technique and performance studies and critical analysis. Students enrolled in a fine arts honors course may also be required to take on additional topics, assignments and independent projects in addition to their in-depth creative studies.*

*Eligibility: All Arts Academy students are eligible for Honors level arts courses beginning with the class of 2024*

*NBPS students are eligible for Honors level arts courses beginning with the class of 2027.*

**Main Topics of Study:**

- Ensemble skills
- Repertoire expansion
- Improvisational skills
- Playing by ear
- Reading a variety of score styles
- Creation of music/arrangements to be performed
- Production of printed music
- Technique
- Balance/blend
- Tone
- Rhythmic and pitch accuracy

**What are the Enduring Understandings of the course?**

- Students will expand their ability to play in ensembles with other commercial musicians
- Students will learn and perform a wide variety of commercial music styles
- Students will learn basics of standard commercial music instruments (including guitar, bass, piano, drums)
- Performances will be produced and performed by student members of the ensemble in the commercial music track.

- Literature performed will be representative of various commercial music genres.
- Performance material may also consist of original student compositions.

**Prerequisites:** Arts Academy students, by audition.

**Corequisites:** Enrolled in another NBPS music ensemble or performance based class

**Course Length:** Year

**Meets NBPS Graduation Requirement?** Yes - Fine Arts

**Included in Bright Futures GPA calculation?** No

**Included in NBPS GPA?** Yes, Class of 2027 and beyond, Arts Academy class of 2024 and beyond

**NCAA Core Class?** No

**State University Core Class?** No