

MUSIC

Music education at Rockville High School is an integral part of the entire educational process. The program provides for student development both through and in music. The multifaceted program concentrates on the enhancement of cultural and aesthetic values. Participation in the program provides students with a deeper appreciation of the fine arts through the beauty and expression of music.

MUSIC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MUSIC THEORY (6520)

Fall Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 with prior musical experience.

Description: Music Theory examines the various parts, or elements, of music - melody, harmony, rhythm and timbre, texture, form, and the ways in which these individual elements combine and interact to create a piece of music. This course is an introductory course in the fundamentals of music which involves learning major and minor scales, key signatures, intervals, and triads. It also includes the study of time signatures, various rhythms, and note values through rhythmic and melodic dictations. This course is a prerequisite for those students wishing to take Harmony.

HARMONY (6530)

Spring Semester Credit 0.50 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Prior successful completion of Music Theory is required.

Description: The study of harmony includes study in melodic writing, chord constructions, chord successions, harmonic analysis, and part writing. This course, designed as a continuation of the Music Theory course, involves writing four-part harmony, composition and orchestration, along with advanced rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictation.

MUSIC APPRECIATION (6531)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Description: Music Appreciation is a survey of musical style periods, Renaissance through Contemporary. Representative composers and music from each period are listened to, discussed, and compared. This course is beneficial to future college students when filling their fine arts requirement.

BASIC PIANO KEYBOARD (6522)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Description: This is an introductory course in the fundamentals of piano keyboard performance. Classroom topics include the study of musical notation and symbols, the performance of simple melodies, standard scales and chord progressions, folk songs, and popular music. Students will also perform ensemble music, with an emphasis on rhythmic accuracy and tempo pulse control.

INTERMEDIATE PIANO KEYBOARD (6523)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: Prior successful completion of the Basic Piano Keyboard course offered at Rockville High School is required with the recommendation of the teacher (or a keyboard audition with the instructor).

Description: The Intermediate Piano Keyboard course is offered as a continuation of the Basic Piano course presently taught during the fall semester with the materials and content being at a higher level of difficulty. An emphasis will be placed on the study of piano literature within each period of music history (Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th Century). All students in the Intermediate Piano Keyboard course will build upon the skills attained in the Basic Piano Keyboard course.

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (6521)

One Semester

Credit 0.50

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Prior successful completion of the Basic Piano Keyboard course is required (or a keyboard audition with the instructor).

Description: This elective course uses electronically produced sound as a medium for creating and performing musical experiments and projects. Topics include the study of stereo systems, PA systems, mixing two- and four-track recording techniques, digital synthesizers, drum machines, sequencers, computers, and Musical Instrumental Digital Interface (MIDI). An emphasis will be placed on computer sound production, using MIDI and audio synthesizer software for audio projects.

MARCHING BAND / COLOR GUARD I (6524)

First Quarter

Credit 0.25

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9 who are qualified instrumentalists or color guard members through band director recommendation or audition. **This course begins meeting in August.**

Description: This elective course is offered for those band and color guard members interested in performing at football games, parades and marching band competitions. The "corps-style" concept of marching and performance will be the foundation for all teaching. Emphasis will be placed upon fundamentals of musicianship, marching and maneuvering, musical expression, showmanship, physical coordination, and development of discipline and character.

MARCHING BAND / COLOR GUARD II (6525)

First Quarter

Credit 0.25

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 who are qualified instrumentalists or color guard members through band director recommendation or audition. **This course begins meeting in August.**

Description: Same as Marching Band/Color Guard I.

SYMPHONY BAND I - COLLEGE (6534)

Quarter 2, 3, & 4

Credit 0.75

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9 who are qualified instrumentalists through band director recommendation or audition.

Description: Students study and perform standard band literature of all stylistic periods. Fundamentals of musicianship, both technical and expressive, will be stressed. Playing tests will be required each quarter along with daily practice. Students will also study musical terminology, music theory, and music history. Several mandatory performances are scheduled throughout the year.

SYMPHONY BAND I - HONORS (6542)

Quarter 2, 3, & 4

Credit 0.75

Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grade 9 who are qualified instrumentalists through band director recommendation or audition.

Description: Same as Symphony Band I (College) with the following additions:

- Students must participate in a planned, ongoing study on their band instrument through private instruction or by arrangement with the band director. Private instruction outside of school must be documented quarterly by the private teacher.
- Students must audition for the Eastern Region Music Festival in November.
- Students must write two papers on a composer or piece of literature being studied in band with one paper being due in early February and the other in early May.

SYMPHONY BAND II - COLLEGE (6535)

Quarter 2, 3, & 4 Credit 0.75 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 who are qualified instrumentalists through band director recommendation or audition.

Description: Same as Symphony Band I – College

SYMPHONY BAND II - HONORS (6543)

Quarter 2, 3, & 4 Credit 0.75 Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 who are qualified instrumentalists through band director recommendation or audition.

Description: Same as Symphony Band I - Honors. In addition, grade 11 & 12 students will compose and/or arrange a piece of music for chamber ensemble / jazz ensemble.

CHORUS I - GENERAL (6526)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to girls in Grades 9 and 10 who are qualified vocalists through choral director recommendation or audition.

Description: Students in the chorus study and perform standard and popular choral literature of all stylistic periods. Fundamentals of musicianship, both technical and expressive, are stressed. This group combines with the students in Chorus II for several required rehearsals and performances scheduled throughout the year.

CHORUS I - COLLEGE (6532)

Full Year Credit 1.00 Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to girls in Grades 9 and 10 who are qualified vocalists through choral director recommendation or audition.

Description: Students in the chorus study and perform standard and popular choral literature of all stylistic periods. Fundamentals of musicianship, both technical and expressive, are stressed. This group combines with the students in Chorus II for several required rehearsals and performances scheduled throughout the year. Students are required to perform each quarter, either in person or on tape, a piece of music being studied in chorus or another piece of music as assigned by the teacher. Students are required to perform an audition for the Eastern Region Music Festival in November. Students are also required to write one paper on a composer or piece of literature being studied in chorus, as assigned by the teacher.

CHORUS I - HONORS (6540)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to girls in Grades 9 and 10 who are qualified vocalists through choral director recommendation or audition.

Description: Students in the chorus study and perform standard and popular choral literature of all stylistic periods. Fundamentals of musicianship, both technical and expressive, are stressed. This group combines with the students in Chorus II for several required rehearsals and performances scheduled throughout the year. Students are required to perform each quarter, either in person or on tape, a piece of solo literature assigned by the teacher or of one's own choosing which has the teacher's approval. They must also participate in a planned, ongoing, individual study of voice through private instruction or by arrangement with the chorus director. Instruction outside of school is to be documented quarterly by the private teacher. Students are required to audition in November for the Eastern Region Music Festival. They also are required to write two papers, one on a composer or piece of literature being studied in chorus, and the other a critique of a musical, choral concert, or vocal recital.

CHORUS II - GENERAL (6527)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.02

Prerequisites: This course is open to boys in Grades 9 through 12 and to girls in Grades 11 and 12 who are qualified vocalists through choral director recommendation or audition.

Description: Same as Chorus I - General.

CHORUS II - COLLEGE (6533)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.04

Prerequisites: This course is open to boys in Grades 9 through 12 and to girls in Grades 11 and 12 who are qualified vocalists through choral director recommendation or audition.

Description: Same as Chorus I - College.

CHORUS II - HONORS (6541)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: This course is open to boys in Grades 9 through 12 and to girls in Grades 11 and 12 who are qualified vocalists through choral director recommendation or audition.

Description: Same as Chorus I - Honors.

BAND / CHORUS - HONORS (6544)

Full Year

Credit 1.00

Weight 1.06

Prerequisites: Permission of both the band and choral instructors is required.

Description: This course is designed specifically for the serious and talented musician who wishes to continue developing skills in vocal and instrumental music through participation in both Band and Chorus. In this combination course, the student will attend each class for half of the block. In addition, each student will select pursuing either the vocal or instrumental emphasis and must fulfill the requirements of Honors Band or Honors Chorus for that emphasis, with additional outside individual practice required.