

Performing Arts—Music Course Descriptions

PA0930, PA0931

Concert Choir

Prerequisite: None

Credit: 1/2 (This course may be repeated for credit)

Grade: 9

Concert choir provides an opportunity for ninth graders to participate in singing for pleasure or to develop skills for succeeding choral participation. Concert attendance is required. Although this course is one semester, a ninth grader may enroll in both semesters.

PA0954, PA0955

Choraliers

Prerequisite: Audition

Credit: 1 (This course may be repeated for credit)

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

This class provides students a balanced choral ensemble experience. All styles of choral literature are studied and prepared for performances. Students in this choir are eligible to participate in regional and state solo and ensemble festivals. Concert attendance is required.

PA0932, PA0933

Chorale

Prerequisite: Audition

Grades: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 (This course may be repeated for credit)

This class is designed for an auditioned, balanced group of mixed voices. Membership is limited to those meeting audition requirements. All styles of choral literature are studied and prepared for performances. The Chorale participates in district, regional and state festivals. Concert attendance is required.

PA0934, PA0935

Chamber Singers

Prerequisite: Audition and concurrent enrollment in Chorale

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 (This course may be repeated for credit)

This course is a small, select balanced choral ensemble. The members of the Chamber Singers must be enrolled in Chorale as well. The class prepares and performs a wide variety of advanced choral literature including madrigals, motets, romantic and contemporary music as well as vocal jazz and Broadway show tunes. Costume/uniform purchase is required. Concert attendance is required.

PA0958, PA0959

Freshman Band

Prerequisite: Previous participation in the middle school band program

Grade: 9

Credit: 1

The Freshman Band is comprised of freshman students who have had prior band experience. As part of the curriculum, they participate in some band experience in the fall and perform concert band literature the remainder of the school year. Members of the freshman band are eligible for participation in solo and ensembles including jazz band, brass, woodwind, or percussion choir and pep band. Some freshmen, by audition, may be included in one of the upperclassman bands. Attendance at performances is required.

PA0936, PA0937

Symphonic Marching Band

Prerequisite: Audition

Credit: 1 (This course may be repeated for credit)

Grade: 10, 11, 12

The symphonic band is part of the marching band during the beginning of the year. Following marching season, the symphonic band is formed to include tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders who are members of the high school's band programs. Advanced concert band literature is performed during the remaining part of the school year. Members of the symphonic band are eligible for participation in solo and ensembles including Jazz Band, Brass Choir and Pep Band. Attendance at performances is required.

PA0940, PA0941**Concert Band****Prerequisite:** Audition**Credit:** 1 (This course may be repeated for credit)**Grade:** 10, 11, 12

The Concert Band is part of the Marching Band during the first semester and becomes the concert band after marching season. During the concert season, students prepare and perform the finest in wind and percussion music. Members of this group are eligible for participation in solo and ensemble festivals as well as Jazz Band, Pep Band and Brass Choir. Attendance at performances is required.

PA0944, PA0945**Jazz Ensemble****Prerequisite:** Enrollment in Band or Orchestra**Grade:** 9, 10, 11, 12**Credit:** 1/2 (This course may be repeated for credit)

The Jazz Ensemble is open to students only through audition. The ensemble studies the history and theory of jazz music both academically and in a performance setting. Students are expected to become versatile in the performance of all major and minor scales, rhythmic patterns and articulations. Instrumentation includes trumpets, saxophones, trombones, percussion, piano, bass and guitar. Performances include evaluative festivals, social functions and formal concerts.

PA0946, PA0947**Concert Orchestra****Prerequisite:** Previous participation in middle school orchestra**Grade:** 9, 10, 11, 12**Credit:** 1 (This course may be repeated for credit)

This course allows experienced string players to perform outstanding orchestral literatures at a level of difficulty appropriate for this group of students. Daily rehearsals allow students to increase their technical proficiency, learn how to contribute to a successful ensemble and develop a greater appreciation for music. Rehearsals and performances are held during and outside of the academic day and attendance is required. Each high school teacher determines the qualifications for enrollment in this ensemble.

PA0994, PA0995**Symphonic Orchestra****Prerequisite:** Previous participation in high school orchestra**Grade:** 9, 10, 11, 12**Credit:** 1 (This course may be repeated for credit)

This course allows qualified string players to perform challenging orchestral literature. Daily rehearsals allow students to increase their technical proficiency, learn how to contribute to a successful ensemble and develop a greater appreciation for music. Rehearsals and performances are held during and outside of the academic day and attendance is required. Each high school teacher determines the qualifications for enrollment in this ensemble.

PA0984, PA0985**Freshman Jazz****Prerequisite:** Enrollment in Band or Orchestra**Grade:** 9**Credit:** 1**(Offered only at BVHS)**

Freshman Jazz band is open to all freshman musicians interested in learning some fundamentals of jazz performance. Emphasis will be placed on scales, rhythmic patterns and articulations characteristically present in this musical medium. Students will spend time listening to many styles of jazz performances to develop background knowledge of some various influential musicians in jazz history. They will be expected to participate in improvisation exercise, bringing jazz recordings to class, and notating musical ideas. A limited number of performances will be expected.

PA0950, PA0951**Music Theory****Prerequisite:** Prior Music Experience and Audition**Grade:** 10, 11, 12**Credit:** 1/2

Music Theory is designed for any student who is interested in music beyond the normal performance medium. The class emphasizes the fundamentals of music such as scales, intervals, chord voicing, elementary counterpoint, chord progressions, basic music analysis skills, and some ear training. Computer composing software is used in this course. Music history and listening as it pertains to composition will also be a component of this course.

PA0978, PA0979**Honors Music Theory**

This course earns a weighted grade and requires more in-depth study of the curriculum. Students should carefully consider the extra time needed for this more challenging course.

Prerequisite: Prior Music Experience and Audition

Grade: 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1

Honors Music Theory is designed for the advanced music student seeking mastery of music outside the normal performance medium. This full year course is equivalent to a college level music theory class. The curriculum includes a rigorous and detailed study of music fundamentals, composition, ear training, sight singing, music form and analysis, score study and harmony. The course includes Eighteenth through Twentieth century composition techniques and prepares the student for college music coursework.

Performing Arts -- Music Interpretation Course Descriptions**PA0952, PA0953****Dance Team**

Prerequisite: Audition

(This course may be repeated for credit)

Grade: 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit: 1 (1/2 unit of graded credit is awarded 1st semester and 1/2 unit of K credit is awarded 2nd semester)

Dance team is designed to teach marching fundamentals, several types of dance techniques, music interpretation and choreography skills. During the first part of the year the dance team performs as part of the Blue Valley high school's marching band. Performances during marching season include pep assemblies, soccer games, home football games and marching competitions. After marching season, performances include pep assemblies, home basketball games, dance competitions and other special events. A spring show is scheduled as a finale for the year. Additional practices may be scheduled as needed. Information regarding expenses is available during audition.