

# Music

The Music department provides an atmosphere which enhances “Striving for Excellence”. Students use their knowledge and skills to have personally rewarding musical experiences in performing groups, small ensembles, lessons, and classroom music.

## COURSE OFFERINGS

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Type of Exam</u>
Treble Choir	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Orchestra	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Concert Band	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
AP Music Theory	1 unit	40 weeks	AP
Music Theory	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Concert Choir	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Fundamentals of Guitar	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Fundamentals of Guitar II	½ unit	20 weeks	Local
Chamber Chorus	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Theater Art	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Chorale	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Choraliers (9th grade Only)	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Wind Ensemble	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
History of Classical Music	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Bel Canto Singers	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
Jazz Ensemble	1 unit	40 weeks	Local
String Ensemble	1 unit	40 weeks	Local

### Concert Band

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks

Band is a large performing ensemble designed to allow the student to experience music and transcriptions for the wind band by performing in rehearsals and concerts. Weekly lessons on the student’s instrument are an integral part of the learning experience, with the band rehearsals and concerts intended to be a medium for applying musical skills. Band members participate in several scheduled evening concerts and other special events

throughout the year. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Treble Choir

Credit: 1 Unit

Length: 40 Week

Prerequisite: Audition in spring of previous year.

Selection by Director Only

Treble Choir is a select chorus comprised of sophomore, junior, and senior treble voices with previous choral experience. Students are selected based on vocal and sight reading ability, in addition to personal commitment and responsibility. Treble Choir performs throughout the community as well

as in department performances and festivals. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests. Voice labs offered on a rotating basis to all students.

### Music Theory (East)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Prerequisite: Experience in Band, Orchestra and/or Chorus or permission of the Instructor.

Music Theory is a course designed to enhance music skills and basic music fundamentals. The essential aspects of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form are studied. Throughout the course of the year students will study basic notation, scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, cadences, non-chord tones, form, part-writing and analysis of a score. Aural dictation and ear training are also an integral part of the course and will be taught throughout the year. This course is highly recommended for students in a music ensemble, and is a prerequisite for AP Music Theory.

### Orchestra (East)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Prerequisite: Audition or recommendation of the director

Orchestra is comprised of string players who have been playing their instrument for at least one year. Orchestra performs many works by famous composers, along with contemporary and light popular tunes. Orchestra regularly performs concerts throughout the year at school and in the community. Each string player receives one lesson per week. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Concert Choir (East)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Open to all students, grades 9-12. This course will study the production of vocal music and choral and solo settings. Students

will be given the opportunity to perform on a daily basis and will learn the techniques of vocal production. Students will also learn to read music and explore a wide range of music from classical to folk to pop. Vocal labs will be offered on a rotating basis to all students involved in High School Chorus. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Fundamentals of Guitar (East)

Credit: 1/2 Unit                      Length: 20 Weeks  
\*This course satisfies ½ the Art/Music requirement for graduation.

Fundamentals of guitar is a one semester course covering the basics of the instrument and an application of essential music fundamentals. Students will learn the basics of playing guitar at a beginning level through studying music notation, chord symbols, and peer modeling. A brief history of guitar along with a study of its respective musical styles will also be covered in this course.

### Fundamentals of Guitar II (East)

Credit: 1/2 Unit                      Length: 20 Weeks  
Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Guitar  
\*This course satisfies ½ the Art/Music requirement for graduation.

Fundamentals of Guitar II will cover advanced knowledge of the guitar and application of essential music fundamentals. Students will build upon skills previously learned and continue to study music notation, chord symbols, and peer modeling. This class will perform as an ensemble in either the winter or spring concert.

### Chamber Chorus (East)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Audition Only - by permission of instructor.

In order to achieve a balance of voices, it is necessary to limit females according to number of males accepted. A desire to sing all types of music from sacred to classical, as

well as the desire to excel as a vocalist is required. Many performers are required (upwards of eight). Auditions are done in late April. Voice labs are offered to all students in the vocal performing ensembles who perform Erie County or NYSSMA solos. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Theater Art (East)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Prerequisite: Grade 10, 11, 12

Theater Arts is a course designed to introduce students to the various elements of the theatre and to encourage students in further participation. Students will examine and study the role that acting, directing, sound, lights, set, costumes, make-up, and publicity play in the creation of a live production. Students will also learn the basic approach to working comfortable on the stage, through warm-ups, monologues, scene work and improvisation. Basic techniques of movement, voice projection, character development, and performance will be taught. Students will attend and analyze professional productions during the year and work with guest speakers in the theater community.

### AP Music Theory

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Prerequisite: Music Theory I, or permission of the Instructor.

AP Music Theory is an advanced course in aural perception and harmony. Students will learn music notation, and composition as it applies to four-part harmony. Students will be required to read, notate, perform and compose music. Musical skills will be developed through listening exercises, sight-singing examples, written exercises, analysis, and an exposure to a variety of musical styles. Students will take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

Students wishing to pursue a major in music will find this course to be essential as they prepare for college auditions and coursework.

### Chorale (West)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Grades 10, 11 and 12

Chorale is composed of all upper class male and female students who wish to sing. Chorale presents concerts at school and performs at festivals. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Choraliers (West)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Prerequisite: 9th Graders only

Choraliers is composed of all first year choral singers new to West Senior (male and female). This chorus presents concerts at school and occasionally sings in festivals. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests. Voice labs offered on a rotating basis to all students.

### Bel Canto Singers (West)

Credit: 1 Unit                      Length: 40 Weeks  
Prerequisite: Audition in spring of previous year.  
Selection by Director Only

Bel Canto Singers is a select chorus comprised of sophomore, junior and senior students. Students are selected based on vocal and sight-reading ability, in addition to personal commitment and responsibility. Bel Canto Singers perform throughout the community as well as in department performances and festivals. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Jazz Ensemble (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks  
Prerequisite: Audition or recommendation of the teacher. All Jazz Ensemble students must be enrolled in Concert band or Wind Ensemble.

Jazz Ensemble is a select performing group. It is composed of students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, guitar, drum set and percussion. Strong focus will be given to performing and studying the works of major jazz masters. Students will gain an understanding of the different stylistic elements and historical periods of Jazz music. The Jazz Ensemble not only performs for our annual school concerts, but also performs for engagements outside of school. Membership in this organization is contingent upon permission of the conductor. The instrumentalists in this group receive one instrumental lesson per week. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### History of Classical Music (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks

Grades 10, 11 and 12

Why didn't Beethoven listen to his own music? Why was Mozart's father so angry? How did Haydn surprise his audience? Find out the answers to these questions and more, as we study the great eras of Classical Music History. In this class, we will learn about the great composers of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern eras, and investigate how they influenced the music that we hear today. As we study music of the Twentieth Century, influences of Jazz, Musical Theater and the Great American Songbook will also be discussed. This class will provide music students with a better understanding of the music they perform in their ensembles and choirs, as well as provide a strong background for future college Music History studies.

### String Ensemble (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Audition in spring of previous year.

Selection by Director Only

String Ensemble is a select string orchestra. Students must have previous orchestral experience and show a high level of

responsibility and commitment. Students will be exposed to more advanced string literature. Students receive one lesson per week. String Ensemble performs regularly throughout the school year at school and in the community, and also competes at state festivals. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Wind Ensemble (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Audition in Spring of previous year.

Selection by Director Only

Wind Ensemble is a select concert band comprised of 45 NYSSMA Level 5 and 6 instrumental music students. Students receive one lesson per week and perform in concerts throughout the year in school and in the community. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

### Orchestra (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Audition or recommendation of the director

Orchestra is comprised of string players in grades 10-12 who have been playing their instrument for at least one year. Orchestra performs many works by famous composers, along with contemporary and light popular tunes. Orchestra regularly performs concerts throughout the year at school and in the community. Each string player receives one lesson per week. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

## Orchestra (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Audition or recommendation of the director

Orchestra is comprised of string players in grades 10-12 who have been playing their instrument for at least one year. Orchestra performs many works by famous composers, along with contemporary and light popular tunes. Orchestra regularly performs concerts throughout the year at school and in the community. Each string player receives one lesson per week. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

## Sinfonia (West)

Credit: 1 Unit Length: 40 Weeks

Prerequisite: Audition or recommendation of the director

Sinfonia is comprised of string players in grade 9 who have been playing their instrument for at least one year. Sinfonia performs many works by famous composers, along with contemporary and light popular tunes. Sinfonia regularly performs concerts throughout the year at school and in the community. Each string player receives one lesson per week. Concerts are required and should be likened to tests.

## **Marching Band**

The West Seneca Marching Band is the marching-music representative of the West Seneca Central Schools music program. Using music and visual performance as the educational means, the band strives for excellence by promoting the values and leadership, pride and dedication through a team spirit. The band performs in competitions each fall, home football games and many local parades.

## **Tri-M Music Honor Society**

The Music Honor Society recognizes students who have achieved excellence in Music, as well as maintaining high academic standards. These music students have been carefully selected on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership and service. Scholarship represents scholastic achievement and open-mindedness toward knowledge and truth. Character emphasizes a devotion to high ideals and recognizes no barriers between people of diverse backgrounds. Leadership guides us to greater undertakings, and service encourages assistance and kindness to others. All members must be currently enrolled in a curricular performing ensemble, maintain an overall average of 90 or higher in all music classes, and maintain an overall average of 90 or higher. Each candidate for student membership is required to perform a solo at either an ECMEA All-County audition, a NYSSMA Festival or a school concert.