

## Courses Available to Teach

### Performance Ensembles

**Concert Choir:** In this ensemble of 30-50, students of beginning to intermediate singing ability and background learn fundamental vocal, choral and music techniques while performing choral literature from a variety of cultures and periods. They perform in 2-4 concerts per a year and possibly some festival-competitions. Enriching content on aesthetic awareness and evaluation, cultural expression and cross-subject connection as they relate to music are regularly included in discussion, writing and/or oral presentation activities.

**Women's/Treble or Men's Choir:** Similar in size and scope to the Concert Choir, this ensemble focuses on the vocal needs/preferences of the individual sexes (as well as the logistical needs of the program).

**Advanced Choir:** Similar to the Concert Choir, except comprised of more vocally advanced students capable of achieving higher standards of choral achievement. More advanced vocal/choral/musical concepts and techniques are taught, more advanced choral literature is performed, and ensemble is likely to perform in additional festival-competitions and community events. Higher levels of aesthetic, cultural and cross-subject analysis/evaluation is also expected through discussion, writing and/or oral presentations.

**Chamber Choir:** Similar to Advanced Choir except smaller (usually 10-20 singers) focusing on literature appropriate for smaller ensembles. Students given much more opportunity to sing autonomously, and often perform for community and school events.

**Show/Jazz Choir:** Typically a smaller ensemble (10-20) of advanced singers that focuses on music from musical theater, jazz and/or popular idioms. Students typically sing with microphones and learn pop-style performance techniques. Numbers are sometimes choreographed (if a choreographer is available) and/or staged. This ensemble is particularly effective performing for community and school events.

**Band/Orchestra:** Similar to choral ensembles in size and scope, focusing on techniques and literature appropriate for instruments available.

### Non-Performance Classes

**Music Appreciation:** Designed for students with little formal musical background, this course introduces students to the music of various periods and cultures providing them with the tools to value, analyze and evaluate representative works. Particular attention is given to cultural and communicative elements, as well as the ability to express one's observations orally and in writing using appropriate, academic language.

**Keyboard/Guitar/Instrumental Instruction:** Beginning to intermediate group instruction in keyboard, guitar or band instruments using appropriate method books with solo and ensemble playing.

**Introduction to Music Careers (Career Technical Education):** As part of a CTE rotation course for freshmen, this class introduces students to careers and conditions in the music industry.

**Introduction to Music Technology:** In this course students are introduced to a variety of hardware and software tools used in music technology including audio and video recording and sequencing, notational software, creating web documents, album and poster design and marketing, as well as business and legal implications.

**Advanced Music Technology Collaboration (ie. “The Album Project”):** In this flexible class, students of musical, technological, artistic and business talents join forces to write and record songs to produce and market an original album to the school and community. Students learn musical, technological, design, business and leadership skills while participating in a “real-world” group entrepreneurial endeavor.

**Music Theory (Advanced Placement):** Designed primarily for juniors and seniors who will major in music in college, this course covers the material taught in a Level 1 college Music Theory course, with some additional instruction in sight-reading, aural skills, music history and composition. This course is designed to give students a “college music course” experience while preparing them to pass the Music Theory AP exam and gain college course credit.

## Additional Music Activities

**Choral Festivals and Competitions:** Sponsored by the California Music Educators Association, the American Choral Directors Association or some similar authority, festival-competitions give choir students the opportunity to perform for and be evaluated by professional adjudicators, while also observing ensembles from other schools. These festivals are sometimes located at theme parks, providing a strong draw for choir enrolment.

**Honor Choirs:** For exceptionally skilled choral students, honor choirs provide the once-in-a-lifetime experience to join with other students from around the region, state or country in an intense weekend of choral rehearsal and performance with a professional conductor.

**School Musicals:** In collaboration with the theater and art departments, school musicals provide the opportunity for singers, actors, dancers, instrumentalists, artists and technical specialists to collaborate to produce a staged musical for the school and community’s benefit.