

MUSIC

The Music program at Normal Community High School and Normal Community West High School has a strong tradition of excellence. The Music program is open to all students. The course offerings are varied and meet the needs of all students. **Each performing organization with the department will present six to eight formal programs per year occurring outside of the school day. Students will be expected to attend each performance as well as any required rehearsals.**

ORCHESTRA

Orchestra is offered to any student with prior string playing experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will have the opportunity to study and perform the best orchestral literature available. Students will be assigned to either Concert Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra, according to their musical ability and experience. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required. Credit toward graduation is earned.

There will also be opportunities for qualified string players to participate in extra-curricular music groups outside of the school day. Placement is by audition only. No credit toward graduation is earned for these ensembles.



CHOIR

Choir is offered to all students by audition or consent of the Associate Principal. Students are assigned to different ensembles according to vocal ability, music reading skills, and experience. Attendance at all performances is required. Credit toward graduation is earned for all curricular choirs.

Extra-curricular performing groups, such as jazz choir, madrigals, and other a cappella ensembles are also offered. These ensembles meet outside of the school day and membership is by audition only. No credit toward graduation is earned.

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BAND

The Band program at NCHS and NCWHS is open to all students with prior instrumental music experience. Those students wishing to participate in Band with no previous musical training will need the consent of the Associate Principal.

Marching Band is offered to those students who wish to participate in a competitive Marching Band experience. Students are expected to attend a number of parades, field show competitions, and several home football games. Attendance at rehearsals and performances outside of the school day is required.

Students in Band also audition for placement in concert bands. Placement in bands is chosen by ability. Attendance at rehearsals and performances outside of the school day is required. Credit toward graduation is earned for all curricular bands.

Extra-curricular performing groups, such as jazz band and other small instrumental ensembles are also offered. These ensembles meet outside of the school day and membership is by audition only. No credit toward graduation is earned.



COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MUSIC PROGRAM

1. Can I be in Band, Orchestra or Choir and participate in athletics, cheerleading, drama or other school clubs?

YES, YES, YES!!! We have a large number of students in the Music program who are very active in these organizations.

2. Can I be in both Band and Choir or Choir and Orchestra at the same time?

Yes, you can. You will need to carefully look at your schedule and use all four years to schedule your required classes.

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MUS 103 CHOIR

(Yearly 1 Credit) (9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisite: Choral Experience and Audition or Consent of Associate Principal

Choir is offered to all students by audition or consent of the Associate Principal. Students are assigned to different ensembles according to vocal ability, music reading skills, and experience. Students will be graded on musical proficiency, music theory, performance attendance, and class participation. Attendance at all performances is required.

MUS 303 BAND

(Yearly 1 Credit) (9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisite: Instrumental Experience and Audition or Consent of Associate Principal

Band is offered to those students with previous instrumental music experience by audition or consent of the Associate Principal. Students are assigned to a Concert Band by playing skills, musical skills, and experience. Marching Band is also an option for any students enrolled in the band program. Students will be graded on performance skills, technical proficiency, knowledge of terms and notations, and class participation. Attendance at all performances is required.

MUS 403 ORCHESTRA

(Yearly 1 Credit) (9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisite: Instrumental Experience and Audition or Consent of Associate Principal

Orchestra is offered to students with prior string playing experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will be assigned to either Concert Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra, depending on their musical ability and experience. Students will be graded on musical skills, technical proficiency, written assignments, and class participation. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required.

MUS 552 ADVANCED PLACEMENT MUSIC THEORY

(Second Semester 1/2 Credit) (11, 12)

Prerequisite: Previous Music Training

Students study the structure of music, harmony, composition, ear training, form, and analysis. Theory is strongly recommended for those who wish to pursue music beyond high school. Students enrolled in this course will have the opportunity to take the Advanced Placement exam in May at their own expense. Students receiving a high grade on the exam may be eligible for college credit depending on the score and the college.

MUS 603 CREATIVE MOVEMENT

NCHS Campus (NCHS Students Only)

(Yearly 1 Credit) (9, 10, 11, 12)

Prerequisite: Members of the Color Guard or Consent of Associate Principal

Students will develop an individual performance based upon body movement, creativity, and equipment handling. Each student will be responsible for music selection, synchronizing movement, equipment handling, and a final program. Artistic creativity, physical mobility, and music awareness will be emphasized. Rehearsals and performances outside of the school day are required.

