

# Fine Arts: Music – Choral

High School Choir is a performance based program composed of students with musical abilities ranging from beginning to experienced singers. Students will learn and develop fundamental music skills such as sight-singing, music notation, aural (listening) skills, healthy vocal technique, and concert and rehearsal etiquette. All of these skills will prepare the young musician to have successful musical experiences. The ultimate goal of the choral program is to nurture a love of music as it produces musically literate students. Over the course of the school year, students will perform music representing many cultures and genres, such as classical, jazz, world music, and pop.

A high level of achievement is expected of choir students. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the Texas Music Educator Association All-State Audition process (ex. Region Choir) and UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest. All choir members selected for membership in the District, Region, or All-State Choirs are required to participate in the complete clinic and concert. Select choirs will participate in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest and other choral festivals/contests held during the school year.

Because choir is a performance oriented course, attendance at rehearsals/concerts/contests is mandatory. Annually, there are three or four major concerts as well as opportunities to perform for school and local events. With few exceptions, notice of all concerts, contests, and extra rehearsals will be provided to students and parents in a calendar at the beginning of the school year/semester.

Students have the opportunity to participate in a non-auditioned or auditioned choir. Audition requirements are set by the choral director. Students must participate in the choral program for one year before auditioning for an auditioned choir.

**Vocal Ensemble is a specialty choir. Students participating in a Vocal Ensemble must also be enrolled in a choir.** Please contact the HHS, JHS or LHS Choral Director for more information about ensembles.

## Choir

**Course Number:** V001.MY 1<sup>st</sup> year  
V002.MY 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
V003.MY 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
V004.MY 4<sup>th</sup> year

**Grade Placement:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Choral Director Approval

**Credit:** 1

**PEIMS#:** 03150900, 03151000, 03151100, 03151200  
Placement in all choirs is based, in part, on the students' vocal ability and music reading skills. Involvement in rehearsals and performances outside of school hours is required.

## Vocal Ensemble

**Course Number:** V601.MY 1<sup>st</sup> year  
V602.MY 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
V603.MY 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
V604.MY 4<sup>th</sup> year

**Grade Placement:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Interview/Audition

**Credit:** 1

**PEIMS#:** 03152100, 03152200, 03152300, 03152400  
This course emphasizes carrying an independent part in an ensemble group. Various groups will be formed based on the abilities and interests of the students. Out-of-school rehearsals and performances are required. Students participating in Vocal Ensemble must also be enrolled in a choir.

## Applied Music - Voice

**Course:** V701.MY 1<sup>st</sup> year  
V702.MY 2<sup>nd</sup> year  
V703.MY 3<sup>rd</sup> year  
V704.MY 4<sup>th</sup> year

**Grade Placement:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** Choral Director Approval

**Credit:** 1

**PEIMS#:** 03152500

This course is for those students who have prior experience with the choral program and will be entering the All-State Choir Auditions in the fall or will be preparing for UIL Solo and Ensemble in the spring. Those commitments are required for those students who take this class. The students will use this time as preparation for those contests while working with the teacher. The students will also be required to learn some basic music theory. The class size is limited by the number of practice areas available in the music wing.

## Music Theory I

**Course Number:** U101.MY

**Grade Placement:** 9-12

**Prerequisite:** None

**Credit:** 1

**PEIMS#:** 03155400

Music Theory I includes the basic fundamentals of musicianship, theory, musical materials, basic terminology, ear training and sight-singing procedures. It also integrates interval studies and identification with simple melodic and harmonic dictation. A basic knowledge of the piano keyboard is recommended.

**AP Music Theory**

**Course Number:** U130.AY

**Grade Placement:** 11-12

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Music Theory I or completion of 1 credit of high school music.

**Credit:** 1

**PEIMS#:** A3150200

**Students enrolled in this course are encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May for possible college credit.** Advanced Placement Music Theory class is for those students who already have a working knowledge of music from either playing an instrument or singing in a choir. The ultimate goal is to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a musical score. The skills developed will be aural, sight-singing, written, compositional and analytical. The course will attempt to instill a mastery of the rudiments and terminology of music, including: notation, intervals, scales and keys, chords, metric organization and rhythmic patterns. Like most first-year music theory college courses, this AP course will emphasize procedures based on common-practice tonality. **An AP Letter of Understanding must be submitted at the start of the school year in order for students to take this course.**