

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

- All courses fulfill the Fine Arts Credit.
- All music classes must be taken for the entire academic year.
- Many Music Classes may be taken for repeated credit.

### **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AND PRODUCTION A/B**

**660500/660700**

Students will explore the history of electronic music and examine the elements of music such as form, rhythm and melody as it applies to digital music. Students will use computer software to synthesize, modify, record sounds, and compose music, as well as analyze and evaluate examples of digital music from a variety of genres, eras and cultures. Contemporary applications of digital music and sound production are explored.

Grade Level: 9 – 10 – 11 – 12

### **AP<sup>®</sup> MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION**

**654700/654800**

Students with a strong interest and foundation in music prepare to meet the requirements of the College Board for advanced placement in Music Theory. Emphasis and practice in sight-singing, dictation, composition and improvisation is complemented by listening and score analysis. In the first semester, students master the elements of music, music terminology, notation, major and minor scales, intervals, triads and part writing. In the second semester, students read, write and analyze music of increasing complexity in preparation for the AP Music Theory Exam.

*Prerequisite:* Completion of 2 academic years of high school music classes or by permission of instructor or music department chair.

Grade Level: 11-12

### **GUITAR I A/B**

**658500/658600**

This class is for students, grades 9-12, who have a genuine interest in playing guitar, but don't yet play. Students will learn to play selected major, minor, and seventh chord with basic fingerpicking and strum patterns. Students will learn to read music (standard notation and tablature) while developing strong playing technique in both hands. This course is open to all students, regardless of musical background, and will provide a solid foundation for lifelong guitar playing.

Grade Level: 9-10-11-12

**GUITAR II A/B****659300/659400**

This course provides a forum for intermediate guitarists, grades 9-12, to continue to develop skills learned in Guitar I and/or private lessons. Students with a high level of interest, ability, and preparation in guitar study will perform music representing a variety of musical styles, including classical, rock, blues, and jazz. Students should have prior experience reading tablature and a basic understanding of how to read standard music notation, which will be reviewed and assessed throughout the course. Ensemble playing, improvisation, will be emphasized. *This course may be repeated for credit.*

Grade Level: 9-10-11-12

**GUITAR III A/B****658100/658200**

This course serves as a continuation of Guitar I and Guitar II and is open to grades 10-12. Students will explore more advanced techniques and practices (including position playing, advanced fingerstyle and strumming patterns, and basic percussive guitar) and their application to a variety of musical genres. There will be a large focus on ensemble performance, composition and arranging techniques, and their related music theory concepts. *This course may be repeated for credit.*

Grade Level: 10 – 11 – 12

**PIANO 1 A/B****652000/652100**

This course is open to all students regardless of prior musical knowledge, but is geared towards the beginning pianist. Students acquire standard piano technique and learn to read music written for the instrument. In an instructional setting that allows individuals to receive assistance as needed, students develop effective practice habits so they will be able to progress **independently**. Examples of excellent piano performances are heard and analyzed. Students perform selections of gradually increasing difficulty. This course may be repeated three times for credit.

Grade Level: 9-10-11-12

**PIANO 2 A/B****653700/653800**

This course is open to all students in grades 9-12 with prior experience playing piano or completion of Piano 1. Students will continue to progress independently studying and performing intermediate and advance repertoire as well as developing their piano techniques from Piano 1. Students will improvise, compose and arrange music in a variety of styles. Students refine their understanding of music history through analysis of repertoire. *This course may be repeated for credit.*

Grade Level: 9-10-11-12

**CHORAL MUSIC CLASSES****CHORUS 1 A/B****671100/671200**

Walter Johnson's General Chorus is the entry level singing class for all 9<sup>th</sup> graders and any student new to high school choir. **NO AUDITION IS REQUIRED.** Membership is open to all students and previous choral singing experience is not necessary. Students learn the fundamentals of choral singing and develop sight-reading skills through a variety of choral literature from various styles, cultures and historical eras. Students learn to appreciate and understand the historic and cultural contexts of the music studied. Several performances are given at school.

Grade Level: 9-10-11-12

**ADVANCED CHOIR A/B (aka Concert Choir A/B)****673100/673200**

**BY AUDITION ONLY.** Walter Johnson's Advanced Chorus Students have demonstrated, through an audition, requisite development in vocal tone, intonation, rhythmic and melodic reading skills. Students work on developing vocal techniques and experience more varied and complex repertoire, concentrating on level IV and V festival music repertoire. They explore the historical, aesthetic, and cultural context of the music, as well as the social and intellectual influences affecting its development. A number of performances are given at school and within the community. Entrance into this **ensemble** as a new choral student in the program is by permission after an AUDITION.

*Prerequisite: Please contact Mrs. Butler at [kelly.butler@walterjohnson.com](mailto:kelly.butler@walterjohnson.com) or 301-803-7247 to arrange an audition and for more detailed requirements.*

Grade Level: 10-11-12

**POP FLY A/B (aka Show Choir A/B)****674500/674600**

Walter Johnson's Show Choir is available to students after a vocal **AND** dance **AUDITION**. Students sing a variety of popular vocal styles. Emphasis is on learning to integrate good contemporary vocal technique with dance movement. Student leadership opportunities are available for **those** interested in choreographing a song. A number of performances are given at school and within the community.

*Prerequisite: Please contact Mrs. Butler at [kelly.butler@walterjohnson.com](mailto:kelly.butler@walterjohnson.com) or 301-803-7247 to arrange an audition and for more detailed requirements.*

Grade Level: 10-11-12

## **MADRIGALS A/B**

**674100/674200**

**AUDITION ONLY** Walter Johnson's Madrigals is by and available to students who have completed two semesters of high school chorus. Madrigals allows experienced singers to refine their vocal skills in a highly demanding small ensemble setting. Students sing a variety of music written for small vocal ensembles, including college-level (Festival Level V & VI) repertoire, usually without accompaniment. The **ensemble** has a very active performing schedule and offers leadership opportunities for student conductors and soloists. A number of performances are given at school and within the community.

*Prerequisite: Please contact Mrs. Butler at [kelly.butler@walterjohnson.com](mailto:kelly.butler@walterjohnson.com) or 301-803-7247 to arrange an audition and for more detailed requirements.*

Grade Level: 10-11-12

## **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC CLASSES**

### **CONCERT BAND A/B**

**682100/682200**

Concert Band: This is our high school's entry wind and percussion instrumental music class; includes all 9<sup>th</sup> grade woodwind, brass and percussion students. Students must have completed at least two prior academic years of a band ensemble class in middle school or demonstrate the performance equivalent. This ensemble is a prerequisite to all other band instrumental music classes. The purpose of this ensemble is to provide students with the musical techniques and ensemble skills to be considered for future instrumental music classes. Students perform "ensemble Grade IV" **repertoire** (on a scale of I-VI). Students may audition for Symphonic Band, Wind Ensemble, Honors Jazz Ensemble or Symphonic Orchestra after completing Concert Band.

Grade Level: 9

**CONCERT ORCHESTRA A/B****685100/685200**

Concert Orchestra: This is our high school's entry string orchestra class; includes all students who play violin, viola, cello or double bass. Students must have completed at least two prior academic years of a string ensemble class in middle school or demonstrate the performance equivalent. This ensemble is a prerequisite to Symphonic Orchestra. The purpose of this ensemble is to provide **students** with the musical techniques and ensemble skills to be considered for other instrumental music classes. Students perform ensemble grade IV and V level of music (on a scale of I-VI). Students may audition for Symphonic Orchestra after completing Concert Orchestra. May be repeated two times for credit.

Grade Level: 9-10-11-12

**SYMPHONIC BAND A/ B****682600/682700**

Students must have completed two semesters of Concert Band and/or audition with a grade III solo. Students need to know major scales (up to four sharps and flats), and **demonstrate** adequate tone, relevant intonation, rhythmic integrity and basic sight reading skills. Students perform at an ensemble Grade IV + and possibly Grade V repertoire.

*Prerequisite:* BY **AUDITION ONLY** or completion of Concert Band A/B

Grade Level: 10-11-12

**WIND ENSEMBLE A/B****682631/682732**

**AUDITION ONLY**. Woodwind, brass and percussion students. Students need to know all major scales (as many octaves as possible), and demonstrate superior tone, excellent intonation, rhythmic integrity and advanced sight reading skills. Students will perform at an ensemble grade V and VI (college and professional level repertoire).

*Prerequisite:* Completion of at least two semesters of Concert Band and audition with at least a Grade IV solo. (Ability levels for flute, clarinet, saxophone, and trumpet may be higher and students may consider preparing at **least** a Grade V solo.)

Grade Level: 10-11-12

## **SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA A/B**

**686600/686700**

**AUDITION ONLY.** String players (students who play violin, viola, cello or double bass). Students should be comfortable playing in third and fifth positions and need to know all major scales, demonstrate superior tone, relevant intonation, rhythmic integrity and ensemble appropriate sight reading skills. This class will meet daily as a full symphony and students will be expected to perform as an ensemble Grade V and VI level of music (college and professional level repertoire).

Prerequisite: Completion of two semesters of Concert Orchestra **and** audition with at least a Grade IV solo

Grade Level: 10-11-12

## **JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

**687100/687200**

**AUDITION ONLY.** Students should consider enrolling in either Wind Ensemble or Symphonic Orchestra concurrently to complete their music education **experience**. Students will be provided an audition selection in May and will be given at least one week to prepare the piece with adequate style in addition to superior tone, excellent intonation, rhythmic integrity and a difficult sight reading piece. Students may be asked to demonstrate their ability to improvise over blues changes. Ensemble has specific instrumentation that includes alto/tenor/baritone saxophones, trombones, trumpets, jazz drums, piano, guitar, upright bass, and an auxiliary percussionist.

Grade Level: 10-11-12