

Music Courses

All Materials Fees are due at Fall registration

Concert Band 46000

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
 Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12 Elective
 Prerequisite: One year of fundamental instruction on a band instrument. Audition with the band director. Concurrent enrollment in Marching Band.
 Additional course fee required

The concert band will study and perform selected high school band literature of moderate difficulty in preparation of the music played by the symphonic band. The band will appear in public concerts. Most entering freshmen will enroll in concert band and will advance to symphonic band when their performance skill reaches the necessary level of competence. Outside rehearsals are required. Students are encouraged to take private lessons.

Jazz Ensemble 46200

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
 Grade Placement: 10,11,12 Elective
 Prerequisite: Audition with band director. Concurrent enrollment in Marching Band.
 Additional course fee required

Students in Jazz Ensemble will rehearse and perform music in jazz, rock, and other contemporary styles. Performances will be given before the student body, parents, and community organizations. In addition to learning to play the printed music, students will study musical improvisation. Attention will also be given to listening to exemplary recordings, and to writing student compositions for the Jazz Ensemble. Outside rehearsals are required. Students are encouraged to take private lessons.

Symphonic Band 46400

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
 Grade Placement: 10,11,12 Elective
 Prerequisite: One year of fundamental instruction & one year of band experience. Must pass an audition. Concurrent enrollment in Marching Band.
 An additional course fee will be assessed for use of uniform and solo and ensemble music. Uniform accessories will be purchased at a cost to the student.

This is a music laboratory class in the study of band music. Literature studied ranges in content from marching band show material to seriously composed literature. This includes representative original, transcriptions, and arrangements from Renaissance, Baroque, Romantic, and Contemporary periods. Music skills and the art of musical excellence will be stressed. Understandings of the basic elements of music as form, harmony, tone color, phrasing, style, articulation, balance, and blend will be included. Student performances outside of the school day include state contests, concerts, festivals, and band trips. Cooperative provisions are made for varsity athletes during marching season. This course will broaden, enrich, and encourage the student who enjoys playing his/her instrument. No credit will be given for Flags. Outside rehearsals are required. Students are encouraged to take private lessons.

Percussion Techniques 46300

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
 Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12 Elective
 Prerequisite: Instructor approval only

Additional course fee required

Percussion Techniques will introduce and acquaint students with the basic band/orchestral percussion instruments, its components, and its accessories. Students will become familiar with standard percussion vocabulary, pronunciation, interpretation and musical use, as well as the historical and cultural background of each component within the percussion family. This course will acquaint students with percussion instruments of other countries, including the Caribbean, Cuban, and Brazilian cultures. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to orally and practically demonstrate the playing fundamentals of all percussion instruments, including the 24 standard snare drum rudiments.

Orchestra 47000

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
 Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12 Elective
 Prerequisite: Two years performing experience or at the discretion of instructor

Participation in orchestra offers students a variety of applied experiences in the study, preparation, and performance of solo, chamber, and orchestral literature, including works from the baroque, classical, romantic, and the contemporary periods. The group functions both as a string orchestra, as well as a full orchestra. A high standard of performance is a prime objective of this course. Emphasis is also placed on ear training, harmony, form, and analysis. The orchestra plays an active role in the musical life of the school and community, making many concert appearances, both along and with the band and chorus. Opportunities are provided for individual and group participation in festivals, contests, and musicals. Students are encouraged to take private lessons.

Concert Choir 45120

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
 Grade Placement: 9 & 10 or beginning choir student Elective
 Additional course fee is required for music supplies & uniform cleaning

Concert Choir, the beginning course in the choral program at DHS, is a beginning chorus. Students will learn to match pitch, the skill necessary to further develop their choral vocal skills. In this course, students develop beginning choral vocal skills, knowledge of solfegg, ability to read music, and general musicianship skills. This choir sings a variety of music styles in 2-4 parts. Group cooperation and the beginning development of leadership skills are key aspects of the curriculum. Requirements: Concert Choir is a performance chorus; therefore, out-of-school performances are a significant requirement. Students are required to perform in a minimum of 4 concerts and IHSA Organizational Contest. Additional concerts may be required.

Varsity Choir 45100

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
 Grade Placement: 11,12 Elective
 Prerequisites: 2 years of Concert Choir and audition with grade of "A" in 2nd year. Concert Choir may be waived based upon the student's previous choral experience & DHS audition at the discretion of the director.
 Additional course fee required for music supplies & uniform cleaning

Varsity Choir is an advanced mixed choir and the third course in the choral music program at DeKalb High School. Student participation in Varsity Choir is also dependent upon the vacancies and the needs of the Varsity Choir. Varsity Choir students are expected to be able to have intermediate tonal memory. This course develops advanced choral vocal skills, knowledge of solfegg, and the ability to read music. These advanced skills include the ability to sign dissonant intervals independently and read music melodies stepwise with more complex leaps and chromatics. Varsity Choir signs a variety of music styles in 4-12 parts. Leadership and advanced group cooperation skills are an integral component of this course. Requirements: Varsity Choir is a performance course, therefore, out-of-school performances are a significant requirement. Students are required to perform in a minimum of 4 concerts, IHSA Organizational Contest, and DHS Graduation.

Chamber Choir 45090

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 10,11,12 Elective
Prerequisite: Performance review through audition & experience in another vocal ensemble
Additional course fee required

The primary objective of this course will be to give students experience studying a variety of advanced choral literature for small ensembles. This experience will include exposure to various languages such as Russian, Italian, German, French, Latin, English, and Spanish, as well as the cultural context of the music. The demanding literature will also provide opportunities to study advanced singing and choral techniques. Appreciation and experience of community service is also one of the educational goals, as students will present numerous performances in the community.

Music Theory 48100

Semesters: 2 1 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12 Elective
Prerequisite: Ability to read music or instructor permission

This course is for students who have a serious interest in learning the elements of music. Music reading skills, as well as the basic analysis of musical rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and tone color will be the focus first semester. Interval ear training will also be included. Second semester will focus on advanced analysis of the music elements, as well as advanced interval ear training. Musical composition will also be a focus and the course will culminate in the original composition of each student.

Music Appreciation I 45071/45072

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12 Elective

The primary objective of this course will be to give the student an understanding of the development of Western Music from the Middle Ages to the Romantic Period. The student should be able to understand the major trends in Western Music as well as its function in society, while looking at parallels with other fine arts.

Music Appreciation II 45082

Semesters: 1 .5 Credit
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12 Elective

The primary objective of this course will be to give the student an understanding of the development of Western Music from the 20th Century and beyond. In addition, some attention will be given to Jazz, Non-Western Music, the music industry and music related job opportunities. The student should be able to understand the major trends in Western Music as well as its function in society, while looking at parallels with other fine arts.

Marching Band 46101

Semesters: Semester 1 Only .5 Credit
Class Hours: 3:00-3:50 daily Elective
Grade Placement: 9,10,11,12

Additional course fee required

Concurrent enrollment in Marching Band is required of all students enrolled in any other band course, (Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Symphonic Band).

The DeKalb High School Marching Band is a competitive field show oriented marching unit open to musicians playing band instruments or in auxiliary units. Students enrolled in Marching Band will play a wide variety of high school band literature. Marching Band students will be expected to participate in as many as 25 performances outside of the school day, including competitions, parades, concerts, and performances at DHS athletic events and half-time shows. Scheduling will determine the total number of performances in which each student is required to participate.

Students enrolled in Marching Band are eligible to apply for an exemption from Physical Education during first semester of each year. Such exemption does not apply to completion of graduation requirements in Health Education or Driver Education.