

# MUSIC

Music is one of the vital forces in life because some variety of music appeals to all classes of people. This is demonstrated by the fact that we find it in the home, business, social clubs, concert halls, theaters, the armed forces, school, and as means of worship in churches. In the home, all family members can participate in music or learn to become intelligent listeners. It is an activity that makes an excellent hobby, and to those especially gifted, it may become a profession.

The aim of music in this school is to create and ensure a genuine appreciation of music through participation in vocal and instrumental groups.

## **Objectives:**

- 1) To develop in students an appreciation of and for good music by perfection of performance and by maintaining a high musical standard of achievement;
- 2) To help develop a student's ability to the point that he or she will perform to his or her fullest potential;
- 3) To develop and maintain a feeling of cooperation among individuals and within the various groups;
- 4) To help develop dependability, loyalty, honesty, and leadership, which work together in the development of character;
- 5) To help develop the music student into a person with a well-rounded personality;
- 6) To help develop the student's ability to think logically and analytically through a problem and thus enable him or her to come to a reasonable conclusion;
- 7) To help encourage the student (musician) to achieve and maintain a high standard in the academic field as well as in music.

## **Instrumental Music-Band - Grades 9-10-11-12**

*Elective*

### **Participation**

Students who play wind or percussion instruments well enough to meet the performance level of the high school band will be eligible to become members of the concert band and marching band. Other ensembles that are electives include jazz band, pep band, small like instrument ensembles, and a Dixieland band or jazz combo when needed. The jazz band is a selective ensemble by instrumentation, interest, dependability, and individual performance level. The pep band is a public relations tool that performs for some home basketball games and pep meetings as needed.

All students have the opportunity to participate and perform in small ensembles and as soloists, at the state festival and local community functions. All band students are required to take one private lesson once a week in addition to the scheduled class group rehearsals. Lessons can be scheduled during school using time from study halls or before or after school as time warrants. The length of the lesson is normally from 20 to 25

minutes. Only through lessons can high performance levels be attained or maintained for both the individual and collectively for the main organization.

Students that participate successfully in the band program will have gained enough knowledge and ability to allow them to participate in and enjoy music in college and community situations.

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals for marching and concert bands are scheduled during the school day with additional marching band rehearsals before school on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Early bird physical education classes for band students must be scheduled on Monday and Wednesdays to not conflict with these rehearsals. This also applies to students who are interested in jazz band as it meets for regular rehearsals before school on those days after the marching band season ends. The pep band rehearses during the regularly scheduled band time at the discretion of the band director. Soloists and small ensembles are organized generally during the latter part of the first semester and rehearse at the convenience of the personnel involved. A Dixieland band or jazz combo will meet outside of the school day at an arranged time that will work for those involved.

### **Activities**

The marching band performs at home football games, hometown parades, and attends the state festival and one other contest. The concert band presents three or four concerts each year and also attends the state festival. The jazz ensemble participates in the state festival, three or four independent contests, and the annual Swing Show. The pep band appears for ten of the winter sports home contests and generally six pep meetings. The Dixieland band and/or jazz combo will perform at the Swing Show and other community opportunities when available.

Band students in the fall have the opportunity to audition for the All-State Band/Orchestra and Northwest Iowa High School Honor Band. During the winter many colleges have annual honor band festivals that students can also elect to participate in if desired. Band students also have the opportunity to involve themselves in the spring state solo/small ensemble festival held each year.

High School music department musicals occur every other year in the fall and the pit orchestra is comprised of students from the program. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, there are other opportunities to perform at clinics, assemblies, community programs, and civic group functions.

Once every four years the high school music department takes a major trip and performs in a music festival. The choice of the destination is determined by cost and value of the experience. Other shorter distance field trips are possible and determined as needed.

### **Awards**

Students participating in band or band/orchestra may earn one academic credit per semester with the grade from the course adding into the student's GPA. Major participation awards (chenille letters) are awarded to students that satisfy the requirement

for lettering by the point system established. Minor participation awards are also awarded to students that participated but did not accrue enough points to earn a major award.

Special yearly awards include the coveted John Philip Sousa Award to a senior, the Semper Fidelis Marine Corps award to a senior, the Director's Award to students qualified in grades 10 - 12, and the Most Successful Freshman Award to a qualified freshman. Other special awards of merit will be given if deemed appropriate.

## **Instrumental Music - Orchestra - Grades 9-10-11-12**

*Elective*

### **Participation**

Students who play orchestra instruments well enough to meet the performance level of the high school orchestra are eligible to become members of the orchestra. Orchestra students have the opportunity to participate and perform as members of the large group, members of smaller ensembles, and/or to perform as soloists.

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals for orchestra are scheduled during the school day five times a week. Small ensembles are organized during the year and rehearse at the convenience of the personnel involved. Occasionally a rehearsal is held before or after school.

### **Activities**

The orchestra performs at four scheduled concerts during the year and one or two extra performances. The orchestra enters the large group contest each year in the spring, and students have the opportunity to audition for All-State Orchestra and to compete in the spring contest series for soloists and ensembles.

### **Awards**

Students participating in orchestra or band/orchestra may earn one (1) credit per semester. Awards are given to students who contribute the most to the orchestra program. The National String Orchestra Award is presented annually to the outstanding senior string player.

### **Conclusion**

Orchestra is a unique historical art form and thus has a large repertoire. This, coupled with stringed instruments' large variety of capabilities and moods, makes the study of orchestra and stringed instruments a very sensitive and worthwhile pursuit. Woodwinds, brass, and percussion are also added to the string orchestra to allow for the performance of full symphonic works.

## **Instrumental Music Elective Options - Grades 9-10-11-12**

*Elective*

Band Full Year/1 Credit per Semester

Band/Orchestra Full Year/1 Credit per Semester

Orchestra Full Year/1 Credit per Semester

## **Vocal Music - Grades 9-10-11-12**

### **Vocal Music Elective Options:**

Girls Chorus: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls

Mixed Chorus: 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys/10<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls and Boys

Concert Choir: 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls and Boys

### **Large Groups**

The large groups organized each year include freshman chorus, junior varsity chorus and varsity chorus. These groups rehearse each day of the week during the regular school day. Other groups such as chamber choir, show choir, madrigal choir and all-state choir are primarily pulled out of the varsity choir. Some exceptions do apply. Memorization of vocal part is mandatory to be eligible for public performance. All groups focus on individual voice technique, and the development of abilities to sing in groups.

We emphasize several genres of music and the fundamentals of music.

### **Selection of Personnel**

Voice testing and classification is done on the basis of equality, timbre, range and experience. Those whose qualifications are of a high standard may be selected for membership in one or more of the choral groups.

### **Small Groups and Soloists**

Those members of the large groups who have the talent and desire may seek membership in a number of small vocal groups or become soloists. Soloists and ensembles are frequently called upon to perform before school assemblies and civic groups. Small groups and soloists usually take part in the solo and ensemble contest sponsored each spring by the Iowa High School Music Association. Small ensembles usually rehearse before or after school. Individual lessons are available to a limited number of students.

### **Yearly Activities**

Vocal music students look forward to a number of public performances scheduled each year. These include a holiday and spring concert, a "Pops" concert, and contests. The choral department also participates in the All-State Music Festival, Northwest Iowa Choral Festival, Large Group Contests and Chamber Contests where applicable.

### **Awards**

A point system has been devised whereby vocal participants may earn points each year toward a major/minor award. Seniors who have performed exceptionally well through all their high school years, may be nominated by the other seniors and approved by the Director and may receive Outstanding Senior Vocalist.

### **Vocal Music Elective Options - Grades 9-10-11-12**

Concert Choir Full Year/1 Credit per Semester (11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students)

Mixed Chorus Full Year/1 Credit per Semester (9<sup>th</sup> grade boys/10<sup>th</sup> grade

Concert/Chamber Choir Full Year/1 Credit per Semester

Mixed/Chamber Choir Full Year/1 Credit per Semester

### **Music Appreciation - Grades 11-12**

#### *Semester Elective*

This course is a survey of music history and culture from the Greek times to the present. It is a chance to learn about the history of Western music. Emphasis is placed on the ability to listen to music of all types and periods. There are no prerequisites except an open and questioning mind. This is a preparatory class for Music Literature.

### **Music Theory - Grades 11-12**

#### *Semester Elective*

This course teaches an understanding of the fundamentals of music, and includes one or more of the following topics: composition, arrangement, analysis, aural development, and sight-reading. This course requires previous musical experience and is offered to junior and senior students.