

Music Program

At Sachem, music is an outlet in which students are able to expand their experiences beyond their immediate surroundings. Through music, students are able to immerse themselves in learning that is collaborative, promotes creative problem solving, and encourages the application of knowledge across disciplines.

The Five Credit Music Sequence

Students who complete a five credit Music sequence for a Regents diploma with Advanced Designation may be exempt from the three credit second language mandate. Students selecting this sequence must pass Music Theory I or Music Theory I Honors **AND** Music Theory II A.P. **AND** earn three credits in Music by participating in a major performing group for at least three years.

Performing Groups: Band, Orchestra, Chorus

All students requesting participation in Sachem performing ensembles will require a seating audition. Based on performance requirements, students will be placed in the appropriate ensemble according to teacher recommendation. Students are required to attend weekly small group lessons on a rotating basis. Students in performance groups are also expected to participate in after school and/or evening performances.

* Courses will be offered based on sufficient student enrollment.

Music Program Courses

MUSIC			
Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Music Theory I	Music Theory I	Music Theory I	Music Theory I
Concert Band	Music Theory II Advanced Placement	Music Theory II Advanced Placement	Music Theory II Advanced Placement
Symphonic Band	Concert Band	Concert Band	Concert Band
Wind Ensemble	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band	Symphonic Band
Concert Orchestra	Wind Ensemble	Wind Ensemble	Wind Ensemble
Symphony Orchestra	Concert Orchestra	Concert Orchestra	Concert Orchestra
Chamber Orchestra	Symphony Orchestra	Symphony Orchestra	Symphony Orchestra
Concert Choir	Chamber Orchestra	Chamber Orchestra	Chamber Orchestra
Symphonic Choir	Concert Choir	Concert Choir	Concert Choir
Treble Choir	Symphonic Choir	Symphonic Choir	Symphonic Choir
Song Writing I (Music Composition)	Treble Choir	Treble Choir	Treble Choir
Song Writing II (Music Composition)	Song Writing I (Music Composition)	Song Writing I (Music Composition)	Song Writing I (Music Composition)
Sound and Audio Engineering	Song Writing II (Music Composition)	Song Writing II (Music Composition)	Song Writing II (Music Composition)
Piano and Keyboarding Skills I	Sound and Audio Engineering	Sound and Audio Engineering	Sound and Audio Engineering
Piano and Keyboarding Skills II	Piano and Keyboarding Skills I	Piano and Keyboarding Skills I	Piano and Keyboarding Skills I
	Piano and Keyboarding Skills II	Piano and Keyboarding Skills II	Piano and Keyboarding Skills II

*** All courses will be offered based on sufficient student enrollment.**

Music Theory I (9,10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation/Ability to read music

Course Description: Music Theory I is required for a sequence in Music. This class is dedicated to the introduction and study of the analysis of musical composition. Through listening, analysis, and the creation of original compositions, each student will gain further insight and knowledge into the inner workings of tonal music. Students will understand and identify the elements of music composition including scales and key signatures, chord construction, harmonic analysis, and structure and form analysis. Students will gain understanding and meaning in the practical application of music theory and composition.

Homework: Homework will be assigned and completed on a regular basis.

Summer Assignment: None

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed using a variety of tests particularly designed to determine the level of mastery achieved with regards to theoretical knowledge and aural skills. Creative projects will be used to foster a deeper and more practical understanding of the course material.

Music Theory II Advanced Placement (10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Music Theory I

Course Description: Music Theory II AP is required for a sequence in Music. This class is dedicated to the in-depth study and analysis of musical composition. Through listening, detailed analysis, and the creation of original compositions, each student will gain further insight and knowledge into the inner workings of tonal music. Exploration of advanced harmonic techniques leading into music through the 21st century, including atonality, will also be explored. Students are expected to take the AP Music Theory examination in May.

Homework: Homework will be assigned and completed on a regular basis.

Summer Assignment: Review of material learned in Music Theory I.

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed using a variety of tests particularly designed to determine the level of mastery achieved with regards to theoretical knowledge and aural skills. Creative projects will be used to foster a deeper understanding and more practical understanding of the course material.

Concert Band (9, 10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition

Course Description: Concert Band is open to all students who have previous experience on a band instrument. This course is a continuation of study in instrumental performance. Emphasis remains on the development and mastery of musicianship.

Homework: Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.

Summer Assignment: Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to maintain and improve their individual level of proficiency.

Symphonic Band (9, 10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr. **Prerequisite:** Teacher recommendation/Audition

Course Description: Symphonic Band is designed for accomplished musicians who have achieved an advanced level of musicianship and musicality. The ensemble will perform challenging literature with

emphasis on execution of music elements at complex levels. Students will gain a deeper understanding of musical performance and meaning.

Homework: Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.

Summer Assignment: Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship.

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to improve their individual level of proficiency.

Wind Ensemble (9, 10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition

Course Description: Wind Ensemble is designed for the most advanced NYSSMA level VI student musicians. The ensemble will perform significant and diverse wind literature with substantial proficiency and high artistic merit. Students will develop a clear understanding of important ensemble concepts such as balance, blend, timbre, intonation, phrasing, and counterpoint through direct examples. Students enrolled in the course must participate in several after school or evening performances, which will include solo, ensemble, or major ensemble NYSSMA performances.

Homework: Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as ensemble.

Summer Assignment: Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship.

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to maintain an extremely high level of proficiency. In addition, each student must self-assess their own abilities in order to attain an exceptional level of musicianship.

Concert Orchestra (9, 10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition

Course Description: Concert Orchestra is open to all students who have previous experience on a string instrument. This course is a continuation of study in instrumental performance. Emphasis remains on the development and mastery of musicianship and musicality.

Homework: Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.

Summer Assignment: Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship.

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to maintain and improve their individual level of proficiency.

Symphony Orchestra (9, 10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition

Course Description: Symphony Orchestra is designed for accomplished musicians who have achieved an advanced level of musicianship and musicality. The ensemble will perform advanced literature with emphasis on execution of music elements at complex levels. Students will gain a deeper understanding of musical performance and meaning.

Homework: Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.

Summer Assignment: Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship.

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to improve their individual level of proficiency.

Chamber Orchestra (9, 10, 11, 12)

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition**Course Description:** Chamber Orchestra is designed for the most advanced NYSSMA level VI student musicians. The ensemble will perform significant and diverse chamber literature with substantial proficiency and high artistic merit. Students will develop a clear understanding of important ensemble concepts such as balance, blend, timbre, intonation, phrasing, and counterpoint through direct examples. Students enrolled in the course must participate in several after school or evening performances, which will include solo, ensemble, or major ensemble NYSSMA performances.**Homework:** Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.**Summer Assignment:** Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship.**Assessments:** Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to maintain an extremely high level of proficiency. In addition, each student must self-assess their own abilities in order to attain an exceptional level of musicianship.**Concert Choir (9, 10, 11, 12)**

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition**Course Description:** Concert Choir is open to all students who have previous singing experience. This course is a continuation of study in vocal performance. Emphasis remains on the development and mastery of musicianship and musicality.**Homework:** Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.**Summer Assignment:** Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship.**Assessments:** Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to maintain and improve their individual level of proficiency.**Symphonic Choir (9, 10, 11, 12)**

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition**Course Description:** Symphonic Choir is designed for accomplished musicians who have achieved an advanced level of musicianship and musicality. The ensemble will perform challenging literature with emphasis on execution of music elements at complex levels. Students will gain a deeper understanding of musical performance and meaning. Students enrolled in the course must participate in several after-school or evening performances, which will include solo, ensemble, or major ensemble NYSSMA performances.**Homework:** Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.**Summer Assignment:** Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship**Assessments:** Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to maintain an extremely high level of proficiency. In addition, each student must self-assess their own abilities in order to attain an exceptional level of musicianship.**Treble Choir (9, 10, 11, 12)**

Full

Yr., 1 Cr.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/Audition**Course Description:** This is a limited and balanced vocal group. The course is designed to offer treble voices the opportunity to perform challenging music specific to an all treble voice choir.**Homework:** Practice at home will be required and necessary for the success of the student as well as performing group.**Summer Assignment:** Students will be expected to practice and maintain a high level of musicianship.

Assessments: Student progress will be assessed continually throughout the school year. Using the standards implemented by NYSSMA and the district benchmarks as guidelines, students will be expected to maintain an extremely high level of proficiency. In addition, each student must self-assess their own abilities in order to attain an exceptional level of musicianship.

Song Writing I (Music Composition) (9, 10, 11, 12)

Semester 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Song Writing I and Music Composition is intended for anyone interested in creating and performing their own music. The class is dedicated to the development of individual music writing styles through a variety of in class projects. Students will expand their musical vocabulary and literacy in an organic way through direct application of developed technique in each project. The emphasis for this class is for each student to develop and refine their musical skills, allowing for the fullest possible expression of their own unique artistic style. The class will culminate with a public concert featuring the work of every student.

Homework: Any work not completed in class.

Summer Assignments: None

Assessments: Students will receive regular feedback from the teacher, as well their peers following each performance. Grades are based on a scoring rubric created for each project.

Song Writing II (Music Composition) (9, 10, 11, 12)*

Semester 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: Song Writing I (Music Composition)

*9th graders enrolled in Song Writing II during the 2nd semester must have taken and passed Songwriting I during the 1st semester.

Course Description: Song Writing II and Music Composition is intended for students who have successfully completed Song Writing I and are interested in creating and performing their own music on a more refined and advanced level. The class is dedicated to the mastery of individual music writing styles through a variety of in class projects. In addition to traditional songwriting projects, this class will place greater emphasis on classical composition styles than Song Writing I. Students will expand their musical vocabulary and literacy in an organic way through direct application of developed technique in each project. The emphasis for this class is for each student to develop and refine their musical skills, allowing for the fullest possible expression of their own unique artistic style. The class will culminate with a public concert featuring the work of every student.

Homework: Any work not completed in class.

Summer Assignments: None

Assessments: Students will receive regular feedback from the teacher, as well their peers following each performance. Grades are based on a scoring rubric created for each project.

Sound and Audio Engineering (9, 10, 11, 12)

Semester 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The Sound and Audio Engineering course will teach students the four main steps of professional audio engineering: recording, editing, mixing, and mastering. In this hands-on course, students will utilize a variety of recording equipment and the Pro Tools software suite to learn the fundamentals of recording and sound-production techniques. Topics covered include the use of microphones, sound characteristics, acoustic principals, and design objectives in audio projects. Activities include echo and reverb effects; encoding and exporting audio; mastering audio files and mixing samples to create a new track; equalizing, compressing, and normalizing audio files; and adding fading and crossfading.

Homework: Any work not completed in class

Summer Assignments: None

Assessments: Students will receive regular feedback from the teacher as well as their peers following each project. Grades are based on a scoring rubric created for each project.

Piano and Keyboarding Skills I (9, 10, 11, 12)

Semester 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Piano and Keyboarding Skills 1 will allow students to develop beginner piano playing skills including but not limited to hand/finger placement, reading musical notation, practice techniques and performance preparation. Students will be introduced to multiple genres/styles of music. Using the music lab's interconnected audio system students will perform alone and/or with classmates upon completing unit assignments and songs. The class will culminate in a brief live or virtual recital.

Homework: Any work not completed in class.

Summer Assignments: None

Assessments: Students will receive regular feedback from the teacher, as well their peers following the mastery of each song or exercise. Piano and Keyboarding grades are based on a scoring rubric created for each skill/song learned.

Piano and Keyboarding Skills II (9, 10, 11, 12)

Semester 1/2 Cr.

Prerequisite: Piano and Keyboarding Skills 1

Course Description: Piano and Keyboarding Skills 2 will build upon skills learned in Piano and Keyboarding Skills 1. Students will learn techniques, exercises and songs of increasing difficulty. Students will be introduced to multiple genres/styles of music. Using the music lab's interconnected audio system students will perform alone and/or with classmates frequently. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of piano uses in varying ensembles and settings. The class will culminate in a brief live or virtual recital.

Homework: Any work not completed in class.

Summer Assignments: None

Assessments: Students will receive regular feedback from the teacher, as well their peers following the mastery of each song or exercise. Piano and Keyboarding grades are based on a scoring rubric created for each skill/song learned.