

Niagara Falls High School

Music Course Descriptions

CONCERT CHOIR

MUS121 – 1.0 credit

This is a non-auditioned ensemble which meets daily and functions as the entry-level group for all singers (primarily 9th and 10th graders.) It is designed to encourage all students who have an interest in developing their skills in group singing. It will help develop the student's knowledge of choral literature, music theory concepts, sight singing, and to enrich their love of music. Weekly group lessons are a part of the curriculum for this class. Repertoire is selected to provide sequential, systematic concepts and performance skills associated with varying musical content and style. Each student who participates in this organization will be eligible for and have the opportunity to audition and perform in festivals sponsored by Niagara County Music Educators Association, the New York State School Music Association, and the National Association for Music Education. Participation in three evening concerts is required.

***Performance oriented.**

ADVANCED CHOIR

MUS232 – 1.0 credit

This is an auditioned ensemble which meets daily and offers students a variety of enriched musical opportunities. (Generally 10th-12th grade students) Students will enhance their knowledge of choral literature, music theory concepts, and will achieve a higher degree of perfection in the performance and understanding of the choral repertoire. Weekly group lessons are a part of the curriculum for this class. Repertoire is selected to provide sequential, systematic concepts and performance skills associated with varying musical content and style. Each student in this ensemble will have the opportunity to audition for and participate in festivals sponsored by the Niagara County Music Educators Association, the New York State School Music Association, and the National Association for Music Education. Outside performances in the community are expected.

***Performance oriented.**

PREREQUISITE: Audition.

CONCERT BAND

MUS120 – 1.0 credit

Concert Band is a non-auditioned ensemble which meets daily and functions as the entry-level group for all instrumental students. It is designed to encourage all students who have an interest in developing their skills in instrumental performance. Concert Band develops the student's knowledge of instrumental literature, music theory concepts, sight reading and performance. Weekly group lessons are a part of the curriculum for this class. Repertoire is selected to provide sequential, systematic concepts and performance skills associated with varying musical content and style. Students who participate in this organization will be eligible for and will have the opportunity to audition for and perform in festivals sponsored by the Niagara County Music Educators Association, the New York State School Music Association, and the National Association for Music Education. Participation in all public performances and concerts is required.

***Performance oriented.**

JAZZ ENSEMBLE
MUS136 – 1.0 credit

Performing ensemble class in which the student studies and performs varied musical styles in the jazz idiom. Content areas include jazz phrasing, style and improvisation.

PREREQUISITE: Audition

Jazz Choir
MUS137 – 1.0 credit

This is an auditioned ensemble which meets daily and offers students a variety of enriched musical opportunities. Vocal ensemble will study popular choral compositions such as Broadway and jazz, including a capella selections. Each student in this ensemble will have the opportunity to audition for and participate in festivals sponsored by the Niagara County Music Educators Association, the New York State School Music Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

***Performance oriented.**

PREREQUISITE: Audition and a member of Advanced Choir if possible

SYMPHONIC BAND
MUS234 – 1.0 credit

Symphonic Band meets daily and functions as the advanced instrumental performance ensemble. Students will expand their knowledge of instrumental literature, music theory concepts, sight reading, and performance. Weekly group lessons are a part of the curriculum for this class. Rigorous repertoire is selected to provide sequential, systematic concepts and performance skills associated with varying musical content and style. Each student who participates in this organization will be eligible for and have the opportunity to audition for and perform in festivals sponsored by Niagara County Music Educators Association, the New York State School Music Association, and the National Association for Music Education. Participation in all public performances and concerts is required.

***Performance oriented.**

PREREQUISITE: Audition

MUSIC PRODUCTION I
MUS128 – 1.0

This class will be an introduction to using Digital Audio Workstations (Garage Band, Logic Audio, and Finale notation software). Students learn basic techniques of music composition, how to use midi samples, and importing external sounds and loops.

MUSIC PRODUCTION II

MUS228 – 1.0

In addition to using basic techniques learned in MPC1 students learn about basic recording (using microphones, and a mixing board) arranging, orchestration, applying effects, and basic mixing of sound.

MUSIC PRODUCTION III

MUS328 – 1.0

While being asked to construct musical works ranging from 3 to 15 minutes, students are required to learn additional mixing techniques such as automation, bussing/sends, sub mixes, and remixing/mastering.

MUSIC PRODUCTION IV

MUS428 – 1.0

Composing and Recording theme based music for various events: music for television, movies, video games, live performance as well as developing personal portfolios. Some of these projects include work with other art media classes synching audio files to video using other Audio/Video editing software such as Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere, and Photoshop. **College credit is available with this course through NCCC.**

AP MUSIC THEORY

MUS430 – 1.0

In this course, students will learn how to read, write, analyze, and perform music in preparation for music theory courses after high school. Music Theory is a class designed for the advanced musician to more thoroughly understand the components of music and music composition. This class will enable the student to successfully complete basic college theory classes. Students will also be able to compose music and understand the guidelines used in music composed by others. It is preferred that students can already read music and have been a member of one of our music ensembles before taking this course, but it is not required.

FUNDAMENTALS OF MUSIC

MUS130 - 1.0 Credit

This course is designed to meet the New York State Regents Requirement for one unit of art/music credit for those students who do not participate in a performing ensemble. Students will develop skills in critical listening and elements of music theory. An overview of Western Music history is a primary focus, along with discussion and analysis of current pop music and industry trends. No prior experience in music is necessary for enrollment in this course.

