

The Department's Educational Philosophy

Education in the Arts plays a major role in three general areas of education. Students gain knowledge of events and historical movements that shaped society. The arts help to develop critical and creative thinking skills. The arts can provide the means for communicating thoughts, emotions, and ideas that cannot otherwise be expressed.

Guiding Principles

For those students interested in developing skills in voice, instrumental, and drama performance, the Performing Arts Department offers courses and activities of considerable variety. Performance material is selected to meet the varied needs and skill levels of the students, provide cultural enrichment for the students, help students develop aesthetic, make provision for technical growth of the students, provide for school and community service, and create interdisciplinary relationships.

ABRHS BAND: COURSE #881

Course Frequency: Full year course, five times per week

Credits Offered: Five

Prerequisites: Instrumental training is recommended but not required.

Background to the Curriculum

Our high school band is a long-established course offering. It has played an integral role in the development of the individual musical skills of our students and has provided our school and community with an outstanding support vehicle. Over the course of the school year, the band is organized into two primary roles: that of a marching band for fall activities and that of a concert band for concert hall performance. Throughout the years, the band has earned many honors and awards in both marching and concert performance.

The band curriculum is aligned with standards 2 (Reading and Notation), 3 (Playing Instruments) and 5 (Critical Response) of the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework. In addition to the frameworks, our band program encourages tremendous personal growth in the form of teamwork and leadership skills.

Core Topics/Questions/Concepts/Skills

Students will:

- Apply musical concepts to their performances
 - ~ Dynamics
 - ~ Phrasing
 - ~ Tempo
 - ~ Intonation
 - ~ Tone quality
- Continue growth in:
 - ~ Music reading
 - ~ Playing technique
 - ~ Acquired overall skill level
- Understand and perform advanced marching techniques and maneuvers
- Understand the intricacies of working in a large group setting
- Take pride in their accomplishments
- Develop Esprit de Corps
- Understand and develop leadership qualities
- Become acquainted with more advanced wind band traditional and contemporary literature

Course-end Learning Objectives

Students will:

- 1] Apply musical concepts to their performances
 - Dynamics
 - Phrasing
 - Tempo
 - Intonation
 - Tone quality
- 2] Continue growth in
 - Music reading
 - Playing technique
 - Acquired overall skill level
- 3] Become acquainted with more advanced wind band traditional and contemporary literature

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their preparedness, musicianship, attendance, attitude and care of equipment.

Materials and Resources

An ever-changing series of band arrangements will be selected each year to support the educational and motivational needs of the ensemble. Included in these selections will be traditional arrangements of the wind band repertoire, contemporary original wind band arrangements, and present day popular selections that offer substantial educational benefit in addition to its popularity of the day. Other consideration will be given to culturally inclusive selections, stylistic influences, and mood of programming.