

Performing Arts Courses

At Cumberland High School, we believe learning is an art. The music department offers both instrumental and vocal ensembles. The instrumental music program includes Band, open to any student wishing to play in a band ensemble setting. Our choirs perform a wide variety of music, including sacred, jazz, world music, and a capella styles. Clef Singers, CHS's advanced choral group, is open to members of Chorus by audition. The performing ensembles are designed to help students develop musical skills essential for quality performance in musical organizations.

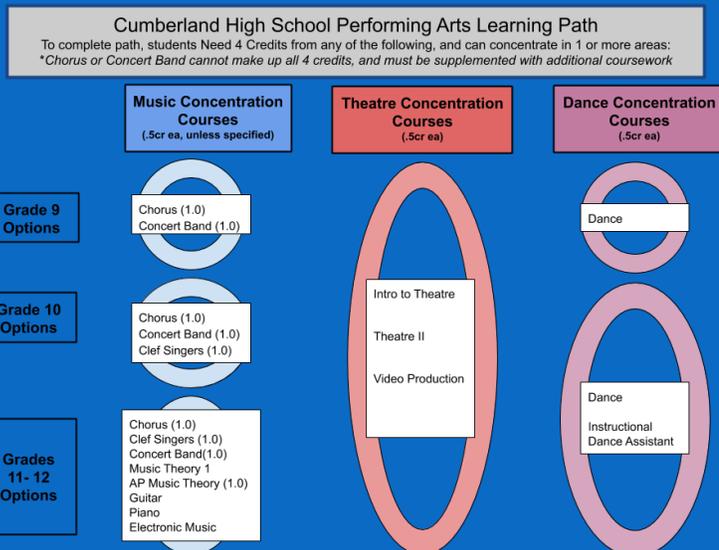
In addition to ensembles, the music department offers courses in music theory (AP and CP), music appreciation, guitar, electronic music, percussion, and piano. The music classes and ensembles offer many opportunities for growth as we seek to engage with students on their journey to find their voice. Each of the courses provides experience with a variety of musical styles that encourage the student to appreciate music as a vehicle for expression. In addition to the development of musical skills, students learn positive, professional work ethics, becoming responsible citizens. Many of our students have represented the music department in various competitions and have become members of the all-state honor ensembles, all-regional honor ensembles, and all-national honor ensembles.

Within our Theatre department, actors are introduced to concepts in acting current in to modern theatre, and work with many exercises and improvisational focuses designed to free students as actors. Topics like sensory awareness, text analysis, and vocal and physical techniques are stressed, along with a special focus in helping students use their own imaginations with confidence. Courses range from introductory to advanced acting, theater for non-actors, and Theatrical research. One large scale production occurs each school year, that is open to any dedicated CHS students.

Graduates of the department have studied at major universities and schools of music and theatre in all parts of the United States, and have appeared in Broadway and television shows, and with various performing ensembles in the United States and abroad. Many of our graduates are teaching music and other subjects in elementary and secondary schools.

Clubs, Honors & Affiliations

- Jazz Band
- Marching Band
- Clef
- TriM Honors Society
- Various Festival Opportunities



Chorus
Level: CP

Course Description: Chorus provides the opportunity to sing a wide variety of musical styles in a group setting. Training in proper breathing, tone and diction are emphasized through the study and interpretation of each piece. Participation in performances is required. Chorus is not an auditioned ensemble; it is available to all students in all grades. Available as a year course or as a semester.

Course Numbers:
711 (year) 711S (semester)
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 1/0.5
Credit type: Elective

Music Theory I
Level: CP

Course Description: Designed to provide you with interval building, creative writing, scales, chord construction, ear-training, and analysis of basic harmonies. Notation and terminology will be reviewed. It is designed to provide student-musicians with the analysis skills necessary to better understand the music they play, compose, and listen to. Music Theory provides the depth of knowledge necessary for student-musicians who want to delve into the inner-makings of music. Prerequisite course for AP Music Theory.

Course Number: 712
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective

AP Music Theory
Level: CP

Course Description: Each of these courses is designed to provide the student with advanced ear training, sight singing, creative writing and in-depth analysis of theory and harmony. Both visual and aural aspects are stressed. Individual instruction is available. As with other AP courses, the depth and pace of this course are those of a college course. AP Exam is required or no credit will be granted for course

Course Number: 713
Grade(s): 10-12
Prerequisite: Music Theory I
Credits: 1
Credit type: Elective

Clef Singers
Level: Honors

Course Description: The Clef Singers is a select class of highly trained singers. It is a performance-oriented course with extracurricular participation mandatory. Clef Singers perform extensively throughout the state and New England area. Available as semester or year course.
Prerequisites: Membership by audition

Course Numbers: 716
Grade(s): 10-12
Prerequisite: Audition
Credits: 1
Credit type: Elective

Concert Band
Level: CP

Course Description: Do you have experience in band at the middle school or high school level and wish to continue your musical development? Students must play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments. Develop Marching Band skills, play in the stands at Tucker Field in the Pep Band, and learn Concert Band techniques. Semester 1 curriculum will focus on Marching/Pep Band with some Concert Band repertoire performances. Semester 2 will focus on Concert Band repertoire performances. Occasional performance in band festivals throughout the state and New England area.

Course Numbers: 717/717S
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 1/0.5
Credit type: Elective

Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Level: Honors

Course Description: Symphonic Band is the Advanced Band Ensemble. This group will be composed of Woodwind, Brass and Percussion students. This course will hold a prerequisite of Concert Band, and will be audition-based. This course will be available for the students in grades ten-twelve. Students may be accepted at the ninth grade level if they have auditioned and show exceptional abilities, and based on the instrumentation needs of the Symphonic Band, recommended by the band Director.

Course Numbers: 733
Grade(s): 10-12
Prerequisite: Concert Band
Credits: 1
Credit type: Elective

Guitar Class

Level: CP

Course Description: Whether you want to play in a garage band, play Kumbaya around the campfire, or be a rock star, this class is for you! Learn the basics of playing the guitar. Focus on notation, rhythm, and chords while playing in a variety of musical styles. Students should have an acoustic guitar.

Course Number: 719
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective

Electronic Music

Level: CP

Course Description: Instead of listening to someone else's beats, create your own beats! Learn music composition, music production, and recording techniques through current technology! Using our recently updated Mac lab, become a music producer.

Course Number: 720
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective

Piano Class

Level: CP

Course Description: Learn how to play the piano and entertain your family and friends! Learn the basics of playing the piano/keyboard. Reading notation, rhythm, and chord symbols while playing a variety of musical styles. No experience required.

Course Number: 721
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective

Introduction to Theatre

Level: CP

Course Description: Two of the most important skills adults use in their lives are improvisation and collaboration. Introduction to Theatre uses theatre games, improvisation and exercises to develop skills used in real life as well as in theatre. Develop confidence and comfort in a group. Learn what real collaboration looks like and have fun learning.

Course Number: 722
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective

Theatre II

Level: CP

Course Description: Drama II continues skill development from Drama I and provides additional instruction in acting, directing and theatre technology. Continued study in theatre history is included.

Course Number: 723
Grade(s): 10-12
Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective



"These four years in high school will be filled with some of the best opportunities to find and express yourself that you'll ever find in life, so spend the time well."

David Cabatingan
Class of 2017, Cumberland High School

Dance

Level: CP

Course Description: The aim of the Dance Class is for students to experience, understand, value and enjoy dance as an art form through the study of dance performance, composition and the appreciation of dance. Students will be exposed to Ballet, Contemporary, Jazz, & Hip Hop.

Course Number: 730
Grade(s): 9-12
Prerequisite: None
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective



Dance Instructional Assistant

Level: CP

Course Description: This course is designed for students interested in pursuing dance, and have completed the Dance Class. Students will work with level 1 dance students as a classroom aide, to help plan and deliver classroom activities in the target dance style. Students will choreograph 2 dances per quarter and will submit reflections. The student is also responsible for maintaining his or her own dance proficiency, via additional practices, readings or assignments and logging progress on personal goals.

Course Number: 735
Grade(s): 10-12
Prerequisite: Dance & Application Process
Credits: 0.5
Credit type: Elective