

Course Descriptions

Music

Grades 9, 10 – Electives

Music Theory and Composition 1 ¹	# 6408
Music Theory and Composition 2 and Jazz Studies ¹	# 6508
Electronic Music ¹	# 6707
Song Writing ¹	# 6807
Song Writing 2 ¹	# 6609
String Orchestra	# 6906
Chamber Orchestra	# 6907
Choral Ensemble	# 6910
Wind Ensemble	# 6407
Concert Band	# 6805
Symphonic Band	# 6905
Choral 1 — 9th grade (FY/FT)	# 6506
Choral 1 — 9th grade (FY/PT)	# 6606
Choral 2 — 10th grade (FY/FT)	# 6706
Choral 2 — 10th grade (FY/PT)	# 6806

Grade 10 only – Electives

Advanced Electronic Music ¹	# 6808
Honors Chamber Choir	# 6610

Grades 11, 12 – Electives

String Orchestra	#6908
Honors Chamber Orchestra	#6909
Honors Wind Ensemble	# 6406
Concert Band	# 6914
Symphonic Band	# 6915
Song Writing ¹	# 6608
Song Writing 2 ¹	# 6609
Honors Chamber Choir	# 6610
Concert Choir – Female	# 6611
Concert Choir – Male	# 6612
Mixed Choir	# 6613
Music Theory and Composition ¹	# 6408
Music Theory and Composition 2 and Jazz Studies ¹	# 6508
Electronic Music ¹	# 6707
Advanced Electronic Music ¹	# 6808
Honors Music Theory ¹	# 6300
Advanced Placement Music ¹	# 6301
Computer Multi-Media Arts ¹	# 6201

¹ For students in the Classes of 2015 – 2017, this course may be used toward satisfying the one credit S.T.E.M. requirement (details on pages 3 and 4).

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GRADES 9, 10, 11, 12 COURSE SELECTIONS

MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION 1 **No. 6408** *Semester/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10, 11, 12* *Credit .5*

This course includes studies classified as music ear training, music writing, sight-reading, analysis, and composing. The student will learn how to hear music and write it down, how to read music, how to write music, how to analyze music, and how to compose music.

This course is an absolute must for anyone considering a career in music. It will also provide the non-music major with valuable skills that will enable him/her to understand and enjoy music better. Students do not have to be able to play an instrument to take this course nor is any prior music background required.

Criteria for Selection – None.

MUSIC THEORY AND COMPOSITION 2 **AND JAZZ STUDIES** **No. 6508** *Semester/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10, 11, 12* *Credit .5*

This course is an extension of Music Theory and Composition 1. This level includes more advanced studies of melody and harmony. The student will continue to develop skills needed in order to learn how to hear music and write it down, how to read music, how to write music, how to analyze music, and how to compose music.

Criteria for Selection – Successful completion of Music Theory and Composition 1 (6408).

ELECTRONIC MUSIC **No. 6707** *Semester/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10, 11, 12* *Credit .5*

This course improves a students' listening, reading music, performing, and creating skills. The student will learn how to operate electronic music-making equipment, how to program and play a sound synthesizer and a music computer. The students create original music projects using these techniques. Students do not have to be able to play an instrument to take this course.

Criteria for Selection – None.

SONG WRITING **No. 6807** *Semester/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10, 11, 12* *Credit .5*

Activities include: Creating original music, learning to use different kinds of instruments and sound-generating equipment, and how to express ideas to others by writing, performing, and recording music. Included is arranging for various instrument kinds, learning how artists develop their musical idea, and how to develop a musical idea into a final performance. Topics covered include: melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, and various song styles.

Criteria for Selection – Successful completion of Music Theory and Composition 1 (6408).

SONG WRITING 2 **NO. 6607** *Semester/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10, 11, 12* *Credit .5*

Activities include: Creating original music, learning to use different kinds of instruments and sound-generating equipment, and how to express ideas to others by writing, performing, and recording music. Included is arranging for various instrument kinds, learning how artists develop their musical idea, and how to develop a musical idea

into a final performance. Topics covered include: melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, and various song styles.

Criteria for Selection – Successful completion of Song Writing (6807).

GRADES 9, 10 COURSE SELECTIONS

STRING ORCHESTRA **No. 6906** *Full Year/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10* *Credit 1.0*

The String Orchestra is for students with previous experience playing a string instrument. This course gives students the opportunity to improve techniques unique to orchestra and string music and prepares them for public performance. String Orchestra students perform with all students of the High School Orchestra Program in the "Golden Strolling Strings" program. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians interested in participating in PMEA Honors Festivals must be enrolled in String Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra.

Criteria for Selection – Recommendation from the 8th grade Orchestra Director.

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA **No. 6907** *Full Year/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10* *Credit 1.0*

The Chamber Orchestra is for the most serious and advanced string players in grades 9 and 10. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform the most advanced music written for string orchestra. Students are expected to have a highly developed sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, and harmony. Advanced theoretical and technical concepts will also be addressed. Chamber Orchestra students perform with all students of the High School Orchestra Program in the "Golden Strolling Strings" program. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians interested in participating in PMEA Honors Festivals must be enrolled in String Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra.

Criteria for Selection – This course is only available by audition and recommendation of the Director.

CHORAL ENSEMBLE **No. 6910** *Full Year/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10* *Credit 1.0*

This course is for the beginning or inexperienced singer to have the opportunity and training to grow as a vocalist.

Criteria for Selection – Student must be able to match pitch and demonstrate acceptable tone quality. Recommendation for the course is through the High School Choral Department.

WIND ENSEMBLE **No. 6407** *Full Year/Full Time* *Grades 9, 10* *Credit 1.0*

The Intermediate High School Wind Ensemble is designed for the most serious and advanced brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 9 and 10. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform the

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most advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a highly developed sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, advanced theoretical, and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be **required** after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC Honors Festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Criteria for Selection – This course is available only by audition and recommendation of the Director.

CONCERT BAND **No. 6805**
Full Year/Full Time *Grade 9, 10* **Credit 1.0**

The Intermediate High School Concert Band is designed for brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 9 and 10. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform a variety of music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC Honors Festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Criteria for Selection – This course is available only by audition, recommendation of the Director, and instrumentation needs.

SYMPHONIC BAND **No. 6905**
Full Year/Full Time *Grades 9, 10* **Credit 1.0**

The Intermediate High School Symphonic Band is designed for the advancing brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 9 and 10. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform medium to advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have an above average sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC Honors Festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Criteria for Selection – This course is available only by audition, recommendation of the Director, and instrumentation needs.

CHORAL 1 **No. 6506**
Full Year/Full Time *Grade 9* **Credit 1.0**

All types and styles of music are sung and performed in this course. The object of the course is to help develop the voice into a mature instrument.

Criteria for Selection – Match Pitch

CHORAL 1 **No. 6606**
Full Year/Part Time *Grade 9* **Credit .5**

Same as above on a part-time basis for .5 credits. All types and styles of music are sung and performed in this part-time course. The object of the course is to help develop the voice into a mature instrument.

Criteria for Selection – Match Pitch.

CHORAL 2 **No. 6706**
Full Year/Full Time *Grade 10* **Credit 1.0**

Choral 2 is a full-time sequential course designed to lead to Mixed Choir and Concert Choir in the High School. The course explores all types of music and concentrates on the development of the voice and four-part ensemble singing.

Criteria for Selection – Must match pitch 8 note scale.

CHORAL 2 **No. 6806**
Full Year/Part Time *Grade 10* **Credit .5**

This is a separate course on a part-time basis for .5 credits. A sequential course designed to lead to Mixed Choir and Concert Choir, the course explores all types of music and concentrates on the development of the voice and four-part ensemble singing.

Criteria for Selection – Must match pitch 8 note scale.

GRADES 10, 11, 12 COURSE SELECTIONS

ADVANCED ELECTRONIC MUSIC **No. 6808**
Semester/Full Time *Grades 10, 11, 12* **Credit .5**

This course is a continuation of Electronic Music 6707. The student will create projects through the use of recording techniques, sound synthesizers, and computers. The course also includes activities to improve the student's ear-training and music analysis skills.

Criteria for Selection – Successful completion of Electronic Music (6707).

HONORS CHAMBER CHOIR **No. 6610**
Full Year/Full Time *Grades 10, 11, 12* **Honors Wt. Credit 1.0**

This course is a vocal ensemble designed for only the most serious singer. The music we will learn will cover many different styles of music with more challenging literature than previously handled. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. Special emphasis will be placed on sight-reading, adaptations of different styles of music, and diction. Special attention will be placed on the blending of voices and vocal quality.

Criteria for Selection – This course is available by audition and the recommendation by Choir Director.



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GRADES 11, 12 COURSE SELECTIONS

SONG WRITING

No. 6608

Semester/Full Time
Grades 11, 12

Credit .5

Activities include: creating original music, learning to use different kinds of instruments and sound-generating equipment, and how to express ideas to others by writing, performing, and recording music. Included is arranging for various instrument kinds, learning how artists develop their musical idea, and how to develop a musical idea into a final performance. Topics covered include: melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, and various song styles.

Criteria for Selection – Successful completion of Music Theory and Composition 1 (6408).

SONG WRITING 2

NO. 6607

Semester/Full Time
Grades 9, 10, 11, 12

Credit .5

Activities include: Creating original music, learning to use different kinds of instruments and sound-generating equipment, and how to express ideas to others by writing, performing, and recording music. Included is arranging for various instrument kinds, learning how artists develop their musical idea, and how to develop a musical idea into a final performance. Topics covered include: melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, form, and various song styles.

Criteria for Selection – Successful completion of Song Writing (6807).

STRING ORCHESTRA

No. 6908

Full Year/Full Time
Grades 11, 12

Credit 1.0

The String Orchestra is for students with previous experience playing a string instrument. This course gives students the opportunity to improve techniques unique to orchestra and string music and prepares them for public performance. String Orchestra students perform with all students of the High School Orchestra program in the “Golden Strolling Strings” program. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be required after school rehearsals. Musicians interested in participating in PMEA Honors Festivals must be enrolled in String Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra.

Criteria for Selection – Recommendation from the High School Orchestra Director.

HONORS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

No. 6909

Full Year/Full Time
Grades 11, 12

Honors Wt.
Credit 1.0

The Chamber Orchestra is for the most serious and advanced string players in grades 11 and 12. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform the most advanced music written for string orchestra. Students are expected to have a highly developed sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, and harmony. Advanced theoretical and technical concepts will also be addressed. Chamber Orchestra students perform with all students of the high school orchestra program in the “Golden Strolling Strings” program. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be **required** after school rehearsals. Musicians interested in participating in PMEA Honors Festivals must be enrolled in

String Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra.

Criteria for Selection – This course is only available by audition and recommendation of the director.

HONORS WIND ENSEMBLE

No. 6406

Full Year/Full Time
Grades 11, 12

Honors Wt.
Credit 1.0

The Senior High School Wind Ensemble is designed for the most serious and advanced brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 11 and 12. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform the most advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a highly developed sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, advanced theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be **required** after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC Honors Festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Criteria for Selection – This course is available only by audition and recommendation of the High School Band Director.

CONCERT BAND

No. 6914

Full Year/Full Time

Grades 11, 12

Credit 1.0

The Senior High School Concert Band is designed for brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 11 and 12. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform a variety music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have a sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be **required** after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC Honors Festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Criteria for Selection – This course is available only by audition, recommendation of the Director, and instrumentation needs.

SYMPHONIC BAND

No. 6915

Full Year/Full Time

Grades 11, 12

Credit 1.0

The Senior High School Symphonic Band is designed for the advancing brass, woodwind, and percussion students in grades 11 and 12. This ensemble will rehearse, study, and perform medium to advanced music written for the modern band as well as orchestral transcriptions. Students are expected to have an above average sense of tone, intonation, rhythm, harmony, and articulation. In addition to the band repertoire, theoretical and technical concepts appropriate to individual instruments will also be addressed. Students should be aware that participation is **required** in school concerts as well as outside-of-school performances. There may also be **required** after school rehearsals. Musicians wishing to participate in AV, PMEA, or MENC Honors Festivals, Marching Band, and/or chamber ensembles including Jazz Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble must be enrolled in

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Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, or Concert Band.

Criteria for Selection – This course is available only by audition, recommendation of the Director, and instrumentation needs.

CONCERT CHOIR – FEMALE **No. 6611**
Full Year/Full Time *Grades 11, 12* *Credit 1.0*

Emphasis is placed on learning and performance of choral music of various periods. Participation in outside-of-school activities is *required*.

Criteria for Selection – Recommendation by choir department.

CONCERT CHOIR – MALE **No. 6612**
Full Year/Full Time *Grades 11, 12* *Credit 1.0*

Emphasis is placed on learning and performance of choral music of various periods. Participation in outside-of-school activities is *required*.

Criteria for Selection – Recommendation by choir department.

MIXED CHOIR **No. 6613**
Full Year/Full Time *Grades 11, 12* *Credit 1.0*

Emphasis is placed on learning and performance of choral music of various periods. Participation in outside-of-school activities is *required*. Members will participate in all the same events (i.e. trips, tours, and competitions) as Concert Choir members.

Criteria for Selection – Recommendation by choir department.

HONORS MUSIC THEORY **No. 6300**
Full Year/Full Time *Honors Wt.*
Grades 11, 12 *Credit 1.0*

The Honors Music Theory class is designed for students who have an interest in becoming a well-rounded musician. It is open to all seniors who have previous experience in music theory courses and have taken AP Music.

The class meets every day for the entire school year. It incorporates advanced web-based lessons, harmonic analysis, music history, aural development, sight singing, composition, keyboard harmony, and melodic dictation. Students utilize a variety of music writing software such as *Finale*, *Garage Band*, and *Reason* to create original compositions. Honors Music Theory delivers individualized advanced instruction in music theory, composition, and aural skills.

Honors Music Theory is a natural progression from AP Music Theory. The class meets every day for the entire school year. It focuses on advanced harmonic analysis, part-writing procedures, and non-traditional harmony. There is also a strong emphasis on advanced aural skills and creative composition leading up to twentieth-century music including non-traditional instruments and technologies.

Criteria for Selection –

1. **Successful completion of AP Music (6301) with a ‘B’ or better.**
2. **Recommendation of a member of the North Allegheny Music Faculty in consultation with the Music Department Chair.**

ADVANCED PLACEMENT MUSIC

No. 6301

Full Year/Full Time
Grades 11, 12 Phase III and IV

AP Wt.
Credit 1.0

Advanced Placement Music is designed for students who have desire to develop their knowledge and application of music theory and composition to the highest level. It is open to all juniors and seniors who have previous experience in music theory courses, music technology courses, or previous theory knowledge.

The class meets every day for the entire school year. It incorporates web-based lessons, harmonic analysis, music history, aural development, sight singing, composition, keyboard harmony, and melodic dictation. Students utilize a variety of music writing software such as *Finale*, *Garage Band*, and *Reason* to create original compositions.

AP Music provides an opportunity for students to take more time to develop aural skills and compositional techniques. During the second half of the semester, the course content focus is on preparation for the AP Music Theory exam. Students who wish to continue their study of music theory throughout their junior and senior years are encouraged to take AP Music Theory during their junior year and Honors Music Theory during their senior year.

Criteria for Selection –

1. **Successful completion of Music Theory and Composition 1 (6408) or Electronic Music (6707) or Song Writing (6807) with a ‘B’ or better. This criterion can be replaced through successful completion of the Music Theory Placement Test.**
2. **Recommendation of a member of the North Allegheny Music Faculty in consultation with the Music Department Chair.**

COMPUTER MULTI-MEDIA ARTS

No. 6201

One Semester
Grades 11, 12

Credit .5

In this course, the students design and create original digital media that include animation, video, photography, graphics, sound, and music. Students shoot, edit, montage, and apply special digital darkroom effects in Photoshop. Students shoot, edit, composite, and create special effects in video using Final Cut Pro software. Students learn sound recording, editing and design, and compose MIDI music using Garage Band. Students create animation and dynamic web content using Flash software.

In the independent final project, students are encouraged to work to their interests and strengths, emphasizing a particular subject or artistic discipline. Projects have included digital art or music portfolios, media rich web site development, online exhibits, learning games, multi-media stage performances, videos, and interactive presentations on a variety of topics.

The course emphasizes creative conception and planning, solving design challenges, personal artistic expression, and communication through new media technology. The course provides a foundation for those planning for careers in the growing field of Web and Multi-media Design as well as for the casual user. Visual Arts and Music faculty teach this course.

This course enables the student to meet all the State Academic Standards for Visual Arts and Music.

Criteria for Selection – None.

