

ART

ART DEPARTMENT PHILOSOPHY

The Art Department is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in creative expression. A wide array of methods and materials are used for the development of artistic skills. The creative process allows the student to express feelings and emotions through the visual arts while developing an ability to critique their own work through self-assessment. Students gain appreciation for the visual arts as creators, viewers and participants. They are able to see the world beyond high school with a new and artistic perspective. Students are encourage to develop a continuing personal relationship with the visual arts after high school by taking art classes at area colleges, exhibiting in community art shows and visiting museums.

FOUNDATIONS OF ART

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

This course is designed to give students a basic understanding and appreciation for art as it will be encountered on the high school level and beyond. Art I, and the other art courses offered, will give students the background necessary to appreciate visual art, participate in the creation of visual art, or seek further training for a career in the visual arts. Art I is planned to meet the needs of students of all artistic ability levels.

The course emphasizes skills development and development of the creative thought process. Each time a skill has been learned, students will be encouraged to make creative applications of those skills. Students will be given a sense of art history, through discussion and showing of visuals that relate to the studio projects they are working on. A variety of materials will be used. Some of the techniques, ideas and materials that may be included are color theory, rendering, perspective drawing, design, composition, acrylic paint, calligraphy and ceramic clay.

All students will maintain a sketchbook and a portfolio of completed projects (to monitor progress). Grading is based on timely completion of homework, creative application of skills on project.

ADVANCED ART

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

Prerequisite: "C-" or better in Foundations of Art.

This studio course is planned so that students will learn additional techniques and creative thought processes as well as new applications for the skills and concepts learned in Foundations of Art. This will result in students having larger repertoires of responses for solving creative problems, and having a greater understanding and appreciation of the visual arts. Students who have successfully completed Foundations of Art will have the background knowledge and skills necessary for this course.

The content of Advanced Art will focus on the understanding and use of various aspects of two and three-dimensional art and art history, and may include drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and pottery. Some of the materials and techniques that may be included are acrylic paint, drawing, ceramic sculpture, screen-printing, block printing and hand-built pottery.

All students will maintain a sketchbook and a portfolio of completed projects (to monitor progress). Grading is based on timely completion of homework, creative application of skills on projects.

ADVANCED ART II

GRADE	CREDITS
11, 12	4

Prerequisite: “B-“ or better in Advanced Art.

This studio course will require that students play a large role in setting the educational goals that are necessary for their continued growth in the visual arts. Students who have successfully completed Advanced Art will have the background knowledge and skills necessary for this course.

The semester will be divided into segments of time when the focus will be in a general area of art, for example, drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and sculpture. Specific goals and assignments will be worked out on an individual basis between student and instructor. New techniques will be taught as needed, and creative exploration of ideas and techniques will be strongly encouraged. Some of the techniques and materials that may be used are acrylic paint, watercolor, pastel, charcoal, scratch board, colored pencils, sculpture, and printmaking.

Student progress will be continually monitored in this studio course, and individual evaluations of student progress will be done as necessary. This may be initiated by the student or the instructor. Grading is based on the student's progress towards learning, and creative application of skills.

ADVANCED STUDIO ART/PORTFOLIO PREPARATION

GRADE	CREDITS
11, 12	4

Prerequisite: “B-“ or better in Advanced Art II and permission of instructors.

This studio course is open to the mature and highly motivated 11th or 12th grade student, who wishes to continue an in depth study in a particular area of art. The course will particularly benefit those students seeking further study and/or a career in the arts. The curriculum is planned to encourage individual exploration of a variety of concepts and media.

Students will have a pre-course conference with Visual Arts teachers where a minimum of five student works are reviewed.

Students will learn to develop an individual plan of study; produce visual artworks; analyze, interpret and evaluate works of art; and gain an understanding of the creative expression of other periods and cultures. There will be a major emphasis on the development of a portfolio, which will deal with well-developed themes. Students who intend to study art beyond high school will develop and photograph a portfolio suitable for college application.

Students will be evaluated on the following: evidence of successful mastery of techniques and materials, their ability to be visually expressive and responsive, their proficiency in exercising their imaginations, and their understanding of the visions and expressions of themselves and others. Students who are intending to major in Art in college should plan for extra work to develop a portfolio suitable for college application.

SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY

GRADE	CREDITS
10, 11, 12	4

Prerequisite: "C-" or better in Foundations of Art.

This smartphone photography class is planned so that students will learn the art of capturing, processing, and publishing pictures using the smartphone. The class will be organized in three parts:

1. Learning to see and create pictures. We will cover composition, light and color, learning to use those visual elements as parts of a story.
2. Processing and editing pictures with apps: We will start by using the basic camera app on the smartphone and work in more apps as we go for capturing, editing, processing.
3. Sharing pictures using the G Suite for Education.

All students will maintain a portfolio of completed projects (to monitor progress). Grading is based on timely completion of homework, creative application of skills on project.

Required materials: Working smartphone with a spare charger.

MUSIC

PHILOSOPHY OF THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The Music Department is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the development of individual musicians and ensembles. The department offers comprehensive studies in the development of technical skills, music theory and history, and appreciation of the performing arts as a whole.

Students are encouraged to achieve at their highest potential, participate in a variety of ensembles, pursue musical interests outside the classroom, participate in community events and continue their study and enjoyment of music beyond high school.

CHORUS

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

Students will learn vocal techniques and music reading skills necessary for unison and part singing. Performance in concerts and festivals will be used to have the students hone the students' vocal skills.

Students will use their voices to explore the many styles of music from the Renaissance to the Contemporary. Emphasis will be on intonation, vocal quality, style, and proper singing and breathing techniques.

Student grades are determined by their effort in learning their music demonstrating the ability to sign rudimentary melodies, demonstrating the ability to sign major and minor harmonies, participation in class, and participation in performances.

ADVANCED CHORUS

GRADE	CREDITS
10, 11, 12	4

Prerequisite: Students must successfully complete one year of General Chorus with a "C+" or better or have approval of the instructor.

A full year course designed to provide an atmosphere for the enjoyment, appreciation and performance of all types of choral music, from Early Renaissance to Modern Contemporary. The instruction and improvement of voice quality, intonation, ability to read music, ability to sight-sing, and the overall development of musicianship is stressed in conjunction with the learning of each piece of music. The Chorus performs at evening concerts and other special events. Attendance at these performances and dress rehearsals are a course requirement. Chorus members receive individualized vocal instruction in sectional lessons in addition to regular chorus rehearsals. The successful completion of all activities will provide the student with and advances view of the foundations of performance and study in choral singing.

BAND

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

Prerequisite: Students must successfully complete middle school instrumental music or audition for the director.

Band is designed to give students the opportunity to develop musical skills by studying various styles of music in different ensemble settings and to provide a variety of opportunities for performance.

Through their individual instruments, students will explore the following elements of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre and form. Music of many styles, historical periods and cultures will be studied.

Student performance in daily rehearsals, and participation in concerts and events will determine the student's grade.

ORCHESTRA

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

Prerequisite: Students must successfully complete middle school instrumental music or audition for the director.

Orchestra is designed to give students the opportunity to develop musical skills by studying various styles of music in different ensemble settings and to provide a variety of opportunities for performance.

Through their individual instruments, students will explore the following elements of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, timbre and form. Music of many styles, historical periods and cultures will be studied.

Student performance in daily rehearsals, and participation in concerts and events will determine the student's grade

DRUM LAB

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

Pre-requisite: None

This drumming and percussion class will cover drumming basics, such as, rudiments, marching percussion, hand drumming, bucket drums, drum circles, drum set, mallet percussion, and more. Students will be evaluated using performance based assessments, written assignments, and project based assessments.

Text: Percussion method books and lesson units written by instruction

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY AND MULTI MEDIA

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

In this course students will design and create original sound and MIDI music that can be used to enhance media rich web sites and computer interactive multimedia presentations, as well as stand alone media such as MP3s and CDs. Students will learn the history of musical technology, MIDI sequencing, and auditory safety concerns. Students will learn appropriate audio recording techniques and recording and editing of live music and processing digital audio. Students will compose, design, edit and notate live, pre-recorded, and original music through the use of computer notation software, computer recording software, and sound editing software.

Students will be graded on the basis of class participation, projects, homework, tests, quizzes, and portfolios.

Primary Software used: Soundtrap, Audacity and other video/audio production and editing tools

AP MUSIC THEORY

GRADE	CREDITS
9, 10, 11, 12	4

Pre-requisite: Music playing experience and strong music reading skills

This is an advanced level Music Theory course that will follow the prescribed AP Music Theory curriculum. Course content will include the elements of music, chorus, harmonic analysis, ear training, and score reading. Students will be evaluated with written assignments, performance based assessments, and project based assessments.

Text: Tonal Harmony - by Koska and Payne

HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL

GRADE	CREDITS
10, 11, 12	4

The History of Rock and Roll will survey the evolution of Rock from the preexisting musical styles of the early '50s to the current trends. Organized by decade and era, a student-created timeline will familiarize students with various styles, performers, and musical techniques. Students will engage in analytical thinking as they compare musical styles, listen objectively to pertinent Rock records, and research important social issues that influenced Rock and Roll's musical contributions to the modern world.

Students will be graded on journals, tests, projects and group presentations.

Text: Rockin' Out: Popular Music in the USA w/ CD
Reebee Garofalo, Prentice Hall

Concert Jazz Band - 4 Credits

Grades 10, 11, 12

Full Year Course

Prerequisite: Students are accepted by audition/permission of instructor.

The ELHS Concert Jazz Band is an advanced, auditioned ensemble. The focus of the curriculum is the study of Jazz music and developing an understanding of improvisation. In addition to learning and performing jazz, the Concert Jazz Band also performs with the traditional Concert Band in all settings; from Marching Band through the entire concert season. Students are expected to maintain a rigorous practice routine and demonstrate mastery of music in both the jazz and concert ensembles. Students may audition for open seats in January prior to the course selection process.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT - FAQ's

Do Music Courses fulfill graduation requirements?

Yes! All students must have at least 12 elective credits to graduate. All music courses provide 4 credits.

Will Band/Orchestra/Chorus fit in my 9th graders schedule?

Yes! The 9th grade year is the easiest year to fit music in your schedule. NOTE: You do NOT need to take Health Freshman year. Health is a mixed-grades class that can be taken during any year of high school.

My child is active in sports, can they still be in the music program?

YES! Students in Band, Chorus and Orchestra are active in virtually EVERY sport offered at ELHS. There is NO conflict between music and athletics; including cheerleading!

My child takes the bus. How do we get their instrument to school?

We have a large collection of school-owned instruments available for use during the year - free of charge. We are usually able to provide an extra instrument for students who play larger instruments and/or can't transport their instrument on the bus.

Why should my child join the music department?

There is a strong social network in the ELHS music department that is a great support system as students transition to high school. Music students are high academic achievers, active in the school community and widely represented in student leadership and honor rolls. For many students, it's the best part of their day - a break from the classroom and a chance for creative expression. The process of making music every day creates strong friendships. The Band, Orchestra and Chorus rooms are a friendly place where music students know they can always go and feel welcome!

What about college?

With many colleges and universities going to "SAT Optional" acceptance plans, the trend is to seek out well-rounded students with diverse skills and creative abilities. Musicians tend to be top academic performers who also make a contribution to the cultural life of the college community. Music students are very appealing because they tend to be hard workers and strong team players.

What courses do you offer?

A complete listing of music and art courses is available at Grade 8 Night.

Questions? Contact J.P. Kiernan at james.kiernan@eastlongmeadowma.gov

What Do Universities Say About Music?

Given all the fanfare students face when presented with choices on which courses to take in order to present themselves in the most favorable light for college admissions, music can be a pivotal contributor:

1. The College Board, the administrator of the SAT Test, identifies the arts (including music) as **one of the 6 areas that students should study** in order to succeed in college.

2. University admissions officers **clearly state** that students who participate in arts classes continually through high school have an advantage over students who do not when applying for high-end schools.

3. **During the admissions process**, colleges and universities look for students who “stand out” and who have something to offer to the campus. Music students who have played for at least 3 years in high school ensembles are **automatically** placed in this category (assuming they have met all other university entrance requirements).

4. **Continuous enrollment in music** is valued by colleges and universities much more highly than extra years of foreign language classes. Students having to choose between music and extra language classes *at the Junior High level* should **ALWAYS** choose music, according to admissions officers of several universities. Language requirements can be met in high school along with music classes.

5. Playing an instrument well **can help a student get into a university** if the student is willing to play in the university’s ensembles. The student does not have to be a music major to take advantage of this. All universities have to have enough musicians on each instrument to feature high-level performing groups. University band and orchestra directors will find a way for a talented student/musician to get into a school.

6. **Having music on a student’s transcript** all through high school shows that a student has developed skills in group work, multi-tasking, spatial reasoning, mathematics, leadership, community spirit, and many other areas. These types of skills cannot be found all together in any other class. Sources: *NAfME-National Association for Music Education* “Why Music Education?” 2007 and *School Music Matters*