

Other Opportunities

The co-curricular offerings represent opportunities for students to employ, in a variety of performance mediums, the skills outlined in the MA Curriculum Frameworks. These groups are some of the most exciting and enjoyable musical activities at Westford Academy. You don't have to be a member of a curricular offering to participate in the co-curricular program. These activities include:

Marching Band

This musical group rehearses during the fall and spring. The music performed reflects the latest in popular and standard march music. This is the band that represents our school and community at civic functions, football games and parades.

Colorguard

This auxiliary group provides flash and color to marching band performances. It utilizes choreographed routines and employs visual effects to make the music come alive.

Jazz Ensemble

The Jazz Ensemble performs a wide variety of jazz ensemble, big band and popular literature. Instrumentalists and vocalists are admitted by audition.

Small Ensembles

A variety of groups are formed based upon student interest. They include: Guitar Ensemble, Flute Choir, Brass Choir, Clarinet Choir, Jazz Quintet, Woodwind Quintet, Percussion Ensemble, Jazz Vocal Ensemble, and String Quartet.

After School Chorus/WAcappella

This is a mixed chorus (male and female) that meets one afternoon a week. It performs the latest a cappella pop vocal music and standard choral literature. Piano accompanists welcome!

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Curriculum Benchmarks

Grades 9-12

Music

Performance Ensembles

Westford Academy

Compiled by The Arts Curriculum Task Committee

“Shaping the future one child at a time”

Visit our website at: westfordk12.us

Updated April 2011

In dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts, people express ideas and emotions that they cannot express in language alone. In order to understand the range and depth of the human imagination, one must have knowledge of the arts.

– Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework Core Concept

Westford Academy Music Department

The music department provides students with a variety of opportunities to study, create, and perform music of different styles, periods, cultures and ethnic groups that reflect the Massachusetts Arts Frameworks. The only requirements for participating in musical activities are an open mind, enthusiasm and a love of music.

The offerings of the music department are divided into two main categories:

Performance Ensembles:

- Concert Band
- Symphonic Band-Honors
- Dual Ensemble
- Dual Ensemble-Honors
- Concert Choir
- Choir-Honors
- WAcappella
- Orchestra
- Philharmonia-Honors
- Independent Study

There are also opportunities for students to be involved in advanced work through Independent Study. Goals of these courses are formulated through discussion between the instructor and the student.

Concert Band/Symphonic Band

- Perform appropriate literature level 3 to 5 from a wide variety of genres and styles in the Fall, Spring, and Holiday concerts annually
- Expand their level of detail in performing dynamics, playing in tune, realizing expressive markings, and playing expressively
- Complete and be able to perform technique studies that include scales, lip slurs, rhythmic studies and chorales from 4 warm-up books
- Sequential study of basic music theory
- Continue to expand their playable range on the instrument
- Percussionists will study fundamental techniques of a wide variety of auxiliary percussion and snare rudiments
- Winds will learn and practice proper breathing techniques

Dual Ensemble/ Dual Ensemble-Honors

- Provides Band/Choir students the opportunity to perform in each ensemble

Concert Choir/ Choir-Honors

- Perform choral music of varying styles, genres, cultural and historical periods in concerts
- Use and identify the fundamentals of choral music and vocal production
- Develop ensemble skills through analysis
- Honors students learn and perform more music at a higher level of difficulty
- Develop sight reading skills
- Sequential study of music theory

Orchestra/Philharmonia

- Perform appropriate literature level 3 to 5 from a wide variety of genres and styles in the Fall, Spring, and Holiday concerts annually
- Expand their level of detail in performing dynamics, playing in tune, realizing expressive markings, and playing expressively
- Sequential study of basic music theory
- Discuss and employ a variety of bowings including, staccato, spiccato, and pizzicato
- Expand their left hand technique through study of shifting and double stops
- Advance technical facility through study of scales, arpeggios and etudes
- Form a small ensemble and arrange three public performances

WAcappella

- Perform a variety of a cappella compositions in 4-8 parts
- Perform a solo accompanied by the ensemble
- Arrange pieces in four parts
- Develop ensemble skills
- Employ vocal percussion techniques when appropriate
- Choreograph performances where necessary