

## 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

### General Music

### Westford Academy

Compiled by The Arts Curriculum Task Committee

*“Shaping the future one child at a time”*

Visit our website at: [westfordk12.us](http://westfordk12.us)

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*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:

#### **General Music:**

- AP Music Theory
- Keyboarding
- Musical Theater
- Beginning Guitar
- Advanced Guitar Ensemble
- Ensemble for the Gigging Band
- Lyricwriting
- Songwriting
- Advanced Songwriting
- Sound System Design

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.

#### **Music Theory AP**

- Identify, analyze, and write the elements of music used to create compositions
- Notate aural melodies and harmonic progressions
- Sight sing diatonic exercises
- Realize and analyze figured basses
- Harmonize a given melody
- Take the AP exam

#### **Keyboarding**

- Prepare and perform piano compositions within individual ability
- Demonstrate an understanding of standard musical notation and basic music theory

#### **Beginning Guitar**

- Demonstrate ability to read and play guitar music in standard notation
- Perform using a variety of strumming and fingerstyle patterns
- Perform as a soloist and in small ensembles

#### **Advanced Guitar Ensemble**

- Demonstrate ability to read and play guitar music in standard notation at an advanced level
- Play in a variety of styles
- Expand known chord and scale forms
- Perform as a soloist and in small ensembles both in and out of the classroom

#### **Ensemble for the Gigging Band**

- Work with other students' to create new collaborative musical works in different styles.
- Compose and learn music by ear and by written notation of several standard conventions.
- Create self-promotion and marketing materials.
- Create a business plan for a performing ensemble.

#### **Songwriting**

- Understand fundamental elements of music composition.
- Analyze musical compositions in terms of rhythm, melody, and general aesthetic.
- Compose in modern music styles.
- Compile final projects into a class album.

#### **Advanced Songwriting**

- Understand advanced-level concepts regarding modern musical composition.
- Analyze musical compositions in terms of meter, rhythm, melody, harmonic progression, and overall aesthetic in a mature and detailed manner.
- Compose and arrange in modern music styles at an advanced level.
- Compile final projects into a class album.

#### **Lyricwriting**

- Examine lyric writing through song composition, structure, and form.
- Identify effects of sound, form, imagery, metaphor, and ambiguity in lyrics.
- Compose lyric material in a variety of styles.
- Collaborate with other student to co-author lyric content.

#### **Sound System Design**

- Understand acoustic phenomenon.
- Design complete sound systems for a variety of events, performances, and venues.
- Implement sound reinforcement systems into dramatic productions or large-scale musical performances.
- Operate sound systems for performances and productions.
- Engage in proper maintenance and handling techniques of all hardware.

#### **Musical Theater**

- Prepare and perform auditions for solos and ensemble pieces from American musicals
- Demonstrate an understanding of proper vocal techniques
- Perform in a showcase event at least once per year