

**MUSIC DEPARTMENT**  
**Course Descriptions 2019-2020**

After a student completes her first required nonacademic credit in Fine Arts (Visual Arts or Music), she may elect to take future Fine Arts courses for either academic or nonacademic credit. If a student selects academic credit for the course, that course will be included in her weighted GPA as a College Prep course. A student may take this course to complete her required 6 academic courses per semester or she may include it as a 7<sup>th</sup> academic course since there will be minimal outside preparation (homework, projects, studying for tests) needed for the Fine Arts course.

**(324–na / 3242–a) Freshman Choir**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

*Open to freshmen.*

In this class students work toward team-building, sharing responsibility, and respecting others. They learn and improve proper vocal production, range, breath support, music reading skills, and listening skills. Appreciation for various styles of choral music is stressed. There are two major performances per year. The purchase of a choir dress is required.

**(325–na / 3252–a) Concert Choir**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

*Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors.*

Students work toward team-building, sharing responsibility, and respect for others. They improve vocal production, range, breath support, music reading skills, and listening skills. Expanded appreciation for various styles of choral music is stressed. There are two major performances per year. The purchase of a choir dress is required for those who were not members of freshman choir.

**(329–na / 3292–a) Advanced Vocal Ensemble**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

*Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors by audition.*

This is a chamber choir whose members serve as “musical ambassadors” to school and community. Emphasis is on proper vocal production, intonation, musicality, solo and choral repertoire, and music reading. Students work toward team-building, sharing responsibility, and respecting others, with many opportunities for performances throughout the year. Purchase of a choir dress is required.

**(3311) Fundamentals of Music Theory Honors –**

**Year**

**1 Credit**

**UConn Course Number MUSI1011 Music Fundamentals and Ear Training 1**

*(Prerequisite: A grade of 75 or higher in all previous CP1 math classes or 85 or higher in CP2 Math classes.) Open to juniors and seniors.*

This class offers an introduction to the basic concepts of music theory. Scales, chords, intervals and meter are studied. Students work toward gaining a fuller understanding of the basic concepts of how music is written and put together. This class requires the same thought process as many math classes and does require memorization. Students may elect to take this course for UConn credit.

**(3532–na / 35322–a) Symphonic Orchestra**

**Year**

**1Credit**

*Open to freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors*

*Symphonic Orchestra is a performance ensemble comprised of string instruments (Violin, Viola, Cello, and String Bass), Woodwind, Brass, and Percussion (including piano), guitar and electric bass.*

*The group studies artistically, intellectually, and emotionally challenging band and orchestra literature ranging from traditional to contemporary styles. Improving individual musicianship and technique are emphasized as well as player collaboration to assure success as an ensemble. Symphonic Orchestra meets twice a cycle in sectionals (strings/woodwind, brass, and percussion), and twice a cycle as a*

whole ensemble within the regular school day. Students are required to practice outside of school for at least 80 minutes a week, documented by practice sheets. Symphonic Orchestra performs at two concerts (winter and spring), Lauralton Hall Open House in the fall and a spring music festival. Musicians are expected to have some prior experience on their instrument, but new students are encouraged to join! Opportunities also exist for students to learn additional instruments, and perform in smaller groups with teacher approval. Senior instrumentalists are featured in the spring concert. Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled performances, including the two formal rehearsals the day prior to each concert. Students are expected to use their own instrument except for players involved in percussion, double string bass, larger woodwind or brass instruments, or piano. A one-time purchase of a concert outfit is required.