



Why Fine & Performing Arts Matter

The arts are a core part of our Jesuit education. Through creative exploration, students grow into confident, thoughtful, and well-rounded young men.

Through the arts, students develop:

- Confidence in personal expression
- Aesthetic awareness and appreciation
- Leadership and teamwork skills
- A deeper understanding of their place in the world

Credit Requirements

- 1.25 fine & performing arts credits required for graduation
- Freshmen must complete at least 0.25 credit

Freshman Course Offerings

FULL-YEAR COURSES (0.50 CREDITS/0.75 CREDIT)

- **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.5 Credit, Full Year**

Students who play violin, viola, cello, double bass, or piano are encouraged to participate in Chamber Orchestra. Regular home practice, group rehearsal, and some evening performances are required. Students earn ½ credit for a full year of participation. Rehearsal time to be determined.

- **CONCERT BAND (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.5 Credit, Full Year**

Michael D. White '70 Center for Emerging Leaders - Designated Class

Students who exhibit a commitment to music and who have a background in performing can apply to receive credit for participation in Concert Band. The Band practices after to be determined. After school and weekend performances are required for participation. Students who select this elective must be able to attend rehearsals after school. Please note that the leadership designation is earned in cooperation with the instructor.

- **GUITAR ORCHESTRA (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.5 Credit, Full Year**

Students who play guitar or bass are encouraged to participate in Guitar Orchestra. This group is different from the Guitar Ensemble classes as it is a performing group where students will be rehearsing and performing concerts. Rehearsal time to be determined. Regular home practice, group rehearsal, and some evening performances are required. Students earn ½ credit for a full year of participation.

Prerequisite: Guitar I or instructor approval.

- **CONCERT CHOIR (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.75 Credit, Full Year**

Michael D. White '70 Center for Emerging Leaders - Designated Class

The Concert Choir performs music of all periods, from Renaissance to Contemporary, with an emphasis on expression and response to different musical styles. The Choir provides students the opportunity to develop individually as a vocalist and as an integral member of a refined choir. Teamwork, discipline and dedication are stressed. The Concert Choir participates in school events and concerts and is open to all students for consideration. A voice audition for voice placement is required prior to course selection. Placement in Concert Choir is at the discretion of the choir director. Rehearsals are at least twice weekly, depending on voice section assignment. Concert Choir meets before school from 7:20 -8:15 a.m. Performances vary year to year and often occur on evenings and weekends. Performance schedule is available each Spring prior to the next academic year. Please note that the leadership designation is earned in cooperation with the instructor. This group meets for rehearsals before school.

- **JAZZ BIG BAND (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.5 Credit, Full Year**

Michael D. White '70 Center for Emerging Leaders - Designated Class

This group welcomes standard jazz band instruments including trumpets, saxophones, trombones, guitar, piano, vibes, bass, and drums. Rehearsal time to be determined. Regular home practice, group rehearsal, and some evening performances are required. Please note that the leadership designation is earned in cooperation with the instructor.

- **JAZZ ROCK ENSEMBLE HONORS (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.5 Credit, Full Year**

Students who audition and are accepted may participate in the Jazz Rock Ensemble. The group is open to horn players, guitar, bass, piano, vibes, and drums. Regular home practice, group rehearsal, and some evening performances are required. This group meets for rehearsals before school.

- **LITURGICAL MUSICIANS (Freshman/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.5 Credit, Full Year**

The Liturgical Musicians are singers and instrumentalists who contribute to the liturgical life of the school through sacred music that encourages congregational participation. The ensemble rehearses twice per week before school from 7:30-8:15 and participates in monthly all-school liturgies as well as some liturgies and prayer services that occur outside of the regular school day. Collaboration and dedication are important values of this ensemble. Interested instrumentalists should have prior instrumental experience. A voice audition for singers is required in order to facilitate voice section placement. This group meets for rehearsals before school.

HALF-YEAR COURSES (0.50 CREDITS)

- **VISUAL FOUNDATIONS (Freshmen) 0.5 Credit, Half Year**

This course is designed to provide the skills necessary for accomplished work. As an accelerated class, it will provide a more in-depth experience with other like-minded students. Encouraging individual exploration, students will be introduced to a variety of materials both 2D and 3D. Craftsmanship will be stressed along with formal principles, which are the building blocks for all art. Students new to the school should submit a sample of their best work for consideration. *Application Required.*

- **THEATER FOUNDATIONS (Freshmen/Sophomores) 0.5 Credit, Half Year**

Theater Foundations will focus on acting and will serve as an introduction to the various aspects of theater. The students will be exposed to the very complex branches of theater (lights, set, sound, costume, make-up, direction, acting) that meld into the trunk of performance. By the end of the course the student will be able to identify all aspects of theater, be able to create a character, be able to follow the creative process from inception to fruition in the creation of a character in a scene for performance. The student will also be able to understand the design process for all the elements of theater. This course is created for students who truly enjoy theater. Sophomores who wish to take this class must get department approval.

HALF-YEAR COURSES (0.25 CREDITS)

- **STAGECRAFT (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

Jack Shields '79, P'06 Center for Innovation - Designated Class

This class is a practicum course designed to introduce students to areas of technical theater including: lights, sound, sets, costumes & props. This class will work in conjunction with The Dever Players on actual plays producing sets, and creating costumes and props. When necessary, students will learn how to properly create flats, platforms, and other set elements. The actual skills learned will depend on the requirements of the particular show. As this class is tied to various performances with differing requirements, this class may be taken more than once.

- **INTRODUCTION TO DRAWING (Frosh./Soph./Juniors/Seniors) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

Students will learn the fundamentals of drawing which is the basis of visual thought. Through the use of traditional techniques, students will be developing and refining their skills of observation and visual communication. Subjects explored will include the human figure, perspective, still life, landscapes, and manga/cartooning. An assortment of media will be available including ink, colored pencil, marker, and graphite. In addition to student production, criticism and art history are incorporated into the course.

- **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

This course serves as an introduction to photography through digital imaging. Emphasis will be placed on developing composition and aesthetic skills, technical craftsmanship, and critical analysis. A text is required that covers camera fundamentals and addresses technical information. Students will be shooting a series of photographic assignments on campus and at home in addition to learning from the text. It is highly recommended that each student have their own digital camera to complete the homework assigned in this course.

- **PIANO ENSEMBLE I (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.25 Credit, Half-Year**

This program is especially designed for students who would like to study piano as a way to learn music and understand how music works. The program provides an opportunity for learning beginning piano techniques, music fundamentals, composition, and improvisation. Emphasis is on becoming a fluent reader of music. No previous music experience necessary. A love of music and access to a keyboard for practice at home are required.

- **GUITAR ENSEMBLE I (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

This course is especially designed for students who would like to study guitar in supportive environment! Whether you're a total beginner or know a few chords, this class will help you build real skills. You'll strum basic chords, pick out riffs and melodies, and play songs you love while also learning music theory. We'll use both standard notation and tablature, listen to great guitarists, and practice hands-on every day. Students will learn right and left hand techniques, music reading skills as well as basic chords. Access to a guitar for daily practice at home is mandatory.

- **VOICE STUDIO (Freshmen/Sophomores/Juniors/Seniors) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

This course offers more experienced and talented singers the opportunity to study a voice as an instrument. The Voice Studio is bringing you a fantastic adventure about your voice and transformation of this unique instrument from Medieval time until Romantic era through many different composer life stories, historical facts and much more. You will be able doing research as a future college portfolio about one of famous Ave Maria aria. Participation in our final Ave Maria Concert, an evening with poetry and song will be required for all students. Prerequisite: prior Concert Choir experience and Choir Director Approval Required.

- **BEBOP to HIP HOP & POP: The Evolution of American Music (Fr./So./Jr./Sr.) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

Lawrence H. Hyde '42 Center for Global Education - Designated Class

How did American popular music come to be what it is today? This class offers an in-depth study of how music evolved in America over the past century through the analysis of the culture, politics, religion and communities of different peoples that have coexisted in America since the late 1800s. This course will specifically look at how the emerging success of Black artists in the 1900s influenced not only American music, but culture, politics, and a broad range of communities as well. This is an introductory music course with no prior musical training necessary.

- **MUSIC PRODUCTION & HISTORY (Fr./So./Jr./Sr.) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

Jack Shields '79, P'06 Center for Innovation - Designated Class

This is an introductory level class which requires no prior musical training. This class is a music production course rooted in modern music history (20th Century- Present Day, with a focus on the perspective of marginalized groups in America), while also being a course that gives students the ability to do Electronic Music Production. Students will learn audio production in tandem with different musical-artistic movements from recent history, applying the concepts from these historical events with projects that they will complete in a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) applications. Students will also examine this historical material in class through discussion and reflection. Basic music theory concepts (rhythm scales, chords, song form, etc.) will also be covered in the class.

- **MUSIC for MEDIA: Composing for Video Games and Films (Fr./So./Jr./Sr.) 0.25 Credit, Half Year**

Jack Shields '79, P'06 Center for Innovation - Designated Class

What makes a good soundtrack? How do composers create dynamic music for interactive media like video games? In this course, students will develop the skills (musical, theoretical, and technological) to create soundtracks for various media, primarily video games and films. While this course includes historical and theoretical elements, there is an emphasis on the practical component; you will be composing music, creating soundscapes, and exploring creativity with your own audiovisual media.